

[Reading] ➤➤ Like a Love Story **By Abdi Nazemian –** **Soccerjerseys-wholesale.co**

NEW POST

RECENT POST

Posted on 02 March 2017 By Abdi Nazemian

Wow Wow wow wow This book was incredible. wowowowow, this is one of those stories that hollows you out completely and then makes you whole again its a love letter to the queer community, and to past queer activists who have paved the way for all of us to live better lives today I cant think of a better read heading into pride month wowowowow, this is one of those stories that hollows you out completely and then makes you whole again it s a love letter to the queer community, and to past queer activists who have paved the way for all of us to live better lives today I can t think of a better read heading into pride month Wow, this book hit very close to home for me.It s 1989 in New York City Reza has just moved with his mother to live with his wealthy new stepfather and stepbrother, and attend his final year of high school He knows he likes boys but all he sees in the media are images of people dying of AIDS, so he knows he has to keep his true self hidden.Judy has always been her own person, an aspiring fashion designer with a bold sense of style She spends all of her spare time with her best friend, Art, Wow, this book hit very close to home for me.It s 1989 in New York City Reza has just moved with his mother to live with his wealthy new stepfather and stepbrother, and attend his final year of high school He knows he likes boys but all he sees in the media are images of people dying of AIDS, so he knows he has to keep his true self hidden.Judy has always been her own person, an aspiring fashion designer with a bold sense of style She spends all of her spare time with her best friend, Art, and her uncle, Stephen, who is dying of AIDS and is a prominent member of ACT UP The one thing Judy

wants to find is love, but she doubts she'll ever find anyone to love her for who she is. Art is out and proud, a talented photographer who tries to put the constant bullying of his peers and the disdain of his parents behind him. He documents the work of the ACT UP activists through his photographs. Stephen is his role model, and he spends so much time learning from him. Art wants to find someone to love him, but love and sex in the midst of so much uncertainty around AIDS frightens him. Reza and Judy start dating, and Art feels like a third wheel. But Art and Reza are drawn to each other. Reza tries desperately to fight his attraction to Art, because he doesn't want to disappoint his mother and he worries that acknowledging his sexuality will doom him to a death sentence of AIDS. Art wants Reza, but knows that Judy is happy with him, and he doesn't want to betray his one true friend. There may be no harder place to be queer than high school, a place of bullies and slurs, a place steeped in rituals of heterosexuality. Who's dating who? Who kissed who? Who will be homecoming king and queen? Who will be your prom date? And you have to play along, because if you don't, your difference has a spotlight on it. Abdi Nazemian's incredibly moving, heartfelt *Like A Love Story* so accurately captures what it was like to come to terms with your sexuality during the early days of the AIDS crisis. You were tremendously fearful of even kissing someone, because you worked out elaborate circumstances in your head by which you could contract the disease. And if you got AIDS, who would love you? Your family would abandon you, the government would gouge you on the price of drugs, and you would be a pariah. So why not hide your true self instead, pretend to be normal. This is a book about friendship, family, fear, acceptance, and finding love. It's a story about finding the courage to be yourself even in a world full of fear, and finding your people, who will love you and accept you no matter what. It's also a beautiful love letter of sorts to those who came before us, who loved fearlessly and joyfully, who finally lived the lives they dreamed of, without worrying what people thought of them, and it's a tribute to all of the people who died of AIDS and lost loved ones and lived in courage rather than fear. I had been waiting for this book to be released and I jumped on it the day it was published. I loved every single minute of *Like A Love Story*. It's gorgeous and funny and sad.

and beautifully written, and all too many times I found myself nodding, recognizing myself in certain situations Nazemian put every ounce of his heart into this story and it shows, and I'm definitely going to go back and read his earlier books, because I love the way he writes. I love books that effectively capture a specific time and place, and *Like a Love Story* did that. It is an important, hopeful book that deserves every accolade it receives. See all of my reviews at itseithersadnessoreuphoria.blogspot.com. Check out my list of the best books I read in 2018 at [You can follow me on Instagram at Could YA books with queer characters of color be any iconic](#). I loved *Like a Love Story* and I'm so happy it exists, alongside books like Benjamin Alire Saenz's *Ari and Dante* and Kelly Loy Gilbert's *Picture Us in the Light* and *What sets this novel apart from other similarly fantastic YA reads is its masterful portrayal of the 1980s AIDS epidemic and the activism of that era. The novel follows Reza, a closeted Iranian teen, Art, the out and proud guy Reza falls for, and Judy, Art's* [Could YA books with queer characters of color be any iconic](#). I loved *Like a Love Story* and I'm so happy it exists, alongside books like Benjamin Alire Saenz's *Ari and Dante* and Kelly Loy Gilbert's *Picture Us in the Light* and *What sets this novel apart from other similarly fantastic YA reads is its masterful portrayal of the 1980s AIDS epidemic and the activism of that era. The novel follows Reza, a closeted Iranian teen, Art, the out and proud guy Reza falls for, and Judy, Art's best friend who excels at fashion design. Toward the beginning of the book, Reza dates Judy to conceal his sexuality. When this arrangement unravels the three must deal with the fallout, of Reza's sexuality, of Art and Judy's friendship, and.* Abdi Nazemian tackles so much in *Like a Love Story* and grounds it all in history so well. The fear Reza experiences about contracting AIDS and dying, Art and Judy's uncle Stephen's activism with ACT UP, the characters' love for Madonna. Nazemian shows how the historical oppression of queer people affects his characters in intimate and powerful ways. He honors so many complex, important topics like coming out as a person of color, what happens when a friend betrays you, death and grief, and *He writes in a palatable, straightforward way that still gives space for all the feelings that come with loss and love. The focus on love is what made this book shine the most. Until the*

last 80 or so pages I considered giving it four stars, as Art and Reza's relationship gave me insta love vibes and did not feel as developed or compelling compared to the romances in Aristotle and Dante and Picture Us in the Light. But, the last 80 or so pages tied all of the novel's threads together to reveal its beautiful center: love of art, love of activism, love of love. I got pretty emotional reading Nazemian's author's note and felt so inspired by and happy for him, how he took his experience as a queer youth of color and transformed it into such amazing art. I know that we have a lot to fight for to advance equality and justice for the LGBTQIA community. And, right now, I'm giving my queer heart a little break, a little moment, so it can sing a happy song for this book's existence and all the love it entails.

Stonewall Honor Book
A Love Letter To Queerness, Self Expression, And Individuality
Also Madonna That Never Shies Away From The Ever Present Fear Within The Queer Community Of Late S New York, Like A Love Story Made Me Feel So Full Of Hope, Love, Courage, Pride, And Awe For The Many People Who Fought For Love And Self Expression In The Face Of Discrimination, Cruelty, And Death
A Book For Warriors, Divas, Artists, Queens, Individuals, Activists, Trend Setters, And Anyone Searching For The Courage To Be Themselves
Mackenzi Lee, New York Times Bestselling Author Of The Gentleman S Guide To Vice And Virtue
T S In New York City, And For Three Teens, The World Is Changing
Reza Is An Iranian Boy Who Has Just Moved To The City With His Mother To Live With His Stepfather And Stepbrother He S Terrified That Someone Will Guess The Truth He Can Barely Acknowledge About Himself
Reza Knows He S Gay, But All He Knows Of Gay Life Are The Media S Images Of Men Dying Of AIDS
Judy Is An Aspiring Fashion Designer Who Worships Her Uncle Stephen, A Gay Man With AIDS Who Devotes His Time To Activism As A Member Of ACT UP
Judy Has Never Imagined Finding Romance Until She Falls For Reza And They Start Dating
Art Is Judy S Best Friend, Their School S Only Out And Proud Teen He LI Never Be Who His Conservative Parents Want Him To Be, So He Rebels By Documenting The AIDS Crisis Through His Photographs
As Reza And Art Grow Closer, Reza Struggles To Find A Way Out Of His Deception That Won T Break Judy S Heart And Destroy The Most Meaningful Friendship He S Ever Known
This Is A

Bighearted, Sprawling Epic About Friendship And Love And The Revolutionary Act Of Living Life To The Fullest In The Face Of Impossible Odds yes I cried over this book, yes I still did not like it 2.5 stars, rtc buddy read with the loveliest yes I cried over this book, yes I still did not like it 2.5 stars, rtc buddy read with the loveliest 2nd reading, and I love this book so much Endless love Truly one of the best books I ve read all year, Like a Love Story has the potential for wide appeal, but perhaps its greatest strength is how unflinchingly queer it is Abdi Nazemian writes a book that could be and honestly should be read by everyone, but it is above all a love letter to queer youth and anyone who ever was a queer youth.It s a history lesson about what it was like to be queer in the late 80s and early 90s, the way 2nd reading, and I love this book so much Endless love Truly one of the best books I ve read all year, Like a Love Story has the potential for wide appeal, but perhaps its greatest strength is how unflinchingly queer it is Abdi Nazemian writes a book that could be and honestly should be read by everyone, but it is above all a love letter to queer youth and anyone who ever was a queer youth.It s a history lesson about what it was like to be queer in the late 80s and early 90s, the way AIDS put a dark fearful cloud on so many human beings as they were coming of age But while well researched, this is fiction and it has a lovely fairy tale vibe without every losing any gritty human emotion.Here s a passage I adore Us All of us What we did Our history Who we are They won t teach it in schools They don t want us to have a history They don t see us They don t know we are another country, with invisible borders, that we are a people You have to make them see You have to remember it And to share it Please Time passes, and people forget Don t let them Music particularly Madonna plays a huge role in the novel, and the scene when the characters go to a Madonna concert is one of the greatest scenes in the book, IMO It actually moved me to tears as I thought about the first Tori Amos concerts I went to and how I felt so SEEN and LOVED during those shows You can just tell that Nazemian has truly lived so many of the things of this book because of its honesty, and it s clear that this book is a labor of love.If I could control things, I would love to see this book reach the kind of readership The Hate U Give has found Queer youth today face fewer challenges than Art and

Reza face in the book, when falling in love with someone seemed, to many, to equal disease and death, and certainly fewer than Stephen and Jimmy, but there is still such a long way to go. Too many queer youth still struggle with crippling depression and hurt themselves because they don't know how to accept themselves or belong to communities that don't see them. Many still equate being queer with loneliness and shame and even death. And so I'm so glad for all the love and hope in this novel, one that never lets go of the beauty and necessity of resistance. This is the best book for Pride Month that I could have possibly asked for and maybe one of the best YA novels I've ever read for all the love it exudes. I don't often buy multiple copies for my classroom, but I will be buying of this one. I want to share this with everyone. Let me end this short review which falls far short of what this book means to me with this incredible passage that needs to be sent out to every LGBTQ kid everywhere. I'll tell you what we will never be deficient of: LOVE. We love art and beauty. We love new ideas and pushing boundaries. We love fighting against corruption. We love redefining archaic rules. We love men, and women, and men who dress like women, and women who dress like men. We love tops and bottoms, and top hats, especially when worn by Marlene Dietrich. But most of all, we love each other. Know that we love each other. We care for each other. We are brothers and sisters, mentors and students, and together we are limitless and whole. The most important four-letter word in our history will always be LOVE. That's what we are fighting for. That's who we are. Love is our legacy. LIKE A LOVE STORY is a little like a love story, really. But in the sense of love for oneself, one's body, and one's community, I think it did a really good job of that, particularly when propped up against the setting, but when it comes to the love story, the romance, within the book it kinda failed. And by kinda I mean really. Nazemian's story takes place on the cusp of the nineties, in 1989, and is set against the AIDS crisis. Not as a backdrop but as a very real threat and very present. LIKE A LOVE STORY is a little like a love story, really. But in the sense of love for oneself, one's body, and one's community, I think it did a really good job of that, particularly when propped up against the setting, but when it comes to the love story, the romance, within the book it kinda failed. And by kinda I mean

really. Nazemian's story takes place on the cusp of the nineties, in 1989, and is set against the AIDS crisis. Not as a backdrop but as a very real threat and very present player for our three protagonists. Art is out and proud and angry. His best friend, Judy, has an uncle dying of AIDS. And the new kid, originally from Iran, is Reza, someone both friends fall for but who, despite initially dating Judy, is closeted. I knew this wouldn't be an easy story but I knew it would be an important one. It was a frightening time and is made even terrifying when held up against the current social and political climate. Addressing the bigotry and the homophobia was all very visceral and awful but well done. I felt like I was living it. Where the fear of touch, of being touched, infected every interaction. Where not subscribing to white, heteronormative, ideals made you worthy of hate or shunning. Where it was acceptable to wish your son dead just for being queer. Where hate fuelled both sides of the equation: one side for being ushered into an early grave just for being who they were, and the other for not understanding or not accepting people different from themselves. What I believe failed this story was the characters. The romance is fast tracked as is fairly typical though the fact that these two besties go from zero to eleven within half a page over the new kid is unlikely as it is but for it to be turned into a triangle, infusing unnecessary drama into the mix, just becomes tedious and ultimately, it's the leads that do a disservice to the goings on around them. Or, rather, I feel they overshadowed the rest with their nonsense. I outright disliked two of the POVs more strongly than the other but overall it was their behaviours, too, that I just couldn't stand. The most important four-letter word in our history will always be LOVE. That's what we are fighting for. That's who we are. Love is our legacy. I'm heartbroken that this didn't work but I do think, if the synopsis draws you in, you should still pick it up. LIKE A LOVE STORY is a book that features a four-star topic but is, unfortunately, saddled with one-star protagonists. I received an ARC from the publisher thank you in exchange for an honest review. This review can also be found at [A Take From Two Cities](#). So close to five but just couldn't get there. Super-developed character Stephen: mentor character and activist who showed the gravity of any situation while offering comic relief. Reza: one of the 3 protagonists and POVs. Deals with being an immigrant, a POC, homosexual, and

comes from a culture that violently opposes who he is so a lot of internal conflict for a soft spoken character who wants to please his family above all else. Art the extrovert gay character who uses confidence to mask his So close to five but just couldn t get there Super developed character Stephen mentor character and activist who showed the gravity of any situation while offering comic relief Reza one of the 3 protagonists and POVs Deals with being an immigrant, a POC, homosexual, and comes from a culture that violently opposes who he is so a lot of internal conflict for a soft spoken character who wants to please his family above all else. Art the extrovert gay character who uses confidence to mask his fear because the alternative is unthinkable This leads him to moments of being a little hot headed but never without reason. Judy the straight white middle class ally and best friend dealing with her own internal struggles Niece of Stephen who teaches her the uphill battle his community faces. There are side characters like Reza s mom, sister, step brother and step father All of whom have moments of sympathy well kinda There are also the families of the other protagonists and various students and protestors who served a specific purpose and nothing beyond that Plot 3 high school seniors from different backgrounds living in NYC interact in a love triangle that tests their friendship during the height of the AIDS epidemic It s a compelling coming of age tale that involves three teenagers finding strength through Madonna s music to freely express who they are during a time where that was potentially fatal. Writing style captured unique voices for each character, and created some very emotional dialogue Though the stakes were high there wasn t much tension throughout the text Actions and reactions but no buffer between where you believe things might go another way It s not a flaw, just a style that kept the focus on the internal struggles of the 3 main characters and not the external struggles of the world Nazemian has graced us with his impeccable writing, poignant storytelling and a nuanced and meaningful read So much honesty, courage and potpourri of emotions portrayed in a single book RTC Extending my deepest gratitude to Edelweiss and Balzer Bray for providing this ARC in exchange for an honest review However, this does not affect any opinions or feedback stated concerning the book whatsoever TW Homophobic slurs, racial slurs, heterosexism,

violence The most important four letter Nazemian has graced us with his impeccable writing, poignant storytelling and a nuanced and meaningful read So much honesty, courage and potpourri of emotions portrayed in a single book RTC

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However, this does not affect any opinions or feedback stated concerning the book whatsoever TW Homophobic slurs, racial slurs, heterosexism, violence The most important four letter word in our history will always be LOVE That s what we are fighting for That s who we are Love is our legacy I loved this book to bits It isthan just a love story It isthan just the value of friendship It isthan just loving someone who your bestfriend also happens to love It isthan just being an immigrant living in a Western country This has all the markings of a grand and stellar debut Nazemian had written this book as if his life depended greatly on it He had put something of an essence into this story He gave it its own life, instilled in it a longing to be heard not only by the members of the LGBT community themselves but also the people belonging to all genders

Emphasizing the impartiality between every person s identity and the normalcy of being a homosexual even amidst facing discrimination from people who are seemingly above reproach in a world full of contempt and obloquy are only what made up a quarter of the book alongside the persistence of fighting and standing up for equal human rights This book delivers one hell of a blow to the universe for its bias and prejudice Maybe freedom always comes with pain

One of the main characters, Reza, comes from a different culture, one that does not tolerate homosexuality He was born in Iran and brought along to another country before he finally settled in NYC because this was where his mother found new love after his father died in an uprising back in his motherland He now is exposed to an affluent kind of living and has therefore all the resources he needs for himself Well at least, while he is at home and at school There is only one thing that always keeps him on edge he likes boys and he wants to keep it a secret from anyone Scared of the possibility of banishment from the family and AIDS taking over his system, he could only do so much as keep his infatuations in check and confine them deep within his mind, not letting them take control of his body With trepidation

hanging over his head, he resorted to having a seemingly intimate connection with a girl in his new school, all while searching for his own identity in the process. But then, along the way, he developed some kind of strange fascination to this guy at school. I need to live, and to live, I can't ever be what I know that I am. The guy's name is Art, another one of the main characters in the book. This one had a keen fondness for anything that has to do with art. He pours his love for it resolutely and shows it through the set of clothes he wore, the way he sticks colors in his hair, his love for Madonna, his dogged alluring stance he carries on perpetually, and being the only queer in an all heterosexual school. He has a family that does not quite understand him: a father who pampers his son with his riches so as to gradually make him just as competent as he is someday, a burgeoning venerable and an honest to goodness businessman, and a mother who incessantly weeps at the sight of her son divagating from his father's wishes but does not do anything about it. He has only ever felt accepted by a community of homosexuals involved in an activism along with his long term best friend Judy. He makes a militant activist himself who fights alongside the gay community to preserve their gay rights movement and advocacy to attain some justice for themselves. It's the parents that have to change first. Because so long as parents are telling their kids that being gay is a sin, or that this disease is God's way of killing gay people, or that celibacy is the only way not to die, or that they can get it from sitting on the wrong toilet seat, then nothing else matters. Because teenagers, well, I mean, we don't tell grown ups what we do because we already know how they're going to react. We already know that they'll either pretend we never said what we said, or ground us, or blame us. And you know, most people don't really have parents like you. Amidst these activists running amok stands Judy, the ever supportive friend and an allegiant ally to the activists cause. She is dearly connected with the other two main characters, one who she has developed a crush on and the other who she has been friends with ever since they were kids. She aspires to reach her desire to be a fashion designer when she grows up that and to have a lifetime spent with Reza. Conflicts arise when love finds its way among the three of them, toppling relationships and building them back up again. I love this about these guys, their ability to laugh

through their anger, to find light even in injustice. There are several constants evident in the book that served as shared coping mechanisms which further deepened the foundation of friendship and averted the fraying relationships from fully crumbling to pieces and instead gave way to a newfound bond that is both steady and impenetrable. Just like how their love for Madonna brought them even closer to each other, they also have Stephen, Judy's gay uncle, on the center stage of their friendship. Stephen stood as their anchor, their mentor and loving parent for most of the times they felt lost and indecisive. If there is one person in the world I would be given the chance to meet, it would be him. His character was made to be endearing and brave that somehow at some point while going through the motions in my life, I had thought of him and instinctively his appealing traits have become suddenly infectious that it got me living like I was him at those moments. It feels like being reminded that the point of BEING alive is to FEEL alive. The only time I got slightly upset with this book, had it not ended up that way, was when I had reached the part somewhere towards the ending. There was something in it that left me out of sorts. I actually thought this one aspect in the book would remain as is until it ended but it led me towards a different and unfamiliar territory altogether. I think it may work out for some readers out there but damn, how could you do this to me, Abdi. [View spoiler](#) It broke my heart in absolute half that Reza and Art did not end up together in the end. Weren't they meant for each other? I mean, just look at how lovely they look together. Those lovebirds, [yes hide spoiler](#). The moral is, the dynamic of friendship changes when one friend finds romance. But change doesn't mean it's over. Let me tell you a fun fact on how I actually felt upon and while reading this book. Allow me to visualize it to when someone picks a pulchritudinous rose. Now, imagine seeing a rose flower in the distance. Pretty enticing, right? Now you come near it because you just couldn't resist. Its dazzling petals are calling out to you. Wouldn't you feel somehow rueful just ignoring the way it's hissing at the sight of you? So you saunter towards it and pick it up deliberately. But you haven't noticed its thorns prickle at your skin. Then, realizing there's blood slithering all over the palm of the hand you used to grasp it, you suddenly gasp in utter pain and agony. But still, the hurt lingers. Soon after, you

wail and whimper and weep some it doesn't stop you from holding the rose much longer though You assess its beauty You want to examine it closely There you go You find that you can't stop yourself even though your hands still tremble in the aftermath Suddenly, without so much as a hint of a warning, you get irritated but then you shake it off like it was not there in the first place Eventually, you feel the urge to smell it Woah, that ambrosial smell It must have been a gift from the gods But you try hard not to let it get to you Soon you figure out that you are not as invulnerable as you think you are so you keep the delicate rose and put it into a small container under water just so it would live long because you know in your heart it spoke many life lessons unto you and made known a gallimaufry of emotions but otherwise the best feeling in the world I will myself to turn all my nerves into confidence, to release all the butterflies in my stomach into the cold city air, so that there will be only one butterfly left Mel found its plot weaved exquisitely with its lush prose and down to earth historical narrative It had me taken aback, had me rooting for Stephen and his growing horde of gay activists, had me beaming with excitement, had me tittering uncontrollably, had me sniveling for eternity, had me vexed with how the characters were being treated at times, had put me on the same wavelength as theirs and had indisputably pulled at my heartstrings completely This book is sheer beauty at its finest If these things still do not make you want to read it, then I do not know what will We all come from love And that's where we're going too Where we are now, that's the complicated part

"For warriors, divas, artists, queens,
activists, trendsetters, and anyone searching
for the courage to be themselves."
—MACKENZI LEE, NYT bestselling
author of *The Gentleman's Guide*
to Vice and Virtue

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