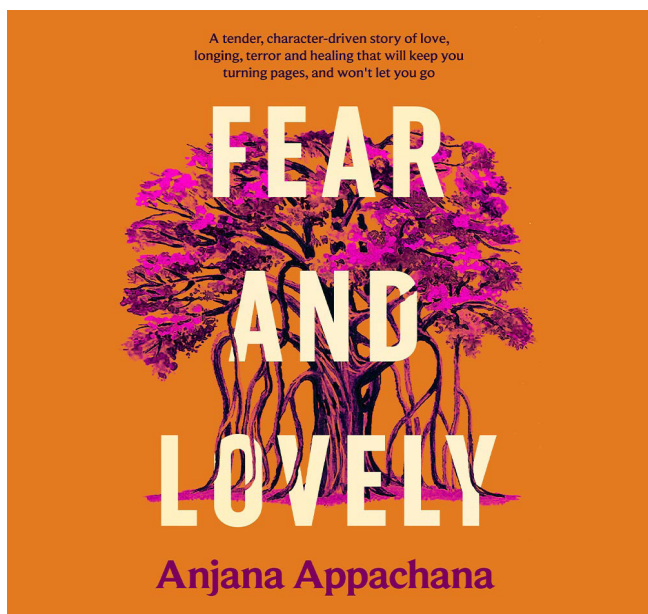




READING GUIDE

September, 2023



Fear And Lovely

Anjana Appachana

A tender, character-driven story of love, longing, terror and healing set in 1970s New Delhi.

IN DETAIL

Mallika is a painfully shy young woman growing up in the heart of a close-knit, sometimes stifling, New Delhi colony. Though she is surrounded by love, her life is complicated by secrets that she, her mother and her aunt work hard to keep. After suffering a trauma aged 19, Mallika loses three days of her memory and slowly spirals into a deep depression. She must find a way out of this abyss, back to herself and those she cares about. But she must also hide her mental illness from her community. In a narrative that unfolds elliptically from the perspectives of Mallika and the seven people closest to her, the astonishing story of these characters' lives emerges. As each gives voice to contending with their own struggles, secrets and silences shatter.



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BOOK CLUB TOPICS

Did you enjoy *Fear And Lovely*?

The story focuses trauma and mental illness, do you think these topics were covered well?

The novel follows eight people, Mallika and the seven people closest to her. Did you find it easy to follow?

The perspectives switch between first and third person – did you enjoy this shift in narrative style?

Would you recommend *Fear And Lovely*?

RECOMMENDED LISTENS AFTER *FEAR AND LOVELY*

Other novels with multi-character perspectives

This Must Be The Place by Maggie O'Farrell

The Bay by Allie Reynolds

The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne

Only Love Can Hurt Like This by Paige Toon

You Get That For Me by Charlotte Butterfield