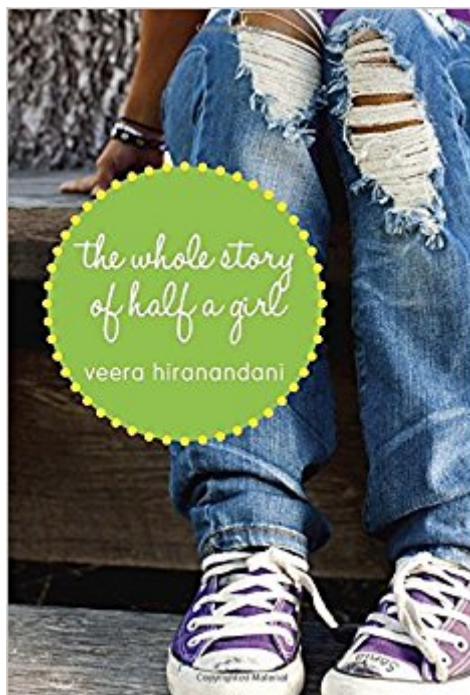


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# The Whole Story Of Half A Girl



## Synopsis

What greater praise than to be compared to Judy Blume!--"Each [Blume and Hiranandani] excels in charting the fluctuating discomfort zones of adolescent identity with affectionate humor."--Kirkus Reviews, Starred

After her father loses his job, Sonia Nadhamuni, half Indian and half Jewish American, finds herself yanked out of private school and thrown into the unfamiliar world of public education. For the first time, Sonia's mixed heritage makes her classmates ask questions--questions Sonia doesn't always know how to answer--as she navigates between a group of popular girls who want her to try out for the cheerleading squad and other students who aren't part of the "in" crowd. At the same time that Sonia is trying to make new friends, she's dealing with what it means to have an out-of-work parent--it's hard for her family to adjust to their changed circumstances. And then, one day, Sonia's father goes missing. Now Sonia wonders if she ever really knew him. As she begins to look for answers, she must decide what really matters and who her true friends are--and whether her two halves, no matter how different, can make her a whole.

From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730L (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Yearling (February 12, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375871675

ISBN-13: 978-0375871672

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 47 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #297,170 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish](#) #260 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness](#) #530 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

After Dad loses his job, Sonia Nadhamuni has to move from private to public middle school, and it is

not easy for her to fit in, especially because Dad is Hindi and Mom is Jewish American. Sonia sometimes feels "too dark to be white, too light to be black." Why is Kate, the star of the cool white crowd, so nice to Sonia, even taking her shopping and getting her on the cheerleading team? Should Sonia sit with Alisha and the black crowd in the lunchroom? There is also conflict at home: Mom hates cheerleading, shopping, reality TV, and junk food; Sonia hates Mom's tofu-heavy cooking. To her shame, Sonia denies her Jewish roots. Then Dad gets depressed and things become much worse. Told in Sonia's wry present-tense voice, the mixed-race-family identity conflicts, as well as the universal contemporary drama of trying to act cool and decent will easily pull readers through this debut novel.

Grades 4-6. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review, Publishers Weekly, November 14, 2011: "In Hiranandani's debut novel, Sonia's struggles are painfully realistic, as she wrestles with how to identify herself, how to cope with her family's problems, and how to fit in without losing herself. True to life, her problems do not wrap up neatly, but Sonia's growth is deeply rewarding in this thoughtful and beautifully wrought novel." Starred Review, Kirkus Reviews, November 15, 2011: "Four decades separate Sonia Nadhamuni and Judy Blume's Margaret Simon, but these feisty, funny offspring of Jewish interfaith marriages are sisters under the skin. Like Blume, Hiranandani resists simplistic, tidy solutions. Each excels in charting the fluctuating discomfort zones of adolescent identity with affectionate humor." From the Hardcover edition.

My 13yo daughter loved it, started reading it right away.

Nice

Sonia Nadhamuni's life is going well until her father loses his job and she's pulled out of the private school she adores. Now in a public school, she feels out of place. Her classmates make her uncomfortable with their questions geared towards her name and looks. With an Indian father and Jewish mother, the kids focus is on who she is, what she is, and what religion she practices. Sonia tries to fit in with new friends and cheerleading tryouts, but this doesn't mean she's being true to herself. Meanwhile, at home, things are getting worse with her parents. Her mother, who works longer hours because of the father's job loss, doesn't like all the changes in Sonia's social life and her unemployed father is going through emotional changes that will rock the family. I enjoyed all the

elements of family, friendship, and diversity in this middle grade novel.

My daughter was just starting to read middle grades books when I discovered *The Whole Story of Half a Girl*. Hiranandani approaches complex topics that pre-teens are just starting to become aware of with such insight and such a wise yet approachable perspective that it felt like the perfect way to enter my daughter into a more sophisticated reading experience. The characters were fun, but they were also real and relatable. She couldn't put it down and it made for great conversations and nights of reading together.

My 10 yr old daughter really enjoyed reading this book, so much so that I read it too. It address some Middle School topics like fitting in while also remaining true to oneself but in a new and refreshing light. The main character, Sonia, deals with her own identity as well as confronting some more mature topics such as a parent's depression following job loss. It was great to see a realistic main character that had a multi ethnic and cultural background and it prompted some thoughtful conversations with my daughter. Overall a refreshing and thoughtful read.

Love love love this book!! I gave it to all 3 of my nieces and they loved it as well. Sonia tells her story beautifully, wonderful book!! Thank you!!

This was the best book I have ever read in my life. It made me cry and laugh. Thank you Veera Hiranandani for letting me read this book. This was a emotional journey reading this book  
Sincerely,Emme

Since I am friends with the author (she's an extraordinary person, in addition to her mad writing skills), I decided to buy copies for three 9 and 10 year old girls I know so I could write an unbiased review. First of all, all three girls said "FIVE STARS!" Second, and I think this tells you all you need to know, I will report one quote from each: "I loooooooooooved it!" "It was one of those books you read with the flashlight under the blankets because you can't stop reading to go to sleep" and "what are her other books--can I get them, please?"

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