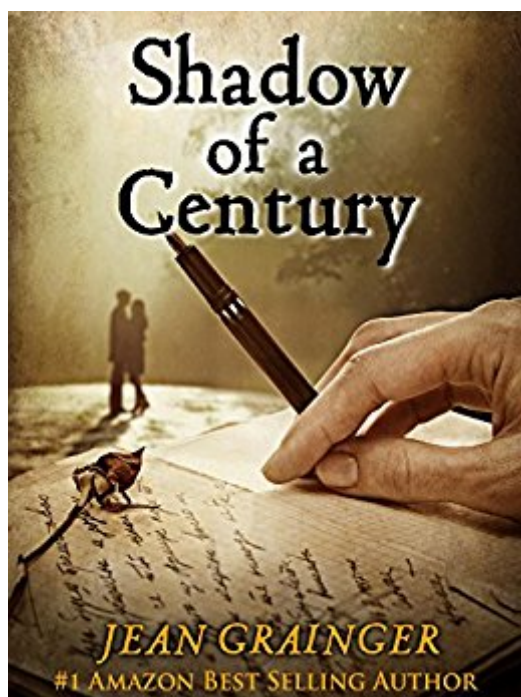


The book was found

Shadow Of A Century: An Irish Love Story



Synopsis

During a time of great upheaval and unrest in Ireland, as men and women run to take up arms against the tyranny and occupation of the British Empire, the lives of three women are forever altered, and thereby inextricably linked over the span of a century. Mary Doyle arrives in Dublin in 1913, doomed, she fears, to a life of domestic service. Instead, however, she finds herself deeply affected by the social and political turmoil of a fledgling nation struggling for independence. Suddenly, all that was once inevitable is no longer a certainty as she is embroiled in the very heart of the Easter Rising. Scarlett O'Hara has had many hurdles to cross in her life, not least her name. A successful political correspondent, she finds herself at a crossroads when one error of judgement jeopardises everything she has worked so hard to overcome and achieve. In the process of rebuilding her life, Scarlett faces the difficult and ultimate choice of starting all over again. At ninety-three years old, Eileen Chiarello thought her time for adventure and wonder was over, before a chance meeting with Scarlett draws her back to Ireland, the land her parents fought for and loved so passionately. Now, at the end of her life, Eileen has the opportunity to fulfil a promise she never thought she could. Historically sweeping and beautifully written, *Shadow of a Century* draws a circle around the Irish Rebellion and carefully traces the magnitude of its significance against the backdrop of three women's lives across history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This historical novel is an intertwining story of two cities New York, and Dublin, and two personalities, attractive young New York political journalist Scarlet O'Hara, and the elderly spinster Eileen Chiarello, whose parents were brave volunteers and participants in the Irish uprising of Easter 1916. This historic event led to years of violence and turmoil in Ireland for the right of the country to determine their own destiny. I loved reading Jean Grainger's third novel. Her account of dramatic events is moving without being exaggerated. Sure it is written from an Irish perspective, but it is written with considerable insight and great sensitivity. A more peaceful world will only come with greater understanding of other viewpoints and justice for disadvantaged minorities. May that which unites mankind triumph over that which divides our world into warring groups. I wished that there were foot-notes or a glossary at the end to translate and assist in the pronunciation of the Irish names and words. Although there is much historical detail in the text, I would have found an historical appendix of considerable interest.

Scarlett O'Hara is an up and coming journalist until she makes the mistake of having an affair with a very public figure. Her previous editor tries to help her get back on her feet. The seemingly small story he asks her to cover regarding an attempted burglary on a 93 year old woman, Eileen, proves to be her lifeline and redemption. Eileen has a history worth telling and the friendship that develops between Scarlett and Eileen helps them both to achieve what they need at this time in their lives. The characters in this novel have such depth and are easy to like and cheer for. The history of the rift between Ireland and England as told from the Irish perspective brings to life what families were willing to fight for and believe in. There is romance but this book is mostly about family ties, friendships, history, forgiveness and coming full circle. A good read.

Admittedly, I am not a history buff. I do enjoy a good historical novel though, and this story was riveting, to say the least. My interest was especially enhanced because I always root for the underdog. The struggles Ireland experienced in the pursuit of nationhood and freedom is not unique, but I was truthfully ignorant of all that this people endured. The characters were real, the way this author switched back and forth in the telling of the story kept me intensely reading - even when I should have been doing other things. If you want a snapshot of the Irish battles and possible

scenarios in the lives of those who lived it, read this book. I loved it!

WOW! As I first started reading this book, I wasn't too fond of our Scarlett O'Hara! She seemed very naive, and almost teenager-ish, but as the story went on and the author started a whole new story, I got very interested in it. The author weaved the past with the present so beautifully that after Scarlett met with Eileen Chiarello, I was hooked! I wanted to know more about Eileen. Our protagonist (Scarlett) grows and matures. I also learned a lot about the Irish Revolution of 1916 through Mary, Mrs. Kearns, Mrs. Grant and Rory, and what the people of that time went through. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to read a great book.

Thought I would enjoy this book but I didn't finish it. I couldn't like the character of Scarlett O'Hara and although her delve into Irish history was interesting, the constant comments about what awful people ALL republicans are got on my nerves. The comments had nothing to do with the story and seemed more author opinion. In MY opinion, this ruined what could have been a good read.

The author is a good writer and if she had kept her political views out of the story it could have been a great book. But I found her views so irritating that I couldn't be bothered to read the entire book and I wouldn't consider reading another one by this author.

Would have given the book a five if author had not added their personal feelings about American politics which really were not relative to the story

I really enjoyed this novel. It followed two stories, one set in the past, one in the present. And then linked them both. The historical narrative is a love story complicated by Ireland's struggle for independence in the early 1900's. It is a story of love, friendship, deception and humanity. I loved it. I loved the characters, especially the women fighting for freedom. I loved how they helped each other and put class behind them. There are a lot of 'loves' in this review, simply because I loved the story.

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