

## **AMAZON REVIEWS OF THE SECRET WOUND BY DEIRDRE QUIERY**

**Rachel Connor 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

### **5 Stars**

This is an atmospheric and beautifully charged story, which moves between time frames and locations to ratchet up the building tension. The author evokes the Mallorcan landscape beautifully throughout. Digging deep into mysticism, *The Secret Wound* explores notions of connections, intimacy and power and asks questions about the nature of home. Highly recommended. A great summer read!

**Doug Stroud 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017**

### **5 Stars**

I bought this book to read whilst on holiday in Majorca where the book is set but it is so much more than just a summer read. It leaves a lasting and reflective impression. Like all summer holiday reading it is a great story and keeps you turning the page but as an author Deirdre Quiery shows she is an exceptional writer who writes beautifully and thoughtfully. The plot is intriguing with many twists and turns which hold you to the end. Scenes and emotions are beautifully described by someone who understands and gets to the heart of the issue. The ending is a marvellous leaves you wanting more. This is a great book by an author who really understands the art of writing and is entertaining as well as thought provoking. Read it, you'll love. I have read her first novel and look forward to her third. An exceptional writer.

**5 Stars - A Thought Provoking Novel – Diane – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

It's clear that Deirdre Quiery has a background in mindfulness from this novel, which makes it much more than just another murder mystery. It makes the reader question ones own being. Very descriptive I could picture clearly every character and place, and found myself wanting to go Mallorca and wander the mountain paths and find an inner peace.

Brilliant storyline. I warmed to Gurtha and his 'friends'.  
Highly recommended.

**5 Stars - Obsession - Julia Wilson – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

*The Secret Wound* by Deirdre Quiery is a contemporary novel that studies relationships and events that make us who we are.

It opens in 2012 but quickly jumps to almost a year later and then the action continues over the next forty days. It includes flashbacks too. The plot was cleverly constructed with a jaw dropping end.

The novel follows a group of friends who are loosely connected together as they holiday in Mallorca one summer. Every now and again the action returns to Belfast, the home of the lead character.

There is the topic of dementia. The reader witnesses the rapid decline of a character - seeing the condition from the point of view of both the character and those witnessing it.

There is also a growing obsession that began much earlier. An obsession that the reader sees brewing whilst the characters seem oblivious to it.

The characters seem to have a superficial outlook on life, being concerned with money, power and appearances.

"Financial success and money in the bank were considered... as indicators of greatness." The main thing they wanted to know was "What do you do, how much are you worth and do you know anyone interesting?" This attitude contrasted sharply with those in Belfast who were far less worldly and had one eye on both others and eternity.

Grief is a major theme throughout. "His body did not pump blood but liquid pain." Grief can be all consuming. It has no time limit. Life will never be the same again.

*The Secret Wound* was a compulsive read. It was cleverly constructed and held my interest. I could not predict where the novel was leading and literally gasped out loud at times. I shall be hunting out more by Deirdre Quiery.

I received this book for free. A favourable review was not required and all views expressed are my own.

## 5 Stars

'Beautifully written, lyrical at times, and simply tells the story of what it is to love and to be loved' writes [@mummyworgan](#)

## 5 Stars – Outstanding

Bravo ..... The most beautifully written book ..... It made me laugh, cry and think and reflect .....totally outstanding .  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

## 5 Stars - A wonderful psychological thriller which is refreshingly different - Jo - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017

The Secret Wound is a psychological thriller that for me explored family and meaning of life. This was so much more than a murder mystery. This is a book that explores the inner workings of the mind and how our childhood effects who we are. This really is a deep thinking book.

The novel is set in Belfast, and then Mallorca, during 2013. At the beginning we are introduced to Gurtha, who is visiting the home of his ageing parents, Nuala and Paddy. However what he is greeted with is his dead mother, at the bottom of the stairs. This is such a powerful opening to a novel and I was instantly hooked. Who had killed Nuala and why? We then follow Gurtha as he tries to find out who killed his beloved mother, and in doing so the plot takes on a sinister turn of events.

It is after his mother's funeral that Gurtha is persuaded to go on a 40 day sabbatical to Mallorca after his mother's death. A close family friend, Cormelia, lives out there and she makes all the necessary arrangements for him to have much needed time away from Belfast. This is the time for him to re evaluate life, to put his life into perspective. As I have already mentioned this is a very deep thinking book about the bigger picture, with a murder mystery at its very core.

Gurtha is a motivational speaker, he runs art exhibitions, and is a lecturer on the subject of Conciousness Studies. The essence of his character, and the way in which he deals with his grief is reflected in the themes of the book. The book also has many wonderful life affirming quotes from J Rumi, a Persian poet from the 1200s. When I read the first quote, at the very beginning of the novel, about how a wound allows light to enter the body, I just knew that I was in for a completely different type of physiological thriller/murder mystery, and I was right. I also believe that these quotes are directed at Gurtha, at his time of grief. His relationship with his mother was extremely close, some may say cloying. This book, although a psychological murder mystery is also a book about grief and coming to terms with loss.

What the author does so wonderfully well is to beautifully evoke both Belfast, and then the ex-pat community who live in Soller, Mallorca. I have been to neither Belfast nor Mallorca, but I felt as if I was there and that I knew every nook and cranny of the spaces that these characters inhabited. There are many wonderful and colourful characters within the novel. Paddy I have to admit was my absolute favourite. I never truly got to grips with Cornelia, for me she was an enigma from the very beginning, and because of this she did intrigue me. I needed to know more about her life, her past, and I did learn these things as the novel progressed.

The Secret Wound is a beautiful story and one which I find hard to box into a genre. It is beautifully written, lyrical at times, and simply tells the story of what it is to love and to be loved. It is a story about grief and of why people choose to commit murder. The Secret Wound hooked me in from the very beginning and I was so sad to read the final words. Highly recommended.

## A subtle and sensitive thriller – Alan McLaughlin

I found the Secret Wound to be very well written and easy to read. Deirdre Quiery has a wonderful writing style which is very descriptive but not overwhelmingly so. In terms of the story I thought it was a good plot and she really managed to ratchet up the tension towards the end. The highlight of the book for me was the portrayal of Paddy and his struggle with dementia. The description of his daily life and the interaction with his son, Gurtha, was absolutely brilliant. An issue with very personal resonance for me.