



Somewhere Beyond the Sea

Miranda Dickinson

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Miranda Dickinson's *Somewhere Beyond the Sea* is a sparkling tale of love, life and finding magic where you least expect it.

Selected as one of *Heat* magazine's Hot Books - five stars.

Can you fall in love with someone before you've even met?

Seren MacArthur is living a life she never intended. Trying to save the Cornish seaside business her late father built – while grieving for his loss – she has put her own dreams on hold and is struggling. Until she discovers a half-finished seaglass star on her favourite beach during an early morning walk. When she completes the star, she sets into motion a chain of events that will steal her heart and challenge everything she believes.

Jack Dixon is trying to secure a better life for daughter Nessie and himself. Left a widower and homeless when his wife died, he's just about keeping their heads above water. Finding seaglass stars completed on Gwithian beach is a bright spark that slowly rekindles his hope.

Seren and Jack are searching for their missing pieces. But when they meet in real life, it's on the opposing sides of a battle. Jack is managing the redevelopment of a local landmark, and Seren is leading the community campaign to save it.

Both have reason to fight – Seren for the cause her father believed in, Jack for his livelihood. But only one can win. With so much at stake, will they ever find what they are really looking for?

Somewhere Beyond the Sea Details

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From Reader Review Somewhere Beyond the Sea for online ebook

Kim Nash says

This was one of those books that was so beautifully written that I didn't want it to end. It was like a fine wine, needing to be savoured rather than devoured.

Seren and Jack I think are my new favourite characters from a book. Both with their own baggage and grief that was so sensitively and stunningly written that it brought a tear to my eye on many occasions. In fact, every single character in the book was so well written that you felt like you were firmly ensconced in their circle of friends.

I've only ever once visited St Ives on one occasion, and it was very long time ago but reading the descriptions of the places that were so evocatively described in the book, definitely made me want to pack up and go and live there immediately. You could literally feel the sand beneath your toes, smell the salty sea air and reach out and touch those sea glass stars.

This was a magical, gorgeous, fabulous read, which made me feel so and I loved EVERY SINGLE PAGE from start to finish and I really do think that this is Miranda's best book yet. A book full of hopes and dreams and a beautifully, stunning summer read. Top marks Miranda. A million sea glass stars from me!

Jane Linfoot says

I so loved all the different starry strands of the story, once I started reading, I literally couldn't put this book down. The mix of sea and sky, and mermaid magic, and the struggles and hope of wonderful characters made for an amazing read. Stories about Cornwall are very popular at the moment, but we're not often treated to the kind of warmth and authenticity we find in Miranda's writing, with a storyline that feels so fresh. Somehow the story passing between Seren and Jack, the linking, and the push and pull of their lives felt like the ebb and flow of the tide. I really identified with Seren's loss, so a lot of the book was a very emotional read for me, and some of the starry sky bits were so lovely they actually gave me tingly goosebumps. A perfect and beautiful story, this has to be one of the most special books of the summer

Gemma Harris says

This book is one of the most beautiful pieces of work I have ever read. I was lucky enough to be sent a copy by the author herself - go Team Sparkley! - and devoured the whole thing within a few days. The setting is beautiful, the characters are so real its easy to get invested in their lives. Everything about this book is perfect and Miranda Dickinson remains the queen of fiction in my world.

Laura says

Stunning book that I didn't want to end! I was lucky enough to be sent a copy by Miranda #TeamSparkly I

really hope this isn't the last we have heard from these characters. Tears have been shed.

Yvonne Morgan says

This had a wee bit of everything for me...love the setting Cornwall is a very special place and St Ives hold great memories...loved the storyline and the characters....as you read each chapter it was like the stars shinning one by one across the ink blue sky....totally magical and a little bit quirky ...

Liz says

What a lovely, lovely book! A heart-warming and charming story set in the beautiful Cornish town of St Ives. Alternating chapters tell the story from the points of view of the two main characters, Seren and Jack which really allows the reader to get to know them, their personalities, their thoughts and their dreams. Beautifully written. The perfect summer read!

Rachel Gilbey says

What a charming story that is so uplifting and tells the story of Seren and Jack in alternating chapters.

Seren is campaigning on her late fathers behalf to preserve a local building from development.

Jack is a recently widowed single dad to 7 year old Nessie and is trying to do the best for his little girl even if it means working for a large building company,

What neither of them know is that there is a connection between them from the first few pages that involves on one level magic and mermaids!

Two people both just trying to do their best by their loved ones and neither necessarily following their own hearts.

I loved all the various characters and also the story behind the building that is at the heart of it all.

The majority of the book takes place over a 5 or 6 week period where I will say both characters lives change a lot, and in that we also get some great campaigning on both sides.

It is another wonderful book by Miranda Dickinson, and is perfect for those long lazy summer evenings, wishing you were in Cornwall!

Thank you to EDPR for this copy which I have reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

Cressida McLaughlin says

Gorgeous, special book. It's full of love, hope and second chances. So uplifting, and destined to become a summer hit.

Zoe says

Absorbing, encouraging, and delightfully affecting!

Somewhere Beyond the Sea is an astute, heartwarming tale that sweeps you away to the idyllic, seaside town of St Ives and into the lives of Seren, a young woman grieving the loss of her father and struggling to save the business he left behind, and Jack, a single, unemployed father focused on raising his seven-year-old daughter and providing her with love, attention, and security.

The prose is winsome and polished. The characters are authentic, optimistic, and engaging. And the plot told from alternating perspectives is an alluring tale about loss, life, love, heartache, grit, hope, family, friendship, community, sand, sea, self-discovery, beautiful jewelry, moving on, and finding the one.

Overall, Somewhere Beyond the Sea is an evocative, touching, romantic tale by Dickinson that reminds us that sometimes it's the little things that mean the most and magic can truly be found everywhere.

Thank you to Publishers Group Canada for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

All my reviews can be found on my blog at <https://whatsbetterthanbooks.com>

Fabulous Book Fiend says

Ok, I loved this book. I knew I was going to but there is so much I loved about it this might be a little bit of a gushy review but I'm not sorry! So firstly I loved the way this book was structured, this is the thing that first impressed me once I started reading. I love a dual narrative novel so that was a massive plus point for me and I love a book with short chapters, another massive plus point. In the case of this book its like each chapter teases you with a little bit of Jack and Seren's story and then you switch to the other character and then you have to keep reading so this was a really really quick read for me. A quick read not because it lacked in any substance, very much the opposite, but Miranda kept teasing me with details and conversations and actions and then I HAD TO KEEP READING!

Obviously the setting for this book is absolutely beautiful. I've never been there but I feel like I have now because of all of the gorgeous descriptions of the beaches and the town and the shop and the school. I love the fact that we had an introduction to this place at Christmas time and now we're seeing it in a different seasons. If you want to see some of the places that are described in the book and inspired the novel then I suggest you check out Miranda's YouTube channel because she has an awesome video with the settings in there. I watched it right after I finished to take me back to those beaches again!

We also got introduced to some of the characters in Christmas in St Ives and the characters in this novel are just another thing that I love about it. I loved Aggi from the moment I met her and her coffee hut, but I love

the calming influence she has on tense situations in this book. She comes in, says what she thinks not leaving out any words in the way of censorship and suddenly everything seems just a little bit better. Cerrie was a great character from the novella so I was pleased to see her playing her own special part in Jack and Seren's story.

Jack and Seren are obviously the main characters here and I love the fact that they both have their flaws. This makes them so relatable and so easy to sympathise and empathise with. Jack is a single Dad who is always looking for more work as a site manager so that he can support himself and Nessie. He has all these worries but he still manages to be a decent human being. Seren also has financial worries and other hardships that she has to face, but she muddles on and works incredibly hard to support her family as well. Nessie is a great character, she is Jack's daughter and her relationship with her father is just beautiful. She is another character that provides some comic relief and also just someone you will instantly fall in love with.

Seren's dad Mark is another key character in this novel. He has recently passed away but there is so much of him in this novel and this felt really personal to the author whilst reading it. I loved the little nods to him on almost every page and the way his honour is upheld the way we would all want to remember someone we loved very much whom we have lost. There are some really touching moments where characters other than Seren remember him in their own ways and show their respect to him and this is where the heart of the novel really is.

Of course there is beautiful romance in this novel as well as solidified love that comes from years of friendship. The romance is very much of the slow burn variety, and the back and forth felt very much like I was watching Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan in either *Sleepless in Seattle* or *You've got Mail* although the characters here are very much on an equal footing-just another thing I loved about this book.

I honestly can't think of a single thing that I would change about this book it had everything for me. I swooned, I cheered, I cried and it taught me a lot about sea glass and astronomy as well-how cool is that? Definitely pop this on in your basket (virtual or real life) and read it as soon as you can because once you start I guarantee you will fall in love with these characters, this setting and the amount of love and feeling that has been poured into and pours out of this novel.

Isabelle Broom says

I absolutely adored this story! Seren and Jack are both struggling after the loss of someone close to them. For Seren, it was her beloved father, and since his death she has abandoned her own dreams in order to revive his Cornish seaside business. For Jack, losing his wife and the mother of daughter has been life-shattering, and now he is fighting to survive. Seren and Jack's lives may well be fated to collide, but certainly not in the way they – or I – expected, and so unravels a wonderful and magical tale of hope, courage and the limitless power of love.

Shaz Goodwin says

<http://www.jerasjamboree.co.uk/2018/0...>

Have you ever experienced when an inanimate object takes on a whole new depth of meaning that is more

than its parts with the emotional energy you invest in it? This is what happens to Seren and Jack (as well as Nessie!) with the seaglass stars on Gwythian Beach. With Seren taking on the mantle of responsibility of her father's business and campaign while still grieving his loss and Jack's need to provide for Nessie and having to come to terms with his own feelings, the gift of the seaglass star is a symbol that represents so much and gives more than a little needed light in their lives. Both driven and motivated by something intrinsic to their lives, emotions run high and the scene is set for conflict.

With the community being behind the save the Bethel Parsonage campaign we get to know some of the characters, all of which I identified with. The character who stole my heart is Nessie. Love her distraction techniques! and her humour. She sparkles and shines just as much as the seaglass stars.

What a stunning setting ... having spent part of my honeymoon at St Ives, Somewhere Beyond the Sea brought back some fab memories for me ? Miranda Dickinson's writing pulled me right back there in my imagination, experiencing the sights and sounds (and not forgetting the smells too).

There are so many feels throughout this story and they came thick and fast for me near the ending. I was intrigued waiting to find out what Jack had done and the tension and anticipation of not knowing what Seren would do had my heart racing. I read those last few pages through tears. Perfect.

This isn't a romance of will they/won't they. Everyone will be able to relate to the campaign and why it's important to save this building just as everyone will be able to relate to Jack's vision of how it could be. I've loved the creativity just as much as the emotional tug.

Somewhere Beyond the Sea is a story about looking past our own needs to the needs of others and becoming selfless. About learning to trust in yourself that the decisions you make are the right ones. It tells us that it's ok to have negative feelings and that forgiving ourselves brings hope and healing.

Definitely one to pack in your luggage!

Julie Cohen says

A book full of heart and warmth. I've seen the 'hero/heroine are on opposite sides in a property development war' trope so many times and yet this feels fresh, with both protagonists being utterly sympathetic and with each interaction raising the stakes. This book also has a lot to say about grief, guilt, and finding your own way. Miranda's best yet, I think.

Tripfiction says

Romance novel set around ST IVES, CORNWALL

"St Ives just makes you want to write...."

It is so clear that the author adores Cornwall and I am sure this is a novel that will prompt you to visit this beautiful part of the world! Indeed as the author says at the end: "All of the places in Somewhere Beyond the Sea can be visited..". She also shares her top spots to visit in and around St Ives, her favourite local artists (artist Charlie Bowater for one gets a mention in the book as do several others), shops, eateries and more...her favourite ice cream shop is Moomaid of Zenor Ice Cream Parlour (and there are plenty more recommendations to whet your appetite).

So, all in all a perfect book for literary wanderlust!

Seren MacArthur has recently lost her father and she has taken over his shop selling artwork, really to help her mum maintain an income. But it is not doing well at all and she finds herself working all hours to try and turn things around. She herself is a jewellery designer.

Jack Dixon is on his downers, living in a summer chalet with his daughter Nessie. He lost his wife and her mother just a little while ago and he is desperately trying to keep everything afloat.

Bill Brotherson is a developer, without many scruples it would appear, who has his eye on the Parsonage, which was the former home of Elinor Carne, a woman in the 19th century who contributed hugely to the world of astronomy. The locals, headed by Seren (whose father was an amateur astronomer and who first took up her cause), are opposed to his scheme. They want to maintain the Parsonage in her memory. Jack, who is desperate for work, soon finds himself on the Brotherson payroll, championing the proposed scheme with, however, a few amendments of his own. Seren and Jack are pitted against one another and neither can deny a frisson of attraction.

The central premise of the novel is delightful. Seren has been busy working on jewellery designs incorporating glass fragments washed to smooth shapes over time. One day on Gwithian Beach she finds a half finished star embedded in the sand, made up of sea glass (also traditionally called mermaids' tears) and she completes it. From that point forward a magical scenario builds because someone else also performs artistry with the gems for her to find. The next day she works on another piece and so it goes on, it is an exciting and magical connection with someone, but who might that someone be? The to-ing and fro-ing between the two parties is a very imaginative and delightful premise and will charm the reader!

This is a great read for those who love good romance fiction and for those who love Cornwall. I am sure Visit Cornwall will benefit from people reading this book!

Amanda says

I have a huge confession to make. 'Somewhere Beyond The Sea' is actually the first book by Miranda Dickinson that I have read. Don't hate me. I have all her other books on my ever increasing 'to be read' pile but I haven't had time to read them. Going by how much I enjoyed reading 'Somewhere Beyond The Sea', the rest of Miranda's books will not be on my 'to be read' pile for much longer. I absolutely, totally and utterly, flipping well loved reading 'Somewhere Beyond The Sea' but more about that in a bit.

I took to the character of Seren MacArthur from the start. She is still grieving for her late father, who died a short time ago. He was a popular character, who was full of life and Seren is finding it hard to fill his shoes. I could totally understand where Seren was coming from and the mixed feelings she was going through. I empathised with her because I felt similarly when my own father died. Seren has also taken over the art shop that was her father's shop. Things are not looking good for the future of the shop as artists have been

removing their artwork from the shop because of various rumours that the shop is in financial difficulty. Seren's Father was the chair of a campaign to save a site of historical interest and after his death the committee hands the responsibility over to Seren. The poor kid has stress coming at her from all directions. The one thing that keeps her sane, is her daily walks on the beach. Whilst on a walk she comes across a star that was created from seaglass and she finished making it. This carries on over a period of a few days. The other main character is this book is Jack Dixon. Oh boy his situation tugged at my heartstrings too. He has been left a widower after his wife died suddenly and he is the sole carer for his little girl. They are still grieving for the loss of a wife and mother. Jack and his daughter found themselves homeless after the death of the wife & mother. Jack does work but work opportunities are limited and as a result money is rather tight to say the least. Thankfully Jack and his daughter have a roof over their heads thanks to the generosity of Jack's friend and he sends the occasional bit of work Jack's way. Jack and his daughter love going for walks on the beach too and they like building the stars from the sand glass although they leave them unfinished, which is where Seren comes in.

This was one heck of an emotional rollercoaster ride of a read. Oh I felt myself getting emotionally and personally involved in this book from the moment I started reading. As I stated above I felt empathy for Seren as I lost my father too and I found myself going through similar feelings to Seren. That said I also felt for Jack and his daughter. There were so many times that I wanted to jump into the pages of the book and give them all a hug. Although this book didn't make me cry, I did 'well up' a couple of times. This is from a person who doesn't usually show her emotions!! I found myself laughing out loud at some of the passages of the book, which attracted some strange looks from the other passengers on the bus. Half the time I found myself almost shouting at the book because I just wanted Seren and Jack to find the happiness that they so deserved.

I was addicted to this book from the moment I picked the book up. The author's writing style is such that you can't fail to be drawn in from the first word on the first page and before you know it you are hooked. The chapters alternate and are written from the points of view of Seren and Jack. This way of telling their stories in parallel worked really well and the story flows seamlessly. This book was really well written. The storyline was so realistic and well thought out, the characters were so realistic and the descriptions of the scenery were so vivid, that if I closed my eyes I could just imagine that I was there on the beach with all the action going on around me. I was so addicted to the book and to finding out how the story ended that I binge read this book over the space of a couple days, which worked really well. The pages and the time I spent reading flew past in a blur and before I knew what was happening I had cleared a large chunk of the book but because I was enjoying myself so much I genuinely hadn't realised.

In conclusion I ADORED reading 'Somewhere Beyond The Sea' and I wholeheartedly recommend this author and her books to other readers. I can't wait to see what she comes up with next but whilst I wait I will content myself with digging out her other books and making reading them one of my top reading priorities. The score on the Ginger Book Geek board is a well deserved 5* out of 5*.
