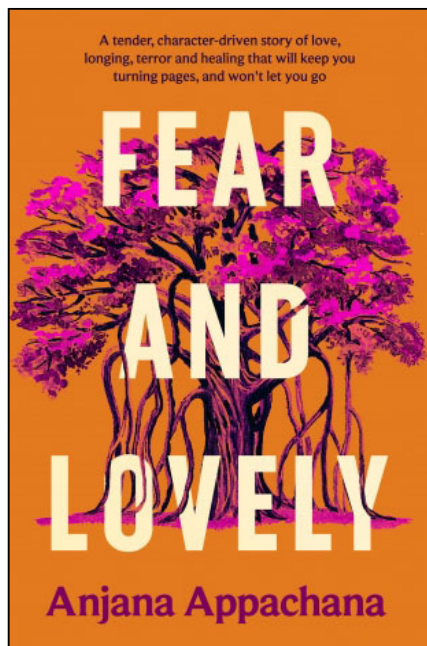


FEAR AND LOVELY

ANJANA APPACHANA



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

As irreverent and funny as it is serious and anguished, *Fear and Lovely* is a tender, character-driven story of love, longing, terror and healing that will keep you turning pages, and won't let you go

VERVE Books' hardback edition (published January 2023) received high praise from Women's Prize shortlisted author Rachel Elliott and Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Diaz. The novel was selected as one of *Stylist's* 'Big Fiction Books for 2023', featured in *The Handbook* and reviewed by the *Daily Mail*

For fans of Monica Ali and Arundhati Roy

Appachana's previous work has been published in the UK (Virago Press), US (Random House), India, France and Germany; taught in college courses in the US; and was included in Salman Rushdie and Elizabeth West's collection, *The Vintage Book of Indian Writing 1947-1997* (Vintage, 1997)

Appachana is a recipient of the National Endowment of the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship and an O. Henry Festival prize

THE BOOK

Mallika is a painfully shy young woman growing up in the heart of a lively, 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 nineteen, Mallika loses three days of her memory and slowly spirals into a deep depression. She must find a way out of the 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. For Mallika's family, childhood friends and the two men she loves are also hiding truths. As each gives voice to contending with their own struggles, secrets and silences shatter.

PRAISE FOR ANJANA APPACHANA

'Trauma, forgiveness, hope, marriage and the shame around mental health are all explored in this beautiful, complex and funny story set in 1970s New Delhi. It's the first novel from Appachana in 20 years and one to be savoured' - **Stylist (Big Fiction Books for 2023) on Fear and Lovely**

'Some novels melt your heart. For me, this is one of them. Anjana Appachana's *Fear and Lovely* is beautiful, wise, funny and deeply moving. It's bursting with emotion, truth, secrets and love, all written with such insight and tenderness. I loved it' - **Rachel Elliott on Fear and Lovely**

'*Fear and Lovely* is one of the best books you'll read this year, next year, last year. In Mallika's journey readers will find a radiant portrait of our wounded bewildering world and the human hearts that will one day redeem it. A once-in-a-lifetime achievement' - **Junot Diaz on Fear and Lovely**

'Blending emotional depth with elements of melodrama reminiscent of popular Indian films, Appachana succeeds in drawing us deep into this complex vision of shattered happiness and withered dreams' -

Andersen Tepper, New York Times Book Review on Listening Now

'Anjana Appachana is an extremely gifted writer' - **Sunday Observer on Incantations**

'Appachana's stories proclaim a versatile and exciting talent' - **New Statesman and Society on Incantations**

ANJANA APPACHANA (Location: Tempe, USA)

Anjana Appachana was born and educated in India, where she did her B.A (Hons) in English at Delhi University and her M.A in Sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University. After working in India for a few years she went on to do her MFA in Creative Writing at Penn State. Subsequently, she has been living both in the US and in India. Appachana's book, *Incantations & Other Stories*, was published in the UK, India, the US, Germany and France, and her novel *Listening Now*, in the US, India and France. Her short stories have been published in various journals, anthologies and magazines. Appachana is a recipient of the National Endowment of the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship and an O. Henry Festival prize.



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