

## **The Mothers by Genevieve Gannon**

### Summary

Shattered to learn her husband, Nick, has been unfaithful, Priya Archer (née Laghari) decides giving up on her marriage doesn't mean she has to give up on her dream of becoming a mother and impulsively decides to move ahead with a planned IVF procedure, opting to use a sperm donor. Priya is upset when the procedure fails, but decides against a second attempt, choosing to focus on rebuilding her life on her own.

After a half dozen failed IVF procedures, Grace Arden, and her husband Dan, are thrilled when they learn their final attempt with their one remaining embryo has taken, and Grace is finally pregnant. As Grace cradles their son, Sam, for the first time all the heartache seems worth it, but as the days pass it becomes clear that something isn't quite right.

Told in three parts, *The Mothers* focuses on the lives of the two couples during the period before conception, after the arrival of baby Sam, and during the court case that develops when Priya learns the Arden's son is genetically her own. It's an emotional exploration of themes such as infertility, marriage, and family, but ultimately this is a book about motherhood.

### Discussion questions

1. Did this book shape/change your definition of a mother?
2. What was your initial gut reaction?
3. Following the twists and turns of the case, did your allegiances change from one couple to another?
4. Does biology trump all?
5. Discuss the importance of family identity and cultural identity
6. Did you agree with the ending?