



Meet Sahar . . .

Her only worry as a seventeen-year-old should be whether or not she gets into university. However, being desperately in love with her best friend, Nasrin, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, complicates everything. Sahar is willing to go to great lengths to stop Nasrin from marrying a man, even if it means becoming a man herself. Sahar is brave, intelligent, innocent, slightly naive, devoted to her widower father, and quietly brimming with anger.

HOPES
DREAMS &

To be a doctor and
be with Nasrin by any
means necessary.

and her best friend, Nasrin . . .

Spoiled, wealthy, gorgeous and, searching for her parents' approval, Nasrin is willing to marry handsome, successful Reza even though her heart belongs to Sahar. More concerned with current fashions than the feelings of others, she is adorably (to Sahar) self-centered, as a high school senior should be, and believes she is entitled to everything she wants. The only time she is truly herself—rather than what society expects her to be—is when she is around Sahar.

HOPES
DREAMS &

To be loved
unconditionally.

and her cousin, Ali . . .

Sometime university student and all-the-time party boy, Ali shows his younger cousin Sahar the underground gay social scene in Tehran. His dealings are vague, illegal, and dangerous, but Ali continues living on the edge with a wolfish grin on his well-groomed face. Ali uses humor as an escape from the restrictions and oppression of the country he grows tired of calling home.

HOPES
DREAMS &

To be free. And
party whenever he
sees fit.

and her mentor, Parveen . . .

HOPES
DREAMS &

To be seen and
treated as a lady,
forever and always.

Compassionate, beautiful, and a lady in every way, Parveen teaches Sahar what it means to live as a transsexual in Tehran. She takes her identity as a woman very seriously. Parveen is a law-abiding citizen who always wears a head scarf and is a role model in the trans community. She has suffered, she has triumphed, and she is comfortable in her own skin, a trait that Sahar envies.

and Reza, Nasrin's betrothed . . .

To Sahar, Reza is like Superman. He is a handsome, kind physician who seems to have no faults when Sahar wishes he did. Reza will make a wonderful husband, but he is under the impression that Nasrin will be a perfect wife. He is well meaning but is painfully unaware of his betrothed's secret girlfriend.

HOPES
DREAMS &

To be a
family man.

Meet Sahar's father, Baba . . .

HOPES
DREAMS &

To have his family
back the way it used
to be.

A widower who has never gotten over the death of his wife, Baba is more like a child Sahar has to take care of than a father. As despondent as he seems, Baba also makes keen observations and unconditionally cares for Sahar, even if she feels he doesn't always show it.

and Nasrin's mother, Mrs. Mehdi . . .

Nasrin's mother and the catalyst for Nasrin's pending marriage, Mrs. Mehdi is all about appearances and has always spoiled her children with material things. Though she seems preoccupied with worrying about what others think and is sometimes calculating, she wants what she believes is best for her daughter.

HOPES
DREAMS &

For her children to
be safe and well
taken care of.
