



Away and Other Stories

Leigh Swinbourne

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A young woman suddenly confronts the life she walked away from. A loving husband must make a pact with the devil to keep his wife. A passionate collector must choose between a priceless work of art and a human life. Ten stories of individuals caught between worlds, forced to make stark, unpalatable choices to survive.

Away and Other Stories Details

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Author : Leigh Swinbourne

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From Reader Review Away and Other Stories for online ebook

Jennifer (JC-S) says

‘As life briefly changes purpose, so do the rules by which we live.’

In each of the ten short stories contained in this book, individuals need to make difficult choices. A husband, desperate to keep his wife, makes a deal he knows is morally wrong. A collector chooses a priceless work of art knowing that a life will be lost. A man meets a woman and is so desperate to know about her past that he destroys any prospect of a shared future. At her father’s funeral, a woman reflects on the past, on relationships, on inner lives and memories, on a mask. A woman revisits the past, and then rushes to (re)join the real world.

Each story is self-contained, but I found invitations in some of them to think about the different choices characters could have made. The shortest of these stories has fewer than ten pages, the longest is just over thirty pages. And, as I removed myself from each of the different situations, I thought about the skill involved in creating ten quite different situations. Sometimes choices seem clear, but somehow, they are not. With a few deftly chosen words, Mr Swinbourne creates complications.

Stories to read, think about, and perhaps to reread.

Jennifer Cameron-Smith

Charlotte says

This is a GoodReads giveaway win.

These were little stories that were not all that interesting.
