



# READING GUIDE

January, 2025

## Magnolia Gardens

Anna Jacobs

### In short

A heart-warming story from the multi-million copy bestselling author.

### Synopsis

At the end of Hawthorn Close there is a charming park which boasts two magnificent magnolia trees, and an assortment of houses and units.



Several new occupants are moving into the neighbourhood and will live in units fronting the park, built and managed by a charity for people needing a home for a while. Amongst them are Brett, 18, an orphan just out of the foster child system; Carla, who is escaping an abusive ex-partner; and Matthew Woodley, a widower whose house has burnt down while he was in hospital.

From the cottages and farms to the local shop, pub and old manor house, residents' lives are set to intertwine, relationships bloom, and both romance and heartache lie ahead.

### Discussion points for *Magnolia Gardens*

1. How do the backgrounds of Brett, Carla, and Matthew shape their actions and relationships throughout the story? Which character did you find most relatable, and why?
2. How does the setting of Magnolia Gardens contribute to the overall mood of the story? In what ways does the park symbolize the characters' journeys?
3. How does Anna Jacobs' writing style enhance the story? Are there particular passages that stood out to you?
4. What did you think of the book's conclusion? Did it provide a satisfying resolution for the characters?

### **Next, you should listen to...**

*The Distant Legacy* by AnneMarie Brear

*Heart Of The Grass Tree* by Molly Murn

*The Right Place* by Carla Caruso