



Defy **A Young Adult Novel by Sara de Waard**

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Ages: 12+

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In *DEFY*, the controlling society of Zalmon determines everything for its citizens, from what they'll do, to whom they'll marry, right down to the date of their deaths. They have been brainwashed to fear Natural Death so they play out their remaining days at Quiet End where they are euthanized.

As Darius pines for a love he cannot have, his problems deepen when his beloved little sister Mahlah's Death Date is imminent. Darius will stop at nothing to save her from it; he refuses for his days with her to be numbered.

Selfishly motivated, Darius infiltrates the system to interrupt Mahlah's Death Date, at the risk of exposing his sister to a Natural Death. Alas, she survives.

It isn't long before Darius unlocks the reason for Mahlah's Death Date and he cannot stand the thought of anyone else's existence being spared. Along with his forbidden love, Priya, Darius embarks on a journey of self-discovery, romance and a fight for the freedom and dignity of the people of Zalmon.

The Author

Sara de Waard is an author and screenwriter of Métis descent and is currently in the process of exploring her family's heritage. She is an elementary school teacher and freelance social media manager with a love for film and a soft spot for rap and hip-hop music thanks to her two teenagers. Her writing is often inspired by her compassion for the trials and tribulations of today's youth. After completing her BA in Radio and Television from Ryerson University and a stint in London, ON, de Waard returned to her hometown of Port Colborne, ON where she currently lives with her kids.

Praise for previous works:

White Lies

"De Waard has done a masterful job of creating well-developed, relatable, imperfect, and likeable characters that help drive the plot forward as Missy moves toward healing. ... *White Lies* is a well-balanced text that blends together humour and romance with serious topics that are relatable to readers in the target audience. Filled with unique and interesting characters, a fast-moving plot, and relevant themes, the text is likely to elicit the full range of emotions in readers. This book is likely to become a well-loved addition to any middle or high school classroom or library. **Highly Recommended.**" – Chasity Findlay, *CM Magazine*



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