



## **The Opal Desert**

*Di Morrissey*

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## **The Opal Desert** Di Morrissey

*The Opal Desert* is the story of three women from different generations with unresolved issues in their lives who meet in the fictitious NSW town of Opal Lake.

Kerrie, in her 40s, has just lost her famous sculptor husband who had been the centre of her existence and for whom she made many sacrifices and she now finds her life has lost direction.

Shirley, approaching 80, was betrayed by her lover many years before and has retreated from the world, becoming a recluse living in an underground dugout.

Anna, 19, has a promising athletic career but is torn between the commitment to her sport which could carry her to the Olympics, or enjoying life like other young people.

The friendship that develops between these three women, who meet in the strangely beautiful but desolate landscape of the opal fields, helps them resolve and come to terms with the next stage of their lives.

## **The Opal Desert Details**

Date : Published October 25th 2011

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Author : Di Morrissey

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Genre : Fiction, Cultural, Australia, Contemporary

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## **From Reader Review The Opal Desert for online ebook**

### **Gail says**

Di Morrissey is really really good at making places come alive. After reading this one, I wanted to go out to the outback and see it for myself. Her stories are always good and I love the relationships she creates. The way this particular story unfolds is lovely, with everyone's secrets coming out when they are ready. If you want to experience Australia without actually setting foot on Aussie soil (but hey - why would you settle for that??) then Di Morrissey can take you there.....

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### **Kay says**

An interesting tale of friendship, what we find when we are lost and the opal mining days in a small community. A bit of chic lit but one with substance and a good story line.

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### **Deb Keats says**

What a slow and tedious book, so glad I have finished it. I have read other Di Morrissey books and have enjoyed them, this one - not so. I felt the story was not really getting anywhere.. will leave it a while before I read any more of Di's I think.

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### **Tammy Lee says**

I enjoyed this book because it was so different to anything I have ever read. It was not romance or suspense, it was really quite sentimental with the 2 older characters reflecting for a lot of it on their lives and loves, so the story is really about their friendship which blossoms as they reminisce together. what I enjoyed most was the imagery she captured. Of the Australian outback and the opals and mining. It did make me think I'd like to take a trip to Opal lake and watch the sunrise and also to go shopping looking at Opals to see their beauty. I wanted to paint, I wanted to run. She captured the passions of each of the characters beautifully.

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### **Laraine says**

4 star read. I like Morrissey's books about Australia. Each novel is set in a different place so you not only enjoy a good read but learn something about the place where it is set. This one is set in the opal mining area. We meet three different women: Shirly, 80 something with a long history in the area and a sad love story, Kerrie, a young widow of 40 who comes to the area to grieve and paint the landscapes and Anna, a 20 year old runner, trying to decide her future. A good read.

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### **Natalie Mullan says**

What an unexpected surprise. The story of 3 Australian women at different stages of life (19, nearly 40 & nearly 80) & how they intertwine in Outback opal mining towns such as Lightning Ridge, Broken Hill, and fictional Opal Lake. Beautifully told, deep & believable protagonists, surprisingly fast paced, honest & full of life's lessons. Not my usual genre but thoroughly impressed.

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### **Deborah says**

My first Di Morrissey book, and my last. Pleasant enough, predictable. I found the info about opal mining interesting. But, there are so many more well-written challenging books that I would rather spend my time reading.

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### **Sarah Johnston says**

This was an interesting read but for me it wasn't one of Di Morrissey's best. I came to understand things about opals that I didn't know before - the story itself didn't grab me.

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### **Nat says**

Enjoyed reading about the opal mining towns in NSW, especially as I have been wanting to go for a visit for years now. The book definitely meanders for far too long and if you didn't want to read about the desolate landscape and life in a rural Australian town, it would be a bit much.

All the women had the same voice; Kerrie, Anna, young Shirley and the step daughter.

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### **Sandy says**

This was a re-read, but again I was intrigued by the pictures of the desolate and dangerous landscape and the passion which opals can inspire. The characters were an diverse mixture, and it was interesting following their individual and intertwined stories. A thoroughly good read.

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### **Joan says**

Di Morrissey is a wonderful writer. She paints pictures in your mind with her words. The background of this story is the opal fields of Australia and the people that live there. It tells of 3 very different women who forge an unlikely friendship during their visit to Opal Lake. Anna - a not quite 21 year old runner - who needs to decide whether to pursue a running career or not. Kerrie - early 40's trying to rebuild her life and confidence after the death of her famous husband. Shirley - 80's, beloved by the Opal Lake community - hiding herself

away from the world since the love of her life disappeared and she found she couldn't move on because she didn't know why. They help each other at a difficult time in their lives.

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### **Emjlkas says**

I am an avid reader of Di Morrissey novels. I luv the history of Australia that she weaves through all of her novels. This was particularly good as I really enjoyed the history of the opal trade. The characters were so warm and it was so nice to have 3 strong female characters in focus.

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### **Bronwyn says**

Was a bit disappointed with this story, it all seemed too predictable, and a bit amateur. have really enjoyed some of her other novels but felt this fell well short.

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### **Kathryn says**

This is the first Di Morrissey I have read, and I can't imagine why it has taken me so long to read one! I think I thought her writing might be a bit over-sentimental, but this one wasn't. I thought the writing was wonderful. This one was set in Lightning Ridge, Broken Hill and the surrounds - I almost felt like I was there, and it's made me want to plan a trip there at some point! The description of the places was great, the storyline was interesting, and whenever I put it down, I wanted to pick it back up again!

This is my first 5★ read of 2015, and I am certainly keen to read more Di Morrissey's!!

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### **Julie says**

loved this book! This is Di Morrissey's 20th book, arriving 20 years after she published her first — though she'll be selling a lot more copies, having spent those years building a strong and supportive base of readers. As the title suggests, The Opal Desert is set in and around Australia's remote opal fields, in a small imaginary town not far from Lightning Ridge where three women, spanning three generations, have come to sort out challenges in their lives.

Kerrie is the new widow, who sacrificed her own art career to help promote her husband's and must now find her own identity and path; Shirley is close to 80 and lives as a recluse beneath the opal fields after being abandoned by her great love; and young Anna is a promising athlete — but can she find the will and discipline to become a champion? Kerrie ends up finding what happened to Shirley's great love. Rather than abandoning her all those years ago, he was unfortunately set up by his Serbian "friends" in town and was immediately arrested and killed when he returned to Europe to see his dying mother. The fourth character in the book is Opal Desert itself — sometimes dry, sometimes shimmering, where the women find friendship and a way forward for each one.

