

# YOU ASKED FOR PERFECT

LAURA SILVERMAN



## ABOUT THE BOOK

For fans of Adam Silvera and Nina LaCour comes a timely novel about a teen's struggle when academic success and happiness pull him in opposite directions.

Senior Ariel Stone has spent his life cultivating the perfect college résumé: first chair violinist, dedicated volunteer, active synagogue congregant, and expected valedictorian. He barely has time to think about a social life, let alone a relationship...until a failed calculus quiz puts his future on the line, forcing Ariel to enlist his classmate, Amir, as a tutor.

As the two spend more time together, Ariel discovers he may not like calculus, but he does like Amir. When he's with Amir, the crushing academic pressure fades away, and a fuller and brighter world comes into focus. But college deadlines are still looming. And adding a new relationship to his long list of commitments may just push Ariel past his limit.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laura Silverman is a writer and editor. She loves books, dogs, and bubble baths. She currently lives in Brooklyn, NY. You can follow her on Twitter @LJSilverman1.

Photo credit: Vania Stoyanova

## PRAISE FOR YOU ASKED FOR PERFECT

"A coming-of-age novel that will charm readers with its relatable and diverse characters, quirky storyline, and interweaving of faith, queerness, and the everyday lives of seniors navigating the pressures of college applications, grades, and relationships. Heartwarming and engaging."

- KIRKUS REVIEWS

"Appealing... who can resist a heartfelt romance?"

- BOOKLIST



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Ariel feel like he needs to be perfect and needs to be valedictorian?
2. Can you relate to the pressure to be perfect? Can you describe a time you've experienced this – whether in school or another situation?
3. Ariel and his family are Jewish. Before this book, had you read a Jewish protagonist?
4. What did you learn about the Jewish religion and culture?
5. Ariel's best friend is Sook. How are Sook and Ariel different, and how are they the same?
6. What do you think Ariel likes most about Amir? What do you think Amir likes most about Ariel?
7. Ariel's little sister also suffers from the pressure to excel. What can Ariel and his family do differently in the future to ease the pressure to be perfect?
8. Ariel loves matzo ball soup. What is your favorite meal in the world, and does it have a special meaning for you or is it connected to a special memory?
9. Chasing perfection can be dangerous. What healthy goals can Ariel set for himself instead?
10. In the beginning of the book, Ariel wants nothing more than to attend Harvard. We never find out if he gets into Harvard. Why do you think the author left this unanswered?
11. Who was your favorite character in the book? What do you think happens to them next after the story ends?

