



Zakiya Ajmi



## Volcano

### Vulkan

A superbly well-written debut novel, about finding yourself and the right person to love.

Zakiya Ajmi is a widely celebrated debut author. She was nominated for the Nordic Literature Council's Children's Book Prize in 2022 and shortlisted for the Cultural Ministry's Children's Book Author Prize.

### SYNOPSIS

Nominated for the [Nordic Literature Prize](#) in 2022 and shortlisted for the Danish Cultural Ministry's Children's Book Author award 2021, bright young star, Zakiya Ajmi, has written an evocative tween novel about Anna, who is trying to start afresh with her mum, after her parents have had a violent break-up. They have spent some time at a crisis center, but have now got a flat of their own in another city.

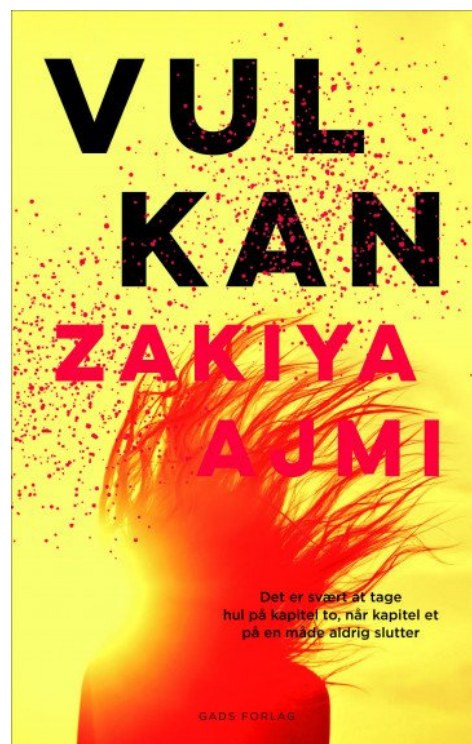
The novel is a love story, but as Anna has experienced in her short life, love between people can be expressed very differently. The love between her parents developed into something scary. For Chili, Anna's new friend at school, the love she feels for her boyfriend, Oscar, overshadows everything. But is it reciprocated? For Anna, her meeting with Idris becomes very special, but it is hard for her to find her way on the path to love, when she keeps getting entangled in other people's relationships. Anna wants to start afresh, but it can be hard to start chapter two, when chapter one in some way never ends.

Here is what the Nordic Literature Council wrote about the book:

*Volcano is a youth novel that explodes in many ways. Not only in the language, but also in its original structure which changes the traditional chronology by beginning and ending the book with Chapter Two. It is a rootless and insistent tale about place and displacement - told in its very own way. Dialogues, text messages and perplexed thoughts are mixed in an original composition, where not only what happens inside oneself, but also inside the middle of the earth, has its significance for the the characters in the book. Everything in the novel is about to explode.*

(...)

*Volcano is a social-realistic YA novel, narrated in a raw, poetic and whimsical way. A story about tripping and getting back up on your feet. There are hints at the traditional Bildungsroman in its classic structure here, with a close look at the*



Original Language: *Danish*

Original Publisher: *Gads Forlag*

Published: 2020

176 pages

Category: *Children's Books*

Sub-category: *YA*

Genre: *Realism*

Themes: *Love, Growing up*

Film Rights: *Babel-Bridge Literary Agency*

Available material: *Full English sample translation, Full French sample translation*

*feeling of belonging, Anna is homeless, a kind of nomad in her own life, and restlessness is a driving force both positively and negatively. Zakiya Ajmi has a rare and honest identification with a credible narrator that fortunately never becomes neither moralising or didactic. It is said that you learn from your mistakes, but what you perhaps learn most of all in this novel is to say sorry - and mean it.*

*The YA novel, VOLCANO, is most certainly a volcano. You are in every possible way branded by the energy in every single sentence and the particular vulnerability of the words that creeps in and stays with you. Zakiya Ajmi is a writer who wants to achieve something with her narrative. She wants to shake the old world so we can have a new one, in which we are able to talk about all the things we usually omit to discuss.*

Part of **Books from Denmark, Autumn 2021** (chosen by the Danish Arts Foundation).

## REVIEWS

"As an avid reader, it is a pleasure to glide through so many good sentences and funny imagery (..) a wild and original youth tale about life after a crisis center (...) a glowing portrait of young bewilderment and will (...) This is a book that wants to do a lot, and succeeds" – (5 hearts in *Politiken*)

"...an in turn well written and captivating youth novel about violence and boundary setting, but also about budding love and about finding oneself (...) there is a lot to take away and reflect yourself in for readers from approximately 13 and up " – (*The Learning Centre*)

## TERRITORIES HANDLED

World except: Danish

## TERRITORIES SOLD

Faroese: [Bókadeild Føroya Lærarafelags](#), Italian: [Camelozampa](#), Norwegian: [Samlaget](#), Slovene: [Zalozba Mis](#), Swedish: [Berghs](#).