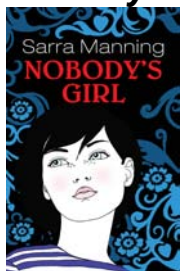


Reading Guide

Nobody's Girl by Sarra Manning



Hodder Children's Books
9780340883730
£5.99



The author:

Sarra Manning spent years working on the UK teen mag, *J17*, first as a writer and then as Entertainment Editor. She then joined the launch team and became editor of teen fashion bible *Ellegirl* UK. Sarra now writes for *ELLE*, *Grazia*, *Red*, *InStyle*, *The Guardian* and lives in North London.

The book:

Bea has never been in with party animal Ruby and her über cool posse. When Ruby invites Bea, seemingly out of the blue, on a party holiday in sunny Spain, Bea finds herself leaving the grey streets of North London to live out her day-dreams. But after two days in the sun, Bea finds herself hot-footing it to the city she's always dreamed about, to find the dad she's never met. Paris beckons and Bea is about to discover more than she bargained for.

Talking points:

- Carrie Bradshaw, Amelie and Holly Golightly are highlighted as icons that younger women should look up to and emulate. What do you think constitutes a good role model for young women and why?
- 'Oh I know all about the consequences...' The novel focuses on the dilemmas faced by teen mothers. How does Sarra Manning tackle this challenging issue and does she do so effectively, in your opinion?
- 'I didn't want to do what other girls my age did.' The novel follows Bea's search for her identity. To what extent does the novel stress the importance of young people's individuality?
- 'I wouldn't be the clichéd sulky teenager even if she was being the clichéd overprotective mum.' Discuss how the novel examines relationships between teenagers and their parents.
- 'Ruby and her cohorts partied hard, stole each other's boyfriends and had intrigues.' Can you see in your own life both the light and dark sides of friendship groups uncovered in the novel?
- Sarra Manning includes many allusions to music, film, television and literature in the text. How far do cultural references encourage young people to expand their tastes?

Read more:

Let's Get Lost by Sarra Manning

Guitar Girl by Sarra Manning

Diary of a Crush trilogy by Sarra Manning

More about Sarra Manning:

Sarra Manning's blog: sarramanning.blogspot.com

Sarra Manning at Hodder Children's Books: www.hodderchildrens.co.uk

The Booktrust Teenage Prize celebrates the best contemporary writing for young people

This guide provides information about some exciting online resources as well as ideas to trigger in-depth discussion during class or with a reading group. There are six guides, one for each of the 2010 shortlisted titles.