



SYNOPSIS SHEET

Some Unspoken Thing – Rushdiyah Narker

50-Word Summary

Maryam, a quiet 16-year-old from Cape Town, is pulled into the messy joy and fear of first love when Fuad begins to notice her. Navigating friendship, desire, and cultural expectations in the 1990s, she must decide whether to stay in the shadows or step into her own light.

Short Synopsis (120 Words)

Maryam has always been the quiet one in her friend group – happiest observing from the sidelines while her confident best friend, Tauhier, effortlessly takes centre stage. But when Fuad, the charismatic heartthrob everyone adores, begins to pay attention to her, Maryam is thrown into a mix of excitement, confusion, and fear she's never felt before. Each interaction feels overwhelming, until Tauhier steps in to help her navigate these unfamiliar emotions.

Set in 1990s Cape Town, *Some Unspoken Thing* explores the tenderness and turmoil of first love against a backdrop of cultural expectations, community pressures, and personal insecurity. Maryam must decide whether she's brave enough to follow her heart – even if it means stepping out of the shadows.

Full Synopsis (250–300 Words)

In the shadow of her vibrant best friend Tauhier, 16-year-old Maryam has always felt more comfortable observing than participating. Growing up in 1990s Cape Town, she has learned to keep her feelings neatly tucked away – safer in silence than in the uncertainty of being seen.

Everything changes when Fuad, the charming and effortlessly confident boy at the centre of their friend group, suddenly begins to notice her. His attention pulls Maryam into a whirlwind of curiosity, anxiety, and quiet hope. Each conversation, each glance, becomes an obstacle she can barely bring herself to step over. Tauhier, ever protective and warm, steps in to guide her through the confusing terrain of first love.

But Maryam's journey isn't just about falling for Fuad – it's about navigating the expectations of her family, the cultural norms that shape her world, and the insecurities she's spent years holding close. As she grapples with unfamiliar emotions and the tension between friendship and desire, she begins to question who she is and who she has the courage to become.

Set against the textured backdrop of 1990s Cape Town – its communities, its rhythms, its unspoken rules – *Some Unspoken Thing* is a tender coming-of-age romance about self-discovery, faith, longing, and the bravery it takes to step from the shadows into your own light.