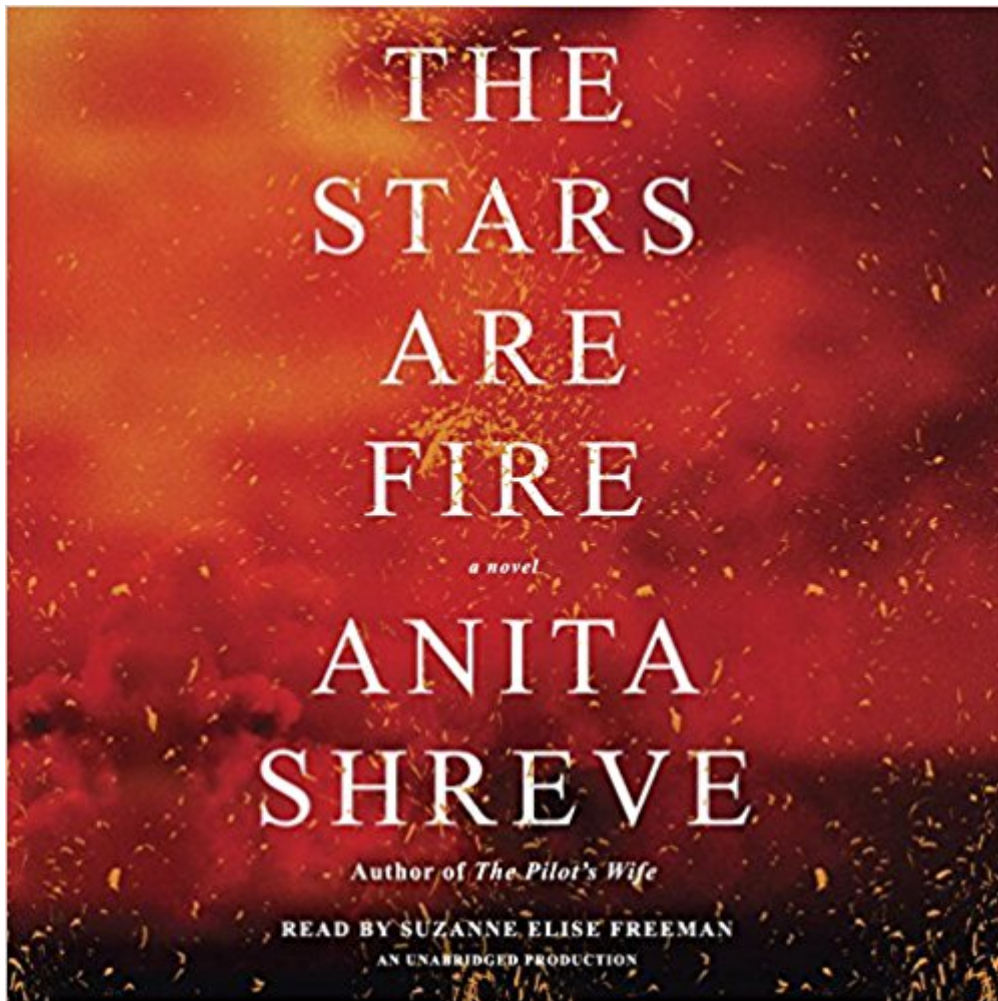




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The Stars Are Fire: A Novel



Synopsis

INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER From the New York Times best-selling author of *The Weight of Water* and *The Pilot's Wife* (an Oprah's Book Club selection): an exquisitely suspenseful new novel about an extraordinary young woman tested by a catastrophic event and its devastating aftermath--based on the true story of the largest fire in Maine's history. In October 1947, after a summer long drought, fires break out all along the Maine coast from Bar Harbor to Kittery and are soon racing out of control from town to village. Five months pregnant, Grace Holland is left alone to protect her two toddlers when her husband, Gene, joins the volunteer firefighters. Along with her best friend, Rosie, and Rosie's two young children, Grace watches helplessly as their houses burn to the ground, the flames finally forcing them all into the ocean as a last resort. The women spend the night frantically protecting their children, and in the morning find their lives forever changed: homeless, penniless, awaiting news of their husbands' fate, and left to face an uncertain future in a town that no longer exists. In the midst of this devastating loss, Grace discovers glorious new freedoms--joys and triumphs she could never have expected her narrow life with Gene could contain--and her spirit soars. And then the unthinkable happens--and Grace's bravery is tested as never before.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Long before Liane Moriarty was spinning her “Big Little Lies,” Shreve was spicing up domestic doings in beachfront settings with terrible husbands and third-act twists. She still is, as effectively as ever, this time with a narrative literally lit from within.”

Mary Pols, New York Times Book Review "Like her sensational best-selling 1998 novel *The Pilot's Wife*, about a widow who discovers her pilot husband had a second family, *The Stars Are Fire* explores what happens in the secret spaces between married people. Masterful, it lingers long after the last page is turned, like the smoke from a wildfire. Precise, evocative prose brings the story's vivid characters to life. Original and gripping. A People's Choice Award winner. People's Choice Award "Anita Shreve's books are reliably engrossing literary page-turners, never formulaic. Shreve consistently creates complex characters and plots, often drawn from the historical record or from obscure headlines. Then she tells their stories in unobtrusively elegant prose." Kate Manning, *The Washington Post* "This is a suspenseful and heartwarming story of not just overcoming but also growing in the face of great difficulty." Booklist "This is sure to be a best seller. Shreve's prose mirrors the action of the fire, with popping embers of action, licks of blazing rage, and the slow burn of lyrical character development. Absolutely stunning." Library Journal (starred review, Editors' Spring Picks) "It is a book of small moments, a collection of seemingly simple themes that build to surprising and moving crescendos. Shreve's spare, economic prose suits her character's practicality and initial hesitance to determine the course of her own life... Shreve's crisp writing becomes more expansive in the moments when her protagonist consciously stretches beyond the boundaries of her previously narrow life." BookPage "I had the sense as I read Shreve's newest and 18th novel, *The Stars Are Fire*, that I was in the company of millions of phantom future readers who will adore this novel and devour it and recommend it to all their friends and book clubs. Shreve's storytelling choices feel organically wedded to her writing, a winning and essentially magical alchemy. It's all totally irresistible. Along with storytelling mojo and stylistic verve, this novel has an excellent, suspenseful premise: Grace's life is upended and ultimately transformed by a real-life historical catastrophe, the wildfires that spread through coastal Maine in October of 1947, following months of severe drought. In fact, *The Stars Are Fire* is so virtuosic, so infallibly readable, it could very well sell more copies than all Shreve's others combined. A People's Choice Award winner. Kate Christensen, *Portland Press-Herald* "One of the pleasures of reading *The Stars are Fire* is Shreve's ability to impart an authentic feel of 1940s daily life... Shreve's writing is lovely." WBUR.com "The ARTery's"

ANITA SHREVE's novels have sold more than six million copies and have been translated into

thirty-six languages. She lives with her husband in New Hampshire.

Anita Shreve writes beautifully. This story of a woman finding out how strong she can be, is an inspiration. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did!

A very easy read. Thoroughly enjoyable. Kept me engaged all through to the end.

I enjoyed this book. The setting was different with interesting historical information. Great believable characters.

I really enjoyed this story and the writing was very good. I never knew what was ahead so many interesting surprises with the ending especially gripping.

I loved this book! Have read almost all of her books, but I think this one is one of my very favorites, along with Fortunes Rock. Can't wait for the next one to come out!!!

Excellent read, but the ending of the novel a little too pat...

Great read, one of the best.

Enjoyed this book. Good holiday read.

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