

Jen Jacobs
LIS 516LE
Booktalk Script
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Introduction:

Hi, my name is Jen Jacobs (your high school librarian), and as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Readers' Choice Award nominating committee, I am excited to tell you about, *If You Could Be Mine: A Novel*, written by Sara Farizan. It was chosen by high school students like yourselves as a 2016 Abe Award nominee. This book has received many other honors and awards, including a Lambda Literary Award, and it was also chosen as a Best YA novel by *Rolling Stone* magazine. I read this emotionally packed contemporary realistic fiction book in one afternoon. Let me tell you some more about why you won't be able to put this book down...

Booktalk:

Would you risk your life for love? Seventeen-year-old Sahar must answer this question when the parents of her best friend and true love, Nasrin, arrange for her to be married to a male doctor in his thirties. Sahar doesn't know what to do. It is illegal for two women to get married in Iran, and she and Nasrin could be killed for loving each other. If that isn't bad enough, her father has become more and more depressed since her mother died, and she spends most of her time taking care of him. Sahar dreams of becoming a doctor herself, but will her test scores be high enough to make it into a university? Ali—Sahar's cousin—invites her to a party, and she meets his friend Parveen, who used to be known as Ahmad. Parveen tells Sahar about the gender reassignment surgery she went through. The surgery is legal and often paid for by the Iranian

government. Will the following argument with Nasrin convince Sahar that gender reassignment is the only way they can stay together?

“Sahar! What did you expect? I’m not going to be anything other than someone’s wife! It’s what my mother has been grooming me for. How was I supposed to be anything other than what she wants me to be?”

“We could have talked about it before you decided to go through with it!”

“This was always going to happen, Sahar. What could you have done to change it?”

“What could I have done to change it? There’s nothing I can do. I have no resources, no plan of attack I’m just a girl. A girl. If only I were a man. A man with a hairy face who could slouch his shoulders if he wanted to and walk around with short sleeves in the hot sun. If only...

“How many months until the wedding?” I ask her.

“Three. Why?” I kiss her with ferocity, and this time it is she who is struck dumb.

“I’m going to find a way.” I make sure she understands that I am serious. I can tell that I am scaring her a little bit, but she kisses me and it is all the confirmation I need (Farizan, 2013, p. 68).

To find out what Sahar decides, read *If You Could Be Mine* by Sara Farizan—available in paperback and hardcover on the 2016 Abe Lincoln Readers’ Choice Award bookshelf and in ebook format on OverDrive. Sara Farizan originally considered writing this novel under a pen name; however, she decided to go with her real name with the hope of “helping one family or one parent or one kid who’s perhaps going through a similar thing (NPR, 2015).” If you like this book, you should check out Sara Farizan’s latest book, *Tell Me How A Crush Should Feel*, and

other Abe nominees, such as *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Universe*, or past Abe contenders like *Winger*. I am Jen Jacobs, and thanks for listening to my booktalk on *If You Could Be Mine*—I hope you enjoyed it! See you in the Information and Learning Center (ILC) soon!

Booktalk Presentation/Bookmark References

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*I envisioned the Information Learning Center (ILC) at Stevenson High School while creating this booktalk.

Indian Trails Public Library. Retrieved from: http://itpld.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default/

*Photo image of Abe Award -Retrieved from Google Images via

<http://annettesbookspot.blogspot.com/2015/03/2016-illinois-teen-readers-choice-award.html>