

"Farzana Doctor spins a passionate, page-turning tale about the sometimes invisible ties that bind. This is brilliant storytelling."

— Terry Fallis, author of *The Best Laid Plans* and *No Relation*

# Farzana Doctor

ALL  
INCLUSIVA



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## DESCRIBE THE MOST MEMORABLE RESPONSE YOU'VE RECEIVED FROM A READER.

I love it when my work helps readers develop more empathy for themselves and other. It's what I enjoy about reading fiction. One woman told me that she was ready to hate Ismail (*Six Metres of Pavement's* protagonist) for causing his daughter's hot-car death. But as she read the novel, she grew to understand his humanity and that we are all flawed and fallible.

## HAS A REVIEW OR PROFILE EVER CHANGED YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON YOUR WORK?

Reviewers and readers have helped me to become conscious about things I've written unconsciously, drawing connections that I hadn't noticed before. I think I only really understand what my novels are "about" a year after they've been published.

## MEET THE STARS

### AMEERA

Ameera is a 29-year-old woman who grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, with her single mother, Nora. She's never met her father, Azeez. Nora only spent a single afternoon with him, and has few details to offer. Ameera has always been curious about Azeez and her Indian ancestry.

Her work at Atlantis is tedious. The sales quotas and entitled tourists are annoying, but at least there's an always-open bar to distract her. When a swinger couple invites her to cross off an item on her bucket list, she accepts tentatively. The experience enlivens her, and she begins seeking out more tourist couples. She's not one for labels, but others call her a "unicorn," a single bi woman in the "scene." Sex with couples leaves her feeling satisfied and thrilled.

She won't admit it to herself, but sometimes she's lonely. Ever so often she feels inklings of deeper feelings for lovers, and has sometimes wished she could have ongoing relationships with some of them.

When Azeez enters her dreamscape and waking thoughts, Ameera is open to his suggestions. Her self-sufficiency and rationality lead her to assume that the guidance he offers is her own clarity and inner wisdom speaking to her. She doesn't believe in ghosts.

### AZEEZ

In 1985, Azeez was a 29-year-old visa student. He'd just completed his PhD in chemistry and scored a prestigious academic job back in India. When he met Nora on his second-last day in Hamilton, he couldn't believe his luck. He employed his awkward charms to woo her, and later that day he lost his virginity. Utterly inexperienced in matters of the heart, he put off calling her. He died the next day on Air India 182, at the hands of terrorists.

As a spirit, he is confused about his liminal existence, and uses his scientific mind to address his mystical questions. How will he "move on"? What's the best method to communicate with the living?

However, he's discouraged at being a ghost after so many years. He longs to be alive, to feel his skin, to taste food again. He desperately wants to know his purpose. His "guides" help him realize that his unfinished business lies not in India, but elsewhere. With a mix of frustration and wit, he follows their advice to Huatulco and Ameera.

Have more questions for Farzana?

Tweet her @FarzanaDoctor using #AllInclusiveNovel



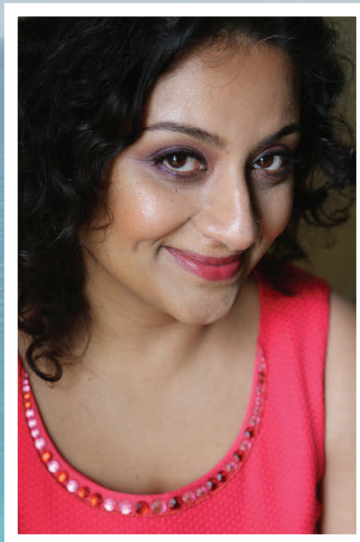
## SUGGESTED PAIRING

### THE ATLANTIS MANTIS

- 40 ml white rum
- 60 ml pineapple juice
- Splash lime juice
- Splash grenadine
- Shake
- Splash dark rum to float
- Garnish with maraschino cherry, orange slice, and lime



## A CONVERSATION WITH FARZANA



### TELL US ABOUT YOUR BOOK.

*All Inclusive* is about a father and daughter, who've never met, finding one another. It's also about all-inclusive resorts, ghosts, the Air India bombing, and swingers. Yes, all those themes somehow link together!

### WHAT WAS THE CREATIVE PROCESS LIKE FOR YOU?

I set word count goals and sit at my laptop hoping to achieve them. I ask my Facebook friends to help me figure out stuff like when the Westdale Tim

Hortons opened, or whether Brownie badges get sewn to sleeves or sashes. I try to remain still and silent long enough to hear the spirits tell me about my characters.

### WHAT WAS THE HARDEST PART OF WRITING YOUR BOOK?

In this story, sex is a metaphor for my protagonist's growth. But sex is a topic that is fraught for most people, including me. I wanted to write the swinger scenes in a way that captured how complicated, odd, silly, wonderful, ugly, and awkward sex can be. I had to wrestle with my inner critic a lot.