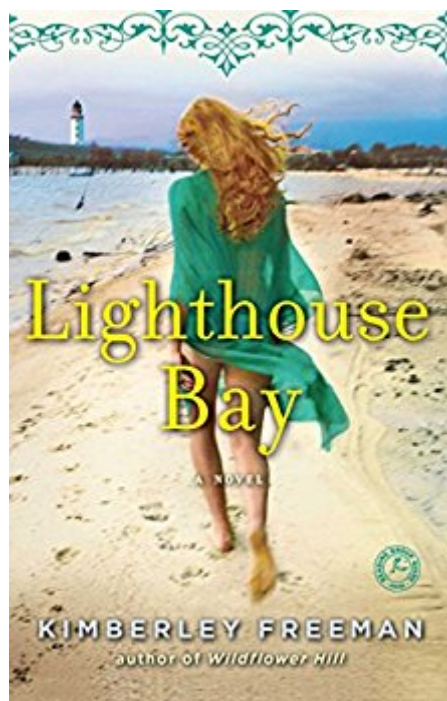


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Lighthouse Bay: A Novel



Synopsis

From the author of *Wildflower Hill*, this breathtaking novel travels more than a century between two love stories set in the Australian seaside town of Lighthouse Bay. FROM THE AUTHOR OF WILDFLOWER HILL, THIS BREATHTAKING NOVEL TRAVELS MORE THAN A CENTURY BETWEEN TWO LOVE STORIES SET IN THE AUSTRALIAN SEASIDE TOWN OF LIGHTHOUSE BAY. In 1901, a ship sinks off the coast of Lighthouse Bay in Australia. The only survivor is Isabella Winterbourne—escaping her loveless marriage and the devastating loss of her son—who clutches a priceless gift meant for the Australian Parliament. Suddenly, this gift could be her ticket to a new life, free from the bonds of her husband and his overbearing family. One hundred years later, Libby Slater leaves her life in Paris to return to her hometown of Lighthouse Bay. Living in the cottage that was purchased by her recently passed lover, she hopes to heal her broken heart and reconcile with her sister, Juliet. Libby did something so unforgivable twenty years ago, Juliet is unsure if she can ever trust her sister again. In this adventurous love story spanning centuries, both Isabella and Libby must learn that letting go of the past is the only way to move into the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When you pick up a Kimberley Freeman novel, there's a sense in which you know what you're

getting: a wonderful few hours in which to lose yourself in a marvellous time and space, where there's romance, secrets, mystery, broken hearts and souls and the tools for characters to mend these if they so desire. Her books are like the best comfort food there is. Lighthouse Bay, a tale that takes place in two different time frames and explores the lives of three very different women who are connected by the vagaries of life, men, and place, is no exception. It is a gorgeously woven and cleverly plotted tale of loss, desire, memory and its power to render an individual static, and the incredible might of forgiveness to facilitate change, especially, self-forgiveness. It commences with a shipwreck in 1901, when commissioned with making and transporting a gloriously jewelled parliamentary mace to Australia for Federation, the callous, unemotional and aristocratic Arthur Winterbourne, insists his wife, the grieving Isabella, accompany him. When the vessel they're on is shipwrecked on the north-east coast of Queensland, not too far from the Sunshine Coast, and Isabella is the only survivor, not only must she brave the natural elements to survive, but human ones and the memories of her tragic past as well. Switch to current times, and we're introduced to the Libby Slater, a web designer living in Paris who, having lost the love of her life, decides to return to the place of her birth, the imagined Lighthouse Bay, to grieve, recollect herself and, possibly, face some dreadful demons - including her estranged sister, Juliet, who cannot forgive her sister for the terrible thing she did twenty years earlier.

In this intriguing novel, Kimberley Freeman weaves together two stories. After the death of her lover in Paris, Libby Slater returns to her childhood home of Lighthouse Bay on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. She's been away for 20 years after a tragic event that put a wedge between her and her sister Juliet. Can the sisters forgive each other and move on from the past? In 1901, Isabella Winterbourne is the sole survivor of a shipwreck near Lighthouse Bay that claimed her husband and thus freed her from a loveless marriage. The treasure she holds in her hands could help her build a new life with her sister in America, but she is torn by her growing love for Matthew the lighthouse keeper and her unresolved grief over the death of her infant son three years previously. Can she escape her grief and find the happiness that has eluded her? In this book, Kimberley Freeman expertly weaves the two storylines together. The prose is beautiful, the characters are well drawn, and there are lots of interesting twists and turns. There are also some moral dilemmas, especially regarding some of Isabella's actions. However, the flaws in her character also draw sympathy. I found that I was more engaged with the 1901 story. It wasn't that the present day one wasn't well written, but I didn't gel with the modern characters as much. This was probably just a personal preference. I felt the storyline with the young boy Xavier went on a bit long, though the extended

time was probably necessary in order for other plot developments to occur. I also thought both stories were wrapped up a bit too quickly at the end. However, I did enjoy the book and thought the ending itself was very satisfying.

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