



2018

You Bring the Distant Near

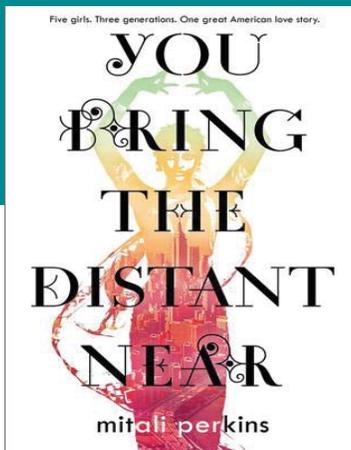
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Book Review

You Bring the Distant Near

Sisters Tara and Sonia are as different as night and day, but they've grown close through their family's multiple moves to locations around the world. As they adjust to their new adventure of living in America, they must find ways to exist in their environment as girls that are simultaneously Bengali and American. Later, cousins Anna and Chantal struggle to develop their friendship while also protecting their individuality. Anna is modest and has a strongly political mind, developed from her upbringing in India, and Chantal has an easy nature and completely American behavior. But both girls have to learn how to practice self-acceptance and appreciate the value of diversity in their complex family and the world. In the end, regardless of which generation they come from, each woman pursues her own destiny and finds peace with her own unique set of gifts.

You Bring the Distant Near analyzes issues that are hugely important in modern American culture. As immigrants and children of immigrants, the four women that the story centers around each have to decide what being American means to her. The tension between tradition and progress, especially over many generations, is a crucial theme in the story. Also, this poignant book could make a reader consider significant questions regarding their own sense of self. This book would be especially impactful for women and older girls, as any woman can relate to this story's exploration of the destructive nature of comparison among women, the drive for accomplishment, and the desire to fit in. Though such forces threaten to rob the characters of the many attributes which make them truly unique, by using the support of strong women around them, the characters ultimately see themselves as valuable threads in the fabric of a modern, diverse America.

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Illustrator

Reviewer

Emma Patton

Rating

Dependable

Level

Young Adult

Pages

320

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