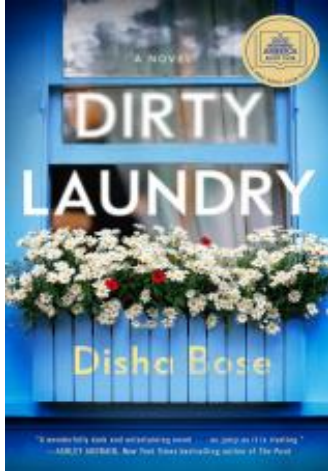


# Dirty Laundry

by Disha Bose

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## About the Book

*She was the perfect wife, with the perfect life. You would kill to have it.*

Ciara Dunphy has it all --- a loving husband, well-behaved children and a beautiful home. Her circle of friends in their small Irish village go to her for tips about mothering, style and influencer success --- a picture-perfect life is easy money on Instagram. But behind the filters, reality is less polished.

Enter Mishti Guha: Ciara's best friend. Ciara welcomed Mishti into her inner circle for being...unlike the other mothers in the group. Discontent in a marriage arranged for her by her parents back in Calcutta, Mishti now raises her young daughter in a country that is too cold, among children who look nothing like her. She wants what Ciara has --- the ease with which she moves through the world --- and, in that sense, Mishti might be exactly like the other mothers.

And there's earth mother Lauren Doyle: born, bred and the butt of jokes in their village. With her disheveled partner and children who run naked in the yard, they're mostly a happy lot, though ostracized for being the singular dysfunction in Ciara's immaculate world. When Lauren finds an unlikely ally in Mishti, she decides that her days of ridicule are over.

Then Ciara is found murdered in her own pristine home, and the house of cards she'd worked so hard to build comes crumbling down. Everyone seems to have something to gain from Ciara's death, so if they don't want the blame, it may be the perfect time to air their enemies' dirty laundry.

In this dazzling debut novel, Disha Bose revolutionizes age-old ideas of love and deceit. What ensues is the delicious unspooling of a group of women desperate to preserve themselves.

## Discussion Guide

1. Between Ciara, Mishti and Lauren, which character did you most relate to or empathize with? Did your perception of these women change as you read? How did the alternating points of view influence your perception?
2. Both Lauren and Mishti feel like outsiders within the village. Discuss the different reasons each woman feels like a fish out of water. Why doesn't this shared experience result in a friendship? Have you ever felt as though you've had a missed opportunity for kinship with someone?
3. Motherhood, specifically how to be a good mother, is a frequent topic throughout the book. Discuss each mother's relationship with her children. How are they different or similar?
4. Social media and public perception are significant themes in the narrative. Discuss how each character's relationship with social media and local town gossip impacts their daily lives.
5. The desire for love and the need for self-preservation are at odds several times in the story. Discuss how this conflict presents itself within Ciara, Mishti and Lauren. Does one character struggle with this dynamic more than the others?
6. Consider Mishti and Parth's relationship. How does it differ from the relationship Ciara has with her husband, and Lauren with her partner? How does Mishti and Parth's arrangement influence their relationship? What do you think are the benefits and drawbacks to an arranged marriage?
7. Do you think any healthy relationships (whether spousal, friendly, parental, neighborly) are modeled in the novel? If so, which? What do you think it takes to have a healthy and happy relationship?
8. Female friendship and competition play a major role in the events of the story. Discuss how the dynamics between Ciara, Mishti, Lauren and the wider group of other moms affect the outcomes of all three characters.
9. How does the setting of a small Irish village affect the story? Does the isolation of living in a small town contribute to the characters' actions?
10. Discuss the ending of the novel. Were you surprised to learn the truth about Ciara's death?

## Author Bio

Disha Bose received a master's in creative writing at University College Dublin, where she was mentored by Booker Prize winner Anne Enright. She has been shortlisted for the DNA Short Story Prize, and her poetry and short stories have appeared in *The Incubator Journal*, *The Galway Review*, *Cultured Vultures* and *Headstuff*. Her travel pieces have appeared in *The Economic Times of India* and *Coldnoon*. Bose was born and raised in India and now lives in Ireland with her husband and daughter.

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**Publication Date:** March 12, 2024

**Genres:** Fiction, Women's Fiction

**Paperback:** 320 pages

**Publisher:** Ballantine Books

**ISBN-10:** 0593497406

**ISBN-13:** 9780593497401