



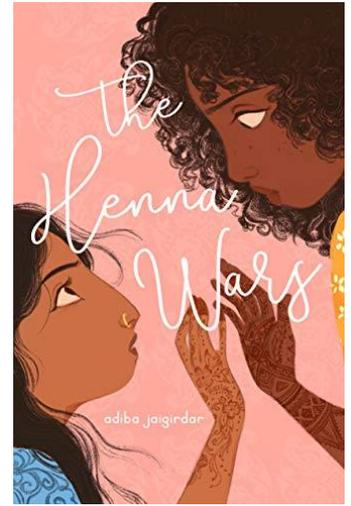
CHRISTINE RECOMMENDS...

LGBTQ+ New Releases

When teenager Nishat comes out to her parents, this is the response she gets: *Muslim girls aren't lesbians*. Nishat isn't sure how to move forward from this disappointing, dismissive, and hurtful response. She doesn't want to cut her parents out of her life, but she doesn't want to hide her true self either.

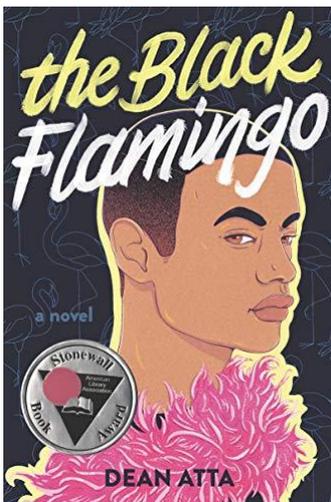
It would be easier to ignore this conflict for a while if Nishat didn't have a big, brand new crush. Nishat tries to get closer to gorgeous, charming Flávia until a school business competition gets in the way. Both girls choose to create henna businesses and suddenly they are rivals. On top of that, Flávia's use of henna is cultural appropriation. It's a real mess. Too bad Nishat can't just switch off her crush.

You know when a silly, artificial obstacle comes between love interests in a book or movie? And it could be solved with one simple conversation in real life? This romantic comedy is not like that. The issues that come up between Nishat and Flávia are realistic and tricky cultural differences.



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Michael is a mixed race teen growing up in London with his mother. He never quite feels like he fits in with either side of his family (he's half Jamaican and half Greek Cypriot), but he feels like an outsider in other ways too. His dream toy is a Greek Goddess Barbie that looks like his mom. He prefers to be friends with girls and longs to date boys.

He is bullied by some of his peers, but finds a small group of true friends in drama club. It seems like college will be the key to freedom and finally living his fullest life, but he still has feelings of being an outsider in his new surroundings. Where will he find his community on campus? And what is The Black Flamingo? A superhero? A supervillain? A biology project? Read to find out!

This is a novel-in-verse (a story told through non-rhyming poetry). Even if you think you hate poetry, you would like a novel in verse. They tend to be quick reads packed with feeling. [Here's a clip of Dean Atta performing an excerpt.](#)

MORE LGBTQ+ FICTION:

[Reverie](#) by Ryan La Sala (fantasy)

[The Fascinators](#) by Andrew Eliopoulos (fantasy)

[Felix Ever After](#) by Kacen Callender (realistic fiction)

[Birthday](#) by Meredith Russo (realistic fiction)

[I Wish You All the Best](#) by Mason Deaver (realistic fic)

[A Line in the Dark](#) by Malinda Lo (suspense/thriller)

[Moonstruck](#) by Grace Ellis (graphic novel fantasy)

[Like a Love Story](#) by Abdi Nazemian (historical fiction)

Click on my picture to email me your recs!