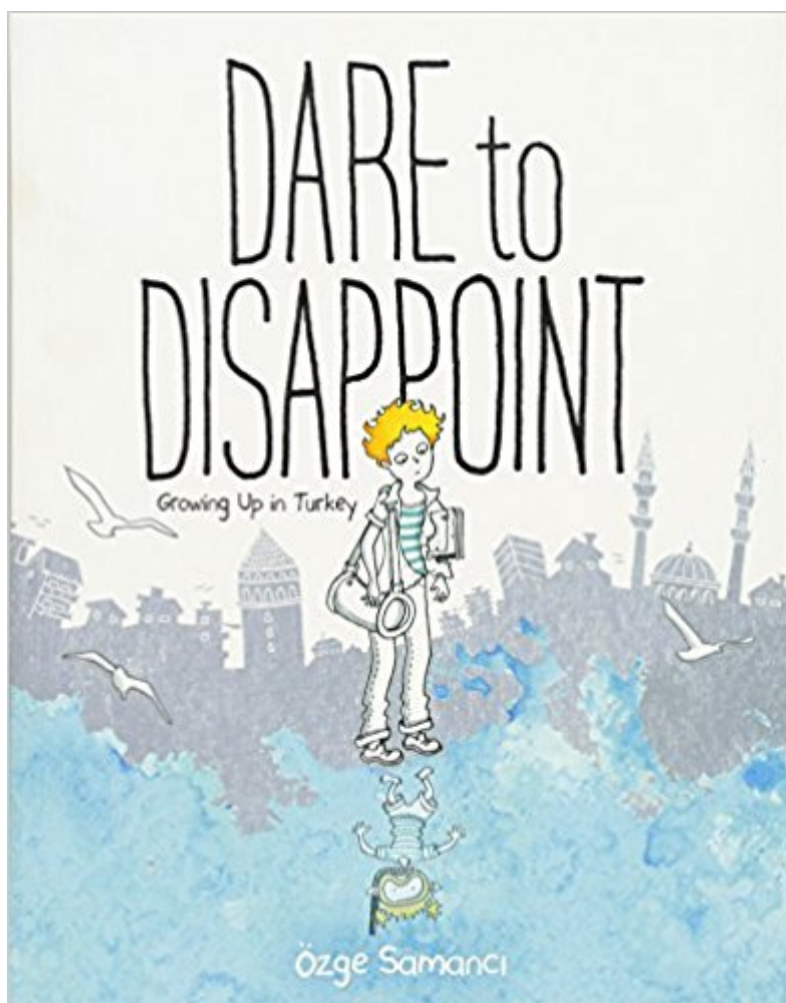


The book was found

Dare To Disappoint: Growing Up In Turkey



Synopsis

- 2016 New York Book Show Award- 2016 Middle East Book Award Growing up on the Aegean Coast, Ozge loved the sea and imagined a life of adventure while her parents and society demanded predictability. Her dad expected Ozge, like her sister, to become an engineer. She tried to hear her own voice over his and the religious and militaristic tensions of Turkey and the conflicts between secularism and fundamentalism. Could she be a scuba diver like Jacques Cousteau? A stage actress? Would it be possible to please everyone including herself? In her unpredictable and funny graphic memoir, Ozge recounts her story using inventive collages, weaving together images of the sea, politics, science, and friendship.daretodisappoint.com

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 6 Up — Samanci's graphic novel memoir is a humorous and moving portrayal of coming-of-age in Turkey in the turbulent 1980s. The story makes the political personal in ways that are perfectly accessible to young teens. Samanci's narrative is peppered with engaging details of her childhood experiences, including her relationships with her parents, uncle, and sister; the grueling educational system; and the difficult reality of growing up female in a politically and religiously polarized society. Throughout it all, Samanci struggles with her conflicting desires for success, happiness, and, above all, the approval of her critical father. The style of cartoon illustration combined with mixed media is used to great effect. In several places, the author employs rubber stamps to create pictures of people and concepts that were important to her when she was a child. The muted color scheme and stark backgrounds evoke the political and cultural tone of

Turkish society. While there is some violence, it is used sparingly and is presented as an integral part of the narrative. VERDICT In the growing body of graphic novel memoirs, this one is a standout. — Maggi Rohde, Ann Arbor Public Schools, MI

"Humor and youthful angst lighten this graphic memoir of life in a country pulled strongly in different directions by conflicts between Western and conservative Muslim values. (...) A bright, perceptive bildungsroman with a distinctive setting." -Kirkus Magazine "Every page has been expertly designed, creating a thoroughly satisfying aesthetic experience (...)" - A.V. Club "Her art is an intriguing mix of doodle-like line drawings and mixed-media compositions made of paper, rocks, stamps, and more to build a picture of a world where the politics might seem unfamiliar but the family dynamics and personal relationships are universally recognizable." -Bookreview "Samanci's caricatures of herself and the people around her, often drawn wide-eyed with surprise, make the sporadic episodes of political strife and urban violence oddly incongruous. But they're a crucial component of the story, one that resounds with honesty and humor." -Publishers Weekly "Like Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* and James Kochalka's *American Elf*, *Dare to Disappoint* frames the epic through the intimate, offering a sterling experience of startling vulnerability and lasting impression." -Paste Magazine "She's a gifted cartoonist with an innate sense of pacing and a seemingly inexhaustible well of ideas for presenting information — the book bursts with maps, diagrams, pasted-in leaves, doodles, and ink stamps. It's remarkably energetic on the page, and combined with Samanci's appealing, reflective voice, offers a perfectly satisfying memoir reading experience: not just the story of someone's life, but the chance to see the world through someone else's eyes." - Slate "(...) will surely be one of the books that we'll be talking about in many a year-end list. Samanci's assured command of the medium is present (...) and brings to mind other sequential art redefining cartoonists like Emily Carroll and Jillian Tamaki. This is one to be on the look-out for." - The Beat: The News Blog of Comics Culture "As she recounts her event-filled, danger-filled childhood, Samanci manages to convey centuries of Turkey's history as well as the political and cultural upheavals that have marked recent decades there. But the focus is always on her journey of self-discovery, the struggle to hear her own voice and find a place in the noisy, often brutal world she was born into." -The New York Times "The work has a modest title, *Dare to Disappoint*, but its ambitions are large. Its creator, Zeynep Samancı, has produced a masterpiece that also recreates life in Turkey in the 1980s and early 90s, a time when the country's secular heritage was enforced with a severity that has come under scrutiny in the

era of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Here in Turkey, where her book is topping bestseller lists, Samancılar has become the year's most inspiring figure among comic artists, and a subject of intrigue for Turkish magazines, newspapers, and budding artists." -New Republic

"Autobiographies often revolve around specialness, self-aggrandisement camouflaged as the opposite. "I was always a weird kid", and so on. There's no such cloying humblebrag in Samancılar's affecting comic book memoir of her everyday youth in Turkey in the 80s and early 90s, of a child's fascinations with household items, with family and society, with (winningly) Jacques Cousteau. The art is simple but never twee not least because, in occasional shocking moments, the horrifying state violence of the time is rendered in exactly the same style as the children's games." The Guardian, Kathryn Bromwich

"It's a really beautiful story and beautifully told." Chicago PBS, Paul Caine

"Dare to Disappoint treated many of the universal conflicts that young people face as they come of age, while also providing a window on a fascinating time in Turkish history." The Comics Alternative Podcast

"With loose, funny, expressive art that captures the main character's many moods and enthusiastic outlook, this autobiographical coming-of-age story has lots of heart and plenty of universal appeal. Ozge Samancı's "Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up in Turkey" meticulously depicts a specific time and place, but it will speak to anyone who marches to the beat of a different drummer." Sun Sentinel

Drawn from the kaleidoscope of her personal experiences tied to the larger cultural and political structures of the last quarter of the 20th century Turkey, the book is a fine example of comic storytelling. The amount of detail work on illustrations is noteworthy. On the personal side, I let my 10-year old read the book (minus a few age inappropriate content) and I think it helped her understand my upbringing and her heritage better. A few other kids of our book club members read the book as well; all with mostly positive points of view. Emboldened by these observations, it is this reviewer's humble recommendation for the author to venture into children's books segment.

Great book. Fun to read with beautiful illustrations. The title captures very well the essence of the book. But I want to add that it is also about the individuation process and finding one's calling against all the odds. Highly recommend it!

"Dare to Disappoint" was definitely different than the other books that I normally read. It tells of the

story of Özge, a girl growing up in Turkey and struggling with the expectations other people have of her and what she wants to do. The book spans through her life as she goes from being a young girl vying for school to start, to struggling with what she wants to do after she graduates college. I felt at times this book did not have a continuous flow. There were points when I was confused in the direction the book was going. Don't get me wrong Özge Samancı's humor and illustrations made the book enjoyable, but I wished there was more to the ending and that it was easier to follow. There are a few situations of shootings, but this is an easy and relaxed read that anyone could get through.

Veritable Living in Turkey During Those Days Feast!. Nothing is spared. All is boldly and bluntly revealed politically, socially, economically. I loved this book! It brought me back to some of the remnants of the social discourse we experienced while residents in Istanbul for five years during the 80's.. Ms Samancı has sharp eyes, sensitive ears and a big heart. Highly recommend. Great gift for expats too!

I loved the the rush of childhood and teenage year memories the beautiful illustrations brought. I, too, grew in Izmir, Turkey in the same time as Ozge and I was in awe as I noticed the similarities. Growing up in Turkey, in Izmir, our experiences were alike in many respects and looking back through her lens was such a fun, heartwarming, at times emotionally tense journey. I applaud her persistence and I hope she publishes many more books; she is truly talented!

I loved this book. It reminded me Persepolis. It is a very nice quick read. It is mostly about growing up in Turkey but there are also a lot of content which is universal like following your dreams, going up against the tide, being bullied, being different, etc. I think this would be a great read for all ages specifically teenagers. It also provides great insight for tiger parents or other parents alike who might want to think twice before forcing their kids to make certain choices. After all of her struggles, it is very comforting to know that the author at the end followed her dreams and pursued her passion. The artwork and the drawings are also very original and pleasing. Big kudos to the author.

Adorable and clever. An absolutely delightful visual novel. Knowing nothing of Turkey, this was a fantastic and entertaining introduction to a different culture and time. Highly recommended for a quick and fun read!

"Dare to Disappoint" was assigned to me in a college level course and it was a book I actually enjoyed reading for school! I found myself reading ahead of the assigned pages because I was fully immersed in *Âfâ* "zge's world. Not only were the illustrations beautiful but the memoir was incredibly relatable. Readers follow *Âfâ* "zge throughout her adolescence and she has some big decisions while numerous outside variables are affecting her choice. The graphic memoir is also educational in the way that it touches on some of Turkey's history as well! I believe this novel is a great one to read independently because it is an addictive read but it could also find a home in a classroom because it also provides somewhat of a history lesson!

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