

The life swap

By Barbara, Hannay

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Genre and Subject

Home exchanging — fiction

City and town life fiction

Country life — Queensland, Northern — Fiction

Domestic — Fiction

Synopsis

Tess is feeling burnt out from her uninspiring job and her busy city lifestyle. Even her personal relationships make her feel as if she's simply drifting through life rather than living it to the full. Having tragically lost her mother a few years earlier, she knows she owes it to herself to make so much more of the precious opportunities life offers. Her godmother Luna, who leads a very simple existence in a rustic cottage in the North Queensland rainforest, is also at something of a crossroads. Keen to expand her jewellery-making business, she needs the new connections that a bustling city offers. When she suggests to Tess that the two of them might swap homes for an extended period, it seems the perfect solution. Tess soon finds herself in a new world, adapting to life off-grid, dodging cassowaries, working in a charity bookstore and falling for the gorgeous but unavailable guy next door. Meanwhile, Luna gets far more than she bargained for, with police on her doorstep, old lovers turning up out of the blue, and the possibility of having her biggest secret exposed. Are they about to discover that taking great risks can bring even greater rewards?

Author Biography

Barbara Hannay writes women's fiction, with over twelve million books sold worldwide. Her novels set in Australia have been translated into twenty-six languages, and she has won the Romance Writers of America's RITA award and been shortlisted five times. Two of Barbara's novels have also won the Romance Writers of Australia's Romantic Book of the Year award.

Barbara lives in Townsville with her writer husband and enjoys being close to the Coral Sea, the stunning tropical scenery and colourful characters, all of which find their way into her popular stories.

Discussion Starters

- *Which characters did you like best? Which did you like least?*
- *Which character did you relate to, or empathize with, the most?*
- *If you had to trade places with one character, who would it be?*
- *Guess the characters' zodiac signs.*
- *What do you think happens to the characters after the book's official ending?*
- *What are your thoughts on the book's structure? Did it serve the story well?*
- *How did the setting impact the story? Would you want to read more books set in that world?*
- *Did the book feel real to you?*
- *Did the plot proceed in a way that felt natural? Or did you feel manipulated by the storyline?*
- *Are there any characters you'd like to deliver a lecture to? If so, who? What would you say?*

If you liked this book, you may also like...

- *The Other Bridget by Rachael, Johns.*
- *Mrs Winterbottom Takes a Gap Year by Joanna Nell .*

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Discussion starters from <https://www.penguin.com.au/book-clubs/4204-black-sheep-book-club-questions>