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# The Village by the Sea

By Paula Fox



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The Village by the Sea By Paula Fox

**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:**

#### **Micheal Taylor:**

What do you about book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They must answer that question simply because just their can do that. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this kind of The Village by the Sea to read.

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#### **Lorenzo Maskell:**

This The Village by the Sea is great book for you because the content and that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it information accurately using great arrange word or we can say no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but

difficult core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having The Village by the Sea in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no e-book that offer you world with ten or fifteen second right but this e-book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that will?

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