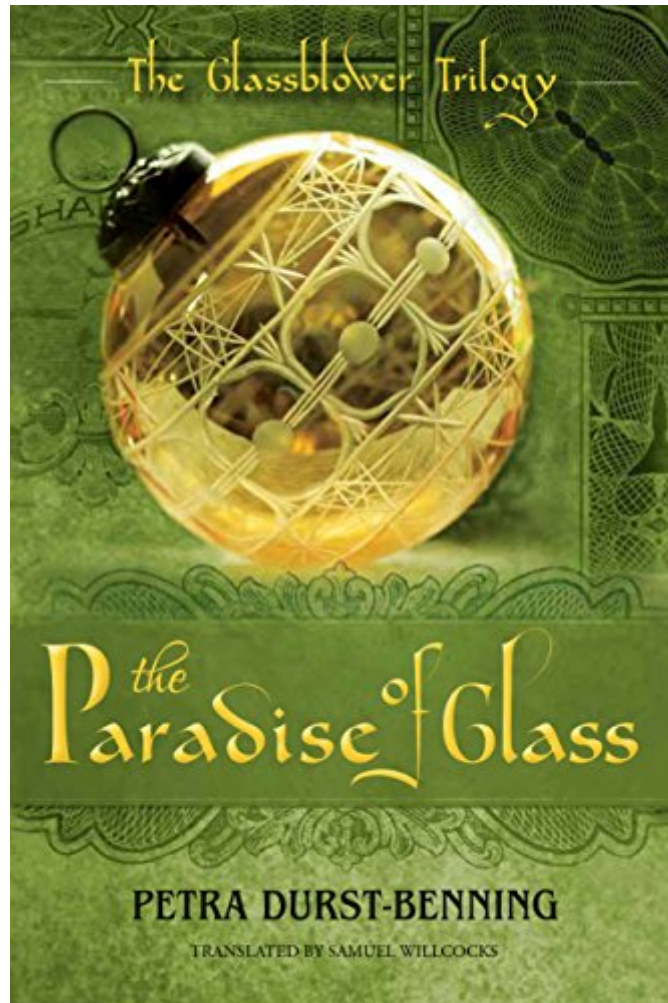


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The Paradise Of Glass (The Glassblower Trilogy Book 3)



Synopsis

Johanna, the oldest of the three Steinmann sisters, has successfully managed the family glassblowing business since her father's death, and her sister Marie's artistic gifts have made their wares unexpectedly famous. But now the livelihood of the town of Lauscha, Germany, known around the world as the "paradise of glass" is in danger. The local glassworks is about to be sold, and rumor has it the buyer wants to make changes that will challenge glassblowing tradition. Wanda, the daughter of the middle Steinmann sister, is freshly arrived from America and engaged to an ambitious local glassblower. Yet as soon as the bold young woman learns of the impending sale, she decides to do as her mother and aunts did - cast aside her expected role in order to save the day. With the help of a handsome bank clerk, she will take a daring risk with the villagers' hard-earned money. Just like glass, though, love and commerce are fragile, and what begins as their last hope may just end in shattered dreams.

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Customer Reviews

The first book got my attention and held it through until the end of the novel; the second book was a little tougher - the characters less sympathetic and interesting. This third book dragged from the

beginning almost until the end. Characters were not believable, plot was convoluted and you kept asking why? A book that revolves around one person bent on revenge, with a heroine who is so wishy washy does not make for good reading! I cannot recommend this novel to anyone.

I loved book 1, liked book 2, and book 3 was not as good. This book was totally centered on Wanda and she seemed like such a flat character compared to the original three sisters who began the trilogy. The draw of this series was Lauscha and the glass blowing, and we get very little of that. The premise is just Wanda trying to save the glass foundry for the town, and of course predictably finding a love interest in the process. To me it was a disappointing ending to an amazing beginning.

The Steinmann sisters' story continues where it ended in the second book, with Wanda, Ruth's daughter just coming back from Marie's bedside with Marie's daughter. The story finds a villain from the first book in Strobel, who was the shopkeeper whom caused Johanna so much grief. This time around he has his sights set on Wanda and the whole village. The local foundry it seems is soon to be sold, Wanda upon hearing all of the Glassblowers fretting over who will take over, comes up with a wild idea that the Glassblowers could rally together and raise the funds and purchase it themselves and therefore actually make a profit themselves and be in full control. Not everyone is pleased with Wanda's plan though, least of all Richard, Wanda's fiancé. He is consumed by his "art" and finds this talk disturbing and doesn't understand why Wanda wants to disturb the status quo. Yet, the townspeople decide amongst themselves that they want to go ahead with this wild scheme of Wanda's. Thus begins a journey that will change the little town forever. Yet, all isn't as smooth sailing as Wanda would hope. I detest both historical fiction and series books, yet each of the books in this series I've read nonstop, without being able to take even a moment's break. The writing is superb and the storyline fast paced. The writer pulls you in and you fall in love with the characters and the village. It's a story that you don't want to end. I hope that there will be a fourth book in this series.

I really enjoyed the first book with getting to know the sisters and seeing them break through barriers into a male dominated occupation. I thought they were well fleshed out and believable. In the 2nd book the characters were starting to annoy me - a little too predictable and the men in particular were either so obtuse I didn't care to follow them or so rough I just wanted them gone. I was hoping the 3rd book would redeem the characters but honestly I couldn't even finish it. I saw where the story was heading when they needed money and she had to go to town and get a loan.

Wanda is vapid and her relationship with her mother and even her real father is fake and pretentious. I understand this is a time when males dominated and in a location where females were supposed to be retiring - these females are challenging that. With that being said - how they are treated in the town and professionally just doesn't ring true. I had really high hopes for this book and anxiously awaited the publishing date. Unfortunately I was disappointed and left longing for the writing styles of the first book.

From the first book through the third, this story has kept me riveted - the history, the family, it was fascinating. I loved that the author was able to take the story in many different directions without losing the main heart of the tale, the family. Bottom line is I now have a much greater appreciation for glasswork and would truly love to visit Lauscha to see the story's setting! Also of note, the editing was perfect (no annoying typos or grammatical errors) and the translating was beautifully done.

Having read the first two books some time ago, I was keen to pick up the threads of the Steinmann sisters story. Wanda returns from America with Silvie (Marie's daughter) who she has committed herself to look after and also to marry Richard a local. However, she's quite a plucky young lady and when she learns the local glassworks are about to be sold and changes are to be made, she gets involved and the story unfolds. I thought it good that Strobel got his just deserts and Wanda and the glassblowers pursuing the paper-trail was interesting. Of course the inevitable happens, her friendship with David the Bank Clerk blossoms and then it seems to come to an abrupt end - "I was expecting more!" I'm not ecstatic about this book, but it was an enjoyable read.

I am sorry to see the series end, but with a trilogy all you get are three--right!? I enjoyed all three books and was happy that I could follow these characters for so long. If there is ever a fourth book in the series, sign me up.

I enjoyed the first two books in this trilogy immensely, but it took me quite a bit longer to get into the "I don't want to put this book down" page turning keenness to read that the first two had me in, which is why it's a four star instead of a five. It's a good read about the next generation in the valley of glassmakers. I enjoy very much, learning about new things while I read a good book.

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