**A quotation that stuck out to you as encompassing the main message of the story.**

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that it is easier to catch bees with honey than with vinegar. That is, kindness and openness will always be a more effective strategy in convincing someone of a particular point of view, than hatred and isolation is.  In the novel H*asan Minhaj and the Pursuit of Prom*, the author makes a point of emphasizing how easy it is to blame and ostracize those who show ignorance and xenophobia, when in fact forgiveness is the best way to ensure the eradication of both in the long term. A quotation that exemplifies this sentiment in the story is “there are days where I feel like I can forgive Bethany, and there are days where I feel like I can’t”. This line comes after we learn that the main character has been rejected by Bethany and her family due to the colour of his skin. The author makes a point of emphasizing the struggle that the main character faces; on the one hand, it is easier to reject those that have caused pain by reacting to them in anger and with hatred. Forgiveness can be difficult because it means putting aside your own pain to alleviate someone else’s. Hasan lives in California, and the book explains that he faces racism on a daily basis. This is likely why he says that on some days he finds it difficult to forgive Bethany; sometimes his own anger and pain becomes too much to put aside. Ultimately however, Hasan realizes that this is a struggle worth fighting, and that forgiveness and love is the only way to ensure that people are no longer scared of each other and can work together to overcome hatred and xenophobia.