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Siracusa



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller A Washington Post Bestseller A Los Angeles Times Bestseller A USA Today Bestseller One of *Vulture*'s 100 Greatest Beach Books Ever A People Magazine Summer Reading Pick One of *Elle*, *InStyle*, and *Marie Claire*'s Best of July *Delia Ephron's Siracusa* is a stunning portrait of two marriages coming unraveled during the stress of travel abroad. Insightful and engaging. A must-read!

"Sue Grafton, author of *X* *Siracusa* is an Italian aria, a Greek tragedy and a modern American masterpiece written by Delia Ephron at the height of her powers. This is a story of two complicated marriages, one vulnerable child, and a trip to Italy that changes each of their lives forever. Secrets, lies, love raging, love dying, and the shame of unrealized potential are exposed in detail under the Sicilian sun. And, like the Moro blood oranges that grow there with abandon, the taste is both sour and sweet at once, but the bitterness that remains is not only haunting but unforgettable."

Adriana Trigiani, author of *The Shoemaker's Wife* *Siracusa* is an unusually crackling, tricky journey into the distant land of other people's marriages: their secrets, paradoxes, weaknesses, and pleasures. Delia Ephron writes like a warm-blooded Patricia Highsmith, her story's treachery matched by a deep and easy feel for the various human, imperfect ways that people find themselves bound together, and sometimes painstakingly unbind themselves. An absorbing, tense, and original novel."

Meg Wolitzer, author of *The Interestings* An electrifying novel about marriage and deceit from bestselling author Delia Ephron that follows two couples on vacation in Siracusa, a town on the coast of Sicily, where the secrets they have hidden from one another are exposed and relationships are unraveled. New Yorkers Michael, a famous writer, and Lizzie, a journalist, travel to Italy with their friends from Maine Finn; his wife, Taylor; and their daughter, Snow. "From the beginning," says Taylor, "it was a conspiracy for Lizzie and Finn to be together." Told Rashomon-style in alternating points of view, the characters expose and stumble upon lies and infidelities past and present. Snow, ten years old and precociously drawn into a far more adult drama, becomes the catalyst for catastrophe as the novel explores collusion and betrayal in marriage. With her inimitable psychological astuteness and uncanny understanding of the human heart, Ephron delivers a powerful meditation on marriage, friendship, and the meaning of travel. Set on the sun-drenched coast of the Ionian Sea, Siracusa unfolds with the pacing of a psychological thriller and delivers an unexpected final act that none will see coming. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

In *Siracusa* by Delia Ephron, two couplesâ™ vacation in Italy is the perfect recipe for disaster. Two troubled marriages + one enigmatic, manipulative child + secrets = a vacation to remember for all the wrong reasons. New York couple Michael and Lizzie join their Portland, ME friends Finn, Taylor and daughter Snow for what should be an idyllic Italian vacation. Told in retrospect from the four adults points of view, their trip starts innocently enough but it is quite clear that, at some point, things began to rapidly deteriorate once they arrive in Siracusa. While none of the characters are particularly likable, they are certainly colorful and interesting and the sequence of events leading up to the disastrous end of their stay in Siracusa is riveting. Lizzie is a bit of a free spirit whose writing career is frustratingly stalled. Devoted to Michael, she knows all of his secrets but she lovingly overlooks his faults. She is hoping the trip will close the distance that has suddenly appeared between them, but she is still a little drawn to her ex-boyfriend Finn. Michael is a Pulitzer prize winning author whose latest novel is not going as well as he would like. He is not at all thrilled with the joint vacation and he spends a good part of his day trying to avoid Lizzie. Michael is charming and larger than life and he easily captivates both Snow and Taylor during their vacation. Finn owns a

thriving restaurant but he is surprisingly immature and not overly observant. Fun-loving, flirtatious and laidback, he is a hands-off dad who lets his wife have her way in pretty much every aspect of their life.

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