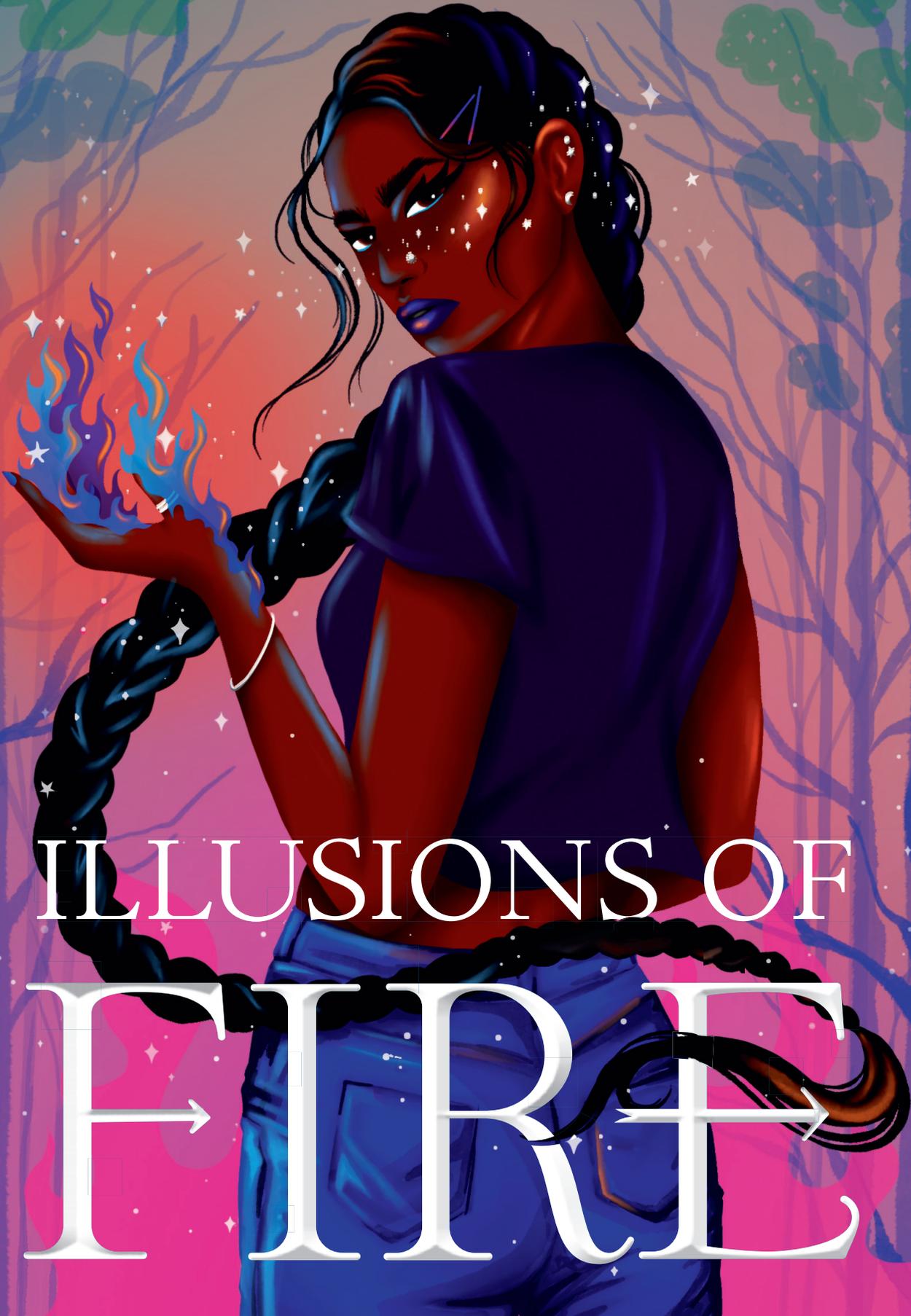


NISHA SHARMA



ILLUSIONS OF
FIRE

PLOT QUESTIONS

1. What is the book Laila Bansal reads obsessively? What are some of the parallels and similarities that she finds in the book to her own life?
2. There are multiple monsters and mythical creatures that attack throughout Illusions of Fire. How do each of them test Laila both mentally and physically?
3. South Asian mythology, specifically the Mahabharata, is critical to the foundation of Illusions of Fire. Who is Draupadi and who are the Pandavas? How are they connected to the characters in the novel?
4. The game of dice is all about gambling with fate. What are some other moments in the story where Laila is gambling with her fate?
5. The tattoo marks the characters as players in a game that is about winning or losing the battle to end all of humanity. What do they mean and how do Boo and Karan also have a role in understanding the markings?
6. There is a Deus Ex Machina moment. What is it and how does it change the trajectory of the story?

THEMES, SETTING AND SYMBOLISM QUESTIONS

7. Death is a theme in the story. How is it portrayed as both good and bad?
8. Destiny, as a theme, plays a big role in the story. What are Laila's thoughts on destiny? What about Karan's and Gopal's?
9. The weapon that Satyapal wields at the end of the novel is a symbol. What is it a symbol for? How is it used to incapacitate characters in the story?
10. The story takes place in upstate New York in a winery, an underground library, and in a training gym. What is the significance of all three locations in the story?
11. Fire and water play critical roles in either empowering or suppressing characters. Name four different instances where these natural elements are tools for Laila.
12. Desire is also a theme in the story. Laila wants, Karan wants, Satyapal wants. How does desire influence the way they negotiate with fate?

CHARACTER QUESTIONS

13. Gopal is the mysterious hero on a motorcycle who comes to warn Laila. Do you think his role in the story is to help Laila or to stop Satyapal? Is there a world where he can accomplish both, or are his goals in conflict?
14. Satyapal is our dark villainous figure. What does he want, and how does he plan on achieving his goal?
15. What does Laila want most in this world, and how is Karan's presence in direct opposition with her wants and needs?
16. Karan constantly wrestles with duty and his own needs. Do you think he picks one or the other in the story with his relationship to Laila?
17. Boo is the brainiac in the story, a very specific archetype, but she's often afraid of stepping into battle. Why does Boo decide to help her cousin, and later, Laila? What is her driving force?
18. All the characters are incredibly young to experience both the trauma and the reality of fate and a war for humanity.

For more information about the author please visit www.nisha-sharma.com