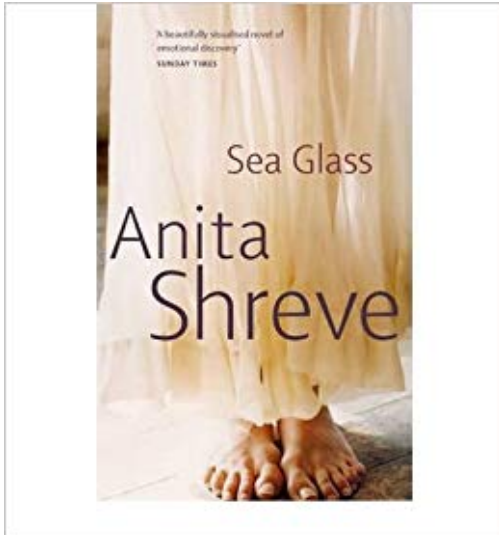


Sea Glass *by* Anita Shreve



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With all the narrative power and emotional immediacy that have made her novels acclaimed international bestsellers, Anita Shreve unfolds a richly engaging tale of marriage, money, and troubled times—the story of a pair of young newlyweds who, setting out to build a life together in a derelict beach house on the Atlantic coast, soon discover how threatening the world outside their front door can be.



Reviews of the *Sea Glass* by Anita Shreve

Kecq

A story of love and loss told during the time of union organization of Northern textile mills and the Stock Market crash of 1929. Honora Willard is a bank teller when one day a persuasive salesman approaches her window for a transaction and her life takes a dramatic turn. Sexton Beecher is the quintessential salesman, quick, slick and sure of himself to a fault. He sweeps Honora off her feet and within a few months they are married. Sexton takes Honora to live in an abandoned sea cottage outside a New England mill town. Her days are spent homemaking and walking the beach collecting bits of sea glass. All seems idyllic until the economic catastrophe that marked the beginning of the Great Depression. Sexton's livelihood is threatened, as is the stability of his ability to continue paying the mortgage on their home, which mortgage he has procured through less than honest means. Then there's the other part of the story: the unrest developing in the Beecher's small town due to the horrific standards by which the mill owners run their business, treating their employees like virtual slaves. This was an entertaining read. My biggest quibble is with the abrupt ending. Seems the author could have come up with something just as dramatic without leaving the reader feeling such a loss at the end...not the loss depicted in the story, but the loss of the story itself.

Arith

At first, Anita Shreve's latest novel had me shaking my head in frustration. I couldn't discern among the many short chapters and their main characters, all seemingly unrelated. I found myself flipping back and forth between chapters to remind myself of who was who. And then something miraculous began to happen: the characters began to cross paths, one by one, and their wildly different lives started to converge. The plot unexpectedly had structure and direction. By the time I reached the end, I was amazed by Shreve's fictive abilities to take a quiet group of character studies to such an explosive conclusion.

Set in a New Hampshire mill town and the nearby coast just before and during the Great Depression, the novel follows several principals affected by the greed of the mill owners. This is typical Shreve territory described in her characteristic starkly beautiful prose. Impatient readers might give up on Shreve's painstaking preparation for the final half of the novel, but the rewards are worth the slow start.

Men might find this title more hospitable than other Shreve titles; her male characters here are strongly drawn and interesting. Although the women tend to be the unbreakable sea glass, the men drive the plot.

I recommend this book for readers of literary fiction and reading groups, the last because Shreve offers history, metaphor, and multidimensional issues - much to talk about. Pass on this if you are in the mood for a page-turner.

Mitars Riders

I thoroughly enjoy reading books by Anita Shreve. At times it was difficult to read about the hardship during this time period. Alphonse was one of my favorite characters as well as Honora and many others. A great read!!

Angeline

Kulwes

I was addicted to this book from the beginning. This author has a unique way of intertwining characters and not being obvious about how they will all affect each others lives. I usually "catch on" when this kind of writing is done in a book. Anita Shreve had me guessing until the ending which not only suprised me but filled me with emotion. I was intrigued with the marriage of Honora and Sexton. When the husband was faced with adversity his reaction caught me off guard. I also liked the character of Vivian. She was a hoot! She can only be described as a smart, sexy, eccentric you just have to love. This book got me "hooked" and I am going to read more that she has written.

I LOVE 228

Because I have been a union member for over 40 years, I enjoyed reading about the hardships suffered before unions.

Binthars

This is not the type of book I would usually buy. I read it for a book club. At first I thought it was going to be just another cheesy romance, and it was much better than that. I liked the way the author switched back and forth from one character to the other giving their point of view of the happenings. This is a good historical novel that delves into romance, action, humor, and the simple complexity of life!

Amis

I have read every book by Anita Shreve. I love her writing. I would not put this one in the same class as *The Weight of Water* or *The Last Time They Met*, but it really was a good read.

It takes place in 1929, 1930 in Fortunes Rocks, where 2 of her other novels took place, *Pilots Wife* and *Fortunes Rocks*. The story basically follows a newly married couple and a few of the other people in their town dealing with the crash of '29 and of course the relationships that Ms. Shreve develops are interesting.

It was a fast read for me. I didn't really get into it until I was about half way through. If you are an Anita Shreve fan at all you will like this one, not as deep as others of hers but still a very good read.

Hated the ending. Which spoiled the whole book for me.

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