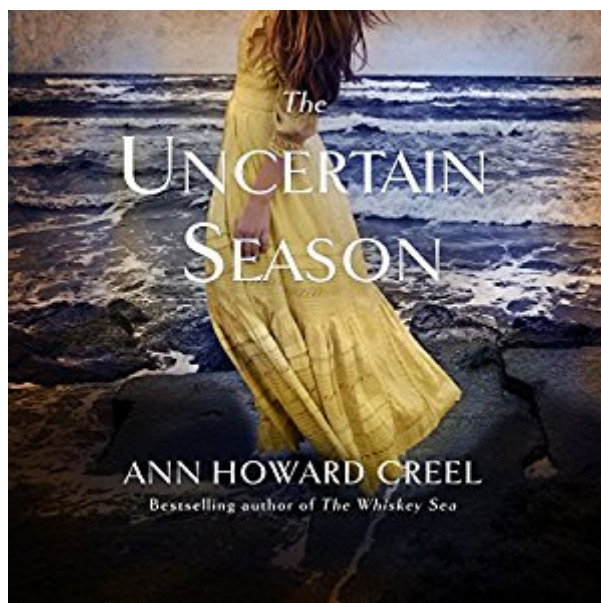


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The Uncertain Season



Synopsis

In hurricane-ravaged Galveston, a storm of betrayal is brewing. Nineteen-year-old Grace's golden age is just beginning. She and her mother live a privileged life. Beautiful and talented, Grace is looking forward to a pleasant summer celebrating her engagement to a wealthy young gentleman. But when her lovely, charming, and disgraced cousin Etta arrives, Grace finds her place in society - and in her mother's heart - threatened. Etta enchants everyone as she maneuvers to secure a station in Galveston's upper echelons. Grace, in a reckless moment, reveals Etta's scandalous past, and as punishment, she's sent to work in Galveston's back alleys, helping the poor. There, a silent waif known only as Miss Girl opens Grace's eyes to new love and purpose. She's determined to save this girl who lost her entire family in the hurricane and now slips along the shadows of the unfinished seawall with a mysterious resolve. Soon, the lives of the three young women will converge as betrayal, mistaken identity, and a family secret that sweeps them toward a future that defies all expectations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As soon as I started reading, I began to see that this book is Ann Howard Creel's best novel so far. Set during the Victorian era, the book is sultry, mysterious, and full of heated twists and turns. I found each of the main characters relatable for different reasons, and The Girl's story nearly broke my heart. I also learned quite a bit about Galveston after the 1900 Storm. Without giving away the plot, which is complex, suffice it to say that each story is richly different, and they join and come to

an end in a riveting confluence as colorful and intense as the gulf waters that surround Galveston Island.

Three women from different walks of life become connected through unusual circumstances on Galveston Island during its post-storm stage. I was engrossed from page one, and the book held my interest throughout. There's a twist near the end that I never saw coming. This is a favorite book this year.

This story is told through the eyes of three different women who view the world in vastly different ways. Grace sees only beauty until she is faced with reality and an old wound resurfaces. Etta sees a chance to better herself through any means. The Girl wants simply to survive after losing everything. I was hooked from the very beginning and was surprised many times. The ending was a shocker. This is great reading.

I chanced upon this book through an unusual series of circumstances that proved fortuitous as far as widening my reading tendencies and especially in discovering a writer whose talent in the craft, to me, is considerable, all of which translates into the pure pleasure of reading and "getting lost" into a well-told story. It's a steep step upwards from "Magic of Ordinary Days," written years earlier and the first book of Ms. Creel's I happened to read several months ago. The descriptive phrasing throughout the entire book goes hand-in-hand with meticulous details that stirred this reader's mind and imagination from scene to scene in each chapter. The tales of Grace, Etta, and The Girl are revealed in an immediacy as if watching a movie with the attendant emotions, escape, and a strong sense of being there. We like to say about books we like that "we couldn't put it down." I like this one and this style of writing because it's intense in detail, dialogue and slowly unfolding climactic scenes. It almost has to be put aside at moments just to catch your breath and take it all in. Movies rush by. This grabs you and takes you along step by vivid step. Etta is vexing but artfully comes across as simple and down to earth. Hardly. Grace, a model belle, transforms into a savior in waiting who saves no one. Or does she? The Girl, nameless, mute, and suffering is not devoid of hope. She acts as both a symbol of the worst life can dish out and as a real person you can relate to. Bernadette, the banisher and betrayer, is also the aristocrat, not necessarily in flattering terms. Altogether, written in such engaging detail that defies description (paradox noted), the setting, characters, and triad form of this book all work to bring a whole story to life. The "Uncertain" as a good book is anything but uncertain. It affords many, many pleasures on many levels.

I loved the in depth character development of the three females in this story. I was taken back to my childhood on Galveston island with the descriptions of the beach, sand and seawall. The history of the aftermath of the 1900 storm was enthralling. I definitely recommend this book!

There was a certain irony to reading this while Hurricane Harvey was striking Texas. Creel has written a lovely historical novel that is highly character driven. The three women- Grace, Etta, and Miss Girl- cross socioeconomic borders to tell a story that will engage you. The Victorian era was not an easy one for women; this will introduce you to some of the challenges they faced. Nicely written and well plotted. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC. I'd like to see more from Creel!

It's such a good feeling to finish reading a book and sit back and say to yourself that you've never read anything like the book before. That's how I felt when I finished reading *The Uncertain Season*. I never knew where the author was going next, and I feel that the plotting that pulled all three stories together was simply masterful. I highly recommend this book.

This is a great book. I like this author a lot because her books always teach me something about history, while I'm enjoying a good story. The main characters, three women with very different lives, are outstandingly portrayed over a backdrop of the Galveston hurricane of 1900. It's so ironic that I bought this book as Harvey was pounding Texas. I didn't realize how devastating the hurricane was until I read this book. I was so caught up in the story, that I was late to work this morning, finishing it!

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