



# Like a Love Story

*Abdi Nazemian*

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**"A love letter to queerness, self-expression, and individuality (also Madonna) that never shies away from the ever-present fear within the queer community of late '80s New York, *Like a Love Story* made me feel so full--of hope, love, courage, pride, and awe for the many people who fought for love and self-expression in the face of discrimination, cruelty, and death.**

**"A book for warriors, divas, artists, queens, individuals, activists, trend setters, and anyone searching for the courage to be themselves."--Mackenzi Lee, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue***

It's 1989 in New York City, and for three teens, the world is changing.

Reza is an Iranian boy who has just moved to the city with his mother to live with his stepfather and stepbrother. He's terrified that someone will guess the truth he can barely acknowledge about himself. Reza knows he's gay, but all he knows of gay life are the media's images of men dying of AIDS.

Judy is an aspiring fashion designer who worships her uncle Stephen, a gay man with AIDS who devotes his time to activism as a member of ACT UP. Judy has never imagined finding romance...until she falls for Reza and they start dating.

Art is Judy's best friend, their school's only out and proud teen. He'll never be who his conservative parents want him to be, so he rebels by documenting the AIDS crisis through his photographs.

As Reza and Art grow closer, Reza struggles to find a way out of his deception that won't break Judy's heart--and destroy the most meaningful friendship he's ever known.

**This is a bighearted, sprawling epic about friendship and love and the revolutionary act of living life to the fullest in the face of impossible odds.**

## Like a Love Story Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Abdi Nazemian

Format :

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Lgbt, Young Adult

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## **From Reader Review Like a Love Story for online ebook**

### **Athena says**

This cover!!

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### **caitlin says**

Review copy courtesy of Edelweiss.

Fans of Becky Albartelli may enjoy this look back into the late 80s/early 90s New York City told through three varying viewpoints: the closeted immigrant, the proudly out rich boy, and their girl best friend. The love triangle is dramatic and the story is sad, but it was a compelling drama.

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### **Lorelei says**

WHY 2019 WHY?!?

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### **Teddy Elizabeth says**

11/6/2018

I am SO EXCITED. Like, I am literally unable to fully express how excited I am for this book & how much I need it in my life. It literally pretty much fits every single thing I've been looking for these past few years. (My current research is on the AIDS Crisis.) AHHHH I'm so excited!!!!!!

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### **Erin says**

I can't say enough good things about this gorgeous novel--certainly Nazemian's best to date. Told through four voices—three teens and one adult—this tale beautifully weaves together lives in a way that feels authentic. I wanted to pace this out, but at 3 a.m., found myself nearing the end, when a pair of scenes moved me to tears. Nazemian's mastery of the teen voice makes this approachable and almost painfully earnest; he captures the vulnerability of coming-of-age and coming out in a time of excitement and peril. Judy, Reza, and Art are a believable and compelling group of friends (with attendant teen hormones and angst). Their experience is both universal and very specific to this time in New York.

There are many moments of fun and hope in Like a Love Story. The complex emotional river swells skillfully until the reader finds herself sacrificing sleep, carried away on its torrents.

The author has captured the exquisite angst facing gay teens in this period—and our own. How to be true to

one's self when the world makes it so dangerous? In a way, I wish that this book weren't so relevant. But I'm glad Nazemian has translated these experiences and emotions to the page.

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**Elise (TheBookishActress) says**

"...a love story & a love letter to activism, NY, & Madonna." this looks great!

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**Cazlam says**

I spent the last thirty minutes of this crying so be warned.

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**Alana says**

Last thirty minutes spent in tears. Stayed up wayyyy too late last night finishing it. Just a lovely book about friendship and love and fear during the AIDS crisis.

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**Ivy says**

I mean, Mackenzie Lee loved it, and I love her. This is just simple Law of Syllogism stuff, guys.

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**Mackenzi says**

Yaaaaaaaaaaaaas Gaga yaaaaaaaaaaaaas.

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**Jamie says**

I gulped this book down. While it's a period piece about a trio of young people in NYC in the midst of the AIDS crisis, this book feels utterly timeless in its exploration of friendships, first loves, and family dynamics. Reza, Art, and Judy are three delicately written and complicated characters, and I'm so happy to have met them. I read a lot of books about gay boys and I read a lot of books about the AIDS crisis but I don't know that I've read one about being this young and coming to grips with sexual identity in the face of a medical crisis at the exact moment this book is set.

One quibble that I hope is solved before publication: the epilogue says that 2016 is the 16th anniversary of an event that happened in 1990. Come on, editors - I know we bookish people work in words but that's some basic math I hope gets fixed by the time the ARC becomes a finished book!

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