



# The Village by the Sea

By Paula Fox

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**Winner of the Boston Globe–Horn Book Award:**A young girl learns some hard truths about human nature in this thought-provoking, beautifully crafted novel.

Tomorrow, Emma’s uncle is coming to take her to his house on Long Island while her father undergoes surgery and her mother stays with him in hospital. For two whole weeks, Emma will be stuck with her father’s half-sister: the strange, bossy Aunt Bea.

Luckily, Emma makes a friend at the beach, Bertie, and the two girls begin building a village made entirely of shells. There’s the mayor’s house, constructed of sand dollars and with a roof of pinecones, and the main street with white bubble shells. Every day the girls add to their village by the sea. Then, just before Emma is to return home, something awful happens.

In this thoughtful novel, Newbery Medal and Hans Christian Andersen Award winner Paula Fox offers an unflinching and candid depiction of forgiveness and unconditional love.

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## **The Village by the Sea By Paula Fox Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Emma, 10, is sent to stay with her aunt and uncle during her father's bypass surgery. With her constant, caustic jibes and her sudden, braying laugh, Aunt Bea lives up to her reputation as a "terror"; in Emma's words, "Aunt Bea's remarks about people were like being punched in the same spot over and over again." Emma overhears exchanges that reveal Bea's history as an alcoholic; she is perceptive enough to recognize her Uncle Crispin's fear of a relapse, to note occasional chinks in Bea's armor and to grasp that Bea has developed the habit of resentment "a kind of addiction, too." Acting out her malice, Bea destroys Emma's sole object of pleasure during her visita miniature village built with her friend Bertie from material scavenged on the beach and Emma departs with a hot lump of hatred in her throat. Her hatred dissolves, however, upon finding evidence of her aunt's bitter, sad self-knowledge; in its place comes a measure of understanding and the ability to take her first untroubled breath in days. Fox's mastery of characterization is fully apparent in this quiet but intensely affecting story. She deftly draws us into Emma's experience, perfectly capturing the simultaneous naivete and wisdom with which Emma regards the puzzle that is her aunt. Using simple but telling imagery and beautifully lucid prose, she traces the associative, instinctively hopeful workings of a child's mind. Equally remarkable are the nuances with which Fox renders the acerbic, seemingly impenetrable Bea. Her portrayal compels readers to consider the tragic consequences of such acrimony to wonder, as Emma does, what it would be like "to be a person people were happy not to see," and ultimately to share in the subtle but redemptive compassion that is among the novel's finest achievements. A Richard Jackson Book. Ages 10-12.

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## Review

"Quiet but intensely affecting . . . [Fox's] portrayal compels readers . . . to share in the subtle but redemptive compassion that is among the novel's finest achievements." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Another thoughtful, beautifully realized story from a much-honored author." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"This is not a book one crawls into to be hidden and protected. But it gives solace in its intelligence and honesty, and for many a child those qualities can be more reassuring." —*The New York Times Book Review*

## Praise for Paula Fox

"The greatest writer of her generation." —Jonathan Franzen

"One of America's most talented writers." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Fox has always been adept at writing apparently simple stories which on closer examination prove to explore the essential meaning of relationships . . . and to illuminate our understanding of the human condition." —*School Library Journal*

From the Publisher

When Emma's father goes to the hospital for surgery, she is sent to stay with Aunt Bea the "terror" and kindly Uncle Crispin. Emma wonders how she will survive two weeks with the always hostile Aunt Bea.

Luckily, Emma makes a friend, Bertie, and the two girls begin a project on the beach. Together they build tiny houses out of stones, shells, and all sorts of sea treasures. Here at the beach with Bertie, Emma finds comfort and friendship and takes pride in her carefully planned village.

Then one day Emma and Bertie's village is destroyed...

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Virginia Swain:**

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled The Village by the Sea? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

#### **William Powell:**

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the concept The Village by the Sea suitable to you? The particular book was written by well known writer in this era. Often the book untitled The Village by the Seais the main one of several books this everyone read now. This book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know previous to. The author explained their concept in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to recognise the core of this reserve. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. So you can see the represented of the world in this particular book.

#### **Jean Proffitt:**

Why? Because this The Village by the Sea is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will distress you with the secret it inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were being you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

#### **Paul Herbert:**

Reading a e-book make you to get more knowledge from this. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is prepared or printed or outlined from each source that will filled update of news. On this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, story and comic. You can add your

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