



Sea Glass

Maria V. Snyder

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Like the colorful pieces of sea glass washed up on shore, Opal has weathered rough waters and twisting currents. But instead of finding a tranquil eddy, Opal is caught in a riptide. Her unique glass messengers which allow instant communication over vast distances have become a vital part of Sitian society. Once used solely by the Councilors and magicians, other powerful factions are now vying for control. Control of the messengers equals control of Sitia. Unfortunately that also means control of Opal. If that isn't enough of a problem, Opal's determination to prove blood magic is still being used is met with strong resistance. The Council doubts her, her mentor doubts her, and even her family is concerned. When her world is turned upside down, she begins to doubt herself. In the end, Opal must decide who to believe, who to trust, and who has control—otherwise she will shatter into a million pieces and be swept out by the tide.

Sea Glass Details

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From Reader Review Sea Glass for online ebook

Maria Kaye says

Thank you to Stefanie for keeping me motivated for the past two months when I was thinking of dnf this!

As always with Maria V. Snyder books this was good! Not her best in my opinion but still worth the read, especially if you're reading the main series in the chronicle (Study series).

Review to come.

Yoda says

I enjoy Opal's story/adventures more than I did with Yelena. I like the even pace of the book, it feels effortless. Instead of saving every plot twist for the last 20 pages, action is evenly distributed. It doesn't feel forced.

I just wish we got a bit more of Devlen in this one, I thought he was a bigger part of this book, but its just his name being repeated all of the time.

Laura says

This was soo, soo, soo good! I don't think that MVS can write anything I won't love!

Andrea says

You Thought Opal was Badass in Storm Glass, Think Again!

Sea Glass

Rating: 4.5/5

Summary: Opal has learned she can steal a magician's powers without being provoked by siphoning it into a glass orb. The Council is afraid of her new power and orders her back, but Opal must confront Ulrick about blood magic and switching souls with Devlen. After the goes badly, Opal is forced back to the Keep and is held under house arrest. She is isolated, Zitora avoids her and is no longer her mentor, a null shield is always around her and she has baby sitters. The constant suspicion begins to drive Opal insane and devises a way to get rid of her babysitters and the get the Council's approval. Opal must also find a way to end blood magic once and for all because after Councilor Moon's testimony, no one believes her about the soul switch.

I really enjoyed this installment. For me, it seems that the second one of Snyder's trilogies are my favorite though I can't say about Spy Glass since I just started it. I definitely liked this one more than Storm Glass for two reasons. One- less Ulrick and two- Opal is a badass with major confidence. And she is a sassy girl. Oh she could battle Yelena with some of her retorts in this book. It's no secret from my Storm Glass review that

I hated Ulrick and I still do. Sea Glass didn't change my opinion of him and I wished that Opal had given up on him much sooner or actually believed Devlen when he told her that Ulrick wanted the magic.

The plot in the book was great! I loved it. I loved chases and learning about glass making and schooling. There was always something interesting happening and the last 30% was especially intriguing! Snyder is always putting her heroines into tense situations. This time Opal didn't always freeze, she would think and use her skills with weapons. She depended on herself and would get herself out of them. When she couldn't, she called for help. She just was so badass, especially in the middle when the Council was trying to control her and she was like nuh-uh I'm not taking this shit. Oh it was wonderful!

The romance in this book was absent for the first part. Kade wasn't in the book until about 40-50% of the way through sadly, but when he was, it was awesome. Opal and Kade are adorable and such a good couple. Once Opal graduates, it should be easier for them to be together. Since Opal knows the sand recipe for Stormdancer orbs they always seem to need her too. Ooh I just love them, but there's trouble brewing for book three because Devlen is reformed and he's got feelings for Opal too!

Jessica says

This book still suffered slightly from the tell me over showing me syndrome BUT it was drastically improved from book one. I hope it's all but gone in the last one as I know what a skilled story teller the author is. As for the storyline itself I'm loving it, seeing in the mind of someone with this new power set, when before we have only seen this from the outside... I'm looking forward to seeing how things unfurl.

Irene Sim says

This was definitely an improvement from the first book. Opal somehow manages to acquire some balls (even if most of the times it backfires) but in the end her persistence pays.

This series is so much different from "Poison Study", to me it seems that it has no purpose, no solid goal set from the beginning so the reader can have expectations of the plot and make sense of the story. It continues in the same pattern as the first book, Opal doing random things, going random missions for the Council, in which her abilities and the magic she has, take one form or the other.

The way she discovers her magical abilities (or rather how they manifest) are always circumstantial. I still can't root for a love interest for her. (view spoiler). Kade, though he is great and seems to care for her, hasn't convinced me that what they have is what I'm looking for in a fictional couple. Devlen, on the other hand, has proven a much more promising candidate. I don't know if the author will take this path - though to me it seems that that's where things are headed - but I'm curious to see how he'll redeem himself for his previous actions and wrongdoings toward Opal. (view spoiler).

Any way, so far, I enjoyed this story enough, with the second book being more interesting than the first, STILL NO VALEK, and I'm really curious about the third and final book.

Where will her journey take Opal next?

Julie says

If I were to write an action adventure story with magical and fantastical elements, I would write a book exactly like “Sea Glass”. But since I’m not ambitious or imaginative enough to write an actual novel, I’m glad Maria V. Snyder can and did.

“Sea Glass” is the second book in Maria’s latest trilogy. It complements the first book perfectly, even upping the excitement and intrigue level a notch. There is enough magic, mystery, blood magic, humor, cameos, political intrigue and action to keep you riveted and entertained. She even has a bit more romance thrown in for good measure.

“Sea Glass” starts off almost exactly where “Storm Glass” left off. In this installment, Opal has spunk! She is frustrated beyond belief that the list of those who believe what happened to her in “Storm Glass” is so short – and it grows shorter and shorter as the book progresses. On top of that, she feels as though she has no control over her own life or her own decisions. She feels trapped. While reading, I just wanted to reach into the book, shake these people and tell them to really think about what they are accusing! Seriously...*sigh* But alas, no matter how much I wanted to, there was no way to reach into the pages. So I simply continued reading to see where the adventure took me. (Not a real sacrifice, I must say). Through the book, Opal is gathering up her courage and it’s actually nice to see when she finally has enough self-confidence to “stick it to the man”. Unfortunately, when she is finally in a position to make her own choice, what she must decide between will basically screw her over no matter what she decides to do. Opal is well aware of this, but she is trying her hardest to opt for the choice that makes her feel as though she is in control and that let her feel somewhat independent. Opal is a great character. You really feel her struggle. It’s her struggle that makes her so relatable. Who hasn’t felt like the whole world was against you and as your confidence level wavers while you are trying to battle magicians who are using giant green bees as weapons? Okay...maybe not the magicians with the bees part...but the confidence part? Absolutely.

One decision that is easy to agree with is Opal’s choice of beau, Kade. How he tries to stand by her even when everyone else seems to have left her behind is quite admirable. Their relationship is not perfect – you feel as though Opal is holding back a bit. But Kade is strong and he wants to stick by her.

Let’s talk about Devlen. Now he’s a conundrum. He’s the bad guy. I should hate him. He hurt our girl Opal – many times. He’s deceived her, lied to her, tricked her... Really, I should hate him. But I can’t seem to bring myself to as wholly and completely as I should. I attest that to the way Maria writes her characters. She makes them human. Whether they are bad guys or good guys, I can’t help but feel drawn to them. You can’t help but feel for the naughty boy who is trying his hardest reconcile for his actions. I actually found myself wanting to tell Opal that if things with Kade don’t work out, maybe she should consider Devlen. Seriously, how messed up is that?!

“Sea Glass” bumps up the level of adventure from high to “holy cow!” It’s funnier than the first one too, although that should not surprise since Janco (from Maria’s ‘Study’ series) has quite an important role in this book – and Janco is funny! And the ending...whoa! What happens to our girl Opal is very unexpected. Then again, so is most of what happens in these tales. If you loved “Storm Glass”, then you will for sure really love “Sea Glass” and you’ll count the days until “Spy Glass” is released with impatient glee.

Maggie ? (Reader in Wonderland) says

“Lying to yourself is easy, too. I know. It’s much harder to stay and deal with consequences.”

The good:

*I absolutely love Sitia and the world Snyder created.

*Kade is my sweetheart.

*Reappearance of old characters - Yelena, Leif, Janco..

“Don’t you dare say it.” He poked my arm with a finger. “My choice to help you. My fault for being caught. No regrets. I’d do it again without thought.” He cocked his head to the side and scratched his scarred ear. “Which isn’t that big of a revelation. Ari says I do everything without thought.” He shrugged. “Thinking is overrated.”

The bad:

*It was a bit boring and stretched someries. I was considering DNFing it, but in the end am glad I didn't.

*I still couldn't connect with Opal (And I really, really tried!)

*Devlen's sudden change seemed a little weird to me.

“It was all a part of being trustworthy—of being a piece of sea glass. High tides, low tides, storms, sand and mistakes all contributed to the polishing process. Though difficult to endure at the time, the demanding elements helped smooth the surface, transforming one into a better person, not worse. A person who learned from the harsh environment, who knew the storm would end, and who felt confident she would still be in one piece.”

Sarah says

Can't decide which cover I like best!

This was an okay story, but I didn't like it as much as Storm Glass.

Opal did try to make the best of her abilities in this book, but she also made some mistakes. I felt quite sorry for her every time she got caught out or ended up walking straight into a trap, but she also seemed quite powerless at points.

The storyline in this was about Opal making glass animals again, trying to get Ulrick and Devlen swapped back to their correct bodies, something going on with some weird magical sea glass, as well as people trying to kill Opal.

There was a little bit of romance between Kade and Opal, but not a lot.

The ending to this was quite surprising, and left Opal in a very strange position. I have no idea where the third book will go from here.

6 out of 10

Abbie says

This was an okay read, but I didn't like it as much as the first.

I liked Opal in this one, but again, there were times where she annoyed me.

The pacing in book one was the main reason why I started to lose interest near the end. It was the same reason why I started to lose interest in this one. Unfortunately though, I found this one to be a bit slower, so I lost interest quicker.

Overall, Okay read.

Sarah says

Now that the Council have found out about Opal's ability to steal other magician's powers they immediately see her as a threat. No matter how much she has done for them in the past it is all worth nothing now and they now want her under house arrest inside the Citadel where they can monitor her activities and decide what to do with her. The worst thing of all is that nobody believes her when she tells them that Devlen and Ulrick have swapped bodies so now Devlen has free reign of the Citadel and is as trusted as Ulrick would have been. Opal doesn't know what his goals are but she knows that nothing good can possibly come of them and since she's the only one who knows what's going on it's up to her to stop him. First she needs to find Ulrick and figure out a way to put his soul back in his own body but what if Ulrick wasn't quite the innocent victim in all this? Will he even want Opal's help?

While I think I prefer the Study series I'm still really enjoying the Glass books and I love being able to dive back into the world of Ixia. Although this is Opal's story we still get to see some familiar faces along the way and Janco in particular has a starring role in this story but I also loved catching up with Leif and of course Yelena too. Opal has always seemed much more innocent than Yelena, she is younger, more trusting and less able to stand up for herself, particularly in **Storm Glass** and during the beginning of this book. I was really pleased to see how much progress she makes in this novel though, she still has her moments but it was great to see her starting to gain confidence now that she's beginning to understand how her magic works and I was glad that she is standing up for herself more now. In fact by the end of the book she'd become pretty impressive. I actually like the fact that Opal and Yelena are so different and it's always fun to see how the two of them interact with each other.

There is a lot going on in **Sea Glass**, Opal finds herself in a whole heap of trouble and she has more than one enemy to deal with. We get to see more of the different Sitian clans which was interesting but at times it did feel like there was a little too much travelling going on. I would have liked to spend more time with some of the clans seeing Opal making use of her new found magical abilities. That's a fairly minor niggle though

because there was so much going on that I was certainly never bored and I could happily have devoured the whole book in one sitting if only there were more hours in the day. One thing Opal really has to learn throughout this story is not to blindly trust people, even those who she feels closest to. There are a lot of people who aren't quite what they seem and that doesn't make it easy for her to figure out who are allies and who are enemies but that is something she is starting to get better at. She needs to learn to trust her gut instincts a little more and that is definitely something she is improving at.

There are some revelations at the end of **Sea Glass** that are going to make things very interesting for Opal in the future and I can't wait to read **Spy Glass** to see what happens to her next.

Sara (Freadom Library) says

Actual rating 4.5 stars

This review was originally posted at <https://freadomlibrary.wordpress.com/>

Critically

Plot – 4 out of 5 stars

Just like all her other books, the plot is fast paced and full of constant action. It's full of adventure and traveling to all the different kinds of clans found in Sitia which was really fun to experience. There's suspense, danger, betrayal, tension, lies and magic of course. I like that there's a new form of magic introduced that gave the story and the world an entirely new dynamic. Super easy to read and to get caught up in which is why I enjoy them so much.

Writing Style – 4 out of 5 stars

As always, her writing style is super easy to read and engaging. It's really straight forward and simple but the pace is fast which makes it addicting and really easy to consume. Yet it still manages to be descriptive and detailed especially since the world is so vast and full of all different kinds of magic and people. The narration this time is a little darker, jaded and harsh after the events of the first book which was sometimes a downer to read. But it's so imaginative that you can't help but be caught up in it.

Characters – 4.5 out of 5 stars

This was were my biggest problem was in the first book. Opal is absolutely nothing like Yelena and that threw me off completely in the first book but there's a lot of development in this one that made me like her a bit more. She's deeply affected by all the events in the first book and has almost done a 180 from where she started. She's a lot more jaded and angry and is trying to not trust people so easily so she doesn't get hurt. She's grown more powerful but she's kind of resentful about it and tries to keep her powers to herself so people won't try to take advantage of her. However, she still gets sucked into horrible situations for being naive and caring when she really shouldn't. And she unfortunately has kind of martyr attitude that got on my nerves a lot. Again, there's a few side characters that are spotlighted. I love seeing some of the old characters from the Study series make appearances in this one, they're all so interesting and complex and funny that I enjoyed the interactions they all have together. The new characters introduced in this series I'm not 100% sold on. There's a lot of back and forth and you don't really know who to trust or what to believe so it was a little hard for me to connect with the characters, specially the love interests. Yes, as in plural, also one of the things that turns me off about this series is that there's a lot of different romantic entanglements with the main character and I DON'T KNOW WHO TO SHIP. IT'S SO CONFUSING.

Emotionally

(view spoiler)

Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says

Opal's dumb as a doornail routine annoys me. But the plot surrounding her intrigues me. Thus I will push on. Wondering how this semi- love triangle will end.

Tracy Ehlers says

A fantastic continuation from book 1.
I'm looking forward to reading the conclusion!

Jilly says

What's worse than a dumbass? A cynical, mopey, feeling-sorry-for-themself dumbass - and that is what Opal is in this book. She's changed from an optimistic dumbass to a pessimistic dumbass. But, don't worry, she still gets kidnapped and caught a lot. And, the thing is, Opal knows she's an idiot, but instead of trying to fix her idiocy, she wallows in self-pity.

I would be a fool to trust him. Too bad being a fool was my best skill.

Oh.... poor you!!! Let's all feel sorry for her.

So, in this story, Opal is trying to convince everyone about the blood magic exchange between Devlin and Ulrick while the Council treats her like their personal Apple Store since she makes the magical equivalent of cell phones and they got the cell phone fever. They don't trust her (probably a good idea since she's a moron), so they decide to make her their very own Chinese slave labor factory worker. She's on lock-down, unpaid, and only allowed any freedoms if she keeps up with her glass animal iphone quota. Of course, she reacts to all of this in every worst way you can imagine.

First, she goes the defiance route and doesn't go back to the Council when they call her. She is determined to find Ulrick, stuck in Devlin's body, and "rescue" him. That went as well as expected. Even when he flat out tells her that he wanted the exchange, she wouldn't believe it. Dumbass.

Next, she decides to go the submission route and rolls over for the council, but whines and bitches the whole time.

This is typical of the character of Opal. She is totally wishy-washy - deciding one thing with all the conviction of an idiot without the right information, only to change her mind and start acting and doing the opposite. I really really don't like this chick. (have I made that clear yet?) And, yet, she is supposed to be the big hero of the story. She can't even keep her mind on her supposed one-true-love, Kade. She kisses him to get her mind off of Devlin. Really, girl? The guy who tortured you and gave you fear and nightmares since you were 14 years old? I don't care how nice and reformed he gets, girls don't generally get together with their rapist/torturers. Consider that a hard rule. But, at this point, I have to think that the torturer can actually do better than her. She's a total dumbass.

Darren Hagan says

4.5 stars

Loved it but it sometimes felt there was maybe too much going on.

Milly says

What can I say, I was a little dismayed by Sea Glass. Perhaps because I expected more out of this second book. Perhaps because I thought Opal's character was going to be more interesting and her adventures more daring and intriguing. However, none of that came into fruition, at least in my opinion.

The book didn't really pick up for me until the last 100 pages. I felt that the first 200 pages dawdled and there were chapters that seem indulgent and uneventful. I know Maria Snyder was trying to develop Opal's character and what other magical talents she has but some chapters just took too long to do so.

In respects to Opal, I appreciated her character developing some spunk in this book but I did not care so much for her becoming jaded and distrustful of everyone. I get it that a lot of people in this book disappointed her but it was just such a downer when she was acting this way. You can still be spunky and kind at the same time, Opal. It doesn't mean you're weak when you're kind. Just look at Harry Potter!

But what irked me the most about the Sea Glass is how Opal's character was turning into a mini-Yelena. Opal all of a sudden found the urge to learn to defend herself, just like Yelena in the Study series. Just like Yelena, she wanted to learn how to fight with weapons, pick locks, move like a ninja/ghost, do nightly investigations, etc. Also just like Yelena, she befriended two soldiers and have become her sworn protectors - Nic and Eve to Yelena's Ari and Janco. I just wish that Maria Snyder was more creative and original in fashioning Opal's character. She is the heroine of the Glass series after all. She should be different from Yelena, even though the Glass series is a sequel/spin off of the Study series. I'm sure if I looked for more similarities between these series that I would. But I'll stop here just to be fair with this book.

I just have a love-dislike relationship with this book. I did enjoy the last 100 pages of the book! I liked that Lief's character had more face time in this book. I still felt that Kade should have been in the book more since he is Opal's main squeeze. Good riddance to Ulrick. He's a whiny lad anyway. But, Devlen, hmm, the devil who's had a change of heart might just steal Opal's heart. Sneaky little devil! This I am definitely

interested in finding out in the 3rd installment, Spy Glass. Also, I am intrigued as to what becomes of Opal, with all her magical abilities changed.

So now that I've opined, I still love Maria Snyder. The Glass series is definitely not a favorite but I will continue onto Spy Glass as I'm intrigued indeed.

Swiftsea says

This book drove me a little crazy. I found that too many things were occurring at the same time. Just like a whirlwind, Opal was involved in too many things.

Moreover, the deaths of many of the glass-makers frustrated me a little. I found it unnecessary to kill them off. Too many authors use the 'only person capable' routine to accentuate the importance of their protagonists.

However, what irritated me the most was definitely Opal's relationships with men. Her constant desire to rescue Ulrick who was beyond redemption made me want to slap her back into reality. Towards Devlen, I wouldn't even bat an eyelid talking to him if I discovered what he did. Other than that, Kade was too good to be true. The most powerful, young and elegant stormdancer who cares and loves? No, no, no! It's OVERKILL. 3 MEN, 1 GIRL. Note how I don't consider her a grown woman.

Her competency and inexperience contrasts greatly to Yelena, which might be why her responses weren't much to my liking.

My perspective towards her powers?

Never expected it. Definitely one of a kind but relatively useless against Curare.

Who I loved in this book?

LEIF. LEIF owned this book. Every scene made me bawl in laughter. Whether it would be his sarcastic replies to anything regarding Yelena, or the matter of his tummy, FOOD.

Unfortunately, I found his magic overly downplayed in this series. As unique as his ability is, he still somehow gets caught and rendered immobile by Curare too often than to my liking.

LEIF & MARA are a match made in heaven.

Aimee says

Actual rating 2.5

This was okay, I like the study series a lot more than the glass series because I think Opal is just a bit of a whinny meh character. It took me ages to finish this because I just wasn't very interested and Maria V Snyder tends to be a bit repetitive so I found that extremely annoying. Will probably still finish the series since I pushed through this one though.

Manisha says

A bit of a conundrum, this.

I have to think about it a little before I write my review.

RTC.
