

## Counting Down with You

by Tashie Bhuiyan

30 days with no parents, one teenage girl trying to figure out her future and love life before time runs out.

This is the debut novel of Tashie Bhuiyan and it is a standalone contemporary romance.

Karina's Bangladeshi parents have very strict expectations for her. Her parents decide to take a month long trip to Bangladesh. Leaving Karina and her brother in the care of their grandmother, Karina goes through lots of self exploration. She was asked by her English teacher to tutor perceived bad boy Ace Clyde. During this process and throughout the book, there is fake dating, parental expectations, and mental health struggles.

Karina was such a well-developed, relatable character whose struggles with her mental health and defining herself along with her future was so moving. The Muslim representation is amazing. Karina's unique experience with her faith was so beautiful. I also adored the banter between Ace and Karina. I almost cried at some points, not out of sadness but out of the intensity and feelings of this book. Such a great love story I could not put down and definitely worth reading.

This book is perfect for those who love an angsty standalone YA romance with fake dating. The mental health struggles presented in this book provide perspective on anxiety.

-Serena, age 17

