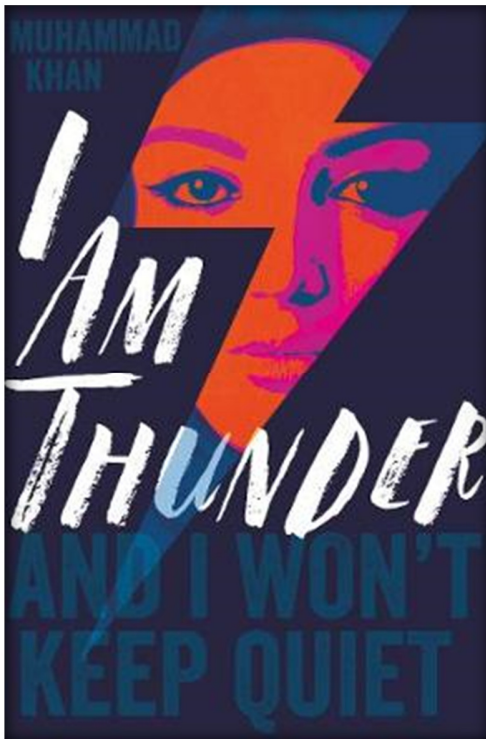


LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **I Am Thunder** by Muhammad Khan

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



Humaira Kauser, age 19

I hope more books are written in this vein. We need more people like Muhammad Khan to craft stories like this to not only show that we are not alone but also so people understand.

I've read 'I Am Thunder' a few days ago and I've had a lot to think about it now. I think the book conveys so many important issues that need to be spoken about from culture, religion and what it is especially like for many British Muslim teens at the moment.

I have a few things in common with Muzna, the main character; we're both female British Pakistani Muslim's (and I was a teen a while ago) but the similarities ended there. This is a story about one girls

story- it's not everyone's; but it's enough to see glimpses of yourself in most of the characters. So I hope this isn't the only YA book that features a prominent person of colour that tackles with such a big issue that more people need to read about.

That aside, the book itself was a thought-provoking read- I kept imagining myself or my sisters in the situations. I loved the pop culture references, though I'm worried not everyone will understand the slang- it's so colloquial but then again it will engage teenagers the most, and they need this book the most.

Izzy Read, age 16

This funny, gritty coming of age novel could not be more needed in this current day and age. I can only hope I can find more books like

it!

When Munza moves schools, not only does she try to reinvent herself she also catches the eye of the hottest guy in her year, Arif. As she gets closer to him, she starts to explore Islam in a way she hasn't been able to before. But the more she gets to know Arif's brother, Jameel, the more she realises how much hatred he has for the west...

This funny, gritty coming of age novel could not be more needed in this current day and age. With Islamophobia becoming increasing common not only in the UK but in the US- it is important to represent POC and Muslims in all different kinds of media. Not only is radicalisation shown but also the different ethnicities and communities that are such a huge part of the UK but under discussed in YA literature. I can only hope I can find more books like it!

Megan Chambers, age 16

This book was really good! I read it in two days and loved it. Although it's a relatively easy read, I definitely wouldn't recommend to those under the age recommendation due to the nature of the story.

*Although not much happened that I didn't already know from the blurb, I liked this book. As a white atheist living in a mainly white Christian town, I found this book very insightful into the way other people live and what their background means to them. The action only started right near the end of the book, up until then it was like a standard YA romance. Although the action was kind of predictable, it was still really enjoyable to read, and the cliff-hanger we're left on makes you cling on wanting more. **It was a relatively easy read, but dealt with delicate topics, so I'd definitely recommend this book to people, especially those wanting to get out of a reading slump.***

Imogen Breaks, age 14

'I Am Thunder' is about a young Muslim girl and what she has to face every day, just to stand up for what's right. Her narration tells an eye-opening story that you have to read to truly believe.

Her narration tells a shocking and eye opening story for how young Muslim girls have to live their lives. Muzna Saleem is a fifteen year old girl whose destiny is already planned out by her parents; she is going to be a doctor. However, Muzna has a passion for writing. Along the high school route Muzna meets a hot but completely banned boy who takes a usual interest in her. She soon realises however, that he is hiding a terrible, dark secret that could shatter her. Should she keep quiet and betray her beliefs or stand up for what she truly believes in and betray her heart?

Mrs Armstrong-Harris

A very current storyline which deals with a complex context well. At its basic level a 'girl meets boy' story with a complicated back drop.

*The story of Muzna, a shy girl who is forced to stand up for herself and others when she discovers a dangerous secret. This book has a very current storyline and deals with the complex context well. At its basic level it is a 'girl meets boy' story and follows the development of the relationship between Muzna and Arif. Muzna is a very quiet girl who generally keeps herself to herself and does not believe that there is anything about her that would be attractive to boys until Arif, a boy everyone thinks is 'hot,' takes notice of her. Muzna soon suspects that all is not as it seems and eventually uncovers a dangerous secret about Arif and his brother. Some of the language and events in the book are very specific to the context but this enabled me to learn more. Not really a plot twist as the reader can see what is coming, however, this makes the reader root for Muzna to make the right decisions and to do the right thing. **Definitely a YA book most suitable for 14 years plus.***

Laura Solomon, age 14

Muhammad Khan writes confidently in the style of a 16 year old girl showing modern day threats and whimsical humour. His interesting perspective only accentuates the troubling subject matter.

Edel Waugh

*This is a story about a teenage girl called Muzna, she dreams of being an author when she gets older but her strict Muslim parents have other ideas for her. Muzna is a great character, she is funny and down to earth with ambition and gumption. Muzna lives in the UK with her family who are originally from Pakistan, she has had a rigid upbringing where her parents are always trying to keep her safe in every way, but especially where boys are concerned, so when she meets a boy she likes her straightforward world gets a lot more complicated and dangerous for her and those around her. **This was a beautiful and heartbreaking book, the main character had such a great sense of humour I was rooting for her to do well. I read this in one sitting, it was marvellous.***

Celeste Phelan, age 16

A very relevant novel in today's society, addressing the ever increasing problems of extremism and discrimination, keeping the reader gripped.

Muzna is an intelligent young Muslim girl whose life is dictated by her strict parents as her ambitions to become a writer are brutally dashed. However her simple teenage life shockingly inverses when she is called a 'terrorist' by one of her fellow classmates and the dashing Arif defends her. A quick friendship forms. However, she is soon drawn down a dark path attending extremist meetings with Arif and his brother and is gifted a hijab which Muzna hides from her parents. But when time is running out can she remain true to herself? Muzna is an intelligent and talented girl but she is forced to conform to her parent's harsh expectations and the stereotypes of her ethnicity. Therefore her vulnerability and frustration makes her easy to manipulate as Muzna questions who she even is anymore.

My favorite part of the novel was when Arif defended Muzna after she faced harsh and demeaning discrimination from a fellow classmate. It marks the point at which Muzna begins to be drawn to an extremist path as she witnesses the true nature of the anti- Muslim propaganda which deepens her anger. I would recommend this book to children 12+ as it deals with discrimination and radicalism which are two key issues in today's society which need to be addressed and learnt about.