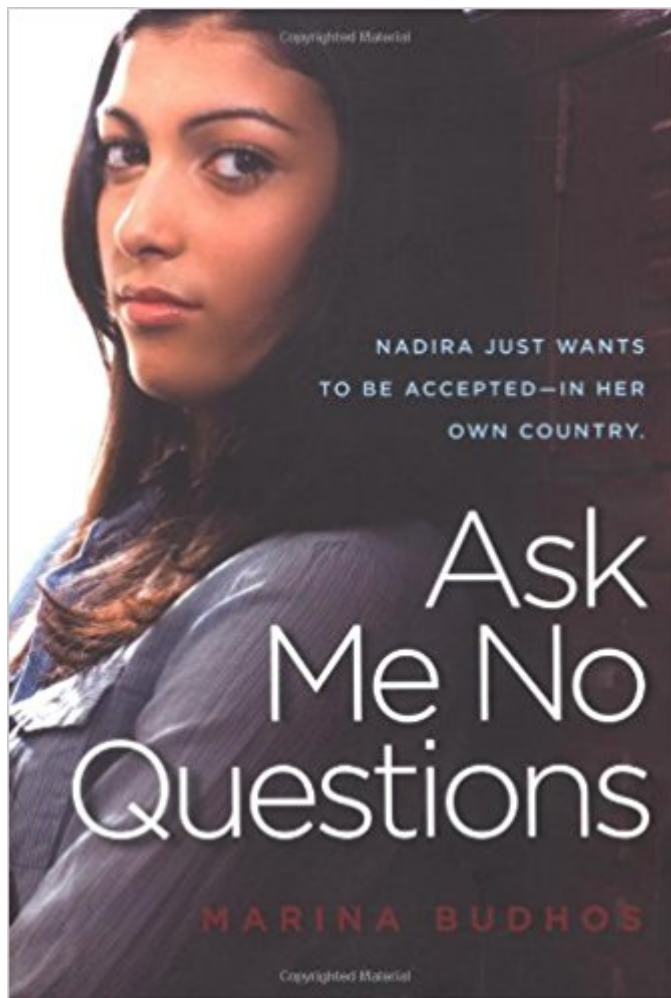




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Ask Me No Questions



Synopsis

"You forget. You forget you don't really exist here, that this isn't your home." Since emigrating from Bangladesh, fourteen-year-old Nadira and her family have been living in New York City on expired visas, hoping to realize their dream of becoming legal U.S. citizens. But after 9/11, everything changes. Suddenly being Muslim means you are dangerous -- a suspected terrorist. When Nadira's father is arrested and detained at the U.S.-Canadian border, Nadira and her older sister, Aisha, are told to carry on as if everything is the same. The teachers at Flushing High don't ask any questions, but Aisha falls apart. Nothing matters to her anymore -- not even college. It's up to Nadira to be the strong one and bring her family back together again.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790 (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 11, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416949208

ISBN-13: 978-1416949206

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #80,477 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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[Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East](#) #86 in [Books >](#)

[Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10-As part of a U.S. government crackdown on illegal immigration after 9/11, Muslim men were required to register with the government and many were arrested because their visas had long-since expired. Families who had lived and worked in this country were suddenly and forcibly reminded of their illegal status without any likelihood of changing it. For 18-year-old Aisha Hossain, this means the end of her dream of going to college to become a doctor. For 14-year-old Nadira, her younger sister and the story's narrator, it means coming out from behind the shadow of her perfect

older sister to reveal her own strength and find a way to reunite her nearly shattered family. Immigrants from Bangladesh, the Hossains have lived illegally in New York for years, their visa requests handled by a series of dishonest or incompetent lawyers and mired in the tortuous process of bureaucratic red tape. Following their father's arrest and detention, the teens put together the documentation and make a case that requires the judges to see them as individuals rather than terror suspects. The author explains their situation well, but the effect is more informational than fiction. Nadira and Aisha are clearly drawn characters, but they don't quite come alive, and their Bangladeshi-American background is more a backdrop than a way of life. Still, this is an important facet of the American immigrant experience, worthy of wider attention.-Kathleen Isaacs, Towson University, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Gr. 7-10. What is it like to be an illegal alien in New York now? In a moving first-person, present-tense narrative, Nadira, 14, relates how her family left Bangladesh, came to the U. S. on a tourist visa, and stayed long after the visa expired ("Everyone does it. You buy a fake social security number for a few hundred dollars and then you can work."). Their illegal status is discovered, however, following 9/11, when immigration regulations are tightened. When the family hurriedly seeks asylum in Canada, they are turned back, and Nadira's father, Abba, is detained because his passport is no longer valid. The secrets are dramatic ("Go to school. Never let anyone know. Never."), and so are the family dynamics, especially Nadira's furious envy of her gifted older sister, Aisha. But Aisha breaks down, and Nadira must take over the struggle to get Abba out of detention and prevent the family's deportation. The teen voice is wonderfully immediate, revealing Nadira's mixed-up feelings as well as the diversity in her family and in the Muslim community. There's also a real drama that builds to a tense climax: Did Abba give funds to a political organization? Where has the money gone? Will Immigration hear his appeal? The answer is a surprise that grows organically from the family's story. Readers will feel the heartbreak, prejudice, kindness, and fear. Add this to the titles in "New Immigration Materials" in the August 2005 issue's Spotlight on Immigration. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My son had to read this book for school, this would be his first grade of the school year. He was struggling keeping interested in the book, so I read the book myself. I think the book was really good. Nadira of course became my favorite character. Her strength, love and respect for her

family..... Wonderful.

This is a story that will get everyone thinking and analyzing American culture and beliefs. This Muslim family feels they need to seek asylum in Canada because they are in the U.S. illegally. Like many, they entered the country legally and just stayed beyond the expiration of their visas. This story of how many people live in this country is both sad and hopeful throughout. It is certainly a read I recommend to all middle and high school age students.

Easy to read, interesting. I recommend!

First let me say I loved the premise of this book, and was excited about it once I read the synopsis on the back. However, I was sorely disappointed. The book lacks consistent character development, the plot is predictable and it does not come close to addressing the larger social issues that it could, given the subject matter. I found myself decidedly unsympathetic towards the protagonist and disinterested in the resolution/outcome by the middle of the book, which is never a good sign. Perhaps I had too many expectations going into reading the book. I gave it a three star rating, because it wasn't completely awful. The writing is fine, and it is a quick read. I could see lower-level Young Adult readers enjoying it and will keep the copy I have for my classroom library.

This book is amazing and tells the story of a family from Bangladesh who gets a tourist visa to America and ends up staying- illegally. However after 9/11 our country started caring about who lived in our country and made men from certain countries register with the government. This book has allowed me to think about things from another's point of view and re-think my opinion on illegal immigration (which I am still thinking about). I think it's great that Marina Budhos writes a novel like this to allow young adults to think critically about this hot topic and form their own opinions on it. Amazing class discussions could come of this book if used in a classroom setting!!![...]

My 11 year old had to read this for his Summer reading for school and loved it

This book is a beautiful yet tragic story about love and loss, and how to stick together and never give up even in the hardest circumstances. If you don't like it, your crazy.

A great read, very eye opening!! And it would be perfect for a classroom read as well! If you are a

social studies teacher, get this book!!!

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