



Summary

Who are you when you are forced to walk in someone else's shoes?

Nisha Cantor lives the globetrotting life of the seriously wealthy, until her husband announces a divorce and cuts her off. Nisha is determined to hang onto her glamorous life. But in the meantime, she must scramble to cope--she doesn't even have the shoes she was, until a moment ago, standing in.

That's because Sam Kemp – in the bleakest point of her life – has accidentally taken Nisha's gym bag. But Sam hardly has time to worry about a lost gym bag--she's struggling to keep herself and her family afloat. When she tries on Nisha's six-inch high Christian Louboutin red crocodile shoes, the resulting jolt of confidence that makes her realize something must change—and that thing is herself.

Full of Jojo Moyes' signature humor, brilliant storytelling, and warmth, *Someone Else's Shoes* is a story about how just one little thing can suddenly change everything.

Courtesy of the publisher



About the Author

Jojo Moyes is a novelist and journalist. Her books include the bestsellers *Me Before You*, *After You* and *Still Me*, *The Girl You Left Behind*, *The One Plus One* and her short story collection *Paris for One and Other Stories*. Her novels have been translated into forty-six languages, have hit the number one spot in twelve countries and have sold over fifty million copies worldwide.

Me Before You has now sold over fourteen million copies worldwide and was adapted into a major film starring Sam Claflin and Emilia Clarke.

Jojo's next book, *Someone Else's Shoes*, is out now in hardback, eBook, and audiobook. Jojo lives in Essex.

Discussion Questions

1. Sam and Nisha are very different women—Nisha lives a life of luxury and privilege; Sam is struggling to make ends meet and always has. And yet both of them share the quality of grit, of determination, that sees each of them through hard times. In Nisha's case, she is also fueled by anger. Do you think that's true of Sam as well—and is that common among the women you know?
2. Were you surprised when you learned Nisha's own history and how she became the wife of an extremely wealthy man?
3. Sam's work situation is, sadly, still all too common for working women. Have you ever been in a work situation where you felt unfairly judged, especially for being a woman, and, if so, how did you manage it?
4. What did you think about Sam and Phil's marriage? Did you think she should have let herself pursue a possible love affair with Joel or did you feel she and Phil were going to rekindle the spark of their relationship?
5. This book is about nothing if not about female friendship. What did you like best about the relationships among the women? Who was the character you liked best, and which one did you relate to the most?
6. When asked about her inspiration for this book, Jojo Moyes said, "Like many people, I've had a tough couple of years, and I found myself being drawn to books, movies, and television that were lighter and that took me out of myself for an hour or two, and maybe left me feeling a little better for it." Have you had a similar experience with the entertainment you seek out? Did this book provide it?
7. Sam feels that she has lost herself among the demands of her family. It's not until she starts to box, learns to trust her own skills at work, and develops a solid group of friends that she truly feels confident. Do you ever feel lost among the responsibilities that weigh on you? What do you do to feel like yourself again?

Discussion questions cont'd

8. After successfully negotiating her first deal while wearing the red crocodile shoes, Sam worries that she's "letting down the sisterhood" by using the sexiness of her new appearance to her advantage at work. What do you think? Is it OK to use appearance-based tactics when it comes to business?
9. Have you ever worn an outfit or an item of clothing that made you feel powerful? What was it? What changed for you?
10. Is Nisha a good mother to Ray? By the end of the book, did he receive the kind of support he needed? Why do you think Juliana was willing to come back into Nisha's life to help Ray?

Reviews

Jojo Moyes is a writer of remarkable range and talent. She first burst on the scene in the United States with the emotional tear-jerker *ME BEFORE YOU*, but she also excels at romances like *AFTER YOU* and *STILL ME*. And most recently she penned the historical novel *THE GIVER OF STARS*, set in Depression-era Appalachia. No matter the scope, Moyes knows how to capture readers with her storytelling skills, which are on full display in her latest effort, *SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES*.

As the title suggests, the plot starts with a mix-up --- of two nearly identical bags belonging to two very different women, both living in London. Sam, in her mid-40s, is just about at the end of her rope. She's struggling at work --- a sales job she used to enjoy and knows she's good at --- now that she has a new boss who consistently undervalues her. She gets virtually no help at home. Her husband, Phil, has been battling debilitating depression since losing his own job and his father months earlier, and her aging parents have become increasingly demanding and critical.

"The book is indeed funny at times...but it also deals with more sober issues of mental health, class and emotional abuse. Moyes' countless fans would expect nothing less --- and they won't be disappointed with what they find when they discover *SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES*."

In short, "Sam is at that age, the age where all the wrong things seem somehow to stick, fat, the groove between her eyebrows, anxiety, while everything else --- job security, marital happiness, dreams --- seem to slip effortlessly away."

So when Sam dashes out of the gym, late for an appointment, she realizes that instead of taking her own knockoff Marc Jacobs bag, she has grabbed an *actual* Marc Jacobs bag, complete with a Chanel jacket and a pair of red crocodile-skin Christian Louboutin high heels. She can't wear the gym flip-flops to her sales meeting, so she replaces them with the Louboutins --- and nails one of the biggest deals of her life.

But whose Louboutins *are* they? We soon learn that they belong to Nisha, an American who is married to a tremendously wealthy man and whose job is primarily to look stunning next to him. She is dismayed to find Sam's tired black flats and cheap clothing in the gym bag she thought was hers --- and more so when she comes back to the hotel where she's living. There she discovers that her husband has revoked access to their penthouse, frozen her assets --- basically cut her off entirely, and without warning. Nisha never dreamed she'd have to return to her working-class roots, but that's exactly what happens when she takes a job cleaning hotel rooms in an attempt to regain access to the penthouse --- all while scheming how to find the woman who stole her valuable shoes.

As you might predict, Sam and Nisha's paths do eventually cross, but perhaps not how you would have imagined it. Their journeys, both separately and together, take surprising turns and result in richer, more profound relationships for both women. Nisha, in particular, undergoes a real transformation, from her initial apparent entitlement to acknowledging her continued vulnerabilities and loneliness, especially her separation from her teenage son, who is at a boarding school in the States. The narrative shifts back and forth between Sam and Nisha, as well as to some secondary characters. Once the two women join forces, the plot moves at a brisk and often hilarious pace.

The book is indeed funny at times, even with moments of slapstick, but it also deals with more sober issues of mental health, class and emotional abuse. Moyes' countless fans would expect nothing less --- and they won't be disappointed with what they find when they discover *SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES*.

Reviewed by [Norah Piehl](#) on February 10, 2023