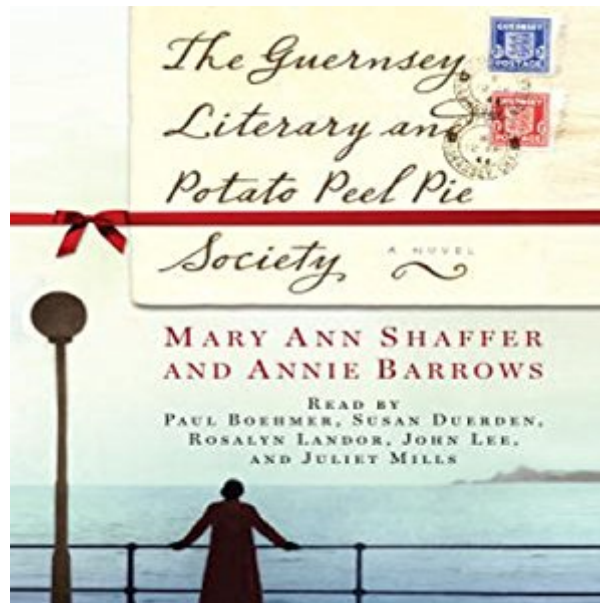




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The Guernsey Literary And Potato Peel Pie Society



Synopsis

“I wonder how the book got to Guernsey? Perhaps there is some sort of secret homing instinct in books that brings them to their perfect readers.” January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she’s never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb. As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society—born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island—boasts a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all. Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society’s members, learning about their island, their taste in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever. Written with warmth and humor as a series of letters, this novel is a celebration of the written word in all its guises, and of finding connection in the most surprising ways. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Before downloading this book based on a recommendation from a dear friend I was skeptical due to

the incredibly long title. Thank goodness I was taught to never judge a book by its cover. 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' is charming, unique, and absolutely one of the best reads I've ever come across. I had forgotten what huge fan I was of epistolary novels, until diving into this book. The writing used immediately brought back memories of a few of my favorite childhood reads. It took little effort before I became utterly captivated by this page turner. The authors ability to verbally paint the characters left me imagining distinct voices for each of them. This read felt as though I was watching a play, as the story unfolded one page at time. However, consider yourself warned, this book caused a few late nights and very rough mornings because I was incapable of putting it down. I agree with a few of the other reviews, I wanted this story to be longer. Following this book I had an extremely difficult time finding another that I could really dive into because I NEEDED more from Mary Ann Shaffer. Her touching story about a community coming together during dark times took me on a roller coaster of emotions and will be at the top of my list of recommended reads for anyone who likes historical fiction and enjoys epistolary novels such as the 'Dear America' series by Ellen Emerson White. I rarely write reviews and I was not compensated in any way, shape, or form to do so, which I hope speaks volumes of my sincere fondness for this book.

I loved this book. The letter-writing style was unique and fun to read. It really felt like I was in their circle -- part of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Along the way I learned a lot of history, things I never knew about. It was easy to feel the humanity of each side forced into the war, young men who really didn't want to be there, who wanted a life of their own and made to endure years of hardship. And how the islanders managed to cope with the invasion of their land, their homes, their lives. It was so very insightful.

Throughout the book is artful use of personal correspondence to convey stories of human love, connection, tragedy and the humor that can arise out of simple everyday interactions. Personally, I was made gently but vividly and memorably more aware of what happens to people in times of war. All the while I was captivated by the wonderful variety of stories told and personalities revealed. It is one of my favorite books of all, along with, among others, Heidi, the Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon, The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt and Louise Penny's Inspector Gamache books.

One of the best books I've read in a while. Loved the story. Loved the letters back and forth. Loved the characters. Great historical fiction. Learned a lot. So sorry to hear the author passed away. I

was looking forward to other books written by her.

Did you know that the Germans occupied the British island of Guernsey for five years during WW II? In this epistolary novel, through the eyes of Juliet, the authors tell the stories of islanders of all ages and backgrounds. The characters are portrayed with a deft touch as their foibles and humanity are explored. There is even some romance. It is trite to say but the characters felt like friends with whom I wanted to spend lots of time. Highly recommended! Enjoy finding out what the pie is and why it was created.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book, but it took a bit to get started with the entire book being in letters... making it hard to identify characters and relationships. After reading more, that became those problems were rectified (I got to know the characters and relationships). I enjoyed the varied characters and their personalities, but mostly enjoyed a different experience of the war from the civilian side. Troubling for sure so I am not sure "enjoyed" is the right word, but it made the suffering and the strength of human spirit to endure, recover and find joy again (however scarred) a good read.

I almost took a pass on this novel because of the title (it really is the best title). Thank goodness a friend who'd read this book was with me and recommended it! I started reading the book that day and finished it that night, feeling as satisfied as possibly even as I might while savoring a scrumptious hot fudge sundae or some other favorite food. Then I did something I very seldom do: I read the book again the next day and then again a week later. I've just reread it for the fifth time. Authors Mary Ann Shaffer (no relation, and a different spelling) and Annie Barrows used letters, telegrams, and several diary entries from on-stage and several off-stage characters to tell a story that shifts its tone in a pleasing kaleidoscopic manner. Much of the story is light, breezy, fun, and poignant, but there are some segments that take you briefly into dark places that they're necessary for the story to be as whole and based on fact as it is. The authors did a tremendous amount of research in order to turn post-war-torn London and the Nazi occupation of the Channel Islands into such an engaging experience for readers, and with settings you see clearly in your mind. You get a sense of what people who lived in both places at the time went through before, during, and after the war, and this is wrapped within luscious layers of the main character's experiences. Main character, Juliet Ashton, is a writer with a personality that can make readers wish

they knew her, or were like her. And who wouldn't want to have friends in their life like those she made in Guernsey. Within the story, the authors threw in some turns of phrases that are true jewels. No matter how many times I've read this book, when I reach the phrases I refer to, I still have to pause and appreciate them or laugh out loud, depending on the phrase. As a book editor, nothing pleases me more than a story told well and a truly clever use of words. This book accomplishes this from the first word to the last. If you haven't read it yet, I highly recommend you do.

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