



READING GUIDE

August, 2024

The Wakes

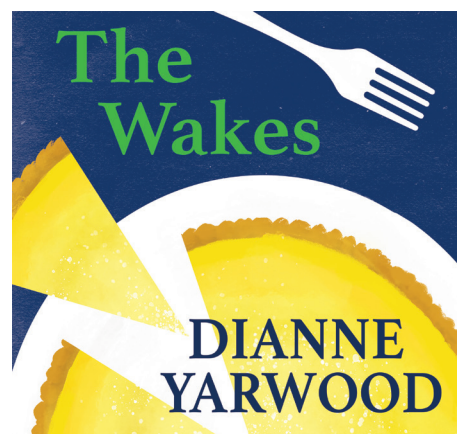
Dianne Yarwood

In short

An irresistible debut novel about old friends, lost love, good food and new beginnings.

Synopsis

It's winter in Sydney, and the lives of two strangers have fallen apart. Newly separated and in need of a distraction, Clare agrees to help her neighbour Louisa with a funeral catering business that has bitten off more than it can chew. Meanwhile, emergency doctor Chris has witnessed too many deaths, but still feels compelled to attend the occasional wake. When Clare and Chris meet, the good in their lives is slowly illuminated. After all, the thing about death is that it makes life matter...



Discussion points for *The Wakes*

1. *The Wakes* explores profound themes about life and death but it is also laugh-out-loud funny at times. Do you have a favourite humorous moment from the book?
2. *The Wakes* has been described as 'bittersweet'. What is one bittersweet moment in this book that resonates with you?
3. Though the plot revolves around four funerals, this story is ultimately an uplifting one. How does this contrast reveal important messages about life?
4. Did you find the last scene of the novel satisfying? What would you imagine might be the next steps for Clare, Louisa and Chris?

Next, you should listen to...

Reasonable People by Caroline Hulse

The Anniversary by Stephanie Bishop

Mrs Quinn's Rise To Fame by Olivia Ford

