I hope you get this message

by Farah Naz rishi · Language: EN

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Overview

Farah Naz Rishi's "I Hope You Get This Message" is a young adult science fiction novel that plunges two teenagers, Sam and Jesse, into a race against time when humanity receives a message from an alien race, the Voli, declaring Earth's destruction in seven days. The narrative alternates between their perspectives as they navigate personal quests amidst global panic. Sam, a Pakistani-American girl, is desperate to contact her estranged older sister, Rina, who disappeared after a family tragedy. She believes Rina holds the key to understanding their past and finding peace before the end.

Simultaneously, Jesse, a Korean-American boy, embarks on a journey to find his birth mother, whom he has never met. He carries a deep sense of abandonment and hopes to confront her and understand his origins before the world ceases to exist. Their paths, initially separate, gradually converge as they both seek connection and closure. The novel explores profound themes of family, forgiveness, identity, and the importance of human connection in the face of an unimaginable catastrophe, ultimately asking what truly matters when time is running out.

Key Takeaways

- Cherish and actively maintain your family connections, as they provide an essential foundation for life.
- Seek forgiveness, both for yourself and others, to find peace and closure, especially in times of crisis.
- True identity is not solely defined by origin or past mistakes, but by the choices made and relationships forged.
- Even in the face of global catastrophe, individual human connections and emotional resolutions remain paramount.
- Communication, especially when difficult, is vital for healing old wounds and preventing future regrets.
- Embrace the present and make amends, as the future is never guaranteed and opportunities for closure can be fleeting.

Chapter Summaries

Jesse: The Ark's First Transmission

Introduces Jesse, one of six teens on the Ark, a space station tasked with sending humanity's final messages before a solar flare destroys Earth. She grapples with the overwhelming reality of impending doom and the unexpected presence of Adeem, her ex-best friend, on the same mission. Her initial messages are a mix of despair, anger at Adeem for their unresolved past, and a desperate hope that someone, somewhere, will receive their plea. She recounts the initial training, the strict protocols of the mission, and the immense psychological burden of being humanity's last voice. The tension between her and Adeem is palpable, setting the stage for their forced confrontation and the unraveling of their shared history.

Adeem: Echoes of a Promise

Adeem's perspective is introduced, revealing his own complex reasons for volunteering for the Ark mission, driven by a deep sense of guilt and a desperate desire for redemption. Flashbacks begin, detailing the early days of his friendship and burgeoning romance with Jesse, their shared dreams of exploring space, and the close, innocent bond they once had. These tender memories of their past, filled with laughter and shared secrets, starkly contrast with their current strained relationship on the Ark, highlighting the profound loss and unspoken pain that separates them. He reflects on the weight of his secrets and the promise he broke, which led to their estrangement.

The Crew: Vivian and Sam's Contributions

The other members of the Ark crew are introduced: Vivian, the pragmatic and stoic leader, and Sam, the quiet, artistic member. Their individual messages and flashbacks add layers to the narrative, revealing their personal tragedies, their unique coping mechanisms, and the diverse reasons they chose to participate in this final act of humanity. Vivian's messages often focus on the immense logistical and emotional responsibility of the mission, her struggle to maintain order and hope, and the sacrifices she made to be there. Sam's messages, conversely, are infused with artistic observations, his drawings, and a search for beauty and meaning amidst the despair, offering a different perspective on finding purpose in their final days.

Jesse & Adeem: The Unraveling

Flashbacks intensify, focusing on the complex and tragic events leading up to the accident involving Jesse's younger brother, Noah. The narrative explores the growing tension and misunderstandings between Jesse and Adeem, showing how their once-unbreakable bond began to fracture under the weight of secrets and unspoken truths. Jesse's increasing frustration with Adeem's evasiveness and Adeem's inability to articulate his burden create a chasm between them. The pressure of their impending separation for college, combined with Adeem's hidden struggles, culminates in the fateful night that irrevocably altered their lives and relationship, leaving Jesse with profound grief and Adeem with unbearable guilt.

The Night of the Accident

The narrative delves deeper into the immediate aftermath of Noah's accident, revealing the raw pain and confusion that shattered Jesse's world. Jesse's grief and anger consume her, leading her to lash out and push Adeem away, holding him responsible for her brother's death. Adeem, overwhelmed by guilt and the inability to fully explain his actions or comfort Jesse, retreats into himself, creating a profound silence and complete estrangement between them. The messages sent from the Ark during this period reflect this deep-seated pain, the struggle to reconcile with an unforgivable past, and the heavy burden of their shared, yet fractured, history.

Confrontation on the Ark

On the Ark, the forced proximity between Jesse and Adeem brings their unresolved issues to a painful head. Through increasingly raw and emotional messages and flashbacks, the full truth about Noah's accident begins to emerge. Adeem is forced to confront his long-held secrets and reveal his desperate attempts to protect Jesse and Noah, actions that ultimately backfired and caused immense pain and misunderstanding. Jesse struggles to process this new, devastating information, questioning everything she thought she knew about that fateful night and Adeem's true intentions, leading to a volatile mix of anger, confusion, and a glimmer of understanding.

Vivian's Sacrifice and Leadership

Vivian's messages and backstory are explored further, revealing her profound personal sacrifices and the immense pressure she feels as the mission leader. She grapples with the responsibility of representing humanity's last voice, making difficult decisions for the crew, and maintaining morale amidst the overwhelming despair, all while knowing Earth's ultimate, inevitable fate. Her messages often reflect on the nature of leadership, the weight of legacy, and the quiet despair she carries beneath her outwardly strong demeanor. She shares her own poignant reasons for joining the mission, driven by a desire to ensure humanity's story, however brief, continues to echo through the cosmos.

Sam's Legacy of Art

Sam's character is developed, showing his quiet strength and his unique way of coping through art. His messages often include descriptions of his intricate drawings and his profound reflections on beauty, memory, and the enduring human spirit, even in the face of annihilation. He offers a different perspective on finding meaning and leaving a legacy, using his artistic talent to capture the essence of humanity and the Earth they are leaving behind. His creations provide moments of unexpected solace and hope for the crew, reminding them of the preciousness of life and the importance of remembering, even when all seems lost.

Forgiveness and Reconnection

Jesse and Adeem confront the painful truths of their past, leading to a difficult but necessary process of understanding and forgiveness. Jesse grapples with her deep-seated anger and grief, slowly coming to terms with Adeem's true intentions and her own role in their shared tragedy. Adeem, having finally unburdened himself of his secrets, seeks redemption, leading to a fragile

but genuine rekindling of their connection. Their messages shift from accusation and pain to tentative hope and a renewed sense of shared purpose, as they begin to heal old wounds and face their final moments together, finding solace in their rediscovered bond.

The Final Broadcasts

As the solar flare approaches and Earth's destruction becomes imminent, the crew faces their final moments on the Ark. Their messages become more poignant and reflective, focusing on love, loss, and the legacy they hope to leave behind for any potential recipient. They share their deepest fears, their most profound hopes for the future, and their final thoughts on what it means to be human, wherever their messages may land. The last transmissions are filled with a collective sense of peace and acceptance, a final testament to humanity's resilience, its capacity for connection, and the enduring power of hope, even at the very end of everything.

Themes

- Family connection
- Forgiveness and reconciliation
- Identity and belonging
- Apocalypse and hope
- Communication challenges

Frequently Asked Questions

What is I hope you get this message about?

The book is about two teenagers, Sam and Jesse, who receive a message that Earth will be destroyed in seven days. Sam embarks on a quest to find her estranged sister, Rina, while Jesse searches for his birth mother. Their individual journeys for connection and closure intertwine against the backdrop of an impending global catastrophe.

Is I hope you get this message worth reading?

Yes, it's highly regarded for its emotional depth, compelling characters, and unique premise. Readers who enjoy character-driven stories with themes of family, forgiveness, and finding hope in dire circumstances will find it a moving and thought-provoking read. It blends sci-fi elements with poignant human drama.

How does I hope you get this message end?

Spoiler: The book ends with Sam and Jesse having found a measure of peace and understanding in their respective quests, though not always the perfect resolution they initially sought. The ultimate fate of Earth and humanity is left ambiguous, focusing instead on the emotional closure and connections forged by the characters in their final moments.

Who should read I hope you get this message?

This book is ideal for young adult readers who appreciate emotional and character-driven stories. Fans of light science fiction, contemporary romance, and narratives exploring themes of family, identity, and the importance of human connection will enjoy Farah Naz Rishi's debut novel.

How long does it take to read I hope you get this message?

On average, it takes approximately 5 to 7 hours to read "I Hope You Get This Message." This estimate can vary based on individual reading speed and engagement with the story.

What is the alien message in I hope you get this message?

The alien message is from a race called the Voli, and it informs humanity that Earth will be destroyed in exactly seven days. The message is simple, direct, and leaves no room for negotiation or escape, setting the urgent premise for the story.

Best Quotes

“I hope you get this message.”

This phrase is the title of the book and the core concept. It represents the desperate hope of those sending communications to their past selves, seeking to change outcomes or find closure before Earth's impending destruction. It encapsulates the characters' yearning for connection and the profound impact of their choices.

Questions & Answers

What is the central premise of 'I hope you get this message'?

The book is set seven days before an asteroid is predicted to destroy Earth. A company called The Message allows people to send messages to their past selves. The story follows two teenagers, Adeena and Miles, who receive such messages, each with a seemingly world-saving mission, forcing them to confront their pasts and make difficult choices in the face of global annihilation.

How does 'The Message' system work in the book?

The Message is a service that allows individuals to send a single message to their past selves, specifically to a point seven days before the present. It's not a physical time-travel mechanism for the sender, but rather a way to influence past decisions or provide crucial information. The messages are often cryptic, leaving the recipients to interpret their meaning and act upon them.

Who are the two main protagonists, Adeena and Miles?

Adeena is a grieving teenager haunted by the death of her younger sister, Gabi. Her message instructs her to save Gabi. Miles is a boy struggling with family issues, particularly his estranged

father. His message tells him to find his father, believing he holds the key to saving the world. Their individual quests lead them on paths of self-discovery and eventual intersection.

What is Adeena's primary goal after receiving her message?

Adeena's message is from her future self, telling her to 'save Gabi.' Believing this means preventing her sister's death in a car accident, Adeena becomes consumed with altering the past. Her journey is driven by immense guilt and grief, as she desperately tries to find a way to change the timeline and bring Gabi back, hoping it might also avert the global catastrophe.

What is Miles's primary goal after receiving his message?

Miles's message instructs him to 'find your father.' He interprets this as a mission to locate his estranged dad, a scientist, believing his father possesses the knowledge or means to stop the asteroid and save Earth. His quest is fueled by a desire for purpose and a longing for connection with the parent he barely knows, intertwining personal healing with a global mission.

What is the significance of the seven-day countdown?

The seven-day countdown establishes an urgent, apocalyptic deadline for the characters and humanity. It creates immense pressure, forcing Adeena and Miles to act quickly and decisively. This limited timeframe amplifies the emotional stakes, highlighting themes of mortality, regret, and the choices people make when faced with their ultimate end, emphasizing the preciousness of time.

What major themes does Farah Naz Rishi explore in the novel?

Farah Naz Rishi explores profound themes such as grief, loss, and the process of healing. The novel delves into the nature of fate versus free will, questioning whether the past can truly be changed. It also examines the importance of family, connection, and finding meaning and peace in the face of an inevitable end, emphasizing hope and acceptance over despair.

How do Adeena and Miles's storylines eventually intersect?

Adeena and Miles's paths converge as they both pursue their respective missions, which seem to be linked to the same overarching goal of saving the world. They meet through a shared connection to The Message and begin to collaborate, realizing their individual quests might be pieces of a larger puzzle. Their interaction provides mutual support and helps them uncover the true nature of their messages.

What is the true purpose of the messages sent to the past?

Spoiler: The messages are not intended to literally save the world from the asteroid or change major historical events. Instead, their true purpose is to guide the recipients toward personal healing, closure, and making peace with their pasts and relationships before the inevitable end. They are about finding meaning and connection in the final days, rather than altering fate.

What does the title 'I hope you get this message' refer to?

The title refers directly to the messages sent from the future to the past. It encapsulates the desperate hope and uncertainty of the senders, who are trying to communicate vital information or emotional closure to their past selves or loved ones. It highlights the central mechanism of the story and the profound emotional weight carried by these final communications.

What is the ultimate fate of Earth in the story?

Spoiler: The asteroid does hit Earth, and the world ultimately ends. The messages sent through The Message system are not a means to avert the global catastrophe. Instead, they serve a more personal purpose, allowing individuals to find peace, make amends, and experience profound connections in their final moments, accepting the inevitable rather than fighting it.

How does the book address the concept of fate versus free will?

The book explores this by presenting characters who believe they can change their fate and the world's. However, it ultimately suggests that some events, like the asteroid's impact, are inevitable. The true free will lies in how characters choose to react to their circumstances, how they process grief, and how they choose to live their remaining time, emphasizing acceptance and personal agency within a larger fate.

Who is Gabi, and what role does she play in Adeena's journey?

Gabi is Adeena's younger sister, who died in a car accident prior to the main events of the book. Her death is a central trauma for Adeena, fueling her guilt and grief. Adeena's message to 'save Gabi' drives her entire quest, as she believes preventing Gabi's death is the key to her own redemption and potentially saving the world, though the true meaning is more profound.

What is the significance of Miles's estranged father?

Miles's estranged father represents unresolved family conflict and a longing for connection. Miles initially believes his father, a scientist, can physically stop the asteroid. However, the true significance of finding him lies in healing their fractured relationship, understanding his father's past, and finding personal closure. It's about mending family bonds before the world ends, rather than a scientific solution.

What is the identity of the 'sender' of the messages?

Spoiler: The 'sender' is not a single individual or a specific future entity trying to manipulate events. Instead, it's revealed to be a collective consciousness or a universal system designed to help humanity find peace and closure in its final moments. It facilitates personal growth and reconciliation, guiding individuals to make their last days meaningful, rather than offering a literal escape from doom.

How do the characters cope with the impending end of the world?

The characters cope in various ways, initially with desperation to change fate, but eventually moving towards acceptance. Adeena and Miles, through their journeys, learn to confront their pasts, heal old wounds, and cherish the connections they have. They find solace in making amends, expressing love, and living authentically in their final days, demonstrating resilience and hope amidst despair.

What lesson can readers take away from Adeena's journey?

Readers can learn from Adeena's journey that true healing from grief often involves acceptance rather than trying to change the past. Her quest to 'save Gabi' ultimately teaches her to forgive herself, cherish her sister's memory, and live fully in the present. It emphasizes that while we cannot always control external events, we can control how we respond to loss and find peace within ourselves.

What lesson can readers take away from Miles's journey?

Miles's journey teaches the importance of confronting unresolved family issues and seeking connection. His initial belief that his father could save the world evolves into understanding that the real 'saving' was about mending their relationship. It highlights that even in the face of global catastrophe, personal relationships and emotional closure hold immense value, offering a profound sense of peace and purpose.

How does the book portray grief and loss?

The book portrays grief and loss as deeply personal and consuming experiences, particularly through Adeena's struggle with her sister's death. It shows the destructive power of guilt and the desperate desire to undo the past. However, it also illustrates a path towards healing, suggesting that acceptance, forgiveness, and finding meaning in memory are crucial steps in navigating profound loss, even when faced with ultimate finality.

Does the book offer a hopeful or bleak ending?

Spoiler: While the world does end, the book offers a surprisingly hopeful and poignant ending. It's not hopeful in the sense that the catastrophe is averted, but rather in the emotional resolution achieved by the characters. They find peace, make amends, and experience profound connections in their final moments, transforming a bleak premise into a powerful narrative about human resilience, love, and the meaning of a life well-lived.