



## PATSY

Nicole Dennis-Benn

After years of yearning for her secret lover, Cicely, Patsy finally gets her visa to America to be with her. Leaving her daughter Tru back in Jamaica Patsy emigrates to the United States. But Brooklyn is not at all what Cicely described in her letters, and to survive as an undocumented immigrant, Patsy is forced to work as a bathroom attendant, and ironically, as a nanny. Meanwhile, back in Jamaica, Tru struggles with her own questions of identity and sexuality, grappling every day with what it means to be abandoned by a mother who has no intention of returning. Nicole Dennis-Benn explores the themes of immigration, racism, and sexuality in this brave and stirring novel. The questions below are designed to enhance your discussion of *Patsy*.

### Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think about Patsy's characterisation?
2. Discuss Patsy's depiction as a mother.
3. Discuss Nicole Dennis-Benn's portrayal of immigration.
4. What do you think of Tru's characterisation? Do you think her struggles with identity, sexuality and abandonment shape who she is? To what extent?
5. What do you think of the representation of LGBTQ+ and POC characters in this novel?
6. Discuss whether in the current political climate you think this book is creating positive conversations about immigration.
7. What do you think of the examples of xenophobia and racism in this book?
8. Do you like that the book is told from two different perspectives? Whose point of view do you relate to most?
9. Why do you think Nicole Dennis-Benn chose to tell this story with two unconventional women?
10. Do you think that Cicely and Patsy's relationship is a source of joy for Patsy? If not, how so?