



The Village by the Sea

By Paula Fox

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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...

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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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From the Publisher

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From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leslie Hackett:

The book *The Village by the Sea* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book *The Village by the Sea* to get your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open up and read a publication *The Village by the Sea*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this book?

Joni Griffith:

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Ward Bishop:

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Joseph Mattos:

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