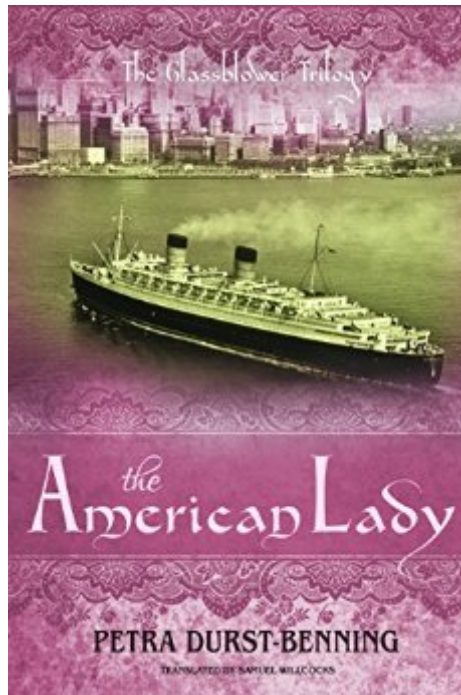


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The American Lady (The Glassblower Trilogy Book 2)



Synopsis

Tempestuous and beautiful Wanda Miles, daughter of Ruth and Stephen Miles (or so she thinks), aspires to more than the life of a debutante, but the trouble is she doesn't know precisely what she wants. Then her aunt Marie, the family's renowned glassblower, arrives from Lauscha, Germany, and Wanda decides that learning about her ancestry may hold the key to her future. When Marie accidentally reveals a long-held secret about Wanda's parents, Wanda goes to Lauscha to unravel the truth. While Marie finds herself increasingly swept up in New York City's bohemian social scene "catching the eye of a handsome young Italian in the process" Wanda explores a past she never knew in the village of her mother's youth "and begins to build a life that she never expected. A sweeping tale that takes readers from the small town of Lauscha to the skyscrapers of New York and the sun-kissed coast of Italy, *The American Lady* is a tribute to the enduring power of family and what we'll do in the name of love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since finishing the last Maeve Binchy novel I've been looking for another story teller with a similar penchant for vivid description and complete character development. Petra Durst-Benning fits this

mold. Her characters in this second book of the trilogy are well developed and complex. Her descriptions in each scene are colorfully detailed and inviting. Like the first book of the trilogy, Durst-Benning keeps the tempo crisp and the characters charming. I can't wait to read the final chapter of this wonderful series.

I read the first book in the trilogy "The Glassblower" after someone recommended it to me as a good read. I enjoyed the book and gave it a good review. Durst-Benning finished with enough of a cliff-hanger that I knew that I had to read "The American Lady," the second in the trilogy. I am sorely disappointed in this follow-up. Having glanced through other reviews for this novel touting the strong female characters, I say where? The strong women from "The Glassblower" are weak minor characters while the main female characters are ninnies, who question themselves at every turn, except sex. They are always sure about sex. Not that there's anything wrong with that. Hmmm help out the family? Be a good employee? What do I do? What do I do? Swoon, swoon. Sex? Let me rip off these restraining garments and stare at your manhood! Really? This makes a strong female character? I had no indication that the story would become so insipid while reading "The Glassblower"; it's almost as if Durst-Benning was no longer able to continue the story and a ghost writer oblivious to her vision picked up the storyline or the translator mucked up the difference in the language so the author's storyline was muddled. The lack of historical correctness also bothers me. This novel takes place in 1911. Did women wear strappy sandals, panties, bras, and short hair? The details indicated that the fashions and activities were more common in the 1920s, but I'm not an historian. This novel doesn't make me want to do research. I want to forget it. I've canceled my pre-order for the final novel in the trilogy. There are just too many good books to read.

While I liked the basic plot of the story, I couldn't give it 5 stars because of the technical issues. It felt like not enough research was done. Transatlantic telephone calls in 1910?!!! No way. At one point I was waiting for the characters to jump on a plane. Also, there was too much use of phrases and words not belonging to the era and geography. For example calling the carnival in Germany Mardi Gras. All the inaccuracies ended up being distracting. I would be hung up on what was being said or happening not being believable instead of enjoying the story.

Petra Durst-Benning has written an admirable sequel to *The Glassblower*. Her rich, vibrant characters have moved on from their humble origins and all are immersed in their individual and collective futures. The background of both books is interesting but it is her beautifully detailed

characters that keep you involved. With a well researched historical setting, these books are well worth the read. Personally, I can't wait to read the third in the trilogy.

I love it, love it, love it!...I really liked the first book "the Glassblower", but this one tops it..I can not wait for the 3rd book coming out in September..I have already pre-purchased it..I have read several trilogies and I have to say this one is right at the top of my favorites...If you are looking around for a good trilogy to read don't hesitate to purchase these books..I don't think you will be sorry..

This was an excellent second episode to the trilogy. Determined women making their way in the world at a time when most didn't work outside the house or travel alone. These were women who were changing that. It is about love and family loyalty. I enjoyed it and can't wait for the third installment.

Here I am at 2:00am, wishing that the third book in this trilogy was winging it's way to me tomorrow. The author spins the tale of strong women with compassion. I highly recommend this book and the first one in the series. I couldn't put it down.

Good follow-up to the The Glassblower's Daughter. What happens to Ruth, who runs off to America with her true love and infant daughter? Does Marie ever fall in love, or find her creativity challenged, or leave her village for Pete's sake? And what about Johanna, that businesswoman supreme - is business her whole life, or does she have a personal life as well? These questions and others are answered in this book.

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