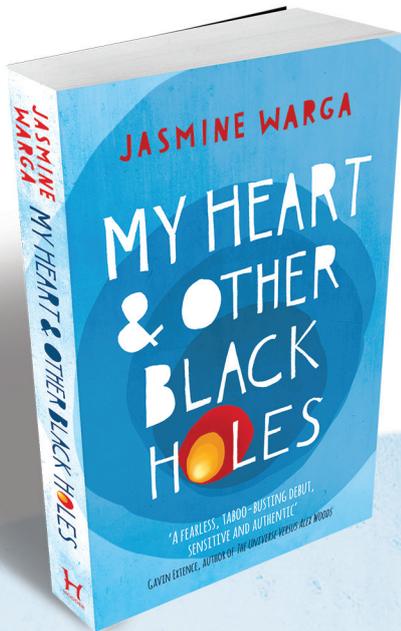


# MY HEART & OTHER BLACK HOLES

JASMINE WARGA



Aysel and Roman are practically strangers, but they've been drawn into an unthinkable partnership. In a month's time, they plan to commit suicide – together.

Aysel knows why *she* wants to die: being the daughter of a murderer doesn't equal normal, well-adjusted teenager. But she can't figure out why handsome, popular Roman wants to end it all . . . and why he's even more determined than she is.

With the deadline getting closer, something starts to grow between Aysel and Roman – a feeling she never thought she would experience. It seems there might be something to live for, after all – but is Aysel in so deep she can't turn back?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the first chapter immediately set the mood? How does it set the tone for the rest of the novel?
2. Aysel is consumed by depression and darkness, but she's hesitant to take her own life. What do you think this says about her mental state?
3. Do you think it's important that you don't know the specifics of Aysel's father's crime until later in the story? What effect does this have on the reader?
4. Why does Aysel's father's crime consume so much of Aysel's life? Is guilt the only emotion she feels in regard to her father's crime?
5. How does Roman's mother's personality and disposition contrast to his own? Why is this important to the plot?
6. Aysel starts to recognize Roman's habits and says, 'People are funny. The longer you are around them, the more you start to realize that everyone makes the same motions over and over again' (page 132). What does this reveal about Aysel's mind-set?
7. Is Aysel ostracised from her community, or is she isolating herself?
8. How do Aysel's and Roman's relationships with their respective families differ? How are they similar?
9. What role does music play in Aysel's life? How important is it for her?
10. Each chapter begins with a countdown to the predetermined suicide date. What effect does this technique have on the reader?
11. Roman notices that Aysel sleeps with socks on one night and says, 'My point is you can change,' (page 232). While Roman is technically talking about her sleeping habits, what does he imply with this statement? Do you agree?
12. Why is the ending so important? Did you imagine a different ending for Aysel and Roman? What do you think happens after the last page?

If you are having suicidal thoughts or are concerned about someone you know, please call HOPELineUK on 0800 068 41 41.

Join the conversation at **CHAPTER 5**

Proud to be bookish

 Chapter5Books

 @Chapter5Books

 Chapter5Books

 H  
HODDER