

Olga's Secret

A Novel Based on the Author's Life

Aneta Marovich

Olga's Secret is a powerful novel spanning decades and continents and encompassing the most pressing human themes – home, belonging, migration, love and friendship – with deep insight and enormous heart. With resonances of Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan novels, Olga's Secret will draw you in with its warmth, humour, empathy, and wisdom.

Emily Bitto

Award winning author of 'The Strays and Wild Abandon'

From the cobble stoned streets of Zagreb, Yugoslavia to sun-bleached Adelaide, Australia, Olga's Secret unravels a story of love and friendship tested by separation and war.

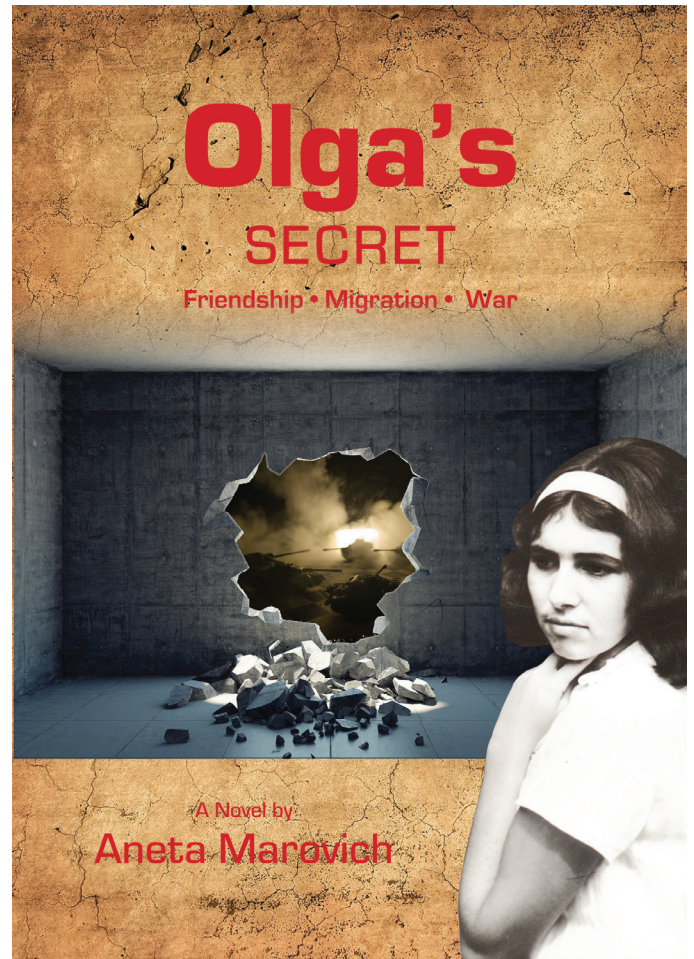
After Anya's life in Australia ended in heartbreak, she returns to her homeland. There she rekindles her friendship with Olga and her past love for Filip. But both relationships are marred by secrets and, after an incident, the country she came back to, asks her to leave.

Once again in Australia Anya rebuilds her life while her homeland falls apart in a brutal war.

Returning at the war's end, Anya finds her native country in ruins. Her closest connections are, like the country, in danger of being destroyed when her best friend reveals a disturbing secret.

Juxtaposing landscapes and cultures to evoke the nature of displacement and belonging, this is a story of love in all its forms linking the three protagonists.

Olga's Secret explores life's universal questions: What is the nature of friendship and love? Is there a limit to their endurance?



I really love going on this journey. And I like Anya, I would like to be her friend.

Miki Perkins

The work is incredibly evocative. I just wanted to keep reading this forever! It's brilliant.

Ernest Price

Author of 'The Pyramid of Needs'

Olga's Secret is a marvel. It explores the complexity of female friendships and desires, at the same time as it illuminates broad-sweeping political and historical events. Perfect for fans of Elena Ferrante

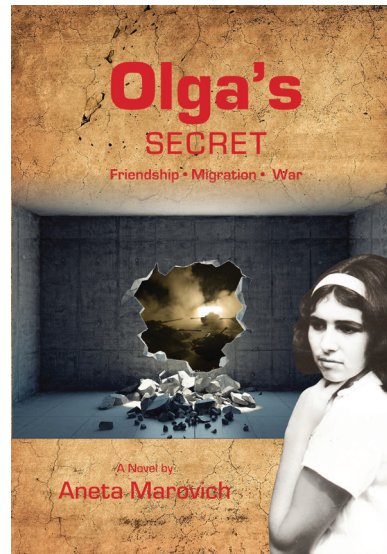
Magdalena McGuire

Author of 'Born For You'

Olga's Secret

A Novel Based on the Author's Life

Aneta Marovich



In 1965 Anya migrated with her parents to Australia. She was twenty and might have left it too late. It began happily enough. She married a man she loved and lived a colourful countercultural existence. But a tragedy struck. Her parents died in a car accident. Another painful blow followed; her husband left her for Simon. Anya returns to Yugoslavia.

Welcoming her back is Olga, her close, headstrong but not always loyal friend who is now married with a son. Anya rekindles a relationship with a man she once loved. He is now a well-known actor, single, but, according to Olga, unreliable. Anya ignores the warning. Her home country is where she belongs, and Filip is the man she wants to be with. Just as she decides to stay, Anya takes part in a political protest and is ordered to leave the country.

Back in 80s Adelaide Anya is battling prejudices and loneliness as she forges her career. Her work and activism keep her mind off the painful expulsion from her birth country. Her former husband dies of AIDS after losing his partner to the same illness. Olga is a distant but constant and supportive presence.

It is 1991. A brutal civil war breaks out in Yugoslavia. Anya watches the country implode on her TV screen, mourning the loss of lives and ideals. Unexpectedly, Filip gets in touch to share their common grief. When the fighting is over, they will reunite.

At the war's end Anya travels back to the country diminished and brutalised by the war. Her cousin has been killed. Olga's son and husband on the opposite sides of the conflict are estranged. Many of her friends are compromised and disillusioned. Unexpectedly, Olga reveals her devastating secret. Is that the end of Anya's closest friendship and her love for Filip?

Will she stay or leave once again?



Aneta Marovich began her journey as a writer in Yugoslavia but then switched countries and languages. After migrating to Australia and completing her studies, she worked in education and continued to write, now in her second language.

Her memoir *'Chestnut Street, A Childhood in Tito's Yugoslavia'* was published in 2014.

Olga's Secret is a fictional work based on the author's experiences of migration, confronting differences and barriers in the new country while maintaining strong connection to her country of birth. That country, Yugoslavia imploded tragically in the 1991-95 Balkans war.