



Hot Pink in the City

Medeia Sharif

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Asma Bashir wants two things: a summer fling and her favorite '80s songs. During a trip to New York City to stay with relatives, she messes up in her pursuit of both. She loses track of the hunk she met on her airplane ride, and she does the most terrible thing she could possibly do to her strict uncle... ruin his most prized possession, a rare cassette tape.

A wild goose chase around Manhattan and Brooklyn to find a replacement tape yields many adventures -- blackmail, theft, a chance to be a TV star, and so much more. Amid all this turmoil, Asma just might be able to find her crush in the busiest, most exciting city in the world.

Hot Pink in the City Details

Date : Published May 21st 2017 (first published January 1st 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Medeia Sharif

Format : Kindle Edition 161 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Teen, Islam, Muslims

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From Reader Review Hot Pink in the City for online ebook

Becky says

I received a complimentary copy of this book to review. First of all, I read it in about 2 days' time. I found the characters very realistic and compelling, the story moved along at a nice pace, and I loved the casually slipped in 80s references. Asma really came into her own in that summer, and it was delightful to read the results of her stronger character coming forth. Highly enjoyable read, would recommend to others.

C. McKenzie says

What a vacation this turns out to be for Asma. First her aunt and uncle aren't any easier to live with than her parents, and then she makes a huge mistake when she tries to make a Madonna mix tape. She should never have touched her uncles equipment, but she and her cousin do and with disastrous results. They ruin one of his favorite tapes. Now what? Well, replace it, of course, but it turns out not to be that easy.

This is a light, fun read that teens will related to and enjoy. There are a lot of funny scenes and their attempts at fixing the mess they've created produces a comedy of errors. Good characters in an interesting and sticky situation make for a good read.

Stephanie says

I really enjoyed Hot Pink in the City by Medeia Sharif. It brought back lots of memories of the 80s. I remember recording songs off the radio and making mix tapes, so I could relate to Asma and her cousin. I think many people during that time taped over something important and tried to fix it. Oh how difficult it was back then! The characters were very believable and I enjoyed learning more about Asma's culture. The summer turns out to be a learning experience for her and through a series of events she grows to know herself better and stands up for herself in ways she never had in the past. I especially liked going back to a time before cell phones, the internet, and all the technology we are surrounded by today. A lot can happen over the course of a summer, read Asma's story to find out about hers.

Melissa says

Who didn't love the 80s? This story will put you smack dab in the middle of them and leave you with a sense of nostalgia. You go through a summer adventure with a girl and you have to hold on because the ride is something to behold. With all the bumps you are sure to be left breathless. Like a "True Blue" "Material Girl", you get "Live and Tell" about the ride and "Express Yourself" while you do.

Stephanie Faris says

Medeia had me at "Madonna mixtape!" Hot Pink in the City is set in the 80s, which will make Gen X-ers like me oh so happy. Asma is a 16-year-old girl who spends the summer in New York City with some relatives. An exciting adventure to find a mixed tape results in all kinds of fun. In addition to getting to go back in time to my favorite decade, this book also gave me the opportunity to learn more about Islamic culture. Definitely recommend!

Elizabeth Seckman says

Asma wants adventure for her first trip to New York, but not quite as much as she finds herself in after accidentally ruining her stern uncle's favorite cassette tape. A fun, teen, coming-of-age story that is especially interesting because Medeia gives the reader glances into Islamic culture. For a person completely unaware of Middle Eastern customs, this was a great bonus.

Eva says

Sixteen year old Asma is going on vacation to New York from Miami to see her relatives. When she remembers she forgot to pack her mix tape of Madonna while changing handbags at the last-minute, Asma is temporarily consoled when she meets hunky teenage John Stamos look-alike Ibrahim (Abe) and is smitten. She loses him at baggage pickup when her Uncle Farhad calls out to her, and she can't catch up to him.

Staying with her Uncle Farhad and his Aunt Fatima is like being with her parents: they're both overprotective, superstitious, and strict. Her cousin Nasreen is like her kindred spirit, wanting to get away from NYC and attend college out-of-state and away from under the thumb of her parents. Then there's her cousin Omar; eight years old and spoiled rotten, he's the apple of his parents eyes and can do no wrong. That's what they think, anyway.

Upset at having left her Madonna mix tape at home, Asma and Nasreen decide the only option is to use Farhad's equipment. He doesn't allow use of his recorder or any other equipment, so they have to bribe Omar so he doesn't tattle. They check through his cassettes to find one that is unused/erased and use it to tape Madonna's songs against the radio and TV when they come on. Taking a listen after a few songs, they realize too late that they didn't check the tape carefully enough. Part way through, they find that it's a rare recording of Farhad's idol, Umm Kulthum.

From there on it's a comedy of errors as the girls trek across the city trying to find a replacement tape. When they find it, the price is too high. Determined to get the tape, the girls set out on a quest to make some quick cash. I could go on, but then I'd start giving away spoilers. Do the girls finally get the Umm Kulthum tape? Does Asma meet up with Abe again? Oh, and Omar. Does he finally get his comeuppance?

I adored this novel for a couple of reasons. It took me back to my youth in NYC; the 1980s were my decade, and the time when me and my friends pulled most of our own shenanigans. :) I was all about the big hair, make-up, leg warmers, and yup, Madonna (and 80's rock bands, and freestyle, and rap). *Sigh* There were moments when I couldn't help but giggle and times when I rolled my eyes and thought, 'that's something I would've done.'

The story was well written and the characters fleshed out nicely. I noted minimal, if any spelling or

grammatical errors. The best part is that I was able to learn a little about another culture while enjoying a quick and easy read. If I had to change anything, I would've liked to have learned a bit more about Asma's culture.

The 80s probably have me biased because I loved them so much, but I highly recommend this book to any young adult coming of age. The decades and eras may change, but youth and exploration of the world around them usually doesn't.

Please note: I was given a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review

T.B. Markinson says

Oh this book brought back memories from the 80s. But it was more than a trip down memory lane. It was a fun book with twists and turns and interesting well-developed characters. I really enjoyed that Sharif provides a wonderful glimpse into the lives of American Middle Easterners with ease. This is a heartfelt and humorous coming of age story.

I was given a free copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Emma Lindhagen says

I really wanted to like this book. It has an interesting premise and a fun cast of characters, but for some reason it just didn't connect for me on an emotional level. I didn't really feel Asma's feelings, I was just told she had them, if that makes sense. And some of the characters I found most interesting were not developed. The ending also went a little too zany for me (though I really liked seeing Asma kick her awful friends to the curb).

It was really great to see a book like this with a Muslim lead, though, and especially to see her get a Middle Eastern LI, too. The world needs more of that.

Shira Glassman says

Hot Pink in the City first caught my eye in an update email from my publisher. A fluffy YA starring a Middle Eastern girl? Cool! But then it took me forever to get to, because it's only out in digital and I prefer paperback. Once I started reading it, though, I breezed through it in two days. It was a lot of fun!

This book is like a classic 1980's "teen movie" in literary form, starring an Iranian-American girl from Miami (yay! I grew up in South Florida, too!) who gets to spend the summer in New York City with her cousin. Within the first couple of pages of the book we get a Madonna-loving, soccer-playing teenage girl sitting on a plane, delighted when a cute *and also Middle Eastern* boy (he winds up being Syrian) sits next to her. Then, whoops! Turns out he was in the wrong seat. Will she ever see him again once they get to New York?

Most of the book centers on her growing friendship with her older cousin Nasreen. Together, they try

everything they can think of to replace Nasreen's father's bootleg tape of a beloved old-school Arabic music star, which they've unintentionally destroyed in a "taping Madonna off the radio" mishap. (Imagine a world before downloading! Well, I don't have to imagine, because I was there, but I'd forgotten about taping things off the radio. I mean, it's been *decades*. Fun to revisit the 80's.)

The girls' adventures, secretly trying out for dance contests and dealing with unwanted male attention, as well as avoiding Nasreen's bratty younger brother who gets everything he wants, get zanier and more cinematic as the book progresses, but it was still fun and everything works out at the end. Yes, there's a slight m/f romance plot but it's way on the back burner compared with the friendship between the cousins. It's a love letter to the 80's and to Middle Eastern American culture, and I'm pleased that we share a publisher.

Beth Summer says

what a fun read...set in the 1980s (the first thing I loved), Asma is staying with her aunt, uncle, and cousins in NYC for the summer. All she wants is to listen to Madonna, and without her cassette tape, she's on a mission to get her hands on the music. The hilarity in her quest is never-ending. I also loved the Uncle Jesse (John Stamos) references, and there were a ton of LOL moments (particularly the scene when she's trying to record a song off the radio and, I won't say what happens, but any kid from the 80's or 90s will relate). I also loved learning about the culture of the family. We need diverse books and this delivers. overall this is a sweet, light, and super fun read filled with heart!

Susan Oloier says

Sixteen-year-old Asma takes a trip to New York City by herself for the first time, staying with her relatives. Obsessed with the need to make a Madonna mixed tape, Asma finds herself in a world of trouble when she records over her uncle's precious Umm Kulthum music. Her trip to NYC definitely turns into an adventure. However, it is not the one she necessarily had planned.

In *Hot Pink in the City*, Medeia Sharif takes us on a time-travel adventure back to the 1980s. What I especially like—in addition to the nostalgia—was how she seamlessly gave us a glimpse into the lives of a Middle Eastern family. It was a refreshing departure from typical YA reads, mixing cultural diversity with historical fiction.

A fun and easy read. Great for summer!

Beverly McClure says

Being a teen is tough. There are parents who think they know what is best for you. There are friends that may not be the friends you think they are. And don't forget the boys.

In *HOT PINK IN THE CITY*, by Author Medeia Sharif, sixteen-year-old Asma Bashir, tomboy, soccer star and typical teen is spending a couple of weeks during her summer vacation with her uncle and his family in

New York, which is quite a change from her home in Florida. She hopes to see Madonna, who she is crazy about, as well as check out guys. (Yep, typical teen.) Things don't turn out quite the way she planned, however. Asma and her cousin Nasreen accidentally erase Nasreen's father's favorite tape and soon find themselves in hot water as they attempt to replace the tape before he discovers what they did.

Add a couple of bad guys and a gorgeous teen boy named Abe, that Asma met on the plane and who she runs into again in the city, and the girls' attempts to find a new tape get even more complicated. The author has created teens that are believable and fun, and that you can't help but laugh at their situation (at least I couldn't) while you feel for them too and cheer them on to achieve their goal so they don't embarrass themselves and their strict families.

Medeia Sharif is super at showing the emotions of the characters. I could feel the girls' panic when things went wrong and wondered if they would succeed in their quest. *HOT PINK IN THE CITY* is a story that teen readers should be able to relate to as it touches on many of the crises that they face. This novel would make a great addition to school classrooms and libraries, as well as public libraries and of course your own.

The author provided me with an e-copy of the book for my honest review.

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Bish Denham says

I received this book from the author for review.

Read this and step back into the 1980s! What I enjoyed about about Asma and her summer adventures with her New York City cousin, Nasreen, was her open innocence, her wanting to believe in the basic goodness of people. Her story is a kind of comedy of errors. Asma doesn't mean to do bad things or to get in trouble. And yet it seems at every turn she is digging herself deeper and deeper into a hole she doesn't think she'll ever be able to get out of. Here she is trying so hard to be good and she keeps doing the wrong thing. It's like when you are concentrating very hard NOT to spill that hot cup of coffee on yourself and that's exactly what you do!

The other thing I liked about this story (as with all of Ms. Sharif's stories, even her edgy novels) is that I get a glimpse into the lives of American Middle Easterners. Her novels are windows opening into the homes of families that are both quite recognizable and somehow different at the same time. I loved how Asma's Aunt Fatima blew blessings around the faces of her family before they left the apartment. I loved how the girls stuffed their faces with what we in the Western world call Turkish Delight. I loved learning a little bit about Umm Kulthum and of course had to find videos of her on YouTube.

What a treat to see the world through young Muslim American eyes.

Stacy Davids says

What a fun, fun, fun book! A perfect read for pre-teens and teens! Set in the 1980's, the storyline is filled

with intriguing teenage antics and fun scheming! The main character, Asma, has a strong, funny personality. The friendship between Asma and Nasreen is very well done. The plot is an exciting caper of a teen visiting New York City. I loved the subplot related to the reality dance show audition. The book is extremely well-written! Very highly recommended.
