



The Women Who Ran Away

Sheila O'Flanagan



Author Background

Sheila was born in Dublin in 1958. She always loved reading and would write stories for her younger sisters as a bribe to make them do her housework.

Sheila worked in finance in Dublin before writing her first book in her thirties *Dreaming of a Stranger*, which went on to become an Irish bestseller.

Since then, she has written 30 novels, 3 collections of short stories and 2 novels for children.

As well as writing fiction, Sheila currently works as a journalist for *The Irish Times*.

Book Summary

Deira isn't the kind of woman to steal a car. Or drive to France alone with no plan. But then, Deira didn't expect to be single. Or to suddenly realise that the only way she can get the one thing she wants most is to start breaking every rule she lives by.

Grace has been sent on a journey by her late husband, Ken. She doesn't really want to be on it but she's following his instructions, as always. She can only hope that the trip will help her to forgive him. And then, finally, she'll be able to let him go.

Brought together by unexpected circumstances, Grace and Deira find that it's easier to share secrets with a stranger, especially in the shimmering sunny countryside of Spain and France. But soon they find that there's no escaping the truth, whether you're running away from it or racing towards it...

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What did you like best about this book?
- ❖ What did you like least about this book?
- ❖ What other books by this author have you read? How did they compare to this book?
- ❖ Does this author's style or the themes in the book remind you of other authors?
- ❖ Both main characters in the book have their own histories and baggage. Did you find them to be relatable at all?
- ❖ Which places in the book would you most like to visit?
- ❖ What do you think the detailed descriptions of the European settings contributed to the story?
- ❖ Overall, how did this story make you feel?

References and further reading

- ❖ Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheila_O%27Flanagan
- ❖ Author website: <https://www.sheilaoflanagan.com/landing-page/sheila-oflanagan/sheila-oflanagan-about-me/>
- ❖ Book Review: <https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com/2020/06/11/new-release-book-review-the-women-who-ran-away-by-sheila-oflanagan/>
- ❖ Headline Books on YouTube: Sheila O'Flanagan discusses The Women Who ran Away:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiA5wEKnbj0LVCsaAtD0JvE96ONVsR15s>
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