



CELADON
BOOKS

HERE WE ARE BY AARTI SHAHANI

Discussion Questions



“DESTINED TO TAKE ITS PLACE AMONG THE FINEST MEMOIRS WRITTEN IN RECENT DECADES.”

~ GUY RAZ

Co-creator of *How I Built This*, *Wow in the World*, and *TED Radio Hour*

TITLE: *Here We Are*
AUTHOR: Aarti Shahani
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1. Why did Aarti's parents decide to come to America even though they didn't have papers? Do you think they made the right decision?
2. How do you think A Better Chance Inc. and Brearley changed Aarti's perspectives and the course of her life?
3. What were the effects of the September 11, 2001 attacks on Aarti's advocacy efforts in New York and Washington, DC?
4. Aarti describes the gentrification of the area on Broadway where her father and uncle had their store. Have you seen anything similar happening in areas near you?
5. How do you feel about Judge Blumenfeld's criticism to Aarti: "You're not living a life about what you were really born to do"?
6. How did Aarti's relationship with her father evolve over the course of their story? In what ways did the tragedy he experienced actually increase their understanding of one another?
7. Why do you think Aarti became a journalist? How does her work as a journalist inform the way she shared her family's story?
8. Aarti comes to question if the U.S. is her home, and her father's home. What would you say makes your country your home?

HERE WE ARE IS A HEART-WRENCHING MEMOIR ABOUT AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY'S AMERICAN DREAM, THE JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT TOOK IT AWAY, AND THE DAUGHTER WHO FOUGHT TO GET IT BACK, FROM NPR CORRESPONDENT AARTI NAMDEV SHAHANI.