



READING GUIDE

January, 2025

The Circus Train

Amita Parikh

In short

An intoxicating novel that deftly mixes romance, theatrical glamour and the horrors of war.

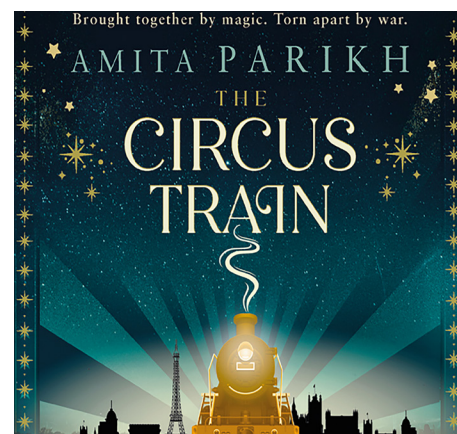
Synopsis

Europe, 1938. Even as the daughter of the extraordinary headlining illusionist, Lena Papadopoulos has never quite found her place within the World of Wonders - a travelling circus that traverses the continent in a luxury steam engine. Brilliant and curious, Lena yearns for the real-world magic of science and medicine, despite the limitations of her wheelchair. But when a young French orphan, Alexandre, comes aboard the circus train, Lena's life is infused with magic and wonder for the first time.

But outside the bright lights of the circus, darkness is descending on Europe. War is about to shatter Lena's world and take away everything she holds dear. To recover what she has lost, Lena will have to believe in the impossible...

Discussion points for *The Circus Train*

1. Lena is faced with difficult hardships in her youth. Were you surprised by Lena's journey throughout the novel?
2. If you could describe Lena and Alexandre's relationship in three words, what would they be?
3. Who was your favourite character in the novel and why?
4. Did you enjoy the ending?



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