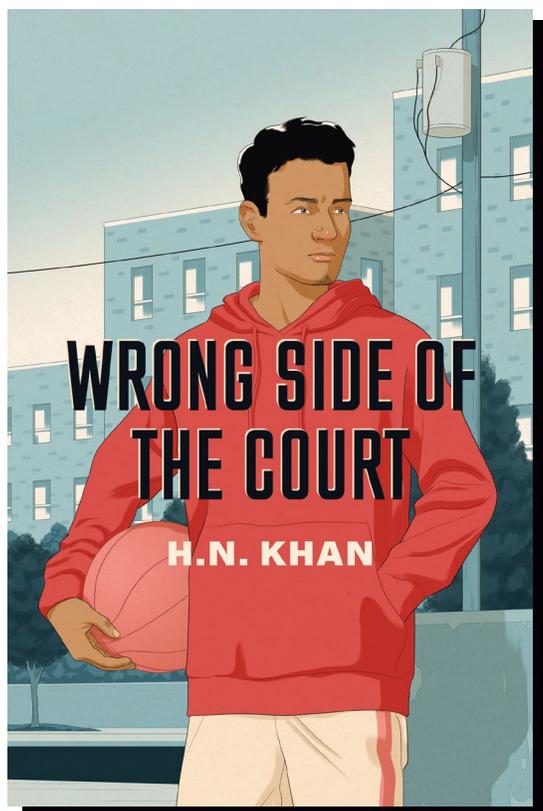


BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo © Mahad Aamir

HUMAYUN KHAN

is a first-time author. Born in Pakistan, he immigrated to Canada at age seven and grew up in Regent Park, a low-income community housing project in Toronto. After graduating with a business degree, he decided to drop out of law school to pursue a career in Toronto's start-up scene. Since then, he's helped build and market software that's used by millions around the world. He is a recent graduate from the Humber School for Writers' correspondence program.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THEME: DEALING WITH GRIEF

Both Fawad and Yousuf are struggling with the loss of a loved one and trying to make sense of a world without someone they loved. What is your take on how they cope and eventually find their way?

THEME: BOUNDARIES

Jamila and Fawad both live in the same household but have a very different take on where they will or won't accept influence or opinion from their mother, culture and so on. How are boundaries between parents and children different across cultures and ethnicities, and why do they turn out that way?

THEME: IMPORTANCE OF SPORTS

Throughout the book, basketball is Fawad's outlet for channelling his grief and social anxiety, and through which he makes friends and receives mentorship. As a society, do we consciously acknowledge the formative role sports can have on youth?

THEME: HEALING THROUGH ARTS

In the book, one way Yousuf channels his grief is by pouring it into his music. How can we encourage more people struggling with difficult emotions to turn to art as an outlet for expression feelings that sometimes can't be expressed in words?

THEME: IMMIGRANT DREAM

Fawad's dad dreamed of owning a Tim Hortons franchise and "making it." When he died, Fawad inherited the same dream. Is the "immigrant dream" of coming to a new land with little and thriving idealistic or realistic?

THEME: FRIENDSHIP

Fawad's life revolves around his friendships with Yousuf, Nermin and Arif. In what way do they help each other navigate life and make up for their individual shortcomings?

THEME: INTERCLASS ROMANCES

Fawad and Ashley come from different worlds and socioeconomic classes. These differences don't seem to affect their relationship, but how might they be affected if they were to continue to date as they grew older?

WRONG SIDE OF THE COURT by H.N. Khan

ISBN: 9780735270879



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