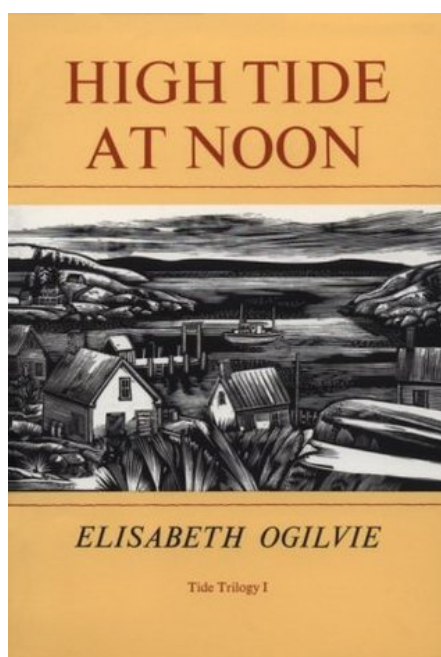




High Tide at Noon

Elisabeth Ogilvie

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High Tide at Noon Elisabeth Ogilvie

The struggles, hardship, and joy of one woman's life on a Maine island are brought to life in this haunting and enduringly popular trilogy, the first three books of the Bennett's Island series. Elisabeth Ogilvie tells the story of Joanna Bennett and her colorful life on Bennett's Island with a sensitivity and truthfulness born of her own early years on isolated Criehaven, the real Bennett's Island.

High Tide at Noon Details

Date : Published January 1st 1971 by Down East Books (first published June 1944)

ISBN : 9780892722167

Author : Elisabeth Ogilvie

Format : Paperback 390 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review High Tide at Noon for online ebook

Robin says

I really got into this book. It's the first in a series about a woman who grows up on an island in Maine, where lobstering is the chief occupation. I'd enjoy it even if I didn't live up here, but it gave me a real look into the challenges of that kind of life.

I have friends who live on some of the island around here, but I had no idea what life could be like on them. This novel was first published in 1944, but you really don't get a sense of it being a period piece. The price of lobster is mentioned, and some of the clothing briefly, and the attitudes towards what was considered women's work are all there, but I know some island people who still have the same viewpoints! The relationships between people are a prime focus, and endure no matter how long ago it was written. You are really immersed in that whole way of life.

Lore says

These are the very finest fiction novels ever written about life in Maine and the lives of the lobster fishermen. (In my longtime reading opinion.)

Debbioconnor says

I read this series probably 30 years ago and remembered loving them. Ogilvie's descriptions of all aspects of nature of her setting of an island off of Maine are exquisite. I truly enjoyed learning about the life of the lobster fishermen through the eyes of the strong island woman, Joanna.

Jim Krosschell says

Elisabeth Ogilvie (1917-2006) was a long-time resident of Gay's Island and Cushing (52 years) and author of the Tide trilogy set on fictional Bennett's Island (real-life Criehaven): perfect novels that do what perfect novels do, sweep you out of whatever's going on, good or bad, and into a world of tragedy and humor and unpretentiousness, beautifully described and felt. Ms. Ogilvie lived just down the Cushing peninsula from us, but I didn't discover that until it was too late. I would have made a pilgrimage.

Judy says

I've read the Bennett's Island series by Elisabeth Ogilvie many times and I love them more each time. Ogilvie was a Maine writer and she infuses her stories with vivid descriptions of the physical beauty of the island. But the books are not sentimental. They detail the hard life of a lobstering family from the 1930's through the second World War. It's not really a family saga, though, as most of the books are told through

the point of view of Joanna Bennett, who ages through the series.

If you love excellent writing and storytelling, I highly recommend this series.

Susan Emmet says

Lush and lovely, hard and unforgiving, desperate and hopeful, this is a wonderful book from 1944.

After reading "A Mug-up With Elisabeth," I decided to begin with the Tide trilogy.

Joanna Bennett is a fully realized character as are most of those inhabiting this island and novel. Such fine tuning and awareness of nature, of color and smell and sound, of changing seasons in nature and human life - all makes me excited to finish the trio of books.

And I so love the idea that Ogilvie educated herself by doing and watching and writing - all the time - while living on Gay's Island and the mainland near Rockland, Maine. She lived long and well and remained true to what she knew. She knew her stuff, no doubt.

So glad that old is new again.

Ingeborg says

Liked this a lot. Although it was written in 1944, it doesn't seem dated. Life on an island off the coast of Maine - no electricity, plumbing, still the case on smaller islands. Only the price of lobster gives it away - down to 12 cents in hard times! It's sentimental, but still very well written.

Pamela Tracy says

More a 3 1/2 than a 3 - almost a four.

I purchased this because I read a blog post that sang its praises. I started it, put it down, forgot, started it again, put it down, forgot. Started it one more time and finished. There were times I was riveted. I loved the world, the family, the dynamics of neighbors and station.

I liked the heroine's flaws - tempted by a black sheep.

I even liked when she chose poorly while golden boy brother, surprise-surprise, didn't.

When the heroine married, suddenly the world wasn't painted as in depth as her life as a daughter. I wanted more.

Then, the end, I still wanted more.

I will probably buy the third.

Earl Robinson says

As a new resident of mid coast Maine (Stockton Springs) and son of a southern new england lobsterman, I googled Maine authors/subjects and found Ms Ogilvie. I thought the subject of a Maine Island lobster fishing family would be enough to interest me even if the book was so-so. I was pleasantly surprised when I could not wait to pickup where I left off. A good read. I will continue the triolgy and move on to all her books as I restore my old Maine house with a view of,tho not on the water.

Cherie In the Dooryard says

It's hard for me to be objective about this book. I loved it; I loved every bit of it. But that's possibly because it is so close to home. As someone whose family is from a Maine island very similar to the fictional Bennett's, this could be about my relatives. The copy I read actually belonged to my islander grandmother, a woman whose personality, speech, and mannerisms could have stepped from its pages. This book encapsulates how I feel about the people and geography of coastal Maine, and how I feel about islands, so perfectly that I can't help but love it.

Is it a compelling plot? Does it have compelling characters? Is it well-written? I would say yes to all of that. I think it is very much worth reading. But that may just be my islander speaking.

Kim says

Although not a page-turner, this was a good story. I was interested in learning the circumstances for why the island community had been abandoned. The story begins with the leading character returning to the island, then jumps back to the time when she was young and her family and other families lived on the island and supported themselves mostly by lobstering. I had heard that this author was known for her novels about life in Penobscot Bay, Maine, and enjoyed imagining what it would be like to live on an island without electricity or running water and only boats to bring people and supplies. Only the price of lobsters and date of publication gave any sense of when the story took place---before the mid-1940s.

Sylvester says

Not my usual kind of book, but I liked the idea of the island and the lobster fishing - and the writing about island life made me want to see it for myself. Some great descriptive paragraphs.

Tamara Crowley says

This is a beautiful start to what became my "Summer on Bennett's Island" - I read all nine books (3 in each trilogy, 3 trilogies). Living on the coast of Maine made it easy to slip into life on the island and with this multi-generational epic story of a strong, close family. LOVE IT!!

Gia Charles says

Obsessed. I need to go live on a Maine island now.

Don says

Juvenalia with the usual warnings about gambling addiction and sexual harassment with an additional indictment of hard work in a small community despite worsening economic conditions where a dwindling lobster haul only provides enough revenue to gas up your motor for another outing. At the same time, it gives a strong female perspective on these issues. It was a little confusing at the beginning when Joanna returns to an empty island that suddenly is congested with her past acquaintances and family members. At the end of the story we learn the reasons for why the island has been deserted and Joanna actually does return to this island at that point to rediscover a lost love to start over again. I don't know if I would read the sequels or not, return of the native stories are sort of commonplace. I found it kind of nostalgic and ahead of its time for 1947, but of not much relevance now. Going back to an earlier time in a fictional setting that could have been romanticized by a lesser writer, did not change the drudgery of it all with the accompanying boozing and womanizing by the men and credit dependency on all for necessities. Despite being in the wilderness you became a slave to industry, much as a farmer is locked to his farm for continued support. I would recommend it to an aspiring writer to learn how to set up a novel with a well crafted storyline and polished descriptions of the natural world and the glory of love. I doubt however that anyone will take up lobstering due to it.
