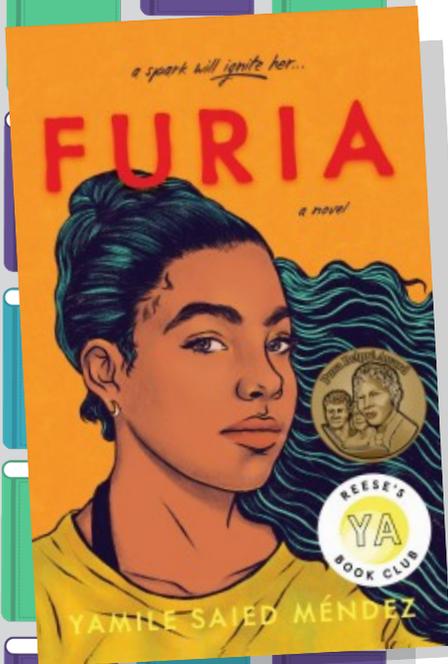


TEEN BOOK REVIEWS

WHAT WE'RE READING



Furia

by Yamile Saied Méndez

Reviewed by Emelia

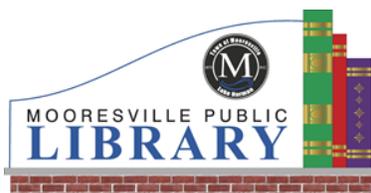
Rating: 4/5 Stars

Camila has spent her whole life in Rosario, Argentina, dreaming of a way to be free. Her father forbids her from playing futbol and her submissive mother follows his tyrannical rule. Her brother is expected to free their family from poverty through his own futbol success, and Camila is expected to be a good daughter and become a doctor. What her parents don't know though, is she has found a way to play. She secretly plays for a women's futbol team. On the pitch, she can let go of her home life and become La Furia. The most powerful girl on her team.

However, Furia becomes shaken when Diego, her best friend and now millionaire futbol player, returns to town. A year ago, they had something. But now? Camila doesn't know what happens now. And she only has a week to figure it out before he leaves again. He can take her to places she's never been, but Furia wants to get there herself. Can she have both her futbolera dreams and love? And what about her parents? How will Camila ever make her father understand, or make her mother fight for her?

Furia is a beautiful story about life in Argentina for a girl with a conventional mother and a harsh father, who believes his son will save their family sooner than his daughter ever could. It gives an immersive walk through Hispanic culture that many novels shy away from because they believe it won't be accessible to all readers. I found it refreshing that Méndez didn't translate every Spanish word or define every cultural reference. She depended upon the reader to do some exploring and learning for themselves. I enjoyed meeting the strong will of Camila and the big heart of Diego. Their expressions of love can become repetitive at times, but it is understandable considering it is a teenage relationship. The novel also addresses serious current issues in Argentina, which I found helpful in further understanding Camila's situation as well as her friends'. Overall, this is a powerful work for Méndez and will not soon be forgotten by any reader who is touched by Camila and those she meets.

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