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Dear Goddess,

Our August Book of the Month has a female author, female protagonists and takes place largely in all-female settings. Many of the themes in **The Henna Artist** are universal to us all: suffering, learning, family, love, belonging, even the tension between old and new traditions.

This is one discussion you won't want to miss! Author Alka Joshi, now 63, says: "It took me 10 years to really learn how to write *The Henna Artist*, how to layer it with all of the complexities, and how to grow a character in order for the story to come alive and make it meaningful to so many people. Published in 2020, *The Henna Artist* is a New York Times bestseller and was selected by actress Reese Witherspoon's Reese's Book Club. It's also being made into a Netflix series with Indian actress Freida Pinto starring and as executive producer.

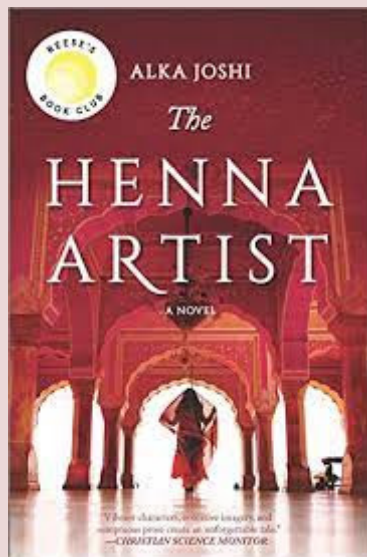
We know that **women's solo safety in India** is a concern for many women travelling to India, so we've invited an expert to join us for our August book club from our JourneyWoman Women's Travel Advisory Council. **Mariellen Ward** lives in Rishikesh, India and runs the award-winning travel site *Breathedreamgo*, inspired by her extensive travels in India and South Asia. She also offers women's tours to India through her company, *India for Beginners*.

We hope to see you at our July book club meeting, next **Wednesday, August 17, at 8.00 pm EST** for a vibrant discussion on Jaipur, solo safety tips and more!

Your book club hosts,

Sally, Wendy and Carolyn

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August Book of the Month: The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi

Set in 1950s Jaipur, Joshi's best-selling 'The Henna Artist' is a story of freedom and independence.

[Learn more here](#)



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Would you like to participate as an expert or speaker in our Book Club? Email Carolyn at editor@journeywoman.com. Have a book to suggest? Send it in [here](#).



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