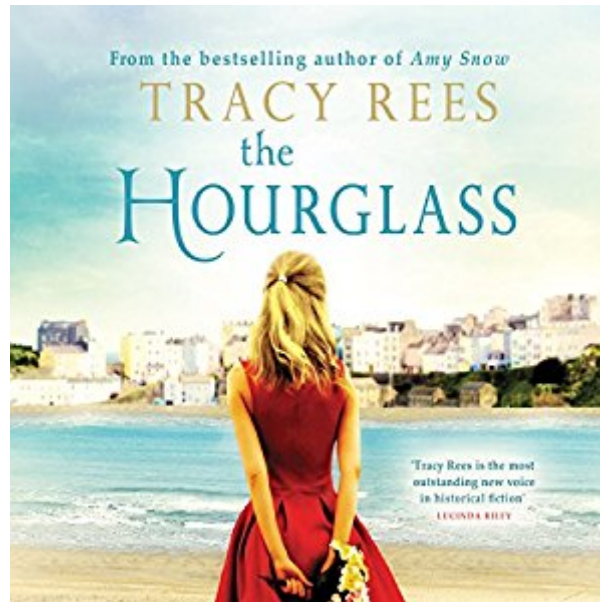




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The Hourglass



Synopsis

'Tracy Rees is the most outstanding new voice in historical fiction.' (Lucinda Riley) It's 2014.

Sensible Nora has always taken success for granted until suddenly her life begins to fall apart.

Troubled by anxiety and nightmares, she finds herself drawn to the sweeping beaches of Tenby, a place she's been only once before. Together with a local girl, she rents a beautiful townhouse and slowly begins to settle in to her new life. But Tenby hides a secret, and Nora will soon discover that this little town by the sea has the power to heal even the most painful memories. It's 1950.

Teenager Chloe visits Tenby every summer. She stays with relatives and spends the long, idyllic days on the beach. Every year is the same until she meets a glamorous older boy and is instantly smitten. But on the night of their first date, Chloe comes to a realisation, the aftermath of which could haunt her forever. The Hourglass is a moving novel about reinvention and reconciliation, about finding love even after it seems too late, about family and the healing power of a magical place by the sea.

Book Information

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Romance > Time Travel

Customer Reviews

Excellent, loved it, was sorry when it ended!!

I've loved Tracy Rees first two books so really wanted to read this one

It's not the usual historical fair although one story is set in the 1950s but it does have all the hallmarks of her lovely evocative writing and interweaving

stories. It's also a novel and story where the town of Tenby was very carefully

chosen. It's its size, history and atmosphere makes this a quaint inward looking place that can be a typically Welsh seaside town with all the fun of the fair one minute and then you see it as a place of refuge, a place to return to and find answers. It seemed so small and innocent which I think added to the intrigue of what must have happened here to make two women feel such strong emotions for it. I did find Chloe's story more enthralling and more colourful but maybe that's the nature of the story. As a carefree town it was always going to be the place which shines the most. I was keen to find out just what Nora's link was to the place and loved the fact it was her grandmother who was going to be involved there. It's something very satisfying about finding out secrets of the past from older members of the family. I now have to go to Tenby as Tracy has evoked this town so well leaving the drama firmly in the pages of the book of course. A story of how a place, a town can help you to reinvent yourself and to write a future that is better than your past.

In 2014 Norah is unhappy with her life - she has split up with her partner and is working in a job that she doesn't enjoy - so when she keeps getting visions of a beach town in Wales - Tenby - even though she has only been there once before she decides to pack up and go there. In 1950 Chloe goes to Tenby to stay with her aunt and uncle for the summer, she has a best friend Llew there and she always looks forward to getting involved in the town life especially spending her summers on the beach. As the two stories progress we see Norah build up her confidence and start to enjoy life without the constant anxiety and Chloe is a typical young girl enjoying a summer break at the beach.....until she meets an older boy. Can the secrets of the town be healed? A great story - I love this author's writing - really good characters and you get invested in the lives of both timelines equally whereas so often in these sorts of books you get drawn far more into one than the other - definitely a book I would recommend for the summer

This is a lovely long family saga, to read and enjoy for many hours. Nora is forty and single, she works and lives in London. She has been suffering from anxiety recently and now dreams of a beach that she visited long ago. So she gives up her mundane job, leases out her flat and moves to beautiful Tenby. Our other storyline which starts in the 1950's is about Jasmine, previously known as Chloe, who is Nora's mother. She visits Tenby every year from ten years old until dramatic events change everything for her when she is eighteen. The past catches up to the present in a great story.! Read on!

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