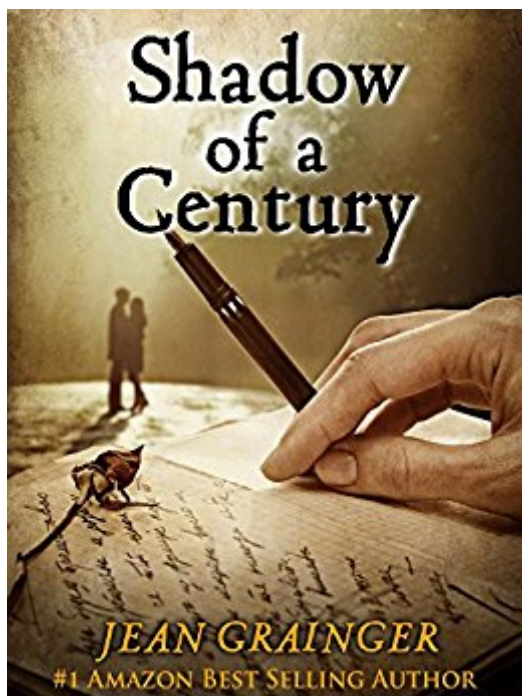


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Shadow Of A Century: An Irish Love Story



Synopsis

From the author of *So Much Owed*, winner of Authors Choice Best Historical Fiction Award 2016 *A Broken Woman*, New York, 2016. A fearless rebel, Dublin 1916. And a gripping story that spans a century. 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. Described by reviewers as "so much more than an Irish love story" and another said "Jean Grainger's story telling is so enthralling I gave up sleep." Is there ever a sacrifice that is too great, when the stakes are so high?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy historical fiction and this fit the bill. My main complaint is the political statements in the beginning....Democrats are great and Republicans are scourge of the earth. Seriously? Save it for a political tract. Very off putting. Plus the affair in the beginning was a bit hard to believe. Together review dropped from four to three stars.

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!

****Contains some spoilers**** The writing wasn't bad on this one but it definitely needs a re-edit. There is a lot of mistakes throughout. While I did greatly enjoy the story of Mary, I had issues with the Scarlett storyline. It just didn't ring true to me. She's this hot shot, up and coming political reporter who sits meekly by the phone for her married boyfriend to contact her, even after he throws her under the bus?!? Yet she is ticked off at her Mom for not leaving Scarlett's abusive father. Her Mom didn't have many options but Scarlett did. So what's her excuse? I guess I just didn't like the character, which made it difficult to care about her storyline.

Bad writing is a deal breaker for me, but I usually give a book at least until the twenty-five percent mark. Not this time. Bad writing combined with poor grammar and the author's personal political bias is just plain awful. No thanks.

This book has good history but it was something of a plod for me. I had trouble really connecting with either the characters or the events, tho I love history and am interested in the Irish 1916 uprising. Somehow, this story just seemed flat to me. I was continually bugged by the poor writing, which may have contributed to my overall view of the book. I am annoyed when the writing is bad and the editor appears to be non-existent. Poor sentence structure, improper subject/verb agreement, wrong words used in place of the right word, syntactical errors and trite phrases that seemed out of character and time made reading the book something of a chore. I was often "jolted" by something in the writing that took me away from the flow of the narrative. Having said that, I appreciate the work the author did to make us aware of these historical events. They are important. And the struggle for freedom and equality is a timely topic.

This book, billed as an Irish love story is much more. During the Easter uprising of 1916 when the Irish struggled for independence and complete separation from England, the lives of many people felt the impact of division between the independents and the royal loyalists. During that fated Easter week, although the uprising was quelled by the English, the spark of rebellion began years of struggle for the Irish. OK ... the love story is pretty good, too. I thoroughly enjoyed it because there was enough historical fiction to give it a place in my preferred genre. Spanning the years from 1916 to 2016, the history of Irish struggles is made personal as well as historical.

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.

I really wanted to like this, but it's hard to get into a story when there are too many comments about how awful certain groups of people are. Disagreeing with others' politics is fine, but I finally stopped reading after chapter 8 because the derogatory comments got too distracting. It was totally unnecessary to the story.

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