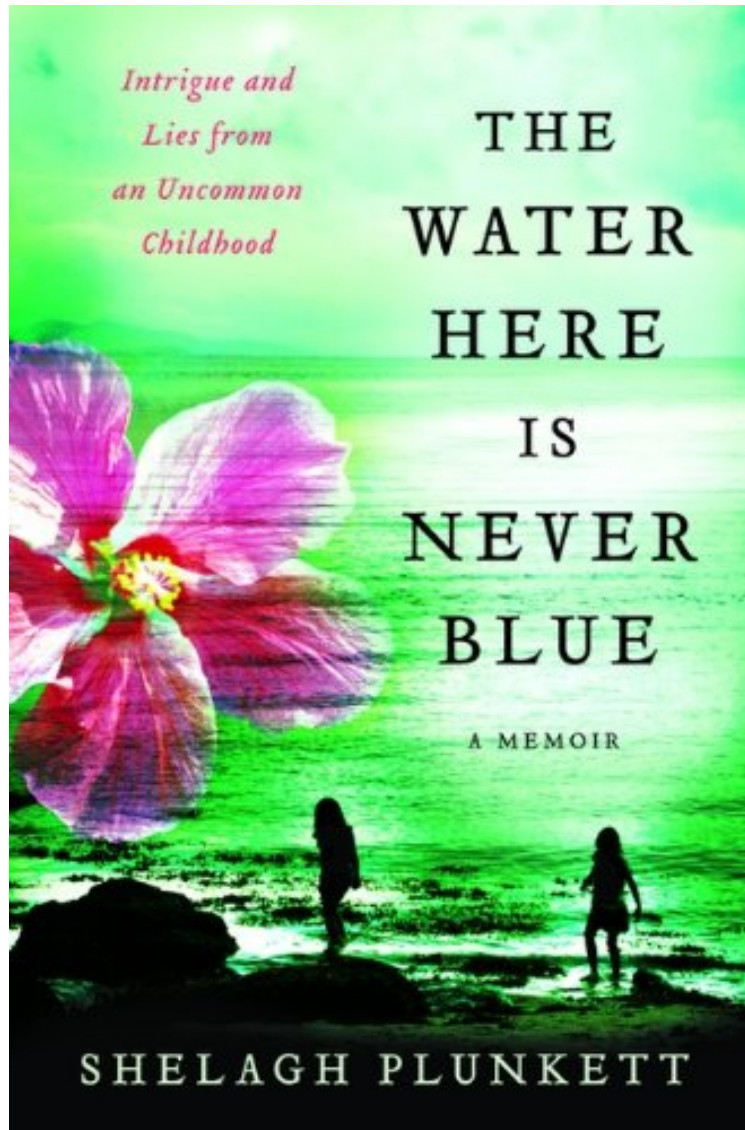


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The Water Here Is Never Blue: Intrigue And Lies From An Uncommon Childhood

Shelagh Plunkett

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Shelagh Plunkett : The Water Here Is Never Blue: Intrigue And Lies From An Uncommon Childhood before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Water Here Is Never Blue: Intrigue And Lies From An Uncommon Childhood:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating from start to finish By B. Darcey Couldn't put this book down. I read it over 3 days and it stayed with me for weeks. Fascinating insight into the privileged yet dangerous

lifestyle experienced by expats in various hotspots around the globe. What made it particularly interesting was that it was all told from the point of view of a rebellious adolescent daughter. Instead of the usual grand perspective of major public events, she reveals the tensions between races, classes and generations that play out in private conversations and household routines. I also loved all the exotic detail (a pet monkey!) and the intrigue surrounding her father's work.

In the 1970s, Shelagh Plunkett, a teenage girl from Vancouver, travels with her middle-class family to Guyana and Indonesia, where her father, a civil engineer, has been posted to help with those countries' water systems. On the surface, she lives a protected life, attending girls' schools run by nuns and surrounded by household staff. But there is also a fearlessness and recklessness in the girl's hotel tryst at fifteen, swimming with piranhas, and cavorting with monkeys. The secrecy and double life of this teenager in a foreign land is paralleled by the mysterious comings and goings of her beloved but distant father. Guyana is nationalizing Canada's bauxite mines, and Indonesians are slaughtering East Timorese a few miles away. Why is their phone tapped, why do they always have to have a suitcase packed, and why is her father working on a water project on a parched island? In *The Water Here Is Never Blue*, an adolescent comes of age and is indelibly marked by her years abroad. But it is the adult narrator who ultimately struggles with the truth of who her father was.