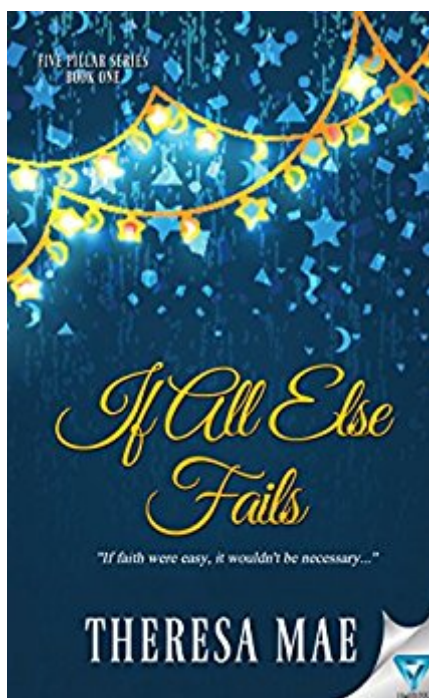


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# If All Else Fails (The Five Pillar Series Book 1)



## Synopsis

Facing life choices while growing up is hard enough. Doing it all while figuring out if God exists--well, that's just Ruby's luck. Eighteen-year-old Ruby Saunders is no typical high school senior. After years of struggling with her single mom to keep food on the table, their nomad lifestyle has worn her tiny family thin. When her mom finds a solid job, stability roots them in the suburbs of an Ohio town, where she lands her first real boyfriend, Shawn Turner. Ruby is determined to graduate with honors, even if she has to visit a Mosque to do it...In an effort to maintain a perfect GPA, Ruby pairs with a pretty Muslim girl named Layla Guirguis for a world religion project. Though her classmate wears a scarf over her hair and comes from a different background, Ruby quickly learns they have a lot in common. The more they hang out, the more Ruby learns about Islam, and the more her Agnostic views are put to the test. And as her friendship with Layla grows, Ruby learns something that promises to break her heart. When love and logic collide, faith is the only defining factor...Between study sessions and dealing with her over-protective mother, Ruby's dating life takes a turn for the serious. After six months of swooning over Shawn's charming smile, her 'true love waits' ring begins to feel more like a rusty piece of scrap metal than the sweet sixteen gift her mother gave her. Still, she's determined not to make the same mistakes her mom did--if only it were that easy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a non-Muslim, I assumed that my ability to connect to this book would be limited due to my limited knowledge of Muslim culture. But, through gentle and graceful writing, Mae not only kept me fully engaged throughout the book, I was grateful for the entertaining and educating glimpse into the Muslim family. If anything, I wondered if a Muslim would feel a loss of engagement as they read through explanations (fascinating to me) about the hijab, mosque etc. This book is about high school students dealing with realistic experiences which all American teens face. Some just happen to be Muslim. The cast is diverse and individually interesting. Funny too. I am anxious to know more about all of them! The auto-correct appeared to be on overdrive as I noted incorrect words scattered throughout - but I assume that isn't the author's fault. I did feel the ending 'happening' occurred a bit fast and clunky. But, otherwise - a really good book. Entirely appropriate (thought rather than hormone provoking) - I am passing the Kindle to the middle school girl of the house. I can't wait to gossip with her about what she thinks will come next.

This review is from: If All Else Fails (The Five Pillar Series Book 1) (Kindle Edition) I really enjoyed this story although I am a grandfather and not a teen. It is entertaining all the way through. Ms. Mae has done an excellent job in tackling some very important topics surrounding dating and belief in God without sounding preachy. They flow through the normal course of her storytelling in a very natural manner. I also appreciate how she handles sensitive topics without vulgarity, suitable for younger teens. I think Muslim parents and the general public can learn things about Islam from this book as well as her target audience of Muslim teens, while enjoying a good story. I can't wait to read the future books in this series she has started. I highly recommend it.

Excellent! Highly recommend.

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