



The Light Between Oceans: A Novel

By M. L. Stedman

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The years-long *New York Times* bestseller soon to be a major motion picture from Spielberg's Dreamworks that is "irresistible...seductive...with a high concept plot that keeps you riveted from the first page" (*O, The Oprah Magazine*).

After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby.

Tom, who keeps meticulous records and whose moral principles have withstood a horrific war, wants to report the man and infant immediately. But Isabel insists the baby is a "gift from God," and against Tom's judgment, they claim her as their own and name her Lucy. When she is two, Tom and Isabel return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world. Their choice has devastated one of them.

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The Light Between Oceans: A Novel By M. L. Stedman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, August 2012: Tom Sherbourne is a lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, a tiny island a half day's boat journey from the coast of Western Australia. When a baby washes up in a rowboat, he and his young wife Isabel decide to raise the child as their own. The baby seems like a gift from God, and the couple's reasoning for keeping her seduces the reader into entering the waters of treacherous morality even as Tom--whose moral code withstood the horrors of World War I--begins to waver. M. L. Stedman's vivid characters and gorgeous descriptions of the solitude of Janus Rock and of the unpredictable Australian frontier create a perfect backdrop for the tale of longing, loss, and the overwhelming love for a child that is *The Light Between Oceans*. --*Malissa Kent*

Review

"An extraordinary and heart-rending book about good people, tragic decisions and the beauty found in each of them."—**Markus Zusak, author of *The Book Thief***

"M.L. Stedman's *The Light Between Oceans* is a beautiful novel about isolation and courage in the face of enormous loss. It gets into your heart stealthily, until you stop hoping the characters will make different choices and find you can only watch, transfixed, as every conceivable choice becomes an impossible one. I couldn't look away from the page and then I couldn't see it, through tears. It's a stunning debut."—**Maile Meloy, author of *Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It***

"M.L. Stedman, a spectacularly sure storyteller, swept me to a remote island nearly a century ago, where a lighthouse keeper and his wife make a choice that shatters many lives, including their own. This is a novel in which justice for one character means another's tragic loss, and we care desperately for both. Reading *The Light Between Oceans* is a total-immersion experience, extraordinarily moving."—**Monica Ali, author of *Brick Lane* and *Untold Story***

"Irresistible...seductive...a high concept plot that keeps you riveted from the first page."—**Sara Nelson, O, the Oprah magazine**

"Haunting...Stedman draws the reader into her emotionally complex story right from the beginning, with lush descriptions of this savage and beautiful landscape, and vivid characters with whom we can readily empathize. Hers is a stunning and memorable debut."—**Booklist, starred review**

"[Stedman sets] the stage beautifully to allow for a heart-wrenching moral dilemma to play out... Most impressive is the subtle yet profound maturation of Isabel and Tom as characters."—**Publishers Weekly, starred review**

"The miraculous arrival of a child in the life of a barren couple delivers profound love but also the seeds of destruction. Moral dilemmas don't come more exquisite than the one around which Australian novelist Stedman constructs her debut."—**Kirkus Reviews, starred review**

"This heartbreaking debut from M L Stedman is a gem of a book that you'll have trouble putting down"—**Good Housekeeping**

"This fine, suspenseful debut explores desperation, morality, and loss, and considers the damaging ways in

which we store our private sorrows, and the consequences of such terrible secrets.”—*Martha Stewart Whole Living*

“As time passes the harder the decision becomes to undo and the more towering is its impact. This is the story of its terrible consequences. But it is also a description of the extraordinary, sustaining power of a marriage to bind two people together in love, through the most emotionally harrowing circumstances.”—**Victoria Moore**, *The Daily Mail*

“A love story that is both persuasive and tender...”—**Elizabeth Buchan**, *The Sunday Times (UK)*

“What an extraordinary book this is. Tom, traumatised on the western front, takes a job as lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, 100 miles off the Australian coast between the Indian and Southern oceans, where he hopes that the vast surrounding emptiness will bring him peace. When after three years and as many miscarriages his wife hears a baby's cry and discovers a dead man and a baby in a washed up dinghy, she feels her prayers have been answered. The ensuing tragedy is as inevitable as Hardy at his most doom-laden. And as unforgettable.”—**Sue Arnold**, *Guardian*

“Lyrical...Stedman’s debut signals a career certain to deliver future treasures.” (*People*)

“A beautifully delineated tale of love and loss, right and wrong, and what we will do for the happiness of those most dear.” (Tova Beiser *The Boston Globe*)

“Elegantly rendered...heart-wrenching...the relationship between Tom and Isabel, in particular, is beautifully drawn.” (Elysa Gardner *USA Today*)

Told with the authoritative simplicity of a fable...Stedman’s intricate descriptions of the craggy Australian coastline and her easy mastery of an old-time provincial vernacular are engrossing. As the couple at the lighthouse are drawn into an increasingly tragic set of consequences, these remote, strange lives are rendered immediate and familiar.” (*The New Yorker*)

About the Author

M.L. Stedman was born and raised in Western Australia and now lives in London. *The Light Between Oceans* is her first novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karen Shiner:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the books. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write for their book. One of them is this *The Light Between Oceans: A Novel*.

Carroll Torres:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love The Light Between Oceans: A Novel, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Robert Bell:

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Dawn Dustin:

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