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Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up in Turkey

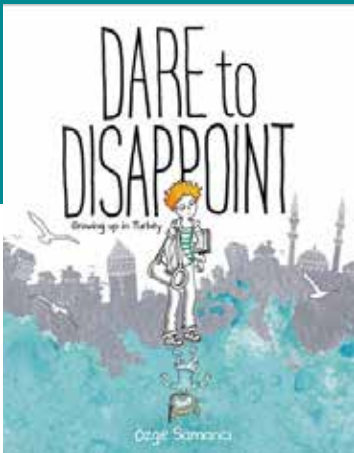
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Book Review

Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up in Turkey

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Illustrator

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Reviewer

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Rating

Cannot Recommend

Level

Young Adult

Pages

190

Year

2015

Publisher

Farrar Straus Giroux

ISBN

9780374316983

All six-year-old Özge wants is to go to school like her big sister Pelin. She even sneaks into the school instead of going to the store for milk. As she reaches her teen years, school becomes Özge's entire life. Although once a dream of hers, it becomes a nightmare as she is encouraged study as hard as possible, get into the best high school and then college in Turkey, and eventually become an engineer. Özge struggles between pleasing her father or choosing to follow her new dreams of being an actress and swimming in the ocean. For a time, she attends two colleges, trying to pursue both dreams. Finding that this still doesn't make her happy, Özge decides to focus on pleasing her father. In an unexpected way, Özge finds a new dream—being an artist. She decides that this time, nothing will hold her back from pursuing this dream.

The title Dare to Disappoint is fitting for this book because it definitely did. The pages are filled with detailed black and white sketches. As time progresses, more and more color is found in the sketches, possibly analogous to Özge's increased awareness and personality as she grows older. While the images are fitting for the story, it is the content of the book that is disappointing. As Özge grows up and moves away from home, she begins to drink, smoke, and have sex. For example, Özge gets a boyfriend with the intention of having sex with him and sleeps with him one month later before breaking up with him. There are also scenes of violence throughout the book that would be traumatizing to children, including war scenes, assault, and possible rape. While all of these are realistic behaviors and events, they are not appropriate from young readers.

*Contains mild language, moderate sexual content, severe violence, and questionable behavior (drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes).