



The Glass Ocean

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From the New York Times bestselling authors of *The Forgotten Room* comes a captivating historical mystery, infused with romance, that links the lives of three women across a century—two deep in the past, one in the present—to the doomed passenger liner, RMS Lusitania.

May 2013

Her finances are in dire straits and bestselling author Sarah Blake is struggling to find a big idea for her next book. Desperate, she breaks the one promise she made to her Alzheimer's-stricken mother and opens an old chest that belonged to her great-grandfather, who died when the RMS Lusitania was sunk by a German U-Boat in 1915. What she discovers there could change history. Sarah embarks on an ambitious journey to England to enlist the help of John Langford, a recently disgraced Member of Parliament whose family archives might contain the only key to the long-ago catastrophe. . . .

April 1915

Southern belle Caroline Telfair Hochstetter's marriage is in crisis. Her formerly attentive industrialist husband, Gilbert, has become remote, pre-occupied with business . . . and something else that she can't quite put a finger on. She's hoping a trip to London in Lusitania's lavish first-class accommodations will help them reconnect—but she can't ignore the spark she feels for her old friend, Robert Langford, who turns out to be on the same voyage. Feeling restless and longing for a different existence, Caroline is determined to stop being a bystander, and take charge of her own life. . . .

Tessa Fairweather is traveling second-class on the Lusitania, returning home to Devon. Or at least, that's her story. Tessa has never left the United States and her English accent is a hasty fake. She's really Tennessee Schaff, the daughter of a roving con man, and she can steal and forge just about anything. But she's had enough. Her partner has promised that if they can pull off this one last heist aboard the Lusitania, they'll finally leave the game behind. Tess desperately wants to believe that, but Tess has the uneasy feeling there's something about this job that isn't as it seems. . . .

As the Lusitania steams toward its fate, three women work against time to unravel a plot that will change the course of their own lives . . . and history itself.

The Glass Ocean Details

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From Reader Review The Glass Ocean for online ebook

Elizabeth of Silver's Reviews says

Booking passage on the Lusitania or any ship during WWI would not seem like a good idea to me, but Caroline Hochstetter and Gilbert needed to get closer, and figured this would be a wonderful way to help their relationship. Did Gilbert really agree to the reason they were going on the Lusitania or did he have ulterior motives?

Along with Caroline and Gilbert on a ship in waters that German submarines were prowling, we meet Tess, a female thief, who needed to steal valuable music sheets to pay her bills. We also meet Robert Langford, a man who has been in love with Caroline since the first day he saw her many years ago.

All of the characters had a reason to be on the Lusitania, and the reasons were all different.

Meanwhile the story line moves from the 1915 Lusitania story to present day and introduces the reader to a struggling author, Sarah Blake, who found a trunk containing things of her great grandfather's who perished on the Lusitania. This mystery centered around what could these things have to do with Robert Langford and the story.

And.....what could Sarah, Caroline, and Tess have in common all those years apart. We knew why Robert was there even though it actually was a coincidence that he and Caroline were booked on the same ship.

THE GLASS OCEAN weaves all of these characters together taking us on a ship that was to be a luxury cruise but leads to intrigue, mystery, death, and secrets.

The writing is flawless and beautiful even though I was a bit confused at first about how it all was to fit together. Learning the history of the Lusitania, the life style and protocol of the ship's passengers, and having no sea legs along with the passengers kept my interest.

THE GLASS OCEAN is another marvelously researched book that smoothly moves from chapter to chapter and gives the reader a marvelous history lesson.

One chapter ended and the next began with a take off from one or two words that ended the previous chapter.

ENJOY when you read the newest gem by these lovely, talented ladies. 5/5

This book was given to me as an ARC by the publisher. All opinions are my own.

Robin says

This was a terrific collaboration between three fabulous authors and it kept me riveted. This had everything a reader can't resist: appealing people, tangled love affairs, the intriguing setting of the Lusitania, all splashed with a few tears at the end. Each author created a set of distinct characters and stories that were fluidly

combined into a compelling narrative. I now want to read Erik Larson's "Dead Wake," the book that inspired the authors to set their book during this time period.

Fans of all three authors (Beatriz Williams, Karen White, Lauren Willig) will enjoy this novel with the historical period seamlessly intertwined with contemporary times. This would also work for those who like the authors Kate Morton, Melanie Benjamin, and Susan Miessner, and because of sassiness of Sarah who appears in the contemporary story, JoJo Moyes.

Thanks to the publisher for the advance digital review copy.

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

DNFed at 45%; this wasn't awful, but the writing is very low-quality and the narrative very unengaging. It takes an ocean disaster and turns it into a story of a love triangle and a disgraced writer.

And how about that love triangle, huh? One criminal, one southern belle, and the only dynamic the authors could think to put between these two women was a love triangle. Which I found very disappointing.

And the modern-day plotline is downright boring. We've established a conflict between which of these historical women will make it out and which will either die / not get the guy, but the modern-day character has barely any influence on the plot. Not a fan.

Of course a book can work despite a somewhat tropey and trite plot, but I found myself very uninvested in the characters, despite getting 180 pages into the novel. And though I can feel a buildup to revelations I'm sure will be interesting enough, I can safely say right now that I won't find this very memorable given my personal tastes.

Susan Peterson says

A love triangle, espionage, mystery, romance...and the backdrop of the sinking of Lusitania....brilliantly and beautifully written by the most wonderful trio of authors; The Glass Ocean is a masterpiece of storytelling. This compelling story is told from three points of view: modern day Sarah, an author whose quest for a bestseller takes her to England to investigate the mysterious connection between her great-grandfather and another man who were both onboard Lusitania; Caroline, married to a successful businessman who is secretive and cold; Tess, a forger and con-artist who is traveling on the ship. All three women are remarkable...resilient, talented women, each at a crossroads, their fates thrown together by the tragedy that was Lusitania. I read each page, each beautifully written phrase, with my heart in my throat.

Dorie ** Traveling Sister says**

This book was a 2 ½ rounded up to a 3. My review is going to be different from many that I've read so far. This book first had me disliking it, then liking it, then disliking it again. It didn't help I guess that I had just watched Titanic with my granddaughter for about the 10th time. Here's what I thought.

There is such an extensive blurb for this book that I will just give you snippets of what the book is about. There are three different narrators, two that will be aboard the Lusitania in the past and one in the present, or at least 2013.

Caroline is the wife of a very wealthy industrialist Gilbert Hochstetter, she has felt that lately her husband has been preoccupied and not very attentive to her. She is hoping this trip to London will rekindle the marriage fires. Gilbert is definitely up to something, but what?

“Tessa Fairweather is traveling second-class on the Lusitania, returning home to Devon. Or at least, that’s her story. Tessa has never left the United States and her English accent is a hasty fake. She’s really Tennessee Schaff, the daughter of a roving con man, and she can steal and forge just about anything” Her sister Ginny is the one who talked her into this “job” aboard the Lusitania. She was under the impression that she was going to steal and then copy a long lost waltz by Strauss, but when she finds out this is about something much more she wants out of the job! She isn’t even sure of what she found in the safe, what is this extra sheet of paper with numbers, etc????

Sarah Blake is a best selling author but in 2013 she is struggling to find her next big idea for a book. She breaks a promise to her mother and opens a chest that belonged to her great-great grandfather. She finds references to the sinking of the Lusitania and perhaps something else that might make for a great story. She decides to go to England to find John Landford whose family archives etc might hold the secret to what really happened on the Lusitania.

Confused yet? I certainly was. I usually don’t mind books that go back and forth in time, in fact I like that writing style, but this book did not flow smoothly for me. Add to that there are several romantic triangles, none of which were very convincing as the women kept changing their minds as to whom they loved.

I felt that there were many comparisons to the story of the Titanic in the beginning including the description of the opulence aboard the ship, etc. Tess also just happened to be a remarkable sketch artist, very, very talented, sound familiar??

When I researched the sinking of the Lusitania, just through Goggle, it seemed crazy that the ship even sailed when the Germans had warned the US and Britain that they would attack any ships sailing in a war zone. According to the book they were supposed to have an escort by the British Navy but there is no history to support that according to what I found.

I really wanted to like this book but it ended up being just an o.k. read for me and at times really confusing and annoying to sort out. I’m giving it 3 stars because the premise was a good one and there was some good writing here.

I received an ARC of this novel from the publisher through Edelweiss.

Creager says

[and shocker not because of the adultery (hide spoiler)]

Jess says

The alternating POV chapters in this didn't really work for me, because I didn't like Caroline, I was meh on Tess, and I liked Sarah a lot, but her story obviously got the least amount of attention. I would have happily just read a novel about her. The rest was sort of disappointing.

Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

4 absorbing stars to *The Glass Ocean*! ?? ?? ?? ??

I'm a fan of each of these authors, and when they joined forces previously to co-author *The Forgotten Room*, magic happened multiplied by three. My brief gushing review of *The Forgotten Room* is on Goodreads.

The Glass Ocean is a historical mystery blending time and place across three narrators, two a century in the past, and one in the present.

In 1915, Caroline Telfair Hochstetter is a southern belle married to Gilbert, who was once attentive to her but is now distant and overworked. She plans a trip for them to London aboard the *Lusitania* in the lap of luxury and hopes it will be a turning point in their marriage. At the same time, an old male friend of hers is also aboard the ship, and Caroline feels a connection to him, while also restless and discontent; not exactly how she expected to feel on this alluring vacation.

Also in 1915, Tessa Fairweather is aboard the *Lusitania*, and she is returning home to Devon, but that is not exactly the truth. Tessa is an American with a fake accent to boot. In truth, she's the daughter of a famous con, and is a con in her own right, but she craves an end to that part of her life. Her partner has one more trick in mind, and then they can move on with life.

In the present day, Sarah Blake is a bestselling author with troubled finances. She finds herself opening a chest she had promised her mother she would not open. It belonged to her great-grandfather who passed away on the *Lusitania* in 1915. She discovers a mystery and travels to London for help in solving it.

Everyone knows what happens to the *Lusitania* on that fateful day. With one chapter ending and the next beginning with one or two words from the previous, the masterfully blended narratives build the tension of the mystery at its heart.

I loved all three characters. They are strong women with secrets to hide and brave stories to tell. There's a love triangle and a mystery with a backdrop of the *Lusitania* steaming forward towards its tragic demise. Seamless writing, a sense of adventure, and exceptional storytelling define *The Glass Ocean*, and I hope these three authors come together again for another spellbinding read!

Thank you to William Morrow for the complimentary ARC. All opinions are my own.

My reviews can also be found on my blog: www.jennifertarheelreader.com

Dauida Chazan says

Watch this space for my review of this historical fiction novel.

Tammy says

There is so much to love in this beautifully written book! The glamour and sinking of the Lusitania, espionage and a love triangle. I loved reading the three different viewpoints in the story. Williams, Willig and White knocked it out of the park with The Glass Ocean!

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

THE GLASS OCEAN is a joined project by authors Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig and Karen White. It's a book about the fate of three women. Two of the women were on board the doomed passenger Line, RMS Lusitania. Although they differ in class. While Caroline Telfair Hochstetter is traveling in first class is Tessa Fairweather traveling in second class. But, both women's lives will intertwine...

Years later bestselling author Sarah Blake breaks her promise to her mother and opens the old chest that belonged to her great-grandfather. He died when RMS Lusitania sank after a hit from a German U-Boat in 1915. What she finds makes her travel from the US to England. There she obtains the help from John Langford to find out more about what she found in the chest...

I'm a fan of Beatriz Williams, have read almost all of her books. So far, haven't I read that many books by Lauren Willig and Karen White. I was, therefore, curious to see how this joint collaboration would work out for me. I would say it's a book that for me felt a bit predictable, and I struggled a bit with the storylines from 1915. It's a risk while reading a book with a dual storyline that you will find yourself more taken with one of them. In this case, there are three women's stories we are following and I found Caroline's storyline to be the one I had the hardest time enjoying. It could be the fact that she suddenly out of the blue started to have feelings for another man while at the same time being in love with her husband. I just couldn't find myself truly enjoying this triangle drama. I found Tess's story, and her character to be more much interesting and engaging to read about. Especially as her story started to mix more and more with Caroline's. And it's Tess interaction with Caroline that makes Caroline a bit more interesting to read about.

Then we have Sarah Blake. Without a doubt was it the modern storyline that I liked the best. I enjoyed her hunt for the truth. Her growing closeness to John Langford. Sarah for me was the character I found I liked so much that I almost groaned when it was time to go back to the 1915s. Although there is one event, one so totally frustrating towards the end of the book. That typical "let's throw in a predictable problem between Sarah and John," that almost made me scream with annoyance. I had myself a face-palm moment there.

Still, I liked the ending. And, part of me wanted more. I had wanted to learn more about what happened after RMS Lusitania sank, not just snippets at the end. And, I loved that Beatriz Williams threw in a connection to her own books in that there were two ladies on the ship with a familiar surname...

I want to thank William Morrow for providing me with a free copy through Edelweiss for an honest review!

Rachael says

HOLY CRAP THIS SOUNDS AMAZING

Amy Bruno says

Absolutely amazing!

Raela says

LOVED this book! It combined so many of my favorite things and kept me guessing. I was initially unsure about 2 of the 3 POVs being in the same time (rather than 3 separate time periods), but I ended up loving that too. Everyone should look forward to its release in October!

Fancy review:

This novel is Williams, Willig, and White's second collaboration after the 2016 release of their first collaboration, and it makes for yet another entertaining dual-time read. The story follows the points of view of three women, one from 2013 and two from almost a hundred years earlier during the sailing of the Lusitania. The modern-day heroine is a descendant of a Lusitania employee and finds her path crossing with the descendant of a passenger with a mysterious connection to her own family. As she looks for answers, the perspectives of the historical heroines shed further light on the mystery and the intersections of all three storylines are effortlessly woven together. Readers who enjoy absorbing historical and contemporary stories rife with secrets and intrigue will find this an absorbing and fast-paced read!

Jamie Rosenblit says

Three different narratives, one sinking ship. What is not to love here? This story is centered around the sinking of The Lusitania ship and is told in present day from a writer investigating a distant family member who was aboard, and two women, both of whom are hiding something - albeit very different things! I can say with confidence you will greatly enjoy watching how all three stories converge throughout this beautiful novel.

I received an advance copy. All opinions are my own.
