



Karma Khullar's Mustache

Kristi Wientge

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Debut author Kristi Wientge tackles the uncomfortable—but all too relatable—subject of female body hair and self-esteem with this sweet and charming novel in the tradition of Judy Blume.

Karma Khullar is about to start middle school, and she is super nervous. Not just because it seems like her best friend has found a newer, blonder best friend. Or the fact that her home life is shaken up by the death of her dadima. Or even that her dad is the new stay-at-home parent, leading her mother to spend most of her time at work. But because she's realized that she has seventeen hairs that have formed a mustache on her upper lip.

With everyone around her focused on other things, Karma is left to figure out what to make of her terrifyingly hairy surprise all on her own.

Karma Khullar's Mustache Details

Date : Published August 15th 2017 by Simon and Schuster

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Author : Kristi Wientge

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From Reader Review Karma Khullar's Mustache for online ebook

Wendy MacKnight says

I read this book in one sitting. This is one of the finest MG novels I've read in quite awhile that truly reflects middle grade school experiences, mean girls, and navigating changing friendships and bodies. Add in a wonderful family, and a winning character and this is a book you are going to love.

Nancy says

Oh, Karma. You got me! Half Methodist, half Sikh, I loved learning about your blended self. My kids are 1/4 Indian (their dad being the 'Kiran' figure in our story) and I will definitely be sharing this story with them. The author really nails the discomfort of those awkward pre-teen years, with so much to navigate in terms of self and others. I loved how the mc had to rely on her true self to find her way.

Michelle Hauck says

Karma Khullar's Mustache is a sweet look at the perfectly normal anxieties of going to middle school and going through puberty. Friends, rivalry, and family are all tackled with the wonderful addition of a main character who is half Methodist and half Sikh.

Kids and adults alike will find something to relate to in this book. We've all undergone the painful way friendships, and bodies, evolve and change.

The book blurb says in the style of Judy Blume and I feel like that author would approve of this book. Karma Khullar's Mustache will stand the test of time.

Mississippi Library Commission says

Karma Khullar's Mustache was such a fun read! Just as middle school is about to begin Karma finds seventeen hairs growing on her upper lip *and* she loses her best friend. As she deals with puberty, fashion choices, bullying, religion, and change, Karma grows a lot. She manages to remain just as endearing and lifelike as she is on the very first page, which made us love her even more. This was a completely rewarding book to read, reminiscent of Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret, but with a unique and fresh feel.

Elizabeth? says

This book perfectly encapsulates what it feels like to be in sixth grade. It is a time of discovering your own voice and how to use it and that is what we see with Karma Khullar.

Karma is half Sikh and half Methodist. Her home life is changing as her father is a stay at home dad and her mother works full time teaching at the local university. Karma's older brother is a brooding teenager and so Karma takes it upon herself to be a good daughter and not complain about the challenges in her own life: namely, she has a mustache!

What unfolds is a great story about friendship and choosing what is right in the face of negativity (not easy to do). Karma tries to live by the lessons put forth by her grandmother. Karma learns life is a challenge, but that is what shapes your character.

I couldn't put this one down once I picked it up. It is a great message of standing up for yourself and embracing that which makes you unique. A good lesson for us all.

Book Riot Community says

Wientge has taken the subject of body hair and turned it into a delightful Blume-esque tale about a young girl trying to figure out how to deal with the hairs that have grown on her lip just as she's due to start middle school. Karma thinks her parents are too busy with their own problems, so she must deal with what she feels is going to be a horrifying experience all on her own. It's a charming and funny story about friendship and family.

Backlist bump: The Whole Story of Half a Girl by Veera Hiranandani

Tune in to our weekly podcast dedicated to all things new books, All The Books:
<http://bookriot.com/listen/shows/allt...>

Jen Petro-Roy says

I loved this. What a refreshingly new, yet universal storyline.

Supriya Kelkar says

As an Indian-American, I have been excited about this book since I had first heard about it last year. It did not disappoint. This was a fun, touching story and I loved Karma Khullar. Her middle school experience was so relatable. I'm sure many readers will be able to identify with it and be comforted in the fact that they are not alone in dealing with the changes middle school has to offer.

Pooja Banga says

Karma Khullar is about to start middle school, and she is super nervous. Not just because it seems like her best friend has found a newer, blonder best friend. Or the fact that her home life is shaken up by the death of

her dadima. Or even that her dad is the new stay-at-home parent, leading her mother to spend most of her time at work. But because she's realized that she has seventeen hairs that have formed a mustache on her upper lip.

With everyone around her focused on other things, Karma is left to figure out what to make of her terrifyingly hairy surprise all on her own.

Dov Zeller says

this is a book that doesn't really pack any surprises and doesn't go very deep into questions it raises about friendship, bullying, puberty, gender and body image, identity, food and identity, loss, converging and conflicting cultural locations and experiences...But Karma is plucky and admirable and the specificities of her family life are relatively complex and drawn with an appreciation of the complex (love in this novel isn't perfect, but it's still meaningful and powerful) and that makes it enjoyable.

I'm not sure what to make of the ending (spoiler--a rodent sort of Jackson Pollocking an entire room with cake icing, or something of the sort (???) and Karma getting blamed and the kind of nonsensical resolution and Karma's response to her mustache related nickname...)

So, hmmm. I suppose this is probably a wonderful read for its intended audience. Not necessarily my thing, but definitely appreciate the mom showing up at the end in the way that she does and the family managing to stay connected and grow and change together.

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

I didn't want to read a book about a middle school girl who grows a mustache; it didn't sound like a book I'd be interested in.

I was so wrong.

I loved Karma. I loved (and hated) her friend, Sara. I loved (and hated) the new student at her school, Lacy. I loved Karma's parents, who were flawed enough to be real but who were also amazing enough to want to emulate. I loved the plot, friendships awry and refurbished and anew during those difficult early adolescent years.

Loved, loved, loved.

Danielle says

"Somewhere between our last day at elementary school and the middle of summer, an invisible rulebook had been wedged between us. Sara had read the book, and somehow I was supposed to guess what was inside."

So much to love about this book—the cover for starters, but also the story that's waiting inside! Karma is about to start middle school. She's sprouted seventeen hairs above her upper lip. Her best friend, Sara, has

changed so much that only flickers of her fifth grade self remain. In fact, everything has changed for Karma. Her mom is at work, her dad is at home, and almost everyone at school is being downright mean.

Karma is scared and feeling lost, but she's also beautifully true and kind as she finds her way. There's a spiritual element to her path as well as Karma explores the meaning of her name and Sikh religion, the loss of her beloved Dadima, and how to go forward in the face of challenges, teasing, and so much change. The rawness and realness of this book is relatable to anyone who has gone or is currently going through adolescence.

All in all, Karma charms!

Kate Olson says

Thank you so much to the author for providing #KidLitExchange with a finished copy of this book for review purposes! All opinions are my own (as always).

"What goes around, comes around".....Karma Khullar's namesake has her on a quest to fit in and stop the teasing from her 6th grade classmates, while still maintaining her sense of self.

Reading KARMA KHULLAR'S MUSTACHE took me instantly back to middle school, to reading and identifying with ARE YOU THERE GOD, IT'S ME MARGARET, and to just wanting to understand why I didn't fit in perfectly with everyone else. For this generation's tweens, Karma will be THEIR Margaret. While they may still be chanting "I must, I must, increase my bust", they will be able to identify with Karma and her quest to rid her face of facial hair and reconcile her racial, cultural and religious identities with those of her classmates. I adored Karma and my heart ached for her as she strove to understand why she was being taunted and why her best friend wouldn't stand up for her. Her father's new role as a stay-at-home parent while her mom is working more and more as a university professor really doesn't help matters, either.

Required purchase for middle school libraries and classrooms as we fight to teach kids that "....sometimes the silence hurts worse than the teasing." (p. 161)

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

I don't typically read books for middle grades, but the title and cover of this one really caught my eye. It was longer than I expected, but because it is, it shows Karma's story over her first year of sixth grade and middle school. She has started growing a mustache (yay puberty,) but her family is of a religious faith that doesn't cut hair, which complicates an already difficult and awkward situation. Her story is a very realistic depiction of navigating bullies, names, friendship, religious beliefs, and family.

It would be a great addition to any library looking to expand diverse representation or empathy through reading.

Thanks to the publisher for providing a review copy through Edelweiss.

Julie says

I was lucky enough to read a prerelease version of this story and I seriously could not put it down. Karma is so relatable and sweet--this really is one of my favorite recent MGs.
