



In the Kitchen Creations By Anita Singh

Egg Masala in Tamarind Gravy

INGREDIENTS

- Boiled Eggs 6
- Chopped Onion - one
- Tomatoes large 2 diced
- Tamarind juice 2 tbsp or 1 tsp tamarind paste
- Water : 1 cup
- Turmeric Powder ½ tsp
- Red Chilli powder 1 tsp
- Salt : As per taste
- Cumin powder: 1 tsp
- Coriander powder: 1 tsp
- Garam masala: ½ tsp
- Oil : 2 to 3 tbsp
- Cumin seeds: 1/4 tsp
- Mustard seeds: 1/4 tsp
- Fresh curry leaves: 5 to 6
- Grated coconut: 2 tbsp
- Ginger garlic paste: 1 tsp

METHOD

1. Extract thick juice from tamarind and keep aside.
2. In a non stick pan, heat the oil and then add cumin, mustard seeds, curry leaves and onions.
3. Fry the onions till they become slightly red on the edges on medium flame.
4. Add the ginger garlic paste and sauté for a few seconds.
5. Add turmeric, red chilli powder, cumin powder and coriander powder. Mix and fry for 2 minutes on low flame.
6. Add the tomatoes and cook them till they are pulpy, for about 5 minutes on medium heat.
7. Add the shredded coconut and garam masala powder, cook for 1 minute.
8. Add the tamarind juice, 1/2 cup of water and salt, mix well. Immediately drop the boiled eggs into the gravy slowly. Then cover with a



lid and cook on high flame till it comes to a boil. Reduce the flame to medium or low till the gravy becomes thick.

9. Pour into bowl, garnish with fresh finely chopped coriander leaves.

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CityMasala Book Club BOOK REVIEW By: Team Masala

Listening Now By: Anjana Appachana

distinct personality and you identify with each one at some point as the story unfolds. Each brings a unique perspective to the main story that unfolds over 16 years and brings home the title of the story, “listening now” – they have all “listened” to each other, have shared their secrets, even those that they can’t quite put into words. *“So were stories born. Untold, so did stories die.” “Guilt stains our thoughts like sweat under the arms.”*

Listening Now is really a love story between Padma, the main character, and Karan. As each character narrates this primary story, you get to know more about that particular character as well – about the drabness of their lives, of the complexities that build each one of them and about the innate goodness that each one has, coupled with the darkness – all so very human.

Padma and Karan fall in love as college students but their love is not granted parental approval. It is a regular boy-girl-meet-on-campus and fall in love over books, coffee, *dosa* and *gulab jamun* kind of story. Eventually, there is betrayal and they are forced to go their separate ways. If you find a similarity between Bollywood plots and the book, you will not be wrong. The author has played with some of the emotions our Hindi film heroines encounter as they deal with a cruel

world that refuses to understand their love, mocks them for being unwed mothers and the twists and turns that our movies take. Padma herself draws on this similarity in portions of the book.

Keeping the Bollywood moments aside, which one identifies with seamlessly enough, the very simplicity of the story makes it a compelling read. The author’s vivid portrayal of a woman’s struggles in her every day life, the need to share with friends, the cheerfulness in some despite the toughest of challenges, the rage that swells in amongst some against the men in their lives, the preferences some tend to show for sons, the compulsive need some have to please all around them and in the effort, of diminishing themselves to nothingness, the battering on brain, body and mind that some keep taking - none of this is new, yet, in *Listening Now* you read it and appreciate it for what it is - and you end up admiring the ordinary women who have shaped your life and turned you into who you are today. You “listen now” and hear your mother, aunt, next-door neighbor, the vegetable woman, your grand mother – all of them speak to you and you “listen”.

Buy this book online: www.amazon.com.

Anjana Appachana’s earlier book, *Incantations and Other Stories*, was a compilation of short stories marked by mundane brilliance. Her characters were ordinary people with ordinary stories – what was extra-ordinary was the starkness in which the stories were written.

In *Listening Now*, she takes on the task of narrating a main character’s story through six narrators. This 500-page novel is an abundance of emotions which pulls at your heart strings at many different levels, especially if you happen to be a woman.

Each narrator or character, all women, has a