

***A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi Book review**

A Very Large Expanse of Sea is a book about a sixteen-year-old girl named Shirin, who is Persian. This story takes place around the time of the Iraq war, so she faces lots of prejudice due to all the violence. Even though this has nothing to do with her, she looks like she is from Iraq because she wears a hijab. This puts a target on her back for insults and harassment that absolutely no one deserves. The book is about being who you are with no apologies. She goes through so much throughout the story but still refuses to stop wearing her hijab or change who she is. Her character is powerful and empowering. She never backs down from confrontation and always stands up for herself and others. If you are a reader who loves strong main characters, you will love Shirin. The author did a fantastic job, making the characters feel like real people. I connected with all the characters in this book because the author wrote the characters so well. All of the characters in this book were very different and brought different perspectives, which was interesting because it makes the reader think. The plot of this book is also well paced, never dull, and a rapid read because of the size and because you can't wait to find out what happens next. Overall, it is a fantastic book about breaking down boundaries and loving who you are despite your nationality or cultural barriers.