



ESSENTIAL DETAILS

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Author: Jackie Khalilieh

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Media requests & enquiries:

publicity@hashtagpress.co.uk

www.hashtagblak.co.uk

@hashtag_blak



ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET

Something More

By Jackie Khalilieh

“A thought-provoking, thoroughly entertaining debut that centres questions of identity via a fresh lens.” –

Publishers Weekly

Diagnosed as autistic just before joining a new school, 90s-obsessed Jessie is determined to make a fresh start. She plans to keep her diagnosis a secret and creates a list of goals to keep her on track– from acquiring two distinct eyebrows to getting a magical first kiss. But when two very different boys steal her heart, Jessie finds herself re-writing her plans.

Talking points

- Exploring neurodivergence from a teen perspective.
- Writing to entertain as well as provoke thought.
- Palestinian-Canadian writing influences.
- Teenage relationships.
- Fitting in, identity, moving schools, finding your place.
- Diversity & inclusion in publishing and education.

Perfect for fans of Adiba Jaigirdar, Attiya Khan & Jenny Han

About the author:

Jackie Khalilieh is a Palestinian-Canadian writer with a love of Nineties pop culture, Dad jokes, and warm and fuzzy romance. Like many autistic females, she received her diagnosis as an adult. She is passionate about positive representation within her writing. She currently resides just outside Toronto, Canada with her husband and two daughters, complaining nightly about having to cook dinner. Something More is her debut YA novel.

Praise for Something More

“Hands down the best YA I've read in years!” - Lynn Painter, New York Times bestselling author of Better Than the Movies

“This is the best kind of YA romance, brimming with endearing adolescent awkwardness, bittersweet soul-searching, angsty emotions, and lovable, realistic characters. Something More is a warm, sweet, hope-filled portrayal of neurodivergence and coming of age that spoke deeply to my heart, as a grown woman who was once a confused, awkward (unbeknownst to her then) autistic girl, who's learned, just as Jessie does, to understand and love her neurodivergent self. I adored it.” – Chloe Liese, author of Two Wrongs Make a Right