



I Don't Belong Here

Sofia Mazloum

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Sixteen-year-old Tamara Khoury just wants to live a normal teenage existence. Unfortunately, her strict Lebanese-Catholic upbringing instigated by her tyrannical father is prohibiting her from fully experiencing adolescence. In her bedroom-the one place where she finds peace-Tamara dreams of the day when she will be free of her dysfunctional family, culture, and her cruel father.

Tamara's father rules his household with tyranny. Despite this, or perhaps in spite of it, Tamara meets Adrian and shares her first real kiss with him. She continues to disobey her father's rules, even after he learns of her tryst. To complicate matters even more, Tamara meets a different young man. His mysterious ways entice and draw her to him. Tamara's relationship with both men draws her into a series of temptations that include drugs, alcohol, and the possibility of losing her virginity. But everything will change when her mother unveils her deepest, darkest secret.

I Don't Belong Here is the young adult tale of a teenage girl who is conflicted between her desire to have a normal life and her strict culture as she learns the true meaning of family, friendship, and love.

I Don't Belong Here Details

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From Reader Review I Don't Belong Here for online ebook

Misal Belvedere says

I Don't Belong here is an easy read and should definitely be on the booklist for Senior English Students (appropriate for 15 - 18 year olds). The book has many underlying themes - racism, multiculturalism, fitting in socially, dealing with peer pressure and tradition are only just a few. It is snapshot into young Tamara's life but the themes are beautifully dealt with. It feels as though there could be a sequel with the way the author ends this beautifully written novel. I strongly recommend this book.

Tinamarie Berger says

I received this book as a first reader. It is a great read for high school students. The themes of multiculturalism, family dynamics and substance abuse are strong, but relevant to the genre. Just when you think you understand the main characters of Tamara, Charlie and their parents, everything changes.

Laura says

Great book! I think all adolescents should read this book!

I won this in a first reads giveaway on goodreads, thank you very much!

Dalia says

I really enjoyed this book. It was an easy read and kept me wanting to know what was going to happen next. The themes throughout the book highlight the myriad of issues 15 year old Tamara deals with, in a short period of time. It would certainly resonate with many teenagers experiencing similar issues and learning to cope with building their independence & finding their place amongst family, friends, at school and within relationships. It's certainly a great candidate to be included in the school curriculum for senior students as it lends itself well to further discussions, understanding of coping mechanisms and resolving personal & social issues. I would have liked to have explored Tamara's mother's storyline further & find out if she returns back home. Similarly, I would have liked to have had more of the backstory between Rania & Tamara given this storyline was part of the turning point in Tamara's life. I wonder if the author's next book will continue on with Tamara's strong mindedness & determination to be her own person. ;)

Mary Ladrick says

I Don't Belong Here is a story full of adolescent reality, family life, friendships, relationships, grief and loss and finding out about ourselves. Tamara Khoury is brought up in a strict Lebanese household whilst also

trying to live an adolescent life in Australia. I enjoyed reading Tamara's thoughts, especially the ones she thought to herself but did not say out loud. I felt for Tamara's mothers who has had her own challenges and making the most of her current situation. There is a lot happening in this family and it is really interesting to read as the story unfolds. The story explores lots of relevant issues that adolescents experience at this important stage in life. It took me back to what it felt like to be a adolescent and exploring self identity. Sofia Mazloum's writing style is easy to read and you will not want to put down the book once you start reading it. Each chapter is a page turner! Happy reading!
