

# a fine balance theme analysis

## A Fine Balance: Theme Analysis – Unpacking Rohinton Mistry's Masterpiece

### Introduction:

Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance* isn't just a novel; it's a meticulously crafted tapestry woven with threads of poverty, oppression, friendship, and resilience. This in-depth analysis will delve into the complex thematic landscape of Mistry's masterpiece, exploring the delicate balance—or often, the stark imbalance—between hope and despair, loyalty and betrayal, and individual struggle against systemic injustice. We'll uncover how these interwoven themes contribute to the novel's enduring power and its profound commentary on the human condition, particularly within the context of post-colonial India. This post provides a comprehensive look at the book's major themes, offering a nuanced understanding that will enrich your reading experience and enhance your critical analysis.

### 1. The Precarious Balance of Poverty and Survival:

Mistry masterfully portrays the abject poverty experienced by his characters. Omprakash, Ishvar, and Maneck are constantly teetering on the edge of destitution, their lives a relentless struggle for survival. Their precarious existence highlights the systemic inequalities within Indian society, forcing them to navigate a world where their basic needs are constantly threatened. The novel doesn't shy away from depicting the harsh realities of poverty – the lack of food, inadequate housing, and the constant fear of losing everything. This theme isn't merely descriptive; it serves as a backdrop against which the characters' resilience and their enduring bonds of friendship are tested and strengthened. The subtle balance Mistry presents is not one of equilibrium, but of constant struggle, illustrating the inherent instability of life for the underprivileged.

### 1. The Crushing Weight of Social Inequality and Injustice:

*A Fine Balance* is a powerful indictment of social injustice. The characters face discrimination based on caste, religion, and economic status. The Partition's lingering shadows cast a long pall over their lives, highlighting

the enduring effects of historical trauma. The novel doesn't offer easy solutions but starkly exposes the pervasive nature of discrimination, demonstrating how it impacts every aspect of the characters' existence. From the subtle slights to the blatant acts of cruelty, Mistry paints a picture of a society where the powerful exploit the vulnerable with impunity. This constant pressure underscores the fragility of their lives and the precarious balance they must maintain to survive.

### 1. The Power of Human Connection and Friendship:

Amidst the overwhelming despair and hardship, the novel shines a light on the profound power of human connection. The unlikely friendship between Omprakash, Ishvar, Maneck, and Dina is the heart of the story. Their bond, forged in shared adversity, provides them with solace, support, and strength. This friendship offers a counterpoint to the pervasive negativity, highlighting the human capacity for empathy and compassion even in the direst circumstances. Their shared struggles create a deep sense of loyalty and mutual dependence, demonstrating that even in the face of overwhelming odds, human connection can be a source of extraordinary resilience.

### 1. The Elusive Nature of Hope and Despair:

Throughout the novel, hope and despair exist in a delicate balance. Moments of joy and optimism are interspersed with periods of profound sadness and hardship. The characters' resilience is tested repeatedly, and their ability to find glimmers of hope amidst the darkness is testament to the human spirit's enduring strength. This constant oscillation between hope and despair is integral to the novel's structure and emotional impact, reflecting the unpredictable nature of life itself. The novel suggests that even in the darkest of times, the capacity for hope remains a powerful force, even if it's often fragile and fleeting.

### 1. The Impact of Political and Social Upheaval:

Mistry masterfully weaves the backdrop of post-colonial India and its political and social turmoil into the narrative. The Emergency, with its oppressive regime, significantly impacts the characters' lives, exacerbating their existing struggles and introducing new challenges. This historical context underlines the vulnerability of ordinary citizens caught in the crossfire of political upheaval and the arbitrary exercise of power. The novel shows how political events can disrupt lives, forcing individuals to adapt and survive in unpredictable and often dangerous environments. The fine balance, in this context, lies in navigating the turbulent waters of

political instability while preserving one's humanity and dignity.

## Book Outline: A Fine Balance - Theme Analysis

Name: A Comprehensive Exploration of Themes in Rohinton Mistry's A Fine Balance

Introduction: A brief overview of the novel and its thematic richness.

Chapter 1: Poverty and Survival: Analysis of the characters' struggle for survival against the backdrop of abject poverty.

Chapter 2: Social Inequality and Injustice: Examination of the various forms of discrimination faced by the characters.

Chapter 3: The Power of Human Connection: Exploration of the profound friendship between the main characters and its significance.

Chapter 4: The Dance of Hope and Despair: Analysis of the oscillation between hope and despair throughout the narrative.

Chapter 5: Political and Social Upheaval: Discussion of the impact of the Emergency and other socio-political events.

Conclusion: A summary of the key themes and their interplay, along with a reflection on the novel's lasting impact.

(Detailed explanation of each chapter point would mirror the content already provided in the main body of this blog post. For brevity, I'm omitting the repetitive expansion here.)

## FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of A Fine Balance? The central theme revolves around the precarious balance between survival and despair in the face of poverty, injustice, and political turmoil.
1. How does poverty impact the characters in the novel? Poverty dictates every aspect of their lives, from their housing and food to their opportunities and safety.
1. What role does friendship play in A Fine Balance? Friendship provides vital support, strength, and resilience against the harsh realities of their lives.

1. How does the novel depict social injustice? It portrays pervasive discrimination based on caste, religion, and economic status.
1. What is the significance of the Emergency in the novel? The Emergency intensifies the challenges faced by the characters, highlighting the vulnerability of individuals during political upheaval.
1. How does Mistry portray hope and despair? He interweaves moments of joy and optimism with periods of profound hardship, reflecting the unpredictable nature of life.
1. What is the significance of the title, A Fine Balance? The title refers to the delicate balance between opposing forces in the characters' lives and in Indian society.
1. What is the literary style of A Fine Balance? Mistry employs a realistic and detailed style, focusing on character development and social commentary.
1. Why is A Fine Balance considered a significant work of literature? It offers a powerful and insightful portrayal of poverty, injustice, and human resilience in post-colonial India.

#### Related Articles:

1. Rohinton Mistry's Narrative Techniques in A Fine Balance: An analysis of Mistry's storytelling style and its effectiveness.
2. The Impact of the Emergency on Indian Society: A historical overview of the Emergency and its consequences.
3. Poverty and Social Inequality in Post-Colonial India: A socio-economic study of India after independence.

4. Friendship and Loyalty in Literature: A comparative analysis of friendship portrayed in different literary works.
5. The Role of Hope and Despair in Fictional Narratives: An exploration of how hope and despair function as literary devices.
6. Rohinton Mistry's Representation of Caste in *A Fine Balance*: Focus on the caste system's impact on the characters' lives.
7. A Comparative Study of *A Fine Balance* and Other Post-Colonial Novels: Comparing Mistry's work with other post-colonial literature.
8. The Significance of Setting in *A Fine Balance*: How the setting shapes the characters and their experiences.
9. Critical Reception of *A Fine Balance* and its Lasting Legacy: A review of critical responses to the novel and its enduring influence.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *A Fine Balance* Rohinton Mistry, 2010-10-29 *A Fine Balance*, Rohinton Mistry's stunning internationally acclaimed bestseller, is set in mid-1970s India. It tells the story of four unlikely people whose lives come together during a time of political turmoil soon after the government declares a "State of Internal Emergency." Through days of bleakness and hope, their circumstances - and their fates - become inextricably linked in ways no one could have foreseen. Mistry's prose is alive with enduring images and a cast of unforgettable characters. Written with compassion, humour, and insight, *A Fine Balance* is a vivid, richly textured, and powerful novel written by one of the most gifted writers of our time.

**a fine balance theme analysis: Family Matters** Rohinton Mistry, 2011-02-18 Set in Bombay in the mid-1990s, *Family Matters* tells a story of familial love and obligation, of personal and political corruption, of the demands of tradition and the possibilities for compassion. Nariman Vakeel, the patriarch of a small discordant family, is beset by Parkinson's and haunted by memories of his past. He lives with his two middle-aged stepchildren, Coomy, bitter and domineering, and her brother, Jal, mild-mannered and acquiescent. But the burden of the illness worsens the already strained family relationships. Soon, their sweet-tempered half-sister, Roxana, is forced to assume sole responsibility for her bedridden father. And Roxana's husband, besieged by financial worries, devises a scheme of deception involving his eccentric employer at a sporting goods store, setting in motion a series of events that leads to the narrative's moving outcome. *Family Matters* has all the richness, the gentle humour, and the narrative sweep that have earned Mistry the highest of accolades around the world.

**a fine balance theme analysis: Such a Long Journey** Rohinton Mistry, 2008-11-20 *Such a Long Journey* is set in (what was then) Bombay against the backdrop of war in the Indian subcontinent and the birth of Bangladesh, telling the story of the peculiar way in which the conflict impinges on the lives of Gustad Noble, an ordinary man, and his family. It was the brilliant first novel by one of the most remarkable writers to have emerged from the Indian literary tradition in many years. It was shortlisted for the 1991 Booker Prize, and won the 1992 Commonwealth Writers Prize.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *Keepers of the Kalachakra*** Ashwin Sanghi, 2022-06-24 A seemingly random selection of heads of state are struck down like flies by unnamed killers who work with the clinical efficiency of butchers. Except that they leave no trace of their methods. Welcome back to the shadowy and addictive world of Ashwin Sanghi. After *The Rozabal Line*, Chanakya's

Chant, The Krishna Key and The Sialkot Saga, Ashwin Sanghi returns at last with another quietly fearsome tale-this time of men who guard the 'Kalachakra' or The Wheel of Time. Sanghi describes a world of people at war with one another-a boomeranging conflict of faiths that results in acts of such slow and planned human cruelty that they defy human imagination. Caught in the midst of this madness is Vijay Sundaram, a geek scientist who is only dimly aware that the wider sky outside his laboratory is stretched taut and close to being torn apart by forces that he wants simply to have nothing to do with. But events conspire to propel Vijay into the labyrinth of Milesian Labs, a centre of research deep in the forested hills of Uttarakhand. What he stumbles upon is a primordial clue to a galactic secret that could accelerate the downward spiral of humankind. Trapped and wholly unaware of his actual foe, Vijay races against time to save humanity-and himself. Zigzagging from Rama's crossing to Lanka to the birth of Buddhism; from the origin of Wahhabism to the Einsteinian gravitational wave-detectors of LIGO; from the charnel-grounds of naked tantric practitioners to the bespoke suits of the Oval Office; and from the rites of Minerva, shrouded in frankincense, to the smoke-darkened ruins of Nalanda, *Keepers of the Kalachakra* is a journey that will have you gasping for breath-but one that you cannot abandon till all the pieces of the jigsaw come together. Till you come up gobsmack against an end that you simply did not see coming.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *Under the Whispering Door* TJ Klune, 2021-09-21 A NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY, AND INDIE BESTSELLER One of Buzzfeed's Best Books of 2022! An Indie Next Pick! A Locus Awards Top Ten Finalist for Fantasy Novel A Man Called Ove meets The Good Place in *Under the Whispering Door*, a delightful queer love story from TJ Klune, author of the New York Times and USA Today bestseller *The House in the Cerulean Sea*. Welcome to Charon's Crossing. The tea is hot, the scones are fresh, and the dead are just passing through. When a reaper comes to collect Wallace from his own funeral, Wallace begins to suspect he might be dead. And when Hugo, the owner of a peculiar tea shop, promises to help him cross over, Wallace decides he's definitely dead. But even in death he's not ready to abandon the life he barely lived, so when Wallace is given one week to cross over, he sets about living a lifetime in seven days. Hilarious, haunting, and kind, *Under the Whispering Door* is an uplifting story about a life spent at the office and a death spent building a home. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* Salman Rushdie, 2014-04-23 It all begins with a letter. Fall in love with Penguin Drop Caps, a new series of twenty-six collectible and hardcover editions, each with a type cover showcasing a gorgeously illustrated letter of the alphabet. In a design collaboration between Jessica Hische and Penguin Art Director Paul Buckley, the series features unique cover art by Hische, a superstar in the world of type design and illustration, whose work has appeared everywhere from Tiffany & Co. to Wes Anderson's recent film *Moonrise Kingdom* to Penguin's own bestsellers *Committed* and *Rules of Civility*. With exclusive designs that have never before appeared on Hische's hugely popular Daily Drop Cap blog, the Penguin Drop Caps series debuted with an 'A' for Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, a 'B' for Charlotte Brönte's *Jane Eyre*, and a 'C' for Willa Cather's *My Ántonia*. It continues with more perennial classics, perfect to give as elegant gifts or to showcase on your own shelves. R is for Rushdie. Set in an exotic Eastern landscape peopled by magicians and fantastic talking animals, Salman Rushdie's classic children's novel *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* inhabits the same imaginative space as *Gulliver's Travels*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Haroun, a 12-year-old boy sets out on an adventure to restore the poisoned source of the sea of stories. On the way, he encounters many foes, all intent on draining the sea of all its storytelling powers.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *Flora & Ulysses* Kate DiCamillo, 2013-09-24 Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived. By the Newbery Medal-winning author of *The Tale of Despereaux*.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *The White Tiger* Aravind Adiga, 2020-12-29 SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE The stunning Booker Prize-winning novel from the author of *Amnesty*

and Selection Day that critics have likened to Richard Wright's *Native Son*, *The White Tiger* follows a darkly comic Bangalore driver through the poverty and corruption of modern India's caste society. "This is the authentic voice of the Third World, like you've never heard it before" (John Burdett, Bangkok 8). The white tiger of this novel is Balram Halwai, a poor Indian villager whose great ambition leads him to the zenith of Indian business culture, the world of the Bangalore entrepreneur. On the occasion of the president of China's impending trip to Bangalore, Balram writes a letter to him describing his transformation and his experience as driver and servant to a wealthy Indian family, which he thinks exemplifies the contradictions and complications of Indian society. Recalling *The Death of Vishnu* and Bangkok 8 in ambition, scope, *The White Tiger* is narrative genius with a mischief and personality all its own. Amoral, irreverent, deeply endearing, and utterly contemporary, this novel is an international publishing sensation—and a startling, provocative debut.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *We All Looked Up*** Tommy Wallach, 2015-03-24 The lives of four high school seniors intersect weeks before a meteor is set to pass through Earth's orbit, with a 66.6% chance of striking and destroying all life on the planet.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *Fine Boys*** Eghosa Imasuen, 2021-09-28 A coming-of-age tale told from the perspective of Nigeria's Generation X, caught amid the throes of a nascent pro-democracy movement, demoralizing corruption, and campus violence. Ewaen is a Nigerian teenager, bored at home in Warri and eager to flee from his parents' unhappy marriage and incessant quarreling. When Ewaen is admitted to the University of Benin, he makes new friends who, like him, are excited about their newfound independence. They hang out in parking lots, trading gibes in pidgin and English and discovering the pleasures that freedom affords them. But when university strikes begin and ruthlessly violent confraternities unleash mayhem on their campus, Ewaen and his new friends must learn to adapt—or risk becoming the confras' next unwilling recruits. In his trademark witty, colloquial style, critically acclaimed author Eghosa Imasuen presents everyday Nigerian life against the backdrop of the pro-democracy riots of the 1980s and 1990s, the lost hopes of June 12 (Nigeria's Democracy Day), and the terror of the Abacha years. *Fine Boys* is a chronicle of time, not just in Nigeria, but also for its budding post-Biafran generation.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *A Little Life*** Hanya Yanagihara, 2016-01-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A stunning "portrait of the enduring grace of friendship" (NPR) about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. A masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century. NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • MAN BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST • WINNER OF THE KIRKUS PRIZE *A Little Life* follows four college classmates—broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition—as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara's stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. Look for Hanya Yanagihara's latest bestselling novel, *To Paradise*.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *When Breath Becomes Air (Indonesian Edition)*** Paul Kalanithi, 2016-10-06 Pada usia ketiga puluh enam, Paul Kalanithi merasa suratan nasibnya berjalan dengan begitu sempurna. Paul hampir saja menyelesaikan masa pelatihan luar biasa panjangnya sebagai ahli bedah saraf selama sepuluh tahun. Beberapa rumah sakit dan universitas ternama telah menawari posisi penting yang diimpikannya selama ini. Penghargaan nasional pun telah diraihnya. Dan kini, Paul hendak kembali menata ikatan pernikahannya yang merenggang, memenuhi peran sebagai sosok suami yang ia janjikan. Akan tetapi, secara tiba-tiba, kanker mencengkeram paru-parunya, melumpuhkan organ-organ penting dalam tubuhnya. Seluruh masa depan yang direncanakan Paul seketika menguap. Pada satu hari ia adalah seorang dokter yang menangani orang-orang yang sekarat, tetapi pada hari berikutnya, ia adalah pasien yang mencoba bertahan

hidup. Apa yang membuat hidup berharga dan bermakna, mengingat semua akan sirna pada akhirnya? Apa yang Anda lakukan saat masa depan tak lagi menuntun pada cita-cita yang diidamkan, melainkan pada masa kini yang tanpa akhir? Apa artinya memiliki anak, merawat kehidupan baru saat kehidupan lain meredup? *When Breath Becomes Air* akan membawa kita bergelut pada pertanyaan-pertanyaan penting tentang hidup dan seberapa layak kita diberi pilihan untuk menjalani kehidupan. [Mizan, Bentang Pustaka, Memoar, Biografi, Kisah, Medis, Terjemahan, Indonesia]

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *Ayesha at Last* Uzma Jalaluddin, 2019-06-04 As seen on The Today Show! One of the best summer romance picks! One of Publishers Weekly Best Romance Books of 2019! A modern-day Muslim Pride and Prejudice for a new generation of love. Ayesha Shamsi has a lot going on. Her dreams of being a poet have been set aside for a teaching job so she can pay off her debts to her wealthy uncle. She lives with her boisterous Muslim family and is always being reminded that her flighty younger cousin, Hafsa, is close to rejecting her one hundredth marriage proposal. Though Ayesha is lonely, she doesn't want an arranged marriage. Then she meets Khalid, who is just as smart and handsome as he is conservative and judgmental. She is irritatingly attracted to someone who looks down on her choices and who dresses like he belongs in the seventh century. When a surprise engagement is announced between Khalid and Hafsa, Ayesha is torn between how she feels about the straightforward Khalid and the unsettling new gossip she hears about his family. Looking into the rumors, she finds she has to deal with not only what she discovers about Khalid, but also the truth she realizes about herself.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *The Most Fun We Ever Had* Claire Lombardo, 2021-04-06 NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • "A gripping and poignant ode to a messy, loving family in all its glory." —Madeline Miller, bestselling author of *Circe* In this "rich, complex family saga" (USA Today) full of long-buried family secrets, Marilyn Connolly and David Sorenson fall in love in the 1970s, blithely ignorant of all that awaits them. By 2016, they have four radically different daughters, each in a state of unrest. Wendy, widowed young, soothes herself with booze and younger men; Violet, a litigator turned stay-at-home-mom, battles anxiety and self-doubt; Liza, a neurotic and newly tenured professor, finds herself pregnant with a baby she's not sure she wants by a man she's not sure she loves; and Grace, the dawdling youngest daughter, begins living a lie that no one in her family even suspects. With the unexpected arrival of young Jonah Bendt—a child placed for adoption by one of the daughters fifteen years before—the Sorensens will be forced to reckon with the rich and varied tapestry of their past. As they grapple with years marred by adolescent angst, infidelity, and resentment, they also find the transcendent moments of joy that make everything else worthwhile.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *Banner in the Sky* James Ramsey Ullman, 1988-04-15 The Citadel It stands unconquered, the last great summit of the Alps. Only one man has ever dared to approach the top, and that man died in his pursuit. He was Josef Matt, Rudi Matt's father. At sixteen, Rudi is determined to pay tribute to the man he never knew, and complete the quest that claimed his father's life. And so, taking his father's red shirt as a flag, he heads off to face the earth's most challenging peak. But before Rudi can reach the top, he must pass through the forbidden Fortress, the gaping chasm in the high reaches of the Citadel where his father met his end. Rudi has followed Josef's footsteps as far as they will take him. Now he must search deep within himself to find the strength for the final ascent to the summit -- to plant his banner in the sky. His father died while trying to climb Switzerland's greatest mountain -- the Citadel -- and young Rudi knows he must make the assault himself.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *Life as We Knew it* Susan Beth Pfeffer, 2008 I guess I always felt even if the world came to an end, McDonald's still would be open. High school sophomore Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth, like one marble hits another. The result is catastrophic. How can her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis are wiping out the coasts, earthquakes are rocking the continents, and volcanic ash is blocking out the sun? As August turns dark and wintery in northeastern Pennsylvania,

Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove. Told in a year's worth of journal entries, this heart-pounding story chronicles Miranda's struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all--hope--in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world. An extraordinary series debut Susan Beth Pfeffer has written several companion novels to *Life As We Knew It*, including *The Dead and the Gone*, *This World We Live In*, and *The Shade of the Moon*.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** The Hired Man Aminatta Forna, 2013-03-28 A powerful novel about the indelible effects of war and the memories which stir beneath the silence of a quiet Croatian town, from Orange Prize-shortlisted and Commonwealth Writers' Prize-winning author Aminatta Forna 'Supremely masterful' INDEPENDENT 'The Hired Man seals her reputation as arguably the best writer of fiction in this field' EVENING STANDARD 'Terrific skill and insight' DAILY MAIL Gost is surrounded by mountains and fields of wild flowers. The summer sun burns. The Croatian winter brings freezing winds. Beyond the boundaries of the town an old house which has lain empty for years is showing signs of life. One of the windows, glass darkened with dirt, today stands open, and the lively chatter of English voices carries across the fallow fields. Laura and her teenage children have arrived. A short distance away lies the hut of Duro Kolak, who lives alone with his two hunting dogs. As he helps Laura with repairs to the old house, they uncover a mosaic beneath the ruined plaster and, in the rising heat of summer, painstakingly restore it. But Gost is not all it seems; conflicts long past still suppurate beneath the scars.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** Think Like a Monk Jay Shetty, 2020-09-08 Jay Shetty, social media superstar and host of the #1 podcast *On Purpose*, distills the timeless wisdom he learned as a monk into practical steps anyone can take every day to live a less anxious, more meaningful life. When you think like a monk, you'll understand: -How to overcome negativity -How to stop overthinking -Why comparison kills love -How to use your fear -Why you can't find happiness by looking for it -How to learn from everyone you meet -Why you are not your thoughts -How to find your purpose -Why kindness is crucial to success -And much more... Shetty grew up in a family where you could become one of three things—a doctor, a lawyer, or a failure. His family was convinced he had chosen option three: instead of attending his college graduation ceremony, he headed to India to become a monk, to meditate every day for four to eight hours, and devote his life to helping others. After three years, one of his teachers told him that he would have more impact on the world if he left the monk's path to share his experience and wisdom with others. Heavily in debt, and with no recognizable skills on his résumé, he moved back home in north London with his parents. Shetty reconnected with old school friends—many working for some of the world's largest corporations—who were experiencing tremendous stress, pressure, and unhappiness, and they invited Shetty to coach them on well-being, purpose, and mindfulness. Since then, Shetty has become one of the world's most popular influencers. In 2017, he was named in the *Forbes* magazine 30-under-30 for being a game-changer in the world of media. In 2018, he had the #1 video on Facebook with over 360 million views. His social media following totals over 38 million, he has produced over 400 viral videos which have amassed more than 8 billion views, and his podcast, *On Purpose*, is consistently ranked the world's #1 Health and Wellness podcast. In this inspiring, empowering book, Shetty draws on his time as a monk to show us how we can clear the roadblocks to our potential and power. Combining ancient wisdom and his own rich experiences in the ashram, *Think Like a Monk* reveals how to overcome negative thoughts and habits, and access the calm and purpose that lie within all of us. He transforms abstract lessons into advice and exercises we can all apply to reduce stress, improve relationships, and give the gifts we find in ourselves to the world. Shetty proves that everyone can—and should—think like a monk.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** If We Were Villains M. L. Rio, 2017-04-11 "Much like Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*, M. L. Rio's sparkling debut is a richly layered story of love, friendship, and obsession...will keep you riveted through its final, electrifying moments." —Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney, New York Times bestselling author of *The Nest* Nerdily (and winningly) in love with Shakespeare...Readable, smart." —New York Times Book Review On the day Oliver Marks is

released from jail, the man who put him there is waiting at the door. Detective Colborne wants to know the truth, and after ten years, Oliver is finally ready to tell it. A decade ago: Oliver is one of seven young Shakespearean actors at Dellecher Classical Conservatory, a place of keen ambition and fierce competition. In this secluded world of firelight and leather-bound books, Oliver and his friends play the same roles onstage and off: hero, villain, tyrant, temptress, ingénue, extras. But in their fourth and final year, good-natured rivalries turn ugly, and on opening night real violence invades the students' world of make-believe. In the morning, the fourth-years find themselves facing their very own tragedy, and their greatest acting challenge yet: convincing the police, each other, and themselves that they are innocent. If *We Were Villains* was named one of *Bustle's* Best Thriller Novels of the Year, and *Mystery Scene* says, A well-written and gripping ode to the stage...A fascinating, unorthodox take on rivalry, friendship, and truth.

**a fine balance theme analysis: Verity** Colleen Hoover, 2021-10-05 Whose truth is the lie? Stay up all night reading the sensational psychological thriller that has readers obsessed, from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Too Late* and *It Ends With Us*. #1 New York Times Bestseller · USA Today Bestseller · Globe and Mail Bestseller · Publishers Weekly Bestseller Lowen Ashleigh is a struggling writer on the brink of financial ruin when she accepts the job offer of a lifetime. Jeremy Crawford, husband of bestselling author Verity Crawford, has hired Lowen to complete the remaining books in a successful series his injured wife is unable to finish. Lowen arrives at the Crawford home, ready to sort through years of Verity's notes and outlines, hoping to find enough material to get her started. What Lowen doesn't expect to uncover in the chaotic office is an unfinished autobiography Verity never intended for anyone to read. Page after page of bone-chilling admissions, including Verity's recollection of the night her family was forever altered. Lowen decides to keep the manuscript hidden from Jeremy, knowing its contents could devastate the already grieving father. But as Lowen's feelings for Jeremy begin to intensify, she recognizes all the ways she could benefit if he were to read his wife's words. After all, no matter how devoted Jeremy is to his injured wife, a truth this horrifying would make it impossible for him to continue loving her.

**a fine balance theme analysis: Shantaram** Gregory David Roberts, 2004-10-13 Based on his own extraordinary life, Gregory David Roberts' *Shantaram* is a mesmerizing novel about a man on the run who becomes entangled within the underworld of contemporary Bombay—the basis for the Apple + TV series starring Charlie Hunnam. "It took me a long time and most of the world to learn what I know about love and fate and the choices we make, but the heart of it came to me in an instant, while I was chained to a wall and being tortured." An escaped convict with a false passport, Lin flees maximum security prison in Australia for the teeming streets of Bombay, where he can disappear. Accompanied by his guide and faithful friend, Prabaker, the two enter the city's hidden society of beggars and gangsters, prostitutes and holy men, soldiers and actors, and Indians and exiles from other countries, who seek in this remarkable place what they cannot find elsewhere. As a hunted man without a home, family, or identity, Lin searches for love and meaning while running a clinic in one of the city's poorest slums, and serving his apprenticeship in the dark arts of the Bombay mafia. The search leads him to war, prison torture, murder, and a series of enigmatic and bloody betrayals. The keys to unlock the mysteries and intrigues that bind Lin are held by two people. The first is Khader Khan: mafia godfather, criminal-philosopher-saint, and mentor to Lin in the underworld of the Golden City. The second is Karla: elusive, dangerous, and beautiful, whose passions are driven by secrets that torment her and yet give her a terrible power. Burning slums and five-star hotels, romantic love and prison agonies, criminal wars and Bollywood films, spiritual gurus and mujaheddin guerrillas—this huge novel has the world of human experience in its reach, and a passionate love for India at its heart.

**a fine balance theme analysis: Tales from Firozsha Baag** Rohinton Mistry, 2011-03-11 In these eleven stories, Rohinton Mistry opens our eyes and our hearts to the rich, complex patterns of life inside Firozsha Baag, an apartment building in Bombay. Here are Jaakaylee, the ghost-seer, and Najamai, the only owner of a refrigerator in Firozsha Baag; Rustomji the Curmudgeon and Kersi, the young boy whose life threads through the book and who narrates the final story as an adult in

Toronto. We see their passions, their worst fears, their betrayals, and their humorous acts of revenge. Witty and poignant, in turns, these intersecting stories create a finely textured mosaic of lives and illuminate a world poised between the old ways and the new.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *Severance* Ling Ma, 2018-08-14 Maybe it's the end of the world, but not for Candace Chen, a millennial, first-generation American and office drone meandering her way into adulthood in Ling Ma's offbeat, wryly funny, apocalyptic satire, *Severance*. A stunning, audacious book with a fresh take on both office politics and what the apocalypse might bring. —Michael Schaub, NPR.org "A satirical spin on the end times-- kind of like *The Office* meets *The Leftovers*." --Estelle Tang, Elle NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY: NPR \* The New Yorker (Books We Loved) \* Elle \* Marie Claire \* Amazon Editors \* The Paris Review (Staff Favorites) \* Refinery29 \* Bustle \* BuzzFeed \* BookPage \* Bookish \* Mental Floss \* Chicago Review of Books \* HuffPost \* Electric Literature \* A.V. Club \* Jezebel \* Vulture \* Literary Hub \* Flavorwire Winner of the NYPL Young Lions Fiction Award \* Winner of the Kirkus Prize for Fiction \* Winner of the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award \* Finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel \* A New York Times Notable Book of 2018 \* An Indie Next Selection Candace Chen, a millennial drone self-sequestered in a Manhattan office tower, is devoted to routine. With the recent passing of her Chinese immigrant parents, she's had her fill of uncertainty. She's content just to carry on: She goes to work, troubleshoots the teen-targeted Gemstone Bible, watches movies in a Greenpoint basement with her boyfriend. So Candace barely notices when a plague of biblical proportions sweeps New York. Then Shen Fever spreads. Families flee. Companies cease operations. The subways screech to a halt. Her bosses enlist her as part of a dwindling skeleton crew with a big end-date payoff. Soon entirely alone, still unfevered, she photographs the eerie, abandoned city as the anonymous blogger NY Ghost. Candace won't be able to make it on her own forever, though. Enter a group of survivors, led by the power-hungry IT tech Bob. They're traveling to a place called the Facility, where, Bob promises, they will have everything they need to start society anew. But Candace is carrying a secret she knows Bob will exploit. Should she escape from her rescuers? A send-up and takedown of the rituals, routines, and missed opportunities of contemporary life, Ling Ma's *Severance* is a moving family story, a quirky coming-of-adulthood tale, and a hilarious, deadpan satire. Most important, it's a heartfelt tribute to the connections that drive us to do more than survive.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *The Overstory*: A Novel Richard Powers, 2018-04-03 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction Winner of the William Dean Howells Medal Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize Over One Year on the New York Times Bestseller List A New York Times Notable Book and a Washington Post, Time, Oprah Magazine, Newsweek, Chicago Tribune, and Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year The best novel ever written about trees, and really just one of the best novels, period. —Ann Patchett *The Overstory*, winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, is a sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of—and paean to—the natural world. From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, Richard Powers's twelfth novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe.

**a fine balance theme analysis:** *The Love Hypothesis* Ali Hazelwood, 2021-09-14 The Instant New York Times Bestseller and TikTok Sensation! As seen on THE VIEW! A BuzzFeed Best Summer Read of 2021 When a fake relationship between scientists meets the irresistible force of attraction, it throws one woman's carefully calculated theories on love into chaos. As a third-year Ph.D. candidate, Olive Smith doesn't believe in lasting romantic relationships—but her best friend does, and that's what got her into this situation. Convincing Anh that Olive is dating and well on her way to a happily ever after was always going to take more than hand-wavy Jedi mind tricks: Scientists require proof. So, like any self-respecting biologist, Olive panics and kisses the first man she sees. That man is none other than Adam Carlsen, a young hotshot professor—and well-known ass. Which is why Olive is

positively floored when Stanford's reigning lab tyrant agrees to keep her charade a secret and be her fake boyfriend. But when a big science conference goes haywire, putting Olive's career on the Bunsen burner, Adam surprises her again with his unyielding support and even more unyielding...six-pack abs. Suddenly their little experiment feels dangerously close to combustion. And Olive discovers that the only thing more complicated than a hypothesis on love is putting her own heart under the microscope.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *Seveneves*** Neal Stephenson, 2015-05-19 From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Anathem*, *Reamde*, and *Cryptonomicon* comes an exciting and thought-provoking science fiction epic—a grand story of annihilation and survival spanning five thousand years. What would happen if the world were ending? A catastrophic event renders the earth a ticking time bomb. In a feverish race against the inevitable, nations around the globe band together to devise an ambitious plan to ensure the survival of humanity far beyond our atmosphere, in outer space. But the complexities and unpredictability of human nature coupled with unforeseen challenges and dangers threaten the intrepid pioneers, until only a handful of survivors remain . . . Five thousand years later, their progeny—seven distinct races now three billion strong—embark on yet another audacious journey into the unknown . . . to an alien world utterly transformed by cataclysm and time: Earth. A writer of dazzling genius and imaginative vision, Neal Stephenson combines science, philosophy, technology, psychology, and literature in a magnificent work of speculative fiction that offers a portrait of a future that is both extraordinary and eerily recognizable. As he did in *Anathem*, *Cryptonomicon*, the *Baroque Cycle*, and *Reamde*, Stephenson explores some of our biggest ideas and perplexing challenges in a breathtaking saga that is daring, engrossing, and altogether brilliant.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *The Valley of Amazement*** Amy Tan, 2013-11-05 Amy Tan's *The Valley of Amazement* is a sweeping, evocative epic of two women's intertwined fates and their search for identity, that moves from the lavish parlors of Shanghai courtesans to the fog-shrouded mountains of a remote Chinese village. Spanning more than forty years and two continents, *The Valley of Amazement* resurrects pivotal episodes in history: from the collapse of China's last imperial dynasty, to the rise of the Republic, the explosive growth of lucrative foreign trade and anti-foreign sentiment, to the inner workings of courtesan houses and the lives of the foreign "Shanghailanders" living in the International Settlement, both erased by World War II. A deeply evocative narrative about the profound connections between mothers and daughters, *The Valley of Amazement* returns readers to the compelling territory of Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*. With her characteristic insight and humor, she conjures a story of inherited trauma, desire and deception, and the power and stubbornness of love.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *Nine Days*** Toni Jordan, 2012-08-22 It is 1939 and although Australia is about to go to war, it doesn't quite realise yet that the situation is serious. Deep in the working-class Melbourne suburb of Richmond it is business—your own and everyone else's—as usual. And young Kip Westaway, failed scholar and stablehand, is living the most important day of his life.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *Utopia*** Thomas More, 2019-04-08 *Utopia* is a work of fiction and socio-political satire by Thomas More published in 1516 in Latin. The book is a frame narrative primarily depicting a fictional island society and its religious, social and political customs. Many aspects of More's description of *Utopia* are reminiscent of life in monasteries.

**a fine balance theme analysis: *Long Way Down*** Jason Reynolds, 2017-10-24 "An intense snapshot of the chain reaction caused by pulling a trigger." —Booklist (starred review) "Astonishing." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "A tour de force." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) A Newbery Honor Book A Coretta Scott King Honor Book A Printz Honor Book A Time Best YA Book of All Time (2021) A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature Winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner An Entertainment Weekly Best YA Book of 2017 A Vulture Best YA Book of 2017 A BuzzFeed

Best YA Book of 2017 *An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down*, this is New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. A cannon. A strap. A piece. A biscuit. A burner. A heater. A chopper. A gat. A hammer A tool for RULE Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. Buck tells Will to check that the gun is even loaded. And that's when Will sees that one bullet is missing. And the only one who could have fired Shawn's gun was Shawn. Huh. Will didn't know that Shawn had ever actually USED his gun. Bigger huh. BUCK IS DEAD. But Buck's in the elevator? Just as Will's trying to think this through, the door to the next floor opens. A teenage girl gets on, waves away the smoke from Dead Buck's cigarette. Will doesn't know her, but she knew him. Knew. When they were eight. And stray bullets had cut through the playground, and Will had tried to cover her, but she was hit anyway, and so what she wants to know, on that fifth floor elevator stop, is, what if Will, Will with the gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, MISSES. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if Will gets off that elevator. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

**a fine balance theme analysis: My Kind of Crazy** Robin Reul, 2016-04-05 Everybody needs someone who gets their crazy Hank Kirby can't catch a break. He doesn't mean to screw up. It just happens. Case in point: his attempt to ask out the girl he likes literally goes up in flames when he spelled prom in sparklers on Amanda Carlisle's lawn...and nearly burns down her house, without ever asking her the big question. Hank just wants to pretend the incident never happened. And he might've gotten away with it—except there is a witness. Peyton Breedlove, brooding loner and budding pyromaniac, saw the whole thing, and she blackmails Hank into an unusual friendship. Sure, Hank may be headed for his biggest disaster yet, but it's only when life falls apart that you can start piecing it back together. Funny, authentic, and, at turns, heartbreaking.—Jessi Kirby, author of *Things We Know by Heart* and *Moonglass* I had so much fun reading this book.—Adi Alsaid, author of *Never Always Sometimes* and *Let's Get Lost*

**a fine balance theme analysis: Last Day on Mars** Kevin Emerson, 2017-02-14 “*Last Day on Mars* is thrillingly ambitious and imaginative. Like a lovechild of *Gravity* and *The Martian*, it's a rousing space opera for any age, meticulously researched and relentlessly paced, that balances action, science, humor, and most importantly, two compelling main characters in Liam and Phoebe. A fantastic start to an epic new series.” —Soman Chainani, New York Times bestselling author of the *School for Good and Evil* series “Emerson's writing explodes off the page in this irresistible space adventure, filled with startling plot twists, diabolical aliens, and (my favorite!) courageous young heroes faced with an impossible task.” —Lisa McMann, New York Times bestselling author of the *Unwants* series It is Earth year 2213—but, of course, there is no Earth anymore. Not since it was burned to a cinder by the sun, which has mysteriously begun the process of going supernova. The human race has fled to Mars, but this was only a temporary solution while we have prepared for a second trip: a one-hundred-fifty-year journey to a distant star, our best guess at where we might find a new home. Liam Saunders-Chang is one of the last humans left on Mars. The son of two scientists who have been racing against time to create technology vital to humanity's survival, Liam, along with his friend Phoebe, will be on the last starliner to depart before Mars, like Earth before it, is destroyed. Or so he thinks. Because before this day is over, Liam and Phoebe will make a series of profound discoveries about the nature of time and space and find out that the human race is just one of many in our universe locked in a dangerous struggle for survival.

**a fine balance theme analysis: The Word for World is Forest** Ursula K. Le Guin, 2010-07-06 The award-winning masterpiece by one of today's most honored writers, Ursula K. Le Guin! The Word for World is Forest When the inhabitants of a peaceful world are conquered by the bloodthirsty yumens, their existence is irrevocably altered. Forced into servitude, the Athsheans find themselves at the mercy of their brutal masters. Desperation causes the Athsheans, led by Selver, to retaliate against their captors, abandoning their strictures against violence. But in defending their lives, they have endangered the very foundations of their society. For every blow against the invaders is a blow to the humanity of the Athsheans. And once the killing starts, there is no turning back. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

**a fine balance theme analysis: Home Fire** Kamila Shamsie, 2017 Ingenious... Builds to one of the most memorable final scenes I've read in a novel this century. --The New York Times WINNER OF THE 2018 WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION FINALIST FOR THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD LONGLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE The suspenseful and heartbreaking story of an immigrant family driven to pit love against loyalty, with devastating consequences Isma is free. After years of watching out for her younger siblings in the wake of their mother's death, she's accepted an invitation from a mentor in America that allows her to resume a dream long deferred. But she can't stop worrying about Aneeka, her beautiful, headstrong sister back in London, or their brother, Parvaiz, who's disappeared in pursuit of his own dream, to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew. When he resurfaces half a globe away, Isma's worst fears are confirmed. Then Eamonn enters the sisters' lives. Son of a powerful political figure, he has his own birthright to live up to--or defy. Is he to be a chance at love? The means of Parvaiz's salvation? Suddenly, two families' fates are inextricably, devastatingly entwined, in this searing novel that asks: What sacrifices will we make in the name of love?

**a fine balance theme analysis: Caging Skies** Christine Leunens, 2019-08-06 The internationally bestselling novel, inspiring the major film Jojo Rabbit now nominated for 6 Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay An extraordinary, strikingly original novel that reveals a world of truth and lies both personal and political, Caging Skies is told through the eyes of Johannes Betzler, avid member of the Hitler Youth during World War II. Filled with admiration for the Fu'hrer and Nazi ideals, he is shocked to discover his parents are hiding a Jewish girl named Elsa behind a false wall in their home in Vienna. After he's disfigured in a raid, Johannes focuses more and more on his connection with the girl behind the wall. His initial horror and revulsion turn to interest—and then obsession. After his parents disappear, Johannes is the only one aware of Elsa's existence in the house, and he alone is responsible for her fate. Drawing strength from his daydreams about Hitler, Johannes plans for the end of the war and what it might mean for him and Elsa. The inspiration for the major film Jojo Rabbit, directed by Taika Waititi, Caging Skies, sold in twenty-two countries, is a work of rare power; a stylistic and storytelling triumph. Startling, blackly comic, and written in Christine Leunens's gorgeous, muscular prose, this novel, her US debut, is singular and unforgettable.

**a fine balance theme analysis: The Village by the Sea** Anita Desai, 2012

**a fine balance theme analysis: Your Inner Fish** Neil Shubin, 2008-01-15 The paleontologist and professor of anatomy who co-discovered Tiktaalik, the "fish with hands," tells a "compelling scientific adventure story that will change forever how you understand what it means to be human" (Oliver Sacks). By examining fossils and DNA, he shows us that our hands actually resemble fish fins, our heads are organized like long-extinct jawless fish, and major parts of our genomes look and function like those of worms and bacteria. Your Inner Fish makes us look at ourselves and our world in an illuminating new light. This is science writing at its finest—enlightening, accessible and told with irresistible enthusiasm.

**a fine balance theme analysis: Echo Burning** Lee Child, 2001-06-25 Jack Reacher finds trouble in Texas in the fifth novel in Lee Child's #1 New York Times bestselling series. DON'T MISS REACHER ON PRIME VIDEO! Thumbing across the scorched Texas desert, Jack Reacher has

nowhere to go and all the time in the world to get there. Cruising the same stretch of two-lane blacktop is Carmen Greer. For Reacher, the lift comes with a hitch. Carmen's got a wild story to tell—all about her husband, her family secrets, and a hometown that's purely gothic. She's also got a plan. Reacher's part of it. And before the sun sets, this ride could cost them both their lives.

**a fine balance theme analysis: Quit Like a Woman** Holly Whitaker, 2019-12-31 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “An unflinching examination of how our drinking culture hurts women and a gorgeous memoir of how one woman healed herself.”—Glennon Doyle, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Untamed* “You don’t know how much you need this book, or maybe you do. Either way, it will save your life.”—Melissa Hartwig Urban, Whole30 co-founder and CEO The founder of the first female-focused recovery program offers a groundbreaking look at alcohol and a radical new path to sobriety. We live in a world obsessed with drinking. We drink at baby showers and work events, brunch and book club, graduations and funerals. Yet no one ever questions alcohol’s ubiquity—in fact, the only thing ever questioned is why someone doesn’t drink. It is a qualifier for belonging and if you don’t imbibe, you are considered an anomaly. As a society, we are obsessed with health and wellness, yet we uphold alcohol as some kind of magic elixir, though it is anything but. When Holly Whitaker decided to seek help after one too many benders, she embarked on a journey that led not only to her own sobriety, but revealed the insidious role alcohol plays in our society and in the lives of women in particular. What’s more, she could not ignore the ways that alcohol companies were targeting women, just as the tobacco industry had successfully done generations before. Fueled by her own emerging feminism, she also realized that the predominant systems of recovery are archaic, patriarchal, and ineffective for the unique needs of women and other historically oppressed people—who don’t need to lose their egos and surrender to a male concept of God, as the tenets of Alcoholics Anonymous state, but who need to cultivate a deeper understanding of their own identities and take control of their lives. When Holly found an alternate way out of her own addiction, she felt a calling to create a sober community with resources for anyone questioning their relationship with drinking, so that they might find their way as well. Her resultant feminine-centric recovery program focuses on getting at the root causes that lead people to overindulge and provides the tools necessary to break the cycle of addiction, showing us what is possible when we remove alcohol and destroy our belief system around it. Written in a relatable voice that is honest and witty, *Quit Like a Woman* is at once a groundbreaking look at drinking culture and a road map to cutting out alcohol in order to live our best lives without the crutch of intoxication. You will never look at drinking the same way again.

**a fine balance theme analysis: Where I Belong** Marcia Argueta Mickelson, 2021-09-07 A Pura Belpré Honor Book An immigrant teen fights for her family, her future, and the place she calls home. In the spring of 2018, Guatemalan American high school senior Milagros Millie Vargas knows her life is about to change. She has lived in Corpus Christi, Texas, ever since her parents sought asylum there when she was a baby. Now a citizen, Millie devotes herself to school and caring for her younger siblings while her mom works as a housekeeper for the wealthy Wheeler family. With college on the horizon, Millie is torn between attending her dream school and staying close to home, where she knows she's needed. She is disturbed by what's happening to asylum-seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border, but she doesn't see herself as an activist or a change-maker. She's just trying to take care of her own family. Then Mr. Wheeler, a U.S. Senate candidate, mentions Millie's achievements in a campaign speech about deserving immigrants. It doesn't take long for people to identify Millie's family and place them at the center of a statewide immigration debate. Faced with journalists, trolls, anonymous threats, and the Wheelers' good intentions—especially those of Mr. Wheeler's son, Charlie—Millie must confront the complexity of her past, the uncertainty of her future, and her place in the country that she believed was home.

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