



Waiting for Tomorrow by Nathacha Appanah **Graywolf Press Reading Group Guide**



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1. Anita and Adam are called “an oddly matched couple” (17). Can you name a few ways their beliefs and desires conflict with one another? By the end of the book, do you think they have become more alike or even more different?
2. The nonlinear narrative structure of *Waiting for Tomorrow* gives readers a glimpse of what’s to come. For instance, we know from the second page that Adam will end up in prison. How did this foreshadowing affect your experience of reading the novel? Did it make it more or less suspenseful? Did it make the painful outcomes more or less devastating?
3. Throughout the novel, the characters savor privacy—soaking up solitude and reflection while drawing, writing, or walking on the beach. What purpose do these private moments serve throughout the book? Is Adèle afforded privacy in her life as well?
4. Belonging, assimilation, and purpose are important themes in the novel. How do each of these relate to the three main characters?
5. Towards the end of *Waiting for Tomorrow*, Anita notes that both she and Adèle “grew up under the same tropical sun, they like the same food, the same music, they speak the same language, they have lived beside the sea but have never learned to swim, they could have been sisters” (139). Do you think Adèle would agree with this statement? In what ways are Adèle and Anita different?
6. How does *Waiting for Tomorrow* complicate the ideas of artistic expression and exploitation?
7. Anita writes her novel, *The Melody of Adèle*, from Adèle’s perspective. How does she develop Adèle's character? What are the similarities and differences between the voice Anita gives Adèle and her real voice?
8. At which points in the book do Anita, Adam, and Adèle experience homesickness? How are their experiences of these feelings different? How are they similar?
9. How does *Waiting for Tomorrow* fit into current conversations and controversies around immigration, both in Europe and across the globe?
10. In what ways is Laura a peripheral character in this narrative? In what ways is she the most central character?