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Date _____



Red, White and Whole

by Rajanni LaRocca



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their strict expectations. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma, although their names are linked—Reha means 'star' and Punam means 'moon'—but they are a universe apart.

Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick. Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can't stomach the sight of blood, is determined to make her Amma well again. She'll be the perfect daughter, if it means saving her Amma's life.

A heartbreakingly hopeful novel in verse about an Indian American girl whose life is turned upside down when her mother is diagnosed with leukemia. New England Book Award finalist!

If you like the 1980's, you'll love all the pop culture references in this book!

Who Wrote It?

I was born in Bangalore, India and immigrated to the U.S. as a baby. I spent most of my childhood in Louisville, Kentucky. I attended Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, and trained in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. I've been working as a primary care physician since 2001. I live in eastern Massachusetts with my wonderful husband, our two brilliant kids, and an impossibly cute dog. I've always been an omnivorous reader – cereal boxes, comic books, fortune cookie fortunes, magazine articles, and, of course, novels. The books I read as a child helped shape who I am today in ways that I'm still discovering. Books inspired me to pursue medicine as a



Bo career; books made me yearn to live in different worlds; books helped me consider what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes. Learn more about Rajanni in this video's interview.

AR Reading Level: 3.7

Lexile Level: currently unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆

