

SYNOPSIS

REINVENTING AMY (formerly SHAWNA'S POSTS) by Christopher Sommella

What happens when you find yourself in your mid-thirties, about to ascend to the top of your industry and join the one percent? If you are award-winning designer AMY CARO, you start thinking that maybe all your life choices have been wrong and that maybe your crunchy, train wreck of a younger sister is the one who got life right.

New York's Hunter Publishing Corporation, the place where Amy came of age and honed her craft, has come under the control of avaricious Wall Streeter, FRANK DECARLO. Bent on perverting Hunter's business model for short-term gain, DeCarlo enlists outside designers' including Amy's ex-lover, RON CATES' and forces Amy's mentor, CHARLOTTE TIMMONS, to conduct a corporate makeover so drastic Hunter's future existence is doubtful. When Charlotte gets the opportunity to nominate a candidate for brand director to reinvigorate Hunter, she chooses Amy.

Amy believes her greatest challenge is saving Hunter, but when the family she has struggled to separate herself from roars back into her life she is set on a journey that has her questioning the most sacred tenets by which she lives.

SHAWNA DOUGAL, her thirteen-year-old niece, is the first one to appear. Freshly abandoned by her mother, SONDRA, who is recently divorced from the violent RUSSELL DOUGAL, Shawna has not seen Aunt Amy in over six years. Amy hunts down her neglectful sister to get control of the situation.

With two uninvited houseguests now eating her food and using her computer, Amy stays focused, interviewing with DeCarlo and developing the next version of the mobile software that will deliver Hunter's content.

Just when Amy thinks things are under control, Sondra announces she has landed an acting gig, but it is not on or even off Broadway; it's upstate. Sondra tells Amy she is leaving Shawna in her care for the summer while she is away.

Amy accepts this, but Sondra keeps yet another secret until they get upstate. Sondra has broken off all contact with Russell and cleaned out the bank accounts. She tells Amy that she must keep Shawna with her at all times.

Back in Manhattan, Shawna goes to Hunter under the auspices that she is doing research for a school project. A routine is established, but Russell soon shows up in search of Shawna, first terrorizing Sondra and then attacking Amy. With the help of her colleagues, Amy fends him off, and he must flee the city fearing that her co-workers might press charges. Back home, Russell ends up in trouble due to his adventures and Sondra celebrates. Disgusted by her mother's behaviour, Shawna runs away.

In the end, Amy successfully races to find Shawna and takes back creative control of Hunter. But what started out as a struggle to save a company becomes a journey that culminates with the reappearance of Ron Cates forcing Amy to choose between being the person she thinks she wants to be and the person she knows she should become.