



**PANTERA
PRESS**

SPARKING
IMAGINATION,
CONVERSATION
& CHANGE

BOOK CLUB NOTES



Praise for *The Things We See in the Light*:

'This book is delicious: sweet, warm and unexpected.'
ALICE PUNG

'A sparkling new voice in Australian fiction.'
NIKKI GEMMELL

'I loved everything about this story.'
TESS WOODS

'Amal brings her trademark intelligence and insight to this big-hearted story ... a cross-cultural delight.'
TONI JORDAN

'Full of flavour ... warm, emotive and buttery.'
KANEANA MAY

BOOK CLUB NOTES



SPARKING
IMAGINATION,
CONVERSATION
& CHANGE

THE THINGS WE SEE IN THE LIGHT

by Amal Awad

In the cafe, I watch as a woman takes a photo of her plate – an impressive, glossy lime-coloured dessert with shards of chocolate perched on top. I want to feel that ease and confidence, too. Like this is my city again, and I know my way around it.

Eight years ago, Sahar pursued her happily ever after when she married Khaled and followed him to Jordan, leaving behind her family, her friends and a thriving cake business. But married life didn't go as planned and, haunted by secrets, Sahar has returned home to Sydney without telling her husband.

With the help of her childhood friends, Sahar hits the reset button on her life. She takes a job at a local patisserie run by Maggie, a strong but kind manager who guides Sahar in sweets and life.

But as she tentatively gets to know her colleagues, Sahar faces a whole new set of challenges. There's Kat and Inez, who are determined that Sahar try new experiences. Then there's Luke, a talented chocolatier and a bundle of contradictions.

As Sahar embraces the new, she reinvents herself, trying things once forbidden to her. But just when she is finally starting to find her feet, her past finds its way back to her.

BOOK CLUB NOTES



SPARKING
IMAGINATION,
CONVERSATION
& CHANGE

About the author

Amal Awad is a journalist, screenwriter, author and performer. She has contributed to *ELLE*, *Frankie*, *Meanjin*, *Going Down Swinging*, *Daily Life*, *Sheilas*, SBS Life and Junkee. She has also produced and presented for ABC Radio National and has held senior editorial roles at a number of trade publications.

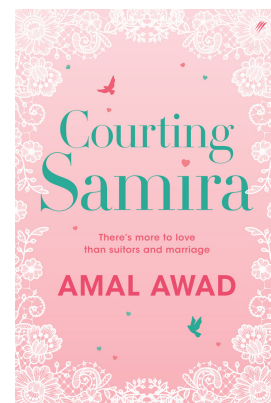
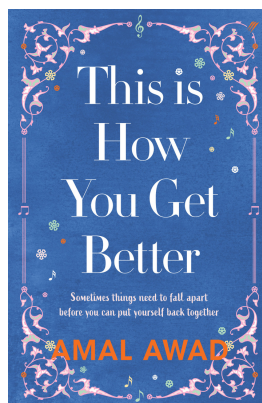


As a public speaker, Amal appears at schools, universities and writers' festivals around Australia. She presents workshops on storytelling and creativity, has been a regular panellist on ABC TV's *The Drum* and was a TEDx Macquarie speaker in 2019. As a screenwriter, Amal has worked on several film and television projects and is in development on more. She has also directed short films, a pursuit she continues alongside writing and performing.

Amal is the author of *Courting Samira*, *This Is How You Get Better* and *The Things We See in the Light* as well as the non-fiction books *The Incidental Muslim*, *Beyond Veiled Clichés: The Real Lives of Arab Women*, *Fridays with My Folks: Stories on Ageing, Illness and Life*, and *In My Past Life I Was Cleopatra*. She has also contributed to the anthologies *Growing Up Muslim in Australia: Coming of Age* and *Some Girls Do... (My Life as a Teenager)*.

More by Amal Awad

Available as eBooks and print
on demand in November.



BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. What was your first impression of Lara, Samira and Sahar's relationship? Has it changed at all?
2. What role does food play in Sahar's life?
3. What does Maggie's diversity plaque represent? Why is it significant?
4. Why does Leo help Sahar?
5. How did Sahar's life in Jordan change her?
6. Why do you think Sahar struggles to share her story with Lara and Samira?
7. Sahar describes an instant connection to Naeem and wonders if they were linked in another time. How would you explain their connection?
8. How has Sahar changed from the beginning of *The Experiment*?
9. Agree or disagree: *Chocolate is not just chocolate, after all. It's a feeling.*
10. If you were to create a chocolate tarot card, what flavour would it be?
11. What experiences would be on your experiment list?
12. What do you think the future holds for Luke and Sahar?