

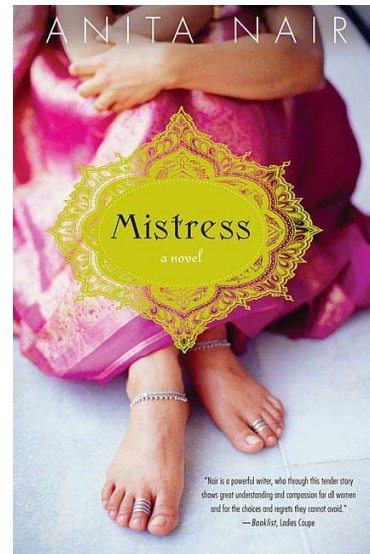
# READING GROUP GUIDE

## Mistress

By Anita Nair

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### About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *Mistress* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *Mistress*.

### About the Book

Christopher Stewart, a handsome, young scholar from the US travels to India to interview a famous musician, Koman. Christopher spends a lot of time with Koman and his beautiful, unhappy niece Radha. Radha is blessed with a husband who adores her and a luxurious life; however, she's desperately bored and discontented. She feels that her materialistic, ambitious husband is an embarrassment. Radha and Christopher have an instant connection and begin a passionate affair that will change everyone's life forever.

### About the Author

ANITA NAIR lives in Bangalore, India. Her books have been published in several languages around the world.



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## Discussion Questions

1. What were Radha's feelings about Shyam?
2. What did the riverside resort Near the Nila represent to Shyam?
3. What changed Radha's mere attraction for Chris into a full fledged passionate affair?
4. Why did Shyam feel devastated when he discovered that Radha was pregnant?
5. As a boy, why was Uncle fascinated by Kathakali?
6. What was Uncle's first experience with a dance critic?
7. Why changed in Uncle and Angela's relationship when they moved to London?
8. What were Uncle's feelings about artistic success?
9. What are the *navarasas*? Why are they also called the nine faces of the heart?

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