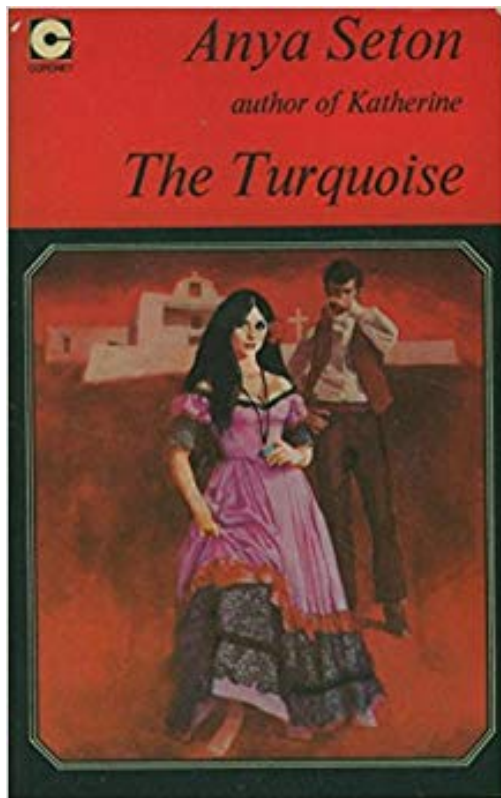


The Turquoise *by* Anya Seton



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Reviews of the *The Turquoise* *by* Anya Seton

Mavegar

I first read *The Turquoise* several years ago, and just read it again. Luckily I didn't remember much about it from the first time around (except the vague notion that it was a really good story), so I was able to enjoy it anew.

The story traces the life of Santa Fe Cameron Dillon Tower and, unlike many of Anya Seton's works, none of the main characters were actual people --except perhaps, as she explains in her forward, Santa Fe herself. The story is wonderfully crafted, full, rich with detail, and showcases Seton's wonderful imagination and ability to build an entire life story around a little scrap of legend she once heard. The first part of the book is beautiful, as Seton paints such a vivid picture of the old city of Santa Fe and the western trails during the mid-19th century. Her writing is nearly flawless; there were many times when I stopped and re-read a passage slowly in order to capture each word and savor Seton's talent for painting a full picture with so few brushstrokes.

If you like lighthearted stories or those with happy endings, then you probably won't like this book. Again and again the reader watches Fey make bad, even devastating, choices, overriding the advice of those who love her and even her own sharp conscience. Although in the end she does eventually face the truth and find redemption, even then it is less than a full healing. She -- and the reader -- fully understands what her life COULD have been, but she bravely shuts the door on that opportunity forever, and does all she can to make amends to those she has damaged, living out the rest of her life with the consequences of her selfish and short-sighted choices.

The only flaw I could find in the book were some aspects of Simeon Tower's personality and behavior. I found it hard to believe that Fey could have won him over so easily. And I found it even harder to believe that such a man, even one as troubled and insecure as Simeon obviously was, would so blatantly and plainly - almost like a child -- express his desire to become part of the "in-crowd". However, I don't feel that this took away from the overall story, and so I am still giving the book a "5".

If you like bittersweet stories that are full and well-written but that don't always end with people living happily ever after, then you will love this book. It is too bad that it has been largely overlooked in the shadow of *Green Darkness* and *Katherine*.

Ce

I couldn't finish this. I loved the first book I read of hers and am regretting jumping right into this one. The plot line is essentially the same: heroine with bright future, veers off path, becomes an unlikable character, hits bottom and has an epiphany, and redemption finale. It made me actually revisit my view of the first book I read.

DireRaven

This is my most favorite of the 7 Anya Seton novels I have thus far read. I should tell you that I'm not entirely objective since I grew up 30 miles from where the story begins and ends. I don't want to spoil the plot for you, but let me say that Seton does an excellent job of including a moral in her story. The characters "buy in" to the lifestyle they hope for at all costs, and cost them it does. I think this would be an excellent book for high school readers, probably not at a Christian school, but I would think o.k. for a public school.

I am aghast that our public library has none of Seton's novels. Also, her historically accurate fiction (not just this book, but all) would also make for great movies or miniseries. Since they were bestsellers when new, it escapes me why they aren't given more respect. (I plan to ask my library to consider purchasing her books.)

Kiaile

Another good book by this author

Shakataxe

Not as good as I remembered from childhood.

Kearanny

Very poignant story...enjoyed it.

Vut

Read this as a teen. A long, long time back. Lived with the theme, but forgot the entire story line. A good read. Glad I re-introduced myself to a book my mother recommended.

This is not one of her better efforts. The characters are shallow and the situations are contrived. The heroine often behaves in ways that are self-serving, but the author tries to find ways to make sure there are redeeming social values attached to whatever is done. The premise is quite good, but the initial theme - that one's "talent" is damaged when used for profit or gain - gets lost along the way. The book was written in 1946, and is reflective of the culture and social mores of the time, but far cry from "Katherine" and "The Winthrop Woman" which are among my all-time favorite books.

Like all the "rediscovered classics" on Kindle, very poorly edited by the publisher. I don't understand why a great effort is not made to edit the mistakes made in the digitizing process.

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