



Daring Gail Sheehy Journalist & Author

By Elman + Perez-Trujillo

Gail Sheehy (b.1937) is an iconic author, journalist, and lecturer. Sheehy is the author of seventeen books, including *Passages* (1976), named by the Library of Congress as one of the ten most influential books of our times. She has written biographies and character studies of major twentieth-century leaders, including Hillary Clinton, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Her most recent book, *Daring: My Passages*, is a page-turner memoir that chronicles her evolution as a writer, her eye-witness to many of the most important movements and events of the past 60 years, and her longtime relationship with and marriage to the dynamic Clay Felker, founder of *New York* magazine and developer of extraordinary writing talent.

As a journalist, Sheehy is best known for articles published in *New York* magazine and *Vanity Fair*. She played a part in the movement Tom Wolfe called the “New Journalism,” in which some journalists and essayists experimented with adopting a variety of literary techniques such as scene setting, dialogue, status details to denote social class, and getting inside the story and sometimes reporting the thoughts of a central character.

We had a chance to record a conversation with Gail at the Miami Book Fair in November, 2015. The videos below are organized by topic and run between 30 seconds and 3 minutes. Tap on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos

INTRODUCTION:

1:24 min.



SERENDIPITY: 1:45 min.



What is your earliest awareness of wanting to be a writer?

LEARNING TO ACT: 1:27 min.



What did you learn in college that was most beneficial to your career?

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION:

1:39 min.



You studied with and were mentored by Margaret Mead at Columbia University. What was her impact on you?

DEVELOP A VOICE: 41 sec.



What was your first “New Journalism” assignment from Clay Felker?

OVERCOMES CHALLENGES:

1:48 min.



What were your early days at New York magazine like?

RELISHING CRAFT: 1:07 min.



You have a great talent for metaphor. Can you describe the evolution of that talent?

SELF-CONFIDENCE: 1:23 min.



What was it like to be thrust into Clay Felker’s social circles as a young woman?