

READING GUIDE

FRAGILE: A NOVEL

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the title, *Fragile*, refer to? Where do you see fragility in the novel?
2. The novel's protagonists inhabit a particular geography that is the result of both global and local factors. How do those factors shape the plot of the novel?
3. Shavir and Jake are both deeply committed people in a world that is on the verge of breakdown. Why do you think do they go on, doing what they believe in?
4. Despite their in many ways opposing commitments, Jake and Shavir are also alike in important ways. What do you think they see in each other?
5. *Fragile* is narrated in alternating point of views. What is the effect of including both perspectives? Can you imagine the novel being narrated by only one of the two protagonists? What would change?
6. Do you see parallels between the events in the novel and the situation you live in today? Do you think a development as it is imagined in the text is possible? What could be done to avert it?
7. What do you think the novel's ending means?