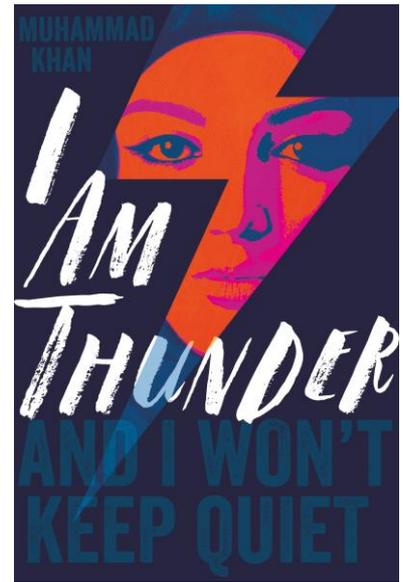
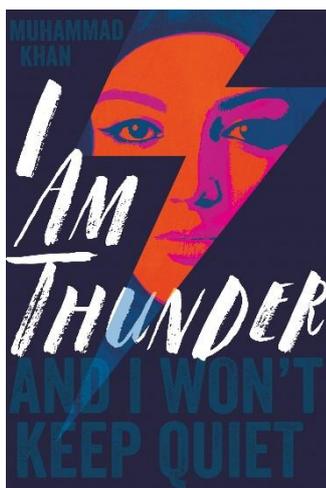


I AM THUNDER BY MUHAMMAD KHAN - DISCUSSION NOTES

1. **‘Muzna’s teenage experience is something each and every one of us can relate to, whatever our background.’** [A Note from the Author] Which elements of Muzna’s story did you relate to? Did you warm to her as a narrator?
2. **‘A career in medicine had been chosen for me on the day I’d been born.’** Discuss the expectations Muzna’s parents have of her and how this effects the choices Muzna makes about her own future. How does Muzna’s relationship with her parents grow and change throughout the book?
3. Why do you think the author decided to include a ‘stranger danger’ grooming storyline for Muzna in the early part of the book?
4. **‘No one hates ISIS more than Muslims do.’** Why does Muzna say this? Discuss damaging ways in which ISIS and Islam can be confused. Does the media sometimes help or worsen this confusion?
5. Salma, Sarabi and Khadijah represent different types of friendship. Who do you think is the most supportive friend to Muzna? Which of the friendships are more problematic?
6. **‘Arif was all I would ever need.’** How does Muzna come to love and trust Arif, even when he is making increasingly strange and unusual demands of her? Could you argue that her love for him is blind?
7. How does Muzna’s relationship with Jameel change in the book? As you learned more about his character were you surprised by the path he’d taken?
8. **‘Once upon a time, I’d feared the hijab; now I felt like it was armour.’** Discuss Muzna’s reasons for wearing the hijab. Do they change by the end of the book?
9. **‘Imagine, I thought [. . .] Imagine how awesome my Arif could be if Jameel would go away and never come back.’** Discuss the different ways in which Jameel influences his brother’s behaviour and personality. Which parts of Arif are immune to Jameel’s influence?
10. Why do you think Muzna feels as though she’s unable to tell Mr Dunthorpe what is happening in her life?



11. **‘I was as British as Big Ben. Somewhere along the line, I’d begun to forget that.’** What are the things that make us feel like we belong to a country? What defines ‘Britishness’?
12. In your opinion, what makes someone a hero? Would you say that Muzna’s actions, including mobilising the school to campaign for Mr Dunthorpe to get his job back and preventing a bomb blast on the tube, make her a heroic character? What is the most heroic thing you have ever done?



ABOUT THE BOOK:

‘I promised myself this time would be different. I would stand up for myself.’

Fifteen-year-old Muzna Saleem is used to being invisible. So no one is more surprised than her when Arif Malik, the hottest boy in school, takes a sudden interest.

But Arif is hiding a terrible secret and, as they begin to follow a dark path, Muzna faces an impossible choice: keep quiet and betray her beliefs, or speak out and betray her heart.

I Am Thunder is the debut novel from stunning YA voice, Muhammad Khan, which questions how far you’ll go to stand up for what *you* believe.

‘Fierce, Fresh . . . one of the most distinctive narrators I’ve read in ages.’ (Fiona Noble, *Bookseller*)

This one is special . . . Muhammad Khan has created a powerful, sophisticated and intensely likeable female narrator in this thrilling novel, which punches well above the weight of most debuts (Alex O’Connell, *The Times Children’s Book of the Week*)

With its superb heroine, pitch-perfect dialogue, and sensitive examination of extremism preying on naivety, this assured, hopeful debut feels unprecedented and essential. (Imogen Russell Williams *Guardian*)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Muhammad Khan is an engineer, a secondary-school maths teacher, and now a YA author! He takes his inspiration from the children he teaches, as well as his own upbringing as a British-born Pakistani. He lives in South London and is studying for an MA in Creative Writing at St Mary’s University. He is working on *Kick the Moon*, his second novel for Macmillan Children’s Books.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT *I AM THUNDER* BY MUHAMMAD KHAN AT
WWW.MYKINDABOOK.COM/BOOKS/I-AM-THUNDER

