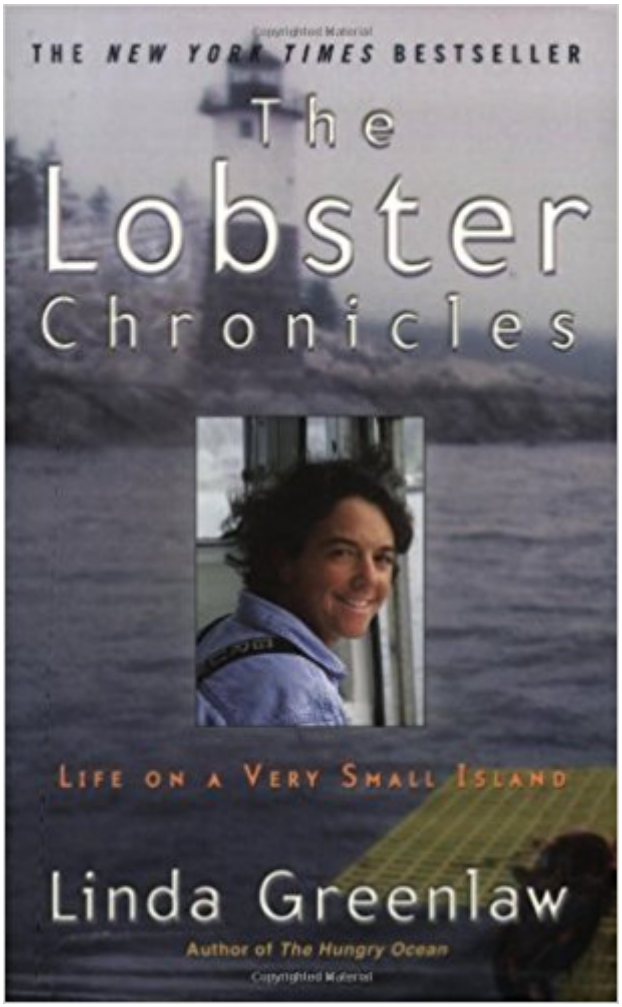
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The Lobster Chronicles: Life On A Very Small Island



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Synopsis

After 17 years at sea, Linda Greenlaw decided it was time to take a break from being a swordboat captain, the career that would earn her a prominent role in Sebastian Junger's The Perfect Storm and a portrayal in the subsequent film. Greenlaw decided to move back home, to a tiny island seven miles off the Maine coast. There, she would pursue a simpler life as a lobsterman, find a husband, and settle down. But all doesn't go as planned. The lobsters refuse to crawl out from under their rocks and into the traps she and her father have painstakingly set. Fellow islanders draw her into bizarre intrigues, and the eligible bachelors prove even more elusive than the lobsters. But just when she thinks things can't get worse, something happens that forces her to reevaluate everything she thought she knew about life, luck, and lobsters. Filled with nautical detail and the dramas of small-town life, The Lobster Chronicles is a celebration of family and community. Greenlaw proves once again that fishermen are the best storytellers around.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Greenlaw (The Hungry Ocean), known to readers of The Perfect Storm as the captain of the sister ship to the ill-fated Andrea Gail, gave up swordfishing to return to her parents' home on Isle Au Haut off the coast of Maine and fish for lobster. Her plainspoken essays paint a picture of a grueling life as she details maintaining her boat and her equipment, setting and hauling hundreds of traps with a crew of one (her father, a retired steel company executive), contending with the weather and surviving seasons when the lobsters don't bother to come around. She intersperses her narrative with plenty of eccentrics who live on her tiny island (there are 47 full-time residents, half of whom

she’s somehow related to). Among them are Rita, the inveterate borrower who’s such a nuisance that Greenlaw’s parents hide behind the couch when they see her coming; George and Tommy of Island Boy Repairs, who make a horrendous mess of every job they undertake; and Victor, the cigar-eating womanizer who imports a red-headed flasher from Alabama. One of Greenlaw’s themes is her desire to find a husband but, according to her friend Alden, she intimidates men: she’s tough talking, feisty and very self-assured, which is no doubt why the other lobstermen on the island readily accept her as one of them. Self-speculation and uncertainties such as these nicely balance her delightfully cocky essays of island life. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Greenlaw’s first book, The Hungry Ocean, was a best seller because it was written by a female sword boat captain; her vessel was a sister ship to the Andrea Gail (the subject of Sebastian Junger’s The Perfect Storm); and it was a darn good story. The author has an impressive command of language, combining her own salty remarks with wry and witty characterizations. It also doesn’t hurt that she has an eccentric and eclectic group of people to describe in her latest memoir. Greenlaw left swordfishing to return to Isle au Haut, seven miles off the coast of Maine, where her parents live. Confronted with only one general store, no Starbucks, no video store, no mall, and lacking nearly any amenity that most people expect these days, she would be the first to admit she’s returned to a simpler way of life. With her retired father as her crew of one, she maintains her boat, the Mattie Belle, and the equipment; sets and hauls hundreds of lobster traps; and wrestles with the weather, elusive lobsters, her mother’s battle with breast cancer, and her own biological clock. She returned to this island in order to be closer to her parents, find a husband, build a house, and have children. Despite the isolation and lack of services on Isle au Haut, most listeners will somewhat envy the simpler life and sense of community and family that Greenlaw celebrates. Highly recommended for all public library collections.Gloria Maxwell, Penn Valley Community Coll., Kansas City, MOCopyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love books that portray Maine so well that you can smell the salt air and feel the ocean under your feet. Gulls flying above you and the pitch of the lobster boat in the water.That’s what you get here in this book. Some parts were dry/uninteresting, other parts kept my attention. I felt like I was "right there." I would be open to reading Linda’s other books, including even her mysteries

I seen the interview Brian Lamb done with Linda shortly after the Lobster Chronicles was published...Trade the water for farms and you could be talking about the farm land where I live.Farmers also are told what the purchaser will pay for the product. Farmers also deal with the weather and governmentinterference..I think I perhaps learned more about Lobstering than I wanted to know, but then I didn't know anything before..I like the humor of North Easterners. Linda done a great job describing the people. I had never heard of someone breaking dishes when mad. The Alabama Hammer was a case, the two guys who dropped the tree on her building are something.I think we can identify with people like these.....Over all I enjoyed the book and recommend it.Cleaning up the language would help, I realize its true life,but it would make for a more fun read....I've gotten to a place In life where cusswords are a distraction.But then, Linda is a lady of the sea, as farm ladys are of the land..Dutch.....

The title should have been only "Live on a very small island". It really didn't talk a lot about lobstering and what's involved. It's seem to jump around and didn't run together smoothly.

Greenlaw's latest narrative sounded like an interesting read: doesn't the rustic tale of lobster fishing seem appealing in comparison with our ordinary, suburban lives?Not really, I guess. Linda should have waited another year or two so that we could get more than a picturesque snapshot of Maine. Giving the author more time to "round out" some of the personal stories could have gone a long ways toward engaging the reader. The Lobster Chronicles offers a pleasant glimpse into small-island life but didn't really live up to its full story-telling potential.

I have read and listened to Linda Greenlaw's books and love her style and very New England Yankee way of looking at life and the problems in it. I've been to MDI (Mt. Desert Island) many times and love reading and recognizing places on the island.

I liked the idea of the story but it does become a little tedious as how many time can one enjoy going Lobster fishing? I liked the idea of the author's gumption to go into this; not an easy career.

Very good

The folks who are giving this a bad review were expecting a book about Lobster Fishing, I think, and were horrified to find that this is a book about people, relationships, and various daily chores,

rumminations, and adventures. It’s not a blockbuster adventure novel, but a simple ode to the working men and women who happen to live, love, work, and die on this small island. Maybe the author should change the title to NOT The Lobster Chronicles? Some folks picked on the author’s grammar and writing style. I had no problem with it? I think the folks who tripped over her grammar just didn’t like the story she was telling, and that became an outlet for their disdain. Maybe it could have used some better editing, but I didn’t notice. I was simply carried along by the narrative.

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