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Given article text here The slide opened and I heard a gentle, kind voice saying, 'What is your confession, my child?' I was taken aback. The priest would declare me a heretic;my parents would call me a traitor . . .The priest asked me again: 'What is your confession, my child?' 'I'm Muslim,' I whispered. Welcome to my world. I'm Amal Abdel-Hakim, a sixteen-year-old Australian-Palestinian-Muslim still getting to grips with my various identity hyphens. It's hard enough to be cool as a teenager, but try wearing a veil on your head and getting in the 'bums up' position at lunchtime and you know you're in for a tough time.Luckily my friends support me, although they've got a few troubles of their own. Simone, blonde and gorgeous, has got serious image issues, and Lella's really intelligent but her parents are more interested in her getting a marriage certificate than her high school certificate.And I thought I had problems . . .A story of being true to yourself, standing up for your beliefs and finding your own way.Praise for Does My Head Look Big In This?'The freshest voice and perspective in young adult fiction.' Weekend Australian'Reading Randa Abdel-Fattah's first novel is like discovering a jewel.' Sydney Morning Herald'A no-holds-barred look at life when cultures clash and modernity wars with tradition.' Good Weekend'This debut should speak to anyone who has felt like an outsider for any reason.' Publishers WeeklyWinner of the ABIA Awards' Book of the Year for Older Children 2006 Modify Content in ways that alter context or use for commercial purposes, avoid infringing on trademarks or intellectual property, and avoid misrepresenting creator identity. The Licensee releases the Company from all claims related to its Content use. The Licensee agrees to indemnify the Company for any breach of agreement terms. This book boasts a strong protagonist and an even more impressive supporting cast that brings depth to the story. Amal's friendships with a Japanese classmate who shares experiences of racism, a fat friend struggling with body image, and an elderly Greek Orthodox Christian neighbor showcase the diversity within Muslims and Arabs. Her friends come from different ethnic backgrounds, and each has their own unique relationship with Islam, highlighting the misconceptions that Muslim women are oppressed and Islam is inherently oppressive. The book emphasizes Amal's agency and choice as she navigates her relationships and confronts people who assume her parents forced her to wear the hijab. It also tackles nuances in Muslim identity by reflecting on cultural and religious changes over time and how immigrants cling to traditions despite them being obsolete. However, certain patterns in the book detract from its impact, including ableism and internalized misogyny through Amal's jokes about people with disabilities and mental illness. Moreover, her own behavior sometimes contradicts her message of choice and empowerment, as she judges others for their appearance or body image. The attempt to champion women's power is undermined by these instances of misogyny. The book's shortcomings notwithstanding, I would still suggest it due to its exceptional portrayal of a Muslim character through its authentic voice and thoughtful exploration of the community's experiences.

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