



The Paradise of Glass

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Johanna, the oldest of the three Steinmann sisters, has successfully managed the family glassblowing business since her father's death, and her sister Marie's artistic gifts have made their wares unexpectedly famous. But now the livelihood of the town of Lauscha, Germany - known around the world as the "paradise of glass" - is in danger. The local glassworks is about to be sold, and rumor has it the buyer wants to make changes that will challenge glassblowing tradition.

Wanda, the daughter of the middle Steinmann sister, is freshly arrived from America and engaged to an ambitious local glassblower. Yet as soon as the bold young woman learns of the impending sale, she decides to do as her mother and aunts did - cast aside her expected role in order to save the day. With the help of a handsome bank clerk, she will take a daring risk with the villagers' hard-earned money. Just like glass, though, love and commerce are fragile, and what begins as their last hope may just end in shattered dreams.

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The Paradise of Glass Details

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From Reader Review The Paradise of Glass for online ebook

Wanda Marchand says

Very disappointed in this last book of the series especially after such a long wait.

I found the story line very wordy and the characters bland. The main character that I had such hopes for from the last book, was winey and unimaginative. The story tedious. I really enjoyed the first two books and was so disappointed in the death of one of the main characters that could have given the final part of the story so much more depth and sparkle. I waited a long time for this book and cannot recall when my anticipation has been so unworthy of the wait.

There was great promise in this storyline and while I was pleased to see a past wrong righted it was so far fetched it made this ending of the series disappointing beyond words.

Marianna says

Thank you to NetGalley and Amazon Publishing for providing me an ARC of this wonderful book in exchange for an honest review.

What differentiates an okay story from a great novel? To me, the answer is simple. An okay story is just that - okay.... I can live with it or without it. But.... a great novel is a story that makes me feel - it makes me believe - it pulls me in without any effort and I experience the story. I'm no longer just a reader, I am a participant and an integral part of the plot - the shadow of the main character. That is how Petra Durst-Benning's The Glassblower Trilogy has made me feel. I have adored every word and experienced every feeling. I am a huge fan of her work and the stories she weaves.

With the third and final novel to this trilogy, The Paradise of Glass, we are back in the small village of Lauscha, Germany where more drama unfolds with the Glassblower community. Our heroine, Wanda Miles, is young, ambitious, and anxious to find a niche where she belongs in the world. As her story unfolded, I was continuously gripped with uncontrollable and extreme emotions for her and the situations she found herself in. One moment I was virtually cussing about the inequality of women's roles back in 1911 and the next minute I was happy that romance was brewing. Throughout the entire book, I felt part of the storyline and experienced it as if I were actually there among the people of Lauscha. The story came alive for me and I was extremely excited to follow Wanda on her adventures.

This novel has thrown a few curve balls at me. First, I went into this novel virtually hating Thomas Heimer, Wanda's father, because of the previous two books and the role his character played within the storyline; however, within the first few chapters I found myself warming up to him and by the time I was half way through the book, I really liked the guy. He has grown older, wiser, and more mature. He has become supportive and almost "loving". He actually stepped up to the role of "father" and that made me really proud of him. Second, I went into this novel virtually falling over my own feet in love with Richard; however, by the time I was half way through with the book, I did not like him very much any more. He had proven to be less mature than I had hoped. He turned out to be self-centered and egotistical. He cared about his work way too much and definitely more than he cared about Wanda and that made me really angry at him and his inability to care about those who cared for him. Finally, Friedhelm Strobel - what can I say? I absolutely despised him in the earlier books and I hate him even more now. He is a true villain whose evil actions and thoughts cast a shadow over the entire book. I just wanted to conjure up some magic, dive into the pages of the book, and knock his silly, nasty butt right to the devil himself.

The one absolute truth is that the ending was extremely satisfying. I was really pleased with the way the story folded up and concluded. I highly recommend this book for everyone who enjoys a great historical fiction with a twist of small village drama. I loved reading about life in the early 1900s and enjoyed the development and growth of each of the characters. I think this book is well suited for Upper High School grades and beyond with minimal adult situations and language.

Bronwyn Carlisle says

It's an OK book. Author should do a bit more research though, has kiwifruit being called that in New Zealand in 1910, when they were Chinese gooseberries until the 1960s. If you can't get your bits of "colour" right, you're better to omit them.

Judy says

This final episode of the trilogy was much better than the second. It held my interest right to the end with several mysteries that were somewhat predictable. But I am disappointed in the ending; it fell flat. Overall, I enjoyed the series and recommend it.

Anna Patterson says

This is a Book Review of the book: THE PARADISE OF GLASS by Petra Durst-Benning, and is in THE GLASS BLOWER TRILOGY; the Glass Blower, The American Lady. The book is 383 pages. Publisher is Amazon Publishing, Amazon Crossing. This is in genre's including Women's Fiction' Literature and Fiction (Adult).

This book is translated by Samuel Willcocks and is published by Amazon Crossing.
This book is Book Three of this Trilogy. Publication date is September 22, 2015.

This Book Review is posted by Anna Patterson. Writer, Journalist, Book Reviewer, date to be set, 2015

I am a blogger and reviewer. I was privileged to read this book as a professional reviewer on Net Galley. I received a copy to read through the Net galley program in exchange for an honest and unbiased review which I am happy to share now.

I would give this book Five Stars. When I started reading it, I found it was one of those books I couldn't put down.

. I wanted to share my interest in this book with my friends; I am posting a review on several of my blog site. This book begins in the year of 1911. A girl named, Wanda, is considering serious issues while she waits at a train station she knows well, since she knows many travel from a small town, Lauscha, to a place where glassblowers like those of her family, travel to deliver their artistic pieces to a wholeseller, in nearby Sonneberg.

At one point, the family's life which is very much tied into their talents in the glassblowers Paradise of Glass, is further explained in this way, "Johanna snorted, "Well that's another thing! You know that I think

the world of Richard; he's an excellent glass blower. But will he be such an excellent husband? I don't know."

There are so many beautiful moments in this book as a close artistic and hard-working family's dynasty is shared with readers. Such as this one, "If anything goes wrong then you must simply pack your bags and come home." Ruth sobbed, and then she hugged her daughter so tightly that Wanda could hardly breathe."

Just a note of description furnished about the book: Johanna is the oldest of three sisters of the Steinmann family. They have successfully managed the family's glassblowing business since their father's death and her sister Marie's artistic gifts made their wares famous. The problem is that the entire livelihood of Lauscha, a town in Germany, known throughout the world as the "Paradise of Glass" is threatened. The local glassworks is to be sold and there is a rumor the buyer intends changes which will come against the glassblowing tradition.

Wanda, daughter of the middle sister, arrives from America and is engaged to an ambitious local glassblower. It is she who will take a daring risk with the villagers' hard-earned money. Her heroic efforts are described in this way, "Just like glass, though, love and commerce are fragile, and what begins as their last hope may just end in shattered dreams."

About the author this note from the publisher: Bestselling author Petra Durst-Benning has written seventeen novels. As a child and young woman, Durst-Benning frequently visited the United States, where she developed a passion for American fiction that has since inspired her own writing careers. She now lives in her native Germany with her husband.

Lisa Huffaker says

And they lived happily ever after!

It seems I must have enjoyed the first two books in the Glassblower trilogy enough to continue the final book of the series, *The American Lady*. It has been a few months since I read the first two and I found myself thinking, were they as bad as this one? What made me even want to read the second book if that was the case? As this one was so bad, I've concluded there is no way I would have continued with the series if this was the first book; the others were enjoyable and held my interest. I did love reading about the art of glassblowing and the history of Christmas ornaments. I especially liked that the story revolved around one of my favorite themes; strong female characters overcoming adversity. However everything in *The American Lady* is so contrived, so predictable. I am generally forgiving when fiction has a couple of manipulated scenes to assist with the flow of the narrative; it's fiction. However, the author seems to exert far too many artificial events in *The American Lady*. The ending especially suffered because of this. I like a happy ending as much as anybody, but this one was too much of a fairytale for me! And they all lived happily ever after! This one was just a little too sappy for me!

Marianne says

Least favorite

The characters in this final book of the trilogy are not coherent. They jump from acting one way to being so out of their usual traits that the book is clumsy.

Jill says

Another solid book in the series.

Karen says

This book is third in the Glassblower series. The series was wrapped up neatly, but this 3rd book was blah. 2 stars out of 5.

Overall, I would give the whole series 3 stars out of 5.

Linda says

A good read

I really enjoyed the entire trilogy. I learned a lot about glass blowing and glass making. I enjoyed learning about the German town and the residents. Good story line in all three of the books. Good character development. Read all the books!

Jool says

Petra Durst-Benning writes the most historical fiction novels I have read. This entire series, The Glassblower, is amazing. I highly recommend this author.

Betty says

Third in the series.

I'm glad I read this one to finish the trilogy. It was not as good as the rest. I loved one and two. Had parts were really dragged.

Patti L Bennett says

Disappointed

Was hopeful to learn more about glass art. I had hoped the strengths of the women characters would have been more developed in this last episode of the trilogy. I recommend the trilogy however. The covers are as wonderful as the reading.

Debbie says

Good books

These three books were enjoyable reads. From the very first you were drawn in to the lives of the glassblowers. The characters were all so very important to the story line and the plot was so well thought out. This was a thumbs up series.

Sierra says

--Goodreads Giveaway Book--

I didn't realize at first that this was the completion to a trilogy. Once I did realize that, I requested the first two books from my library. That process took awhile so after reading the first installment, *The Glassblower*, I skipped *The American Lady*, and went straight to *The Paradise of Glass*. I said all that to say that this book sums up the first two wonderfully. I didn't feel like I missed any important details from the second book I didn't read.
