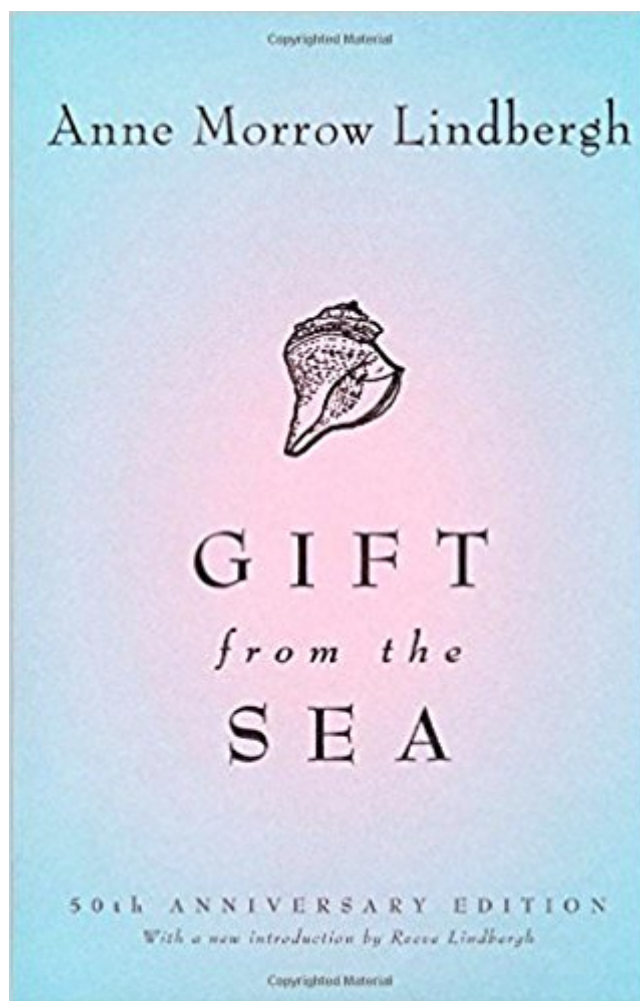


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Gift From The Sea: 50th-Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

In this inimitable classic—graceful, lucid, and lyrical—Anne Morrow Lindbergh shares her meditations on youth and age, love and marriage, peace, solitude, and contentment during a brief vacation by the sea. Drawing inspiration from the shells on the shore, Lindbergh's musings on the shape of a woman's life will bring new understanding to readers, male and female, at any stage of life. A mother of five and professional writer, she casts an unsentimental eye at the trappings of modern life that threaten to overwhelm us -- the timesaving gadgets that complicate our lives, the overcommitments that take us from our families -- and by recording her own thoughts in a brief escape from her everyday demands, she guides her readers to find a space for contemplation and creativity in their own lives. With great wisdom and insight she describes the shifting shapes of relationships and marriage, presenting a vision of a life lived in enduring and evolving partnership. A groundbreaking work when it was first published, this book has retained its freshness as it has been rediscovered by generations of readers and is no less current today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found a 1955 printing of this book in an old waterfront cabin and was struck by the care with which the previous owner had read it. Eve (the name inscribed inside the front cover and then again above the heading for chapter 3) made pencil marks on nearly every paragraph of the book, underlining a phrase, highlighting many passages with strong vertical marks, scratching out some words that she seems to have found superfluous and even x-ing out whole sections that apparently missed their mark with her altogether. Two rusting paper clips isolate several pages, absent any marking at all.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh's lyrical words are still relevant and presage so many of the themes of today's most popular books: simplicity, peaceful solitude, caring for the soul, a woman finding her place in society and life. I heard that the woman who had lived in the cabin had actually passed away some time before. Thank you, Eve, for your gift... from the sea.

modern-day classic. "Gift from the Sea is like a shell itself in its small and perfect form . . . It tells of light and life and love and the security that lies at the heart."--New York Times Book Review.

Thoughtful observations directed toward women about phases of life. Written beautifully with a gentle tone, these are thoughts and self reflections observed in solitude while she vacationed for a week by the undulating sea. Written decades ago, but so quotidian and profound, the truths are just as relevant today. This is a book I could read over and over, but I don't think I would have really embraced it if I'd read it earlier in life. It requires a thought and focus I wouldn't have given it until my 40s or 50s. A classic, yet a well-kept secret. I'd never heard of until recently.

Written in 1955, with an addendum in 1973, I can see why this book sold so well, and why it remains so popular. It's the kind of contemplative book everyone wishes they could write, and to say this book is prescient would be an understatement. From the Wikipedia post, this says it well: Lindbergh wrote this essay-style work taking shells on the beach for inspiration, and reflecting on the lives of Americans, particularly American women, in the mid-twentieth century. She shares her meditations on youth and age; love and marriage; peace, solitude and contentment during her visit. Sometimes classified as inspirational literature, the book presages many of the themes in that genre of popular literature: simplicity, solitude and caring for the soul. Gift from the Sea is a pretty quick read, but well worth the price of admission. The target audience was clearly women, but it's a book for men as well, and what really stands out is how prescient this book was, and how relevant the book remains over 60 years after it was written. A big thumbs up for an interesting and quick read.

Gift from the Sea resonated with me to a magnitude I did not expect. While some of the troubles of a housewife feel a bit dated, the struggle to find happiness, meaning, and balance ring true today for women, but also for men. I hope these invigorating chapters give me motivation to spend more time looking inwards for happiness, and to dedicate more time to myself.

A beautiful little book. Easy to read, comfortable, thoughtful and deep but so clearly written. Anne

Lindbergh had a remarkable way of relating. I ordered 8 copies and gave them to my dearest friends and family members. After 50 years, it still has so much to offer for anyone, but especially for women. I think every young woman starting out in life could benefit, and you could easily read it in a weekend, or even a long, lovely, lazy day.

I first read Gifts From The Sea when I was in high school. It is one of those classics every one should read. It is probably my favorite of all the books written by Mrs. Lindbergh. I purchased this used copy because I was intrigued by the illustrations and I love to handle a well-loved book!

Loved it. Author really got into the minds of women with her imagery of the sea and its surrounding objects (sand, shells, tides, etc.)'published in 1955, the author established her own legacy as a writer independent of her famous husband, Charles Lindberg. It now sits on my cherished books/authors shelf in my house.

Staying on course when life meets expectations, and change is inevitable, requires us to understand and embrace the many seasons of woman's (or a man's) life. See the ebb and flow of life through the author's contemplation of the gift of life in and of the sea.

I related to several points or "shells" in this book. I have felt the need to simplify for some time now. As a career woman I also feel the pressures of taking on more of the outer strengths of males. I can also recognize that I need to create more and spend more time just replenishing so I have enough in my cup to give away to others without depleting myself to exhaustion. This book was written when my mother was a child but the words are still relevant for women today.

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