



YES NO MAYBE SO BY BECKY ALBERTALLI AND AISHA SAEED

Young adult fiction
Ages 14-ish to older
Political stuff and romance

Yes No Maybe So is built on the normal young adult skeleton: boy and girl meet. And that's all this book is about. Aside from politics.

This book follows Jamie, a Jewish boy, and Maya, a Muslim girl. They're both pushed into canvassing for the upcoming election's Democratic candidate, Jamie because his cousin works for the candidate and Maya because her parents said they'd buy her a car if she did it. They get to know each other better, and naturally, like 99% of YA books, end up in a relationship.

First of all, I didn't like the romance. Maya and Jamie bond over anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Yeah. It's weird. Additionally, I just think they were better off as friends than in a relationship. Anyway, the book is also about the politics part too, so let's get into that.

Yes No Maybe So is heavy on the politics. The story takes place in Georgia, so it's pretty interesting that it's centered on canvassing for a Democratic candidate (the book was published before Georgia became surprisingly blue). That aside, I don't like how the book portrays the Republican Party (this is weird but let me explain). In *Yes No Maybe So*, the GOP is shown as a bunch of racist, homophobic, white supremacists. While these people do exist, not all of them are any of these. Besides, the way the book kept reminding the reader that Republicans were bad every two pages was irritating (however I can forgive this because the comparison of Trump and his followers to Bowser and his Koopa Tropas was strangely accurate).

There were a few details that irked me, including how social media and "going viral" were portrayed, but honestly Becky Albertalli's writing made up for it. The chapters alternated, with one from the point of view of Jamie (written by Albertalli) and one from the point of view of Maya (written by Aisha Saeed). I rather liked that as well.

I'd recommend this book to people who like reading fiction about politics, since this book does a good job at it. Other Becky Albertalli lovers might like it as well. But please steer clear if you're here only for the romance part; you'll be disappointed. 7/10

