



ALLEN & UNWIN'S  
*Book Group Guide*  
Conversation Starters



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## About the book

**What happens when six pampered Westerners on a spiritual retreat in Bali end up fighting for their lives? A gripping novel from the bestselling author of *The Mothers' Group*.**

Six strangers from across the world meet on the tropical island of Bali to attend a course designed to help them face their fears. Their backgrounds are as diverse as their fears - which range from flying, public speaking and heights, through to intimacy, failure and death.

Friendships and even romance blossom as the participants are put through a series of challenges which are unusual, confronting and sometimes hilarious. A week of fun in the sun suddenly turns into something far more serious, however, when the unthinkable happens - a tragic disaster that puts the group in deadly danger, testing the individual courage of every member.

Shocking, powerful and utterly gripping, *Fearless* takes you to the edge and makes you look down.

*"a compelling story  
jam-packed with  
social issues and  
suspense"*  
Tinted Edges

*"fast paced and  
gripping; emotional,  
powerful and filled  
with suspense".*  
Brenda, Goodreads

## About the author



Fiona Higgins is the author of three novels, *Fearless*, *Wife on the Run* and *The Mothers' Group*, and a memoir, *Love in the Age of Drought*.

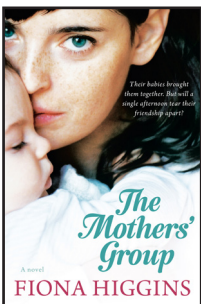
Fiona has qualifications in the humanities and social sciences, and has worked in the philanthropy and not-for-profit sector in Australia for the past seventeen years.

Having recently returned from three years in Indonesia, she now lives in Sydney with her husband and three children.

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## Also by Fiona Higgins



## Conversation Starters

1. *Fearless* follows six strangers from across the world as they attend the 'Fearless' retreat. Once introduced to the six participants was there a particular person's story you were interested in following? Why?
2. The book is written in six parts: Flying, Public Speaking, Heights, Intimacy, Death, Failure. As you read through each part of the book, what were your initial impressions of Annie, Remy, Janelle, Cara, Henry and Lorenzo? How did these change as you read through each section of the book?
3. Following their individual pow-wows they each received their odysseys for the rest of the retreat (page 179-184). What did you think of their odysseys and how they responded?
4. Once the odysseys were announced Annie also asked Pak Tony about his odyssey. What did you think of his reflection to his odyssey at the end of the novel?
5. Do you think Cara made the right decision not to share Lorenzo's letter with Lavinia? Why or why not?
6. The author has described the setting for *Fearless* as 'the Bali that tourists don't always get to see'. How did you respond to the representation of Bali and the Balinese in the novel, particularly Pak Ketut? Was there anything surprising or jarring about the portrayal of Balinese culture?
7. Once you had finished reading *Fearless* was there a particular person's story that you had wanted to continue? Why?
8. When you first started reading *Fearless*, what did you think was going to happen at the end of the novel? How did the actual ending compare to your prediction?

## If you liked this book...

May we suggest the following:

*Wife on the Run* by Fiona Higgins

*The Mothers' Group* by Fiona Higgins

*The Way Back* by Kylie Ladd

*See you in September* by Charity Norman

*The Slap* by Christos Tsiolkas