

The background features a network diagram with white nodes and lines on a purple-to-pink gradient. The nodes are connected by thin white lines, forming a complex web. Some nodes are larger than others, and the overall structure is somewhat irregular and organic. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom.

Tidelands

Written by Philippa Gregory

Published by sanmarco-sf

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Tidelands

By Philippa Gregory

Tidelands Ucsf

3.5 stars rounded up.

It's a hard life for Alinor and her children who live on Sealsea Island, off the south coast of England, the tidelands –neither sea nor shore–. She's a healer who grows herbs for medicine, delivers babies and works at times for the more well off residents as does her thirteen year old daughter and son. Her husband is missing, yet in 1648, a woman is defined by her husband and she is –not a widow nor a wife–, so when good fortune comes to her son, there are innuendos that she 3.5 stars rounded up.

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The first part of the story was slow moving with just way too much detail about her daily work routines and it felt repetitive at times. But then the story came to life as I've come to expect from Phillipa Gregory and I became quite engaged. While this is different from the other Gregory books I've read in that the main characters here are not the royals we are used to, the political circumstances are part of the story, the English Civil War and she depicts the history as well as she usually does with her research reflected here. While I felt bogged down at first, the ending was more than enough to keep me wondering what will happen to Alinor, and I'll be eagerly waiting the second book in the series. A captivating story once things got moving so I'll round up to 4 stars.

ARC was provided by Atria via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. ...more

Tidelands

Tidelands Cast

NOW AVAILABLE!!!

philippa gregory is a name i can be counted on to invoke whenever iâ€™m doing any RA spiel bullet-pointing the many different flavors of historical fiction, with her oeuvre representing the well-researched, female-fronted, literary romance-ish bracket.

i read *The Other Boleyn Girl* ages ago, and i remember liking it, so when i saw that her new series would focus on 17th century england with a witchcraft angle, well here i came.

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iâ€™m a new england girl who grew up on stories of goody proctor and giles corey and in undergrad, i took a class with a more global perspective on witchcraft, which turned out to be the perfect â€œmeâ€• kinda class: horrifying AND illuminating. â€˜cuz no matter where in the world people cry â€˜witch,â€™ the targets are certain to contain: unmarriageable daughters, infertile or otherwise inconvenient wives, elderly women, unruly womenâ€¦ it makes the victorian practice of offloading these same problematic females into madhouses seem downright benevolent.

also included in the â€˜frequently accusedâ€™ category are midwives and any women working in that mysteeeeerious realm of womenâ€™s health.

which is what we have here. alinor is an herbalist and midwife living in the sussex tidelandsâ€™ half tide, half land, good for nothing, where even the ground beneath oneâ€™s feet cannot be counted on from one moment to the next. alinorâ€™s ne'er-do-well husband zachary is a fisherman who has not returned from the sea in months; maybe dead, more likely having abandoned alinor and their two children, but definitely leaving her in a precarious position, as indefinable as the tidelands, not a widow

Tidelands

nor a wife.

although her situation seems dire—a vulnerable, beautiful woman without a man, on the edge of the world with a young son and a daughter who will be needing a dowry, with only the herbs she can grow and the work she can find—suddenly, she and her children are blessed with the opportunities of individual, upwardly-mobile paths.

what can account for this good fortune? perhaps witchcraft? not so fast—first we have to remember that during this time, there's a whole civil war going on in england and it must be addressed. we'll come back to this witch business in like 200 pages or so.

if you're someone who loves historical fiction for its immersive properties, you will probably dig this. it's a slow-burner; there's a lot of ~ here we are in the tidelands, this is life in the tidelands (you cannot hear it, but i am singing this to a tune), but it's an accumulation of everyday things slowly moving towards something, and i was getting impatient for the story to take me to that something.

if i hadn't been promised juicy witchy stuff on the back cover, i would have been less impatient with the pacing. i did appreciate the descriptions of the family's man v nature struggle; the hardscrabble eking out of life in a terrifically challenging landscape, how stubborn and resourceful you have to be to survive in such an inhospitable climate—those themes always have my full attention.

maybe i've been away from historical fiction for too long, but i didn't love this. the middle felt draggy, and some of the characters were a bit one-note; particularly the exhausting mrs. miller and "o no" alinor.

before you scold—i understand how tenuous her position is. i understand that even on the ever-shifting tidelands, one does not rock boats. i understand that a woman who has seen nothing of the world beyond her little isolated pocket of it; a mother of two with no man to speak for her, in a profession she has to keep emphasizing does not include 17th century viagra or magical spells, she's gotta lay a little low and not be seen as shrill or strident or defensive or any of those words we love so much to hear when a reasonable woman responds to chronically unreasonable people. people like that broadly-drawn mrs miller, for example. and i didn't need her to be anachronistically assertive or ooh-rah empowered, but even a little spark in her interior life would have been welcome. one suppressed eyeroll or clenched fist. an acknowledgment that her public-facing demeanor takes effort. she's placid as a messiah, turning all the cheeks, and every sentence she speaks is delivered simply, evenly, coolly, steadily, levelly, easily; it's an impressive number of synonyms for an endlessly agreeable person, but it doesn't give her character much depth. her daughter alys makes up for alinor's lack of indignation, but as a character, alinor reads psychologically flat.

my last gripe, i swear, but as far as the ending - it's so disruptive. i mean, it depends where the

Tidelands

series goes from here, but Gregory spent so much time developing this physical location and this social community only to basically erase all that hard work with a JK NOW IT IS THIS, abandonment of everything we've been working towards.

anyway. this historical element is strong, the witch element is brief, the romance element is...present. i will probably keep reading the series, but am hoping the next one is more focused on people losing their minds over witches.

come to my blog! ...more

The time is 1648, not an easy time to be a woman, especially a woman without a husband. Alinor is left a single mother of two when her husband goes out to sea and never returns. She ekes out a living as a midwife and herbalist, in a time when those activities were viewed with suspicion and accusations of witchcraft were common.

The country is in the midst of a civil war between the King and his supporters and Parliament. Alinor's path crosses with James, a young priest and a Royalist. She helps him find safe passage and their relationship forms the crux of the story. The time is 1648, not an easy time to be a woman, especially a woman without a husband. Alinor is left a single mother of two when her husband goes out to sea and never returns. She ekes out a living as a midwife and herbalist, in a time when those activities were viewed with suspicion and accusations of witchcraft were common.

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Meanwhile, Alinor's children are presented with opportunities that will save them from a life of menial work and poverty. Alinor is like all mothers everywhere who wants a better life for herself and her children. I admired her hard work, ambition and determination. But their good fortune only fuels the suspicions of the townspeople.

As with all the author's books, this is hefty at 448 pages, and as it is the first book in a series, much time is spent setting up the background and life in the Tidelands. I listened to this on audio, which I highly recommend, as the narrator is excellent. Listening while multi-tasking made even the political maneuverings palatable. I appreciate the author's attention to detail and historical accuracy, and it certainly made me appreciate my good fortune to live in the current times.

The last half of the book moves along at a fast pace and the ending was a shocker. After so much time spent in the Tidelands, I'm looking forward to seeing where the next book in the series takes us.

☐ This was a buddy read with Marialyce, one we both enjoyed on audio. For our duo reviews please

Tidelands

visit <https://yayareadslotsofbooks.wordpress...> ...more

Tidelands

Tidelands Book

The enemy from without and the enemy from within....

Philippa Gregory has always left her thumbprint on novels of English castles and royalty. But this one has a particular flavor centering upon Sealsea Island near the tidelands in 1648. We're introduced to Alinor known also as Goody Reekie. Alinor has climbed to the top of the church tower at midnight gazing out to sea for her lost husband, Zachary. Zachary has been missing for almost a year. Neither widow nor wife, Alinor keeps her vigil.

Alinor The enemy from without and the enemy from within....

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Alinor notices that she is not alone. From within the darkness, she hears a man's voice. He tells her that he is Father James and must meet with Sir William Peachey. As an herbalist and a midwife, Alinor is not familiar with the changing times occurring in London where King Charles has fled and Oliver Cromwell has taken control. There is unrest in the countryside with those supporting the king and those who wish him to stand trial. We will come to know this Father James more closely and observe his true colors as Alinor becomes more and more involved in his safety and well-being.

But at the core of it all is Alinor's solid allegiance to her daughter, Alys, and to her son, Rob. They exist within the hardships of life in the tidelands with work that furrows the brow and coins that rarely touch the palm.

Long held secrets permeate Tidelands from the wider scope of the English Civil Wars to the personal interactions of parent to child and neighbor to community. Philippa Gregory begins this one with a low simmer and then gradually brings this one to a rapid boil towards the end. The dialogue is true to era and the characters reflect the historical angst. The ending opens the door that will shed a light upon the road of the future for Sealsea Island and its inhabitants. Whether you are a die-hard Philippa Gregory fan or a new one in the making, Tidelands is one novel that will sweep you away.

I received a copy of Tidelands through NetGalley for an honest review. My thanks to Simon & Schuster (Atria Books) and to Philippa Gregory for the opportunity. ...more

4.5 stars! I have started making my way through Philippa Gregory's fabulous books, and I was so excited to read her newest series and novel, Tidelands.

Tidelands

In this story, the reader is taken to 1648 England, in the midst of the Civil War between King and Parliament.

I loved the research that went into this book, and I'm always amazed at Gregory's storytelling talent to retell history. I've always been a fan of historical fiction, and can only imagine what life for a woman would have been like during the 1640s. 4.5 stars! I have started making my way through Philippa Gregory's fabulous books, and I was so excited to read her newest series and novel, Tidelands.

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*Thank you to Atria books for this complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

...more

Tidelands San Mateo

One can always count on Philippa Gregory to write of women who are strong, determined, and courageous. With lots of evident research, she gives a human voice to these women, making them come alive as she imbues in them human frailties and an innate wisdom that came with living in the times that they did. From *The Other Boleyn Woman* to this current book, we meet women who are set in their determination and do all that is needed to succeed, to live another day.

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In this current outing, we meet Alinor, a woman who has to live by her wits and her innate abilities as a herbalist, midwife, and a mother of two, married to a disaster of a man. He deserts her and goes off to sea, and Alinor is alone, left to care for herself and her beloved children. One night in a graveyard, she sees and meets James a Royalist priest something that was a kiss of death in the times of Civil War in England when Oliver Cromwell was in power, and Charles the First was in exile. She guides James out of the marsh and starts down a path that is filled with danger as she allows her heart to be won by James.

Times were ever so difficult and with an aura of witchcraft surrounding her, Alinor and her children strive for peace and a sense of contentment. However, the road to their dreams has many pitfalls and as Alinor battles the times she lives in, she discovers a strength of heart and mind. She will survive and give her children a chance, a life beyond what the tidelands have given her.

This sweeping tale is long, setting up the scenario for the coming books in which we will again follow the life and times of Alinor and her offspring.

I recommend this book to those who so enjoy a novel that focuses on women that have met adversity and yet have been able to through strength of heart and mind to become resilient, tenacious and filled with resolve.

When Jan and I heard that Philippa Gregory was working on a new series, we were quite anxious to give it a go as we both have enjoyed many of her previous works. We were not disappointed in this new beginning that promises to advocate for strength in women even through the hardships of being little more than chattel in seventeenth century Britain.

To see our duo reviews plus an interview with the author, you can go [here](#):

Tidelands

<http://yayareadslotsofbooks.wordpress...> ...more

Special thanks to the publisher and Net Galley for a free, electronic version of this novel.

It's 1648 and England is in the midst of civil unrest, with the parliament threatening to overthrow and charge the ruling King. Alinor is a midwife and healer, living in a small shack in the tidelands, with her son and daughter. Alinor's husband has disappeared, claiming she had "seduced" him with her magical powers, and their children did not belong to him, but Alinor is determined to make it on her own. Special thanks to the publisher and Net Galley for a free, electronic version of this novel.

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Philippa Gregory is back with her new novel, *Tidelands*, the first in a new series, *The Fairmile*. Unlike most of her other works, *Tidelands* does not tell the tale of a Royal family in turmoil and fighting for the Throne (not directly anyway), but instead we hear of witch trials, forbidden love, and civil unrest.

This novel begins as sort of a historic love story, with James and Alinor meeting clandestinely and falling in love, the two being from two different worlds and unable to wed. Due to this, I found the beginning of the novel a little slow to get into. It was easy to fall in love with the character of Alinor, and her struggles and challenges of being a single mother in that time, and I immediately formed a bond that I wanted to see through to its end. Once the plot picked up, it became difficult to put down, as we are shown more of Alinor's life as a mother and the local healer, and the problems she faces being a woman in the 17th century.

Beautiful and poetic, as only Gregory can do, *Tidelands* is a tale of star-crossed lovers, with a hint of witchcraft. The setting is dismal and dreary, set in the dark swamps of England, where only those who know the land would fear to tread. As the novel progresses, I soon found myself shouting at characters in the novel, and rooting for Alinor to serve some just desserts of her own.

The ending was completely unpredictable and although satisfying, it left just enough to warrant another novel (or two) in a new series. I look forward to following the story of Alinor and her children throughout the remaining *Fairmile* books.

...more

Tidelands Health

4.5â•

Wheww, can I just say: As a woman, I'm so glad I was born in this age and not the 17th century! Because holy doo doo...we think being a woman is hard today?? It ain't nothin (comparatively speaking)!! Anyway, other than this new appreciation I have for the time I live in, I also thoroughly enjoyed the history lesson I received from Tidelands.

It's set in what was an incredibly tumultuous time for England. The mid 1600s during the English Civil War, when King Charles I & parliament were fighting each other.

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It's set in what was an incredibly tumultuous time for England. The mid 1600s during the English Civil War, when King Charles I & parliament were fighting each other. Not only that, but ever since Henry VIII's religious reformation over a century before, the succeeding monarchs had bounced back and forth between Catholicism and Protestantism. So, neighbors were spying on and/or hiding beliefs from neighbors, the upper class and lower classes were worlds apart & all in all, it wasn't a very open or happy time.

This novel is the first in a series that is apparently going to follow a family over generations as it goes from rags to riches. This is the rags part for sure and set the foundation for the rest of the series.

Alinor, a midwife whose abusive, drunkard husband has left her and her two children, taking all her savings with him (which of course is legal because he is the man, so no matter he didn't earn it, it's still his...GRRR). This story follows her as she tries to survive as the most impoverished woman on her island; one who can call herself neither wife nor widow, which is worse than either! I really do have a new appreciation for the women whose shoulders I now stand on and what they went through to get us to where we are today. Back in those days, superstition and paranoia ran deep & rampant. Women had absolutely no rights and were treated like baby factories who were there to take care of the men. While not a fun, happy read this is an incredibly informative & captivating start to what is sure to be a fascinating series that I look forward to continuing. I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway. ...more

*<https://theburgeoningbookshelf.blogspot...>

England 1648 is a dangerous time for a woman especially if you have intelligence, beauty and determination.

Allinor is a herbalist, a healer just like her mother before her. However her skill with herbs and her outstanding beauty cause mistrust and jealousy. She is gossiped about as being a witch. With her husband missing she is left to bring up two children alone.

Tidelands is set during the last few months of King Charles I's reign and a time of religious

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Tidelands is set during the last few months of King Charles I's reign and a time of religious upheaval. It is troubled times in England and those troubles reach as far as the remote Tidelands.

The major part of the story is about the political unrest of the time and a plot to save the King.

Allinor is unwittingly pulled into the danger when she helps a handsome stranger and falls in love. Gregory deftly portrays the poverty and remoteness of Sealsea Island and through Allinor we see the life that women had to endure. With her husband missing she was neither wife nor widow. Her working hours were long and hard.

The plot is slow but immersive with the book spanning only 9 months it is a solid basis for the continuing saga. As the rest of the series unfolds we will have no doubt of the poverty and hardship these characters came from.

Philippa Gregory is a master story-teller. Her research and knowledge of the time period shines through in how effortlessly and smoothly the story flows.

A missing husband, a handsome priest; Tidelands is an unforgettable story of love, perseverance and danger.

*I received a review copy from the publisher

...more

Tidelands Netflix

I always look forward to a Philippa Gregory book and this was no exception. It was a slow read for me until the exciting finish but it is the first book of the series and I think Gregory spent a lot of time laying the groundwork. She envisions a long series like the The Forsythe Saga so she wanted a good foundation.

Set in 1648 during the English Civil War, Alinor is a poor woman, and I do mean poor, who is raising her two children after her fisherman husband sailed out one day and never return I always look forward to a Philippa Gregory book and this was no exception. It was a slow read for me until the exciting finish but it is the first book of the series and I think Gregory spent a lot of time laying the groundwork. She envisions a long series like the The Forsythe Saga so she wanted a good foundation.

Set in 1648 during the English Civil War, Alinor is a poor woman, and I do mean poor, who is raising her two children after her fisherman husband sailed out one day and never returned. She is in limbo not knowing if her husband is dead or alive. She is a midwife and sells herbs walking a thin line of not being considered a witch. Her daughter, Alys, has her eye set on marrying the son of a local farmer who owns his own land.

One night Alinor meets James who is going to work for the local Lord. He is full of dangerous secrets including being a spy for King Charles I who is imprisoned by the Parliament. He secures a position for her son, Rob, as a companion for the Lord's son. The change in fortune brings out the gossips in town and the whispers of witch float around.

As events bring about the wedding of Alys, climatic revelations bring major changes and confrontations for the family. It's a cliff hanger ending nicely setting up Book 2. The history of the times is quite interesting and well researched and I can't wait to see what happens to Alinor next. ...more

Tidelands by Philippa Gregory is my most anticipated new release for 2019 and I was excited to get my hands on it. Set in England 1648, this is a brand new series from one of my favourite historical fiction authors.

In this new series, Philippa Gregory is going to be tracing generations of the same family through their lives beginning in 17th century England, and following them all the way to Europe and the United States. Spanning more than two centuries, this series will show how regular, everyd Tidelands by Philippa Gregory is my most anticipated new release for 2019 and I was excited to get my hands on it. Set in England 1648, this is a brand new series from one of my favourite historical fiction authors.

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Tidelands

Hell yes! Called the Fairmile series, it all starts with Tidelands.

Alinor lives in poverty with her two children, having seemingly been abandoned by her abusive fisherman husband. Struggling to scratch together a living, Alinor is a midwife and uses her skills with herbs to heal the sick and injured in her district. She also works at the nearby mill with her daughter, and earns money where she can.

Alinor describes how she makes a living on page 27:

"I'm a midwife. I used to have my licence, when the bishop was in his palace and could grant a licence - before he was thrown out and ran away. I can draw a tooth and set a bone, cut out a sore and heal an ulcer, but I do nothing else. I am a healer and a finder of lost things."

Descended from generations of wise women, Alinor is constantly treading a fine line between healing and helping and being accused of witchcraft by locals who love to gossip. With her husband missing feared drowned, Alinor is in the unenviable position of being neither a widow nor a wife and is forced to take counsel from her brother.

Set against the backdrop of English Civil War between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians, news of these political issues is slow to reach the mire. Alinor's fortunes begin to change when she aids a young gentleman in hiding even though she suspects he is working to save the King. Meanwhile, Alinor's daughter falls in love with a wealthy farmer's son and they long to be together; despite Alinor having no means to raise a dowry.

The concept of class and station is a prominent theme in Tidelands, making it seemingly impossible for Alinor or her daughter to marry for love. The lack of rights for women was not a shock, but was still hard to read and the obvious difference between those in poverty and those from wealthy families was clearly apparent. I found this excerpt from the character of James (the young Royalist) on page 189 most revealing:

"He shivered with distaste. He felt that he could not bear the ugliness of these people's lives on the very edge of the shore, with their loves and hates ebbing and flowing like a muddy tide, with their anger roaring like the water in the millrace, with their hatreds and fears as treacherous as the hushing well. James's shudder told him that he wanted nothing to do with any of them. He wished himself back with his own people, where cruelty was secret, violence was hidden, and good manners more important than crime."

I largely came to love Philippa Gregory's writing via her Plantagenet and Tudor novels however she has left the Tudor courts and the wars of the roses behind. Whilst I enjoy reading about monarchs and famous women from history, Gregory is equally able to convincingly write about the everyday lives of regular people in England at the time. Fishermen, farmers, and millers populate the cast of characters in Tidelands and I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the rhythms of their lives and how they eked out a meagre wage. I was also inspired by just how hard Alinor and her daughter work to save for her dowry

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and their hardships reminded me how fortunate I am.

There was plenty of foreshadowing going on in the novel though and I just knew something was going to go terribly wrong. Feelings of foreboding permeated the writing and it was almost a relief when events started to take a turn for the worse.

Knowing this was the first of a series I felt Tidelands had a very fitting ending. It wasn't a cliffhanger but a clear separation preparing the reader for a future direction. I'm definitely eager to follow the Fairmile series and find out what happens next. Tidelands is recommended for readers of historical fiction and fans of Ken Follett will enjoy the beginnings of this generational family saga rooted in English history.

* Copy courtesy of Simon & Schuster * ...more

Tidelands Season 2

Set against the English Civil War, between Parliamentarians and Royalists over the governance.

The Isle of Wight, 1648: The king is imprisoned and rebellious parliament is in power.

Sussex, 1648: Alinor, living on the tidelands of the Saxon shore, is 27 and already very weary. Now, a widow of the missing fisherman and abusive husband. Her path crosses with a priest in hiding. James believes in the old religion and in restoring king to its rightful place. Alinor helps him to pass the treacherous marsh. Set against the English Civil War, between Parliamentarians and Royalists over the governance.

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The vivid portrayal of tidelands makes the beginning of the story very engrossing. Only the people of the Sealsea Island know how to tread its waters and tides to avoid getting a foot caught by a quick mud and body snatched by waters.

As the story progresses, there is a suspension of wanting to know where the story goes and what happens between Alinor and James, but the progression of the story is very slow. After a while it catches with you that the story is going hardly anywhere and the front action is Alinor's feelings for James and vice versa. There are some small twists, but it is not enough to make it an engaging read.

From the beginning, Alinor's daughter notices a difference in Alinor, her look (after meeting James) or her looking like she is listening for something (James's footsteps). The daughter inherits the vision from mother, and I understand her abilities, but maybe the presentation of it didn't make it believable.

Also, some accusations of Alinor having her kids with a faerie lord. I understand some old-time beliefs, but this was another thing that was questionable in this story.

I enjoyed the part with Alinor's son, who advances from doing menial outdoor work to a meaningful indoor position, thanks to James. He is also good with recognizing herbs and knowing their use, which he inherits after his mom. Alinor, midwife and herbalist, comes from a long line of wise women. And that shows a promising future for him. But his quick advance makes some people suspicious and scheming.

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Nevertheless, for such long story, the plot could be better developed, with more conceivable effects and less mystery of unearthly things.

I've been a huge fan of Philippa Gregory, but at some point I broke away from her books as her concentration is in English court and I wanted to expend my horizons. I was glad to see something different written by her, but this is not her best book.

@FB/BestHistoricalFiction ...more

I've not read any Philippa Gregory before. Not because of any great aversion to her or her stories, but I guess I get caught up in all the sci-fi and action-filled kind of stories coming out, and have yet to get around to reading her... though I had seen at least one of the movies based on her books, and I own several of her books.

But there are a few things I'm totally obsessed with and will pick up pretty much any book with these themes and give it a chance. This one seems to take place during I've not read any Philippa Gregory before. Not because of any great aversion to her or her stories, but I guess I get caught up in all the sci-fi and action-filled kind of stories coming out, and have yet to get around to reading her... though I had seen at least one of the movies based on her books, and I own several of her books.

But there are a few things I'm totally obsessed with and will pick up pretty much any book with these themes and give it a chance. This one seems to take place during the time of witch-hunts, and alludes to the main character being "suspected of possessing dark secrets in superstitious times", so I'm in, and will be giving it a shot. And, being by Philippa Gregory, I'm sure it will be well done and I'll enjoy it.

(The other things, if anyone is interested, are clones, bog-bodies, spontaneous human combustion, time travel, space travel, robots, cults, and cryo-sleep.) ...more

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Tidelands Foster City

I give this book five stars because it is full of superlatives - not the normal ones, like "amazing" or "awesome" but harder, grittier truths that need to be told. As I read, I thought of two other books Tidelands brings to mind, Delia Owens book "Where the Crawdads Sing" and Margaret Atwoods book The Handmaiden.

Women today are not equal. And at the same time, we are so much safer than we once were, have so many more rights than we once did, and we need to keep in mind that unless we stand up for ourselves, there are no guarantees that we will continue to have rights, rights over our own bodies, rights to own properties, rights to make our own decisions about our lives. God willing, one day we will be paid equally for doing the same work as a man, and we will have really good childcare when we choose to continue our professions. We are still fighting those battles.

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Alinor, the main character in Tidelands, would find our rights astounding. She is barely surviving in the shifting marshlands of Foulmire, where one wrong step can end our life being sucked into mud and/or drowning in the tides. She is eking out an existence with herbs and potions, collecting eggs. When she comes into a small amount of money, she buys a boat and fishes, in spite of her fear of the water. Abandoned - and she is glad of it - by a husband who beat her, as most husbands did when their wives stepped out of line - she struggles to raise two children, to feed them, and herself, and she lives in a hovel made of driftwood, caked with mud to try (failing) to keep the freezing wind out.

England is in chaos, as chaotic as the marshlands of Sealsea, with the Roundheads and the Royalists fighting over feudal rights, political rights, and which religion will prevail.

There is grit everywhere. Grit on the bottom of skirts at the end of a long working day, grit on your shoes after walking the long paths trying to avoid the incoming tides, grit in the farmyards, in the mills, grit in the dairy and on the hearth. I constantly felt an urge to shower as I read this book; Gregory captures the drab, dirty realities of the non-rich at this time, constantly scrabbling for enough to eat and always step away from disaster.

Women are chattel, and women are only valued according to the man to whom they are married. To be a wife is the only "career" available; to be abandoned, to be single, to be a widow is to be suspect. Sadly, Gregory also captures that women compete with one another and turn on one another at the drop of a hat. The prettier you are, the more successful you are at stepping outside the narrow bounds of

Tidelands

"normal," the likelier you are to become the object of speculation and gossip - and worse.

I give this book five stars because it is full of images I will not soon forget, and women who survived and rose above their birth and expectations. I give it five stars because Gregory brings to life the uncommon courageous and creative nature of the poorest and most "common" women. I give it five stars because another meaning of grit is having fortitude, and the women Gregory portrays in this book show more grit than the richer, educated members of the ruling class. Brava, Philippa Gregory. ...more

Satisfying new series set in Cromwell's England.

I am still recovering from the ending of this, the first in series Fairmile. Set in 1648 at the time of the English Civil War this dramatic tale reeks of authenticity, penned by the masterly hand of Phillipa Gregory.

The cover is a satisfying reflection of what my mind conjures up as I imagine the novel's geographic description. Tidelands is set on Sealsea Island, off the Wessex Coast. With its shifting sands and dangerous waterways, the community a Satisfying new series set in Cromwell's England.

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And into the Tidelands, seeking help for King Charles, comes a young priest, a spy for the royal family and their followers sequestered in France, masquerading as a tutor and known as James Summer.

Waiting in the churchyard this Midsummer Eve was Alinor Reekie. She "went to the graveyard in case [her husband's] ghost was walking, so that [she'd] know for sure that he was dead... When [she] didn't see his ghost, [Alinor] knew he must be alive, and was choosing not to come home."

The two chance upon each other here, on this waning eve, and in that meeting their lives and those of others will change.

Gregory takes us through these desperate times when Englishmen are at odds and the monarchy is overturned.

A time when a woman skilled in herbs, must be vigilant and do nothing to have people label her a witch. A woman who seems to be succeeding on her own. Times when a woman without a husband--neither widowed or subject to a husband is a suspicious entity. But when jealousy and fear are present, when superstitions run rife, then any previous regard for Alinor's kindnesses and skilled treatment doesn't hold sway.

I was submerged in Alinor's story, the community she dwells in and the wider unrest that will infect them. My heart was heavy as circumstances were wrenched from her control. Love and betrayal it seems go hand in hand, and the meek are definitely not inheriting the earth, when rumour, resentment

Tidelands

and anger are involved.

After declaring eternal love for Alinor, it seems James' love cannot stand the tests presented. The gulf between Alinor's sense of right and the devout James' real being, his sense of self and worth, become glaringly obvious.

A skillfully woven tale set in turbulent times opening up new possibilities.

An Atria Books ARC via NetGalley [...more](#)

Tidelands

Tidelands Movie

I received a temporary digital Advance Reader Copy of this book from #NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

From the publisher, as I do not repeat the contents or story of books in reviews, I let them do it as they do it better than I do ðŸ˜¸.

Midsummer's Eve, 1648, England is in the grip of a civil war between renegade king and rebellious parliament. The struggle reaches every corner of the kingdom, even the remote tidelands – the marshy landscape of the south coast.

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Midsummer's Eve, 1648, England is in the grip of a civil war between renegade king and rebellious parliament. The struggle reaches every corner of the kingdom, even the remote tidelands – the marshy landscape of the south coast.

Alinor, a descendant of wise women, trapped in poverty and superstition, waits in the graveyard under the full moon for a ghost who will declare her free from her abusive husband. Instead, she meets James, a young man on the run, and shows him the secret ways across the treacherous marsh, not knowing that she is leading disaster into the heart of her life.

Suspected of possessing dark secrets in superstitious times, Alinor's ambition and determination mark her out from her neighbours. This is the time of witch mania, and Alinor, a woman without a husband, skilled with herbs, suddenly enriched, arouses envy in her rivals and fear among the villagers, who are ready to take lethal action into their own hands.

It is dangerous for a woman to be different.

Philippa Gregory is THE MASTER/MISTRESS OF HISTORICAL FICTION ... I have inhaled every book she has written and it was a delight to read about the time of the reign of Charles I w/Charles II on tap :-). Her expert research and ability to tell a tale draws you in from page one to last and makes you want a sequel to read NOW. Her characters are fascinating and I loved the combination of spookiness and suspicious people - if you are looking for a book to spend the end of August with on the porch with a glass of sweet tea. this is it. Unless, of course, you want a fine British Ale instead.

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BTW, If you have not read any of Miss Gregory's books yet, this is a great starter as you will then read all of her series of historical novels as they are all awesome! (Still not sure? watch "The White Queen" as Rebecca Ferguson is amazing in it --- you will be hooked on the mini-series from show one!)

☐☐☐

As always, I try to find a reason to not rate with stars as I love emojis (outside of their incessant use by "Social Influencer Millennials" on Instagram and Twitter) so let's give it 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

...more

Tidelands introduces a new series, Fairmile, from bestselling historical author Philippa Gregory.

“These are the tidelands: half tide, half land, good for nothing, all the way west to the New Forest, all the way east till the white cliffs.”

Set in the mid 1600s, as the Parliamentarians/Anglicists and Royalists/Papists wrestle for control of England, Tidelands centres on Sealsea Island, off the coast of Sussex. It's here in a small fishing hut that Alinor Reekie, “neither widow nor wife”, lives, earning just enough to keep body and soul together as a midwife, herbalist and healer. Her most fervent wish is to secure a better future for her children, twelve year old Rob, and thirteen year old Alys, a simple desire that seems improbable, but Alinor's chance encounter with James, a young Catholic priest, seeking sanctuary could turn the tide for them all.

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Unfolding from the shifting third person perspectives of Alinor and James, Tidelands is a bewitching story of love, desire, danger and betrayal.

It's fair to say that though rich in description and detail, the story progresses little during the first third or more of the novel. Gregory relies somewhat heavily on foreshadowing to sustain the reader's interest which means there are few surprises as the plot unfolds, yet I found the story engrossing, caught up in the vivid portrayal of a life and time unfamiliar to me.

“I did not know that there could be a woman like you, in a place like this.”

Key to this tale is the forbidden romance that develops between Alinor, and (Father) James Summers, the priest who also serves as a Royalist spy. James is intrigued by Alinor's beauty and grace, qualities he never expected to find in an impoverished wisewoman, and Alinor unwisely allows herself to get

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swept away by the handsome young man's sincere, if naive, interest. It's not unsurprising, given the period and circumstances, that the relationship will end badly for at least one, and perhaps both of them.

It's a crime to be poor in this county; it's a sin to be old. It's never good to be a woman.

Of course, Alinor will always be the one with the most to lose. Already, as a woman abandoned by her husband, envied for her beauty, and regarded warily for her skill as a wisewoman, which some equate with witchery, she is regularly the subject of suspicion, rumour and innuendo in her small community. Any failing, or error in judgement, could cost her not only her reputation, but also her life. Gregory does a wonderful job of exploring the vulnerability of women during this time period, especially a woman like Alinor who wants more than society believes she has a right too.

It matters to me. I matter: in this, I matter.

Beautifully written, well researched, atmospheric and interesting, Tidelands is a captivating novel I enjoyed much more than I expected to.

...more