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Posted on 10 January 2019 By M.L. Stedman

## Free E-pub ? The Light Between Oceans ? Weplayit.co

ETA Sep 20, 2015Oh, this review First, I read this book way back in 2012 I don t know that I would write such a review now, whether or not I hate a book I ve had an attitude shift, if not

in life, then in review writing I've wanted to change it for a while now, but I don't remember most of the book I also can't make any defense against specific arguments from commenters who liked the book, because of the same I read this when I had no baby At some point after I had my own bundle of joy, I considered reading this book again, especially since a number of people I trust mentioned that it was a much better reading experience for them But the difference was this, they sympathized with Isabelle than Hannah I did the opposite And having my baby wasn't going to change that, if anything I would feel Hannah's pain keenly But the main reason I haven't read this book up again is because I couldn't remember the actual language being any good I might be misremembering all of the above, but I don't care enough to read it again to confirm one way or another I will watch the movie at some point, because the director made Blue Valentine with two unlikable characters and I loved it and understood both of them Maybe he will bring something to the table that the book, for me, didn't. Anyway, please read this review knowing that I would not have written it exactly the same today, even though I still dislike the book I welcome comments from everyone, especially people who liked the book, because maybe enough of those will convince me to read it back I'm big on second guessing myself The review view spoiler I first rated this 2 stars, and now, on further consideration, I've come to the conclusion that it's worth no more than 1 star How much did I dislike this book Let me count the ways. First and foremost, the characterization They're all fairly unlikable Fairly Kidding They are absolutely unlikable Tom Sherbourne and his wife Isabel have had three miscarriages They find a baby in a boat along with a dead man, and decide that the baby is God's gift to them, and keep it This is easy to do, because they're in a lighthouse in the middle of nowhere All they have to do is hide the dead body of the father somewhere They do this without turning a hair They never ever think to at least make discreet enquiries if the baby had a family They don't ever think that the father might be missed, that someone might be mourning for the pair of them If they wanted a baby so much, why could they not have adopted one There are plenty of war orphans around Tom half heartedly brings it up, and Isabel pooh poohs the notion The truth is, they do not try At all Cut to two years later, they find that the baby has a living breathing mother She's still mourning for the loss of her baby and husband, she's gaunt with it What do our protagonists do yes, they are protagonists not villains, surprise Do they admit it Nope They take the baby and go back to the lighthouse Isabel even dishes out a platitude to Tom whose conscience has woken up life is hard sometimes What the In any case, Tom decides to do something even cruel to everyone concerned He sends an anonymous letter to the mother that her baby is safe Never once does anyone say that this was a bad thing I mean, Isabel does, but only because it leads to circumstances where they have to give up the baby But never do they even address the fact that Tom was being a bastard cruelly raising the hopes of a grieving person. Then they do have to give up the baby Tom takes it all on himself, and Isabel plots revenge She lets people assume that Tom indeed was the person

to blame, and also that he killed the father She plays grieving mother and put upon wife to the hilt The baby doesn't take so easily to its birth mother, and everyone around the birth mother to return the baby to these baby stealers And she agrees Then she changes her mind, but she doesn't press charges against these monsters What the again No one, not a single person except for a fringe character takes Isabel to task The reason is that she had three miscarriages How does that explain that she stole a baby That she never tried to at least find out if the baby had any family That she never stepped into an orphanage to at least try to adopt one of the poor for real orphans she was so upset about When faced with the fact that the baby has a mother who's grieving, the lady has the audacity to think that the only reason she doesn't want to part with the baby is because she's thinking of the best for the baby She never changes this opinion All that she did was for the baby Well, kill me dead She calls the birth mother selfish for wanting her baby back She calls Tom selfish because he thinks of the birth mother though he is a moron But is she selfish Nope, not her the most selfless person on earth, the only one that's thinking of the baby Who is two I doubt it would be very traumatized if it changed hands at that point in life The tug of war which is ridiculous that ensues is so much damaging to the child Yet, we're meant to sympathize with and excuse this lady who carries on about how life has been unfair to her than to the birth mother, than everyone else on this planet. Aargh I hated this so much The two stars initially was for the writing, until I remembered that I was also annoyed by the CONSTANT use of mixed tenses Stick to one tense lady It's he did this and he did that in one paragraph and he does this and he does that in the very next I get it It's to distinguish between the specific and the general parts of the plot, but believe me, that can be done and understood by us poor readers with one freaking tense I won't be reading anything by this author again I had originally written something that was pointed out to me in the comments by Kimk as callous She was right, it did sound terrible, when it was not my intention My reason for bringing up the miscarriages was not because I didn't sympathize with Isabelle for having had them, but because it was not reason enough for the rest of them to support her in her madness hide spoiler Sometimes life turns out hard, Isabel Sometimes it just bites right through you And sometimes, just when you think it's done its worst, it comes back and takes another chunk Remember when you were four years old, and your mother was just about your entire world If you can remember that long ago feeling of attachment to a parent, or if you have a child, or if you have longed for a child of your own, your heart will break for little Lucy And it will break for all the grown ups who loved her, whether they had a right to or not This story can feel so slow that you might be tempted to give up It's gorgeously written, but sloooooow Much of it takes place on a lighthouse rock 100 miles off the tip of Western Australia The setting accounts in part for the pokey pace, but it's also a big part of the novel's charm Somewhere in the last third of the book you'll begin to appreciate the mastery in the careful build up The pace will pick up a bit and you'll be glad you stayed with it. Free E-pub ? The Light Between Oceans ? A Captivating, Beautiful, And

Stunningly Accomplished Debut Novel That Opens In Australia The Story Of A Lighthouse Keeper And His Wife Who Make One Devastating Choice That Forever Changes Two Worlds Australia, After Four Harrowing Years Fighting On The Western Front, Tom Sherbourne Returns Home To Take A Job As The Lighthouse Keeper On Janus Rock, Nearly Half A Day S Journey From The Coast To This Isolated Island, Where The Supply Boat Comes Once A Season And Shore Leaves Are Granted Every Other Year At Best, Tom Brings A Young, Bold, And Loving Wife, Isabel Years Later, After Two Miscarriages And One Stillbirth, The Grieving Isabel Hears A Baby S Cries On The Wind A Boat Has Washed Up Onshore Carrying A Dead Man And A Living Baby Tom, Whose Records As A Lighthouse Keeper Are Meticulous And Whose Moral Principles Have Withstood A Horrific War, Wants To Report The Man And Infant Immediately But Isabel Has Taken The Tiny Baby To Her Breast Against Tom S Judgment, They Claim Her As Their Own And Name Her Lucy When She Is Two, Tom And Isabel Return To The Mainland And Are Reminded That There Are Other People In The World Their Choice Has Devastated One Of Them M L Stedman S Mesmerizing, Beautifully Written Debut Novel Seduces Us Into Accommodating Isabel S Decision To Keep This Gift From God And We Are Swept Into A Story About Extraordinarily Compelling Characters Seeking To Find Their North Star In A World Where There Is No Right Answer, Where Justice For One Person Is Another S Tragic Loss The book 4 starsThe audiobook negative 1000 stars on that later This book was a soul crushing catch 22 The decisions the characters had to make and the options they are presented with range from totally awful to not all that great It was interesting to read a book that felt the entire way through like there is no chance for a happy ending Which bad option will be the outcome The audiobook is terrible So bad that I will never listen to another book by this reader Noah Taylor His odd inflections, weird and frequent pauses, poor enunciation, and whispering made this painful to listen to As much as I did enjoy the book, I was thankful when it was over. What a wonderfully complex and morally riveting story I literally could not put this down, and read for a solid 3 hours last night, until 1am, when I finished this book When Tom Sherbourne returned from WWI, he was a shattered man He needed a quiet place to gather his thoughts, to calm himself, as he didn t believe he should have survived the war, when his mates did not So he became a lighthouse keeper, and over the next few years, he did his job, and learned his trade, until he accepted the job of lighthouse keeper on the small island of Janus Rock, an extremely remote location off the coast of Western Australia The small township of Partageuse was where he spent a week or so, before heading out to the island for his first look at Janus Rock, with the help of Ralph and Bluey They would come out in The Windward Spirit every three months with his supplies, any mail, anything that was needed But in the time he spent in Partageuse, he met up with the lovely Isabel Graysmark, and over the next months, a quiet courtship occurred, with letters going back and forth on The Windward Spirit with Ralph and Bluey.On their marriage, in 1926, Isabel joined Tom on Janus Rock, and the two of them lived their lives happy,

content, and isolated from the rest of the world Their happiness was not complete however, as Isabel endured miscarriages and depression, with Tom struggling to comfort her. One April morning, with the wind blowing strongly, a boat was washed ashore, with a dead man, and a crying baby onboard The consequences of the choices they made that fateful day would live with them forever As the years unfolded, their decision would see many lives affected, with an extremely devastating result The continuing heartbreaking story will tear you apart, as you grapple with the right and wrong of love and loyalty. This debut novel by Aussie author M.L Stedman is gripping in its intensity I highly recommend this book. Please visit [www.readrantrockandroll.com](http://www.readrantrockandroll.com) to see this review and others The Light Between Oceans by M.L Stedman is a heart wrenching story about a relationship between two people and the risks they re willing to take for each other I m going to say that for me, the story was heart wrenching You can feel the love that Tom and Isabel have for each other Tom, who would do anything for Isabel, is a special character I fell in love with from the start Is what they do right or wrong The story is sure to test your moral judgement I promised to spend my life with you I still want to spend my life with you Izz, I ve learned the hard way that to have any kind of a future you ve got to give up hope of ever changing your past I did find certain parts a little boring, but the last half of the book I couldn t stop until the end However, I do wish it would ve ended differently The conclusion I was looking for wasn t the one I received, but that s the way the author wrote it, and it s still good It s worth reading and I d recommend it to anyone I m really looking forward to reading by this author and hope she writes in the future I just can t do this Halfway through, but cannot go on There are people waiting for this library copy, and the library is calling it back in, so I am going to relinquish it to someone who actually wants to read it Given the moral choices that form the heart of the plot, this could have been a much better book, if it were, you know, well written Apart from the fairly good initial characterization of Tom Sherbourne as a WWI vet suffering from memories of a troubled childhood and PTSD from war time experiences, and some alright landscape descriptions, this book was, on the whole, filled with sappy, simplistic and sentimental writing than rendered the whole thing fairly bad And the longer it went on, the the badness grated on me I had to give up at page 176 because I no longer cared about the consequences of the moral choices the characters had made, even though the intrinsic complexity of the questions at the core of the story remained an interesting dilemma Getting to any possible answers if there were any or even seeing how it played out was just too painful Thank you, Kerry, for your review that released me and saved me from a few hours of this My Recommendation Avoid. Espa ol English A veces deseamos tanto algo que nos enga mos y creemos haberlo encontrado Lo que se nos presenta aqu es una historia moral, entre lo bueno y lo malo que conlleva una decisi n Eso s , muy bien escrita. Thomas Tom Sherbourne despu s de terminar la Primera Guerra Mundial y queriendo dejar atr s todos los malos recuerdos de su ni ez y la muerte de soldados, decide presentarse para el puesto de farero, mientras mas lejos y solitario mejor Pero cuando llega al puerto de

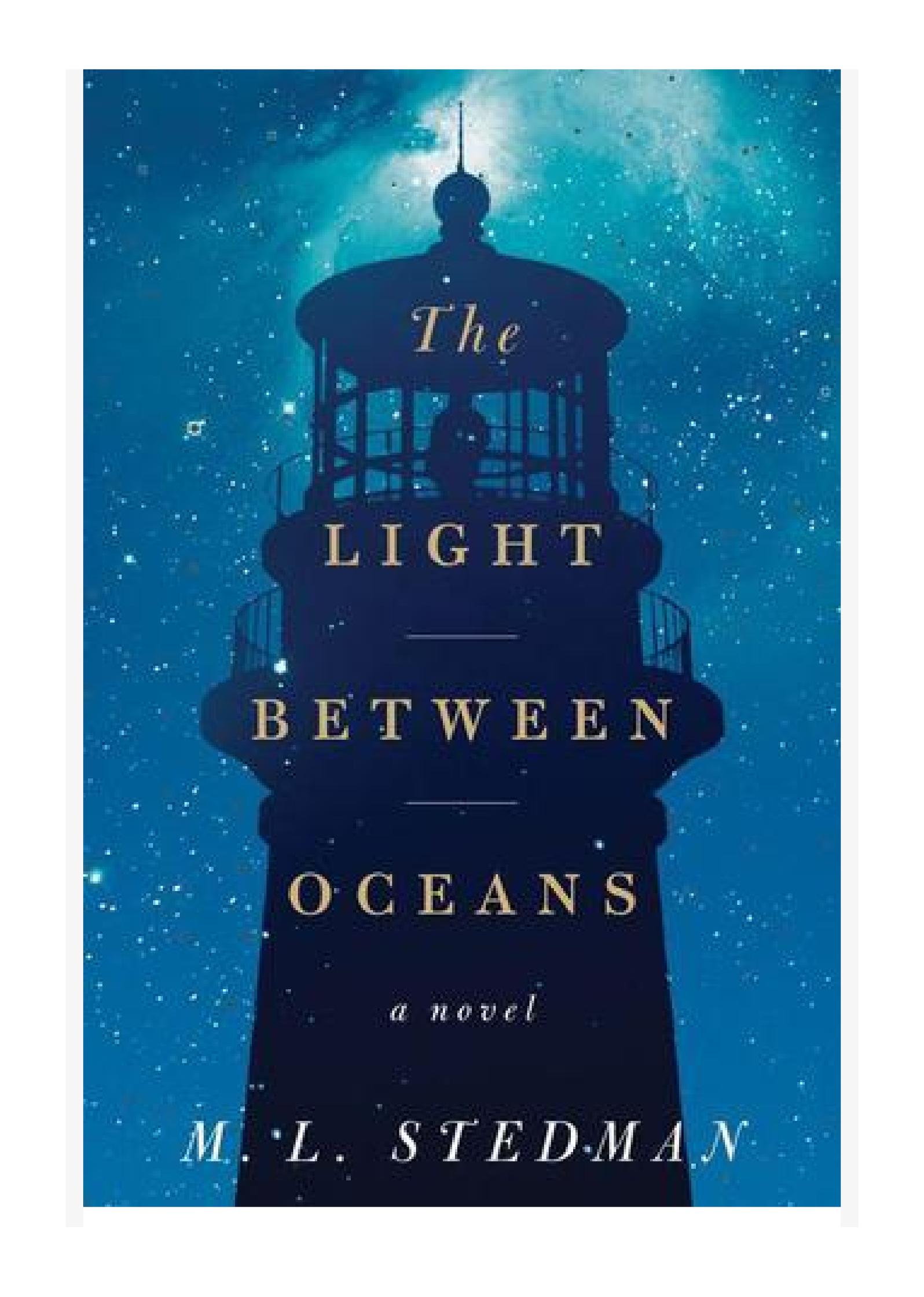
Partageuse para de ah partir a su destino final, Janus Rock, a la primera persona que ve al desembarcar es a Isabel Graysmark. Isabel Graysmark es joven, extrovertida, hermosa y sabe lo que quiere quiere casarse con Tom y vivir con l en la isla del faro Cuando lo logra vive una vida feliz con Tom en la solitaria isla Tom es todo lo que una esposa podr a desear es atento, cari oso y trabajador. Toda esta felicidad se ve empa ada por dos abortos y un parto prematuro donde el beb nace muerto Aunque esta es la ra z principal del tema del libro, creo que no se explica bien, no sent el sufrimiento de Isabel ante su incapacidad para tener hijos. Un d a aparece en la costa un barco con un hombre muerto y una beb Isabel convence a un indeciso Tom de no dar parte a las autoridades del hallazgo y quedarse el beb para ellos. Cuando visitan a los padres de Isabel en Partageuse se enteran que la madre de la beb est viva Isabel se niega a entregar a Lucy, pero a Tom le remuerde la conciencia y decide hacer algo y ocult rselo a su esposa. Este es el punto en que se afina la l nea entre el bien y el mal Aunque esta tercera parte del libro se alarga mucho, es muy emotiva El final me pareci adecuado porque, desde mi punto de vista, todo qued como debi quedar What is presented here is a moral story, between the good and the bad that comes with a decision Yes, very well written. Thomas Tom Sherbourne after finishing World War I and wanting to leave behind all the bad memories of his childhood and the death of soldiers, decides to opt for the position of lighthouseman, farther and lonely the better But when he arrives at the port of Partageuse and then leaves for his final destination, Janus Rock, the first person he sees when disembark is Isabel Graysmark. Isabel Graysmark is young, extroverted, beautiful and knows what she wants she wants to marry Tom and live with him on the island of the lighthouse Where she manages to live a happy life with Tom on the lonely island Tom is everything a wife could wish for he is caring and hardworking. All this happiness is marred by two abortions and a premature birth where the baby is born dead Although this is the main root of the subject of the book, I think it is not well explained, I did not feel the suffering of Isabel before her inability to have children. One day a ship with a dead man and a baby appears on the coast Isabel persuades an undecided Tom not to give the authorities of the find and keep the baby for them. When they visit Isabel s parents in Partageuse they learn that the mother of the baby is alive Isabel refuses to surrender Lucy, but Tom regrets his conscience and decides to do something and hide it from his wife. This is the point at which the line between good and evil is sharpened Although this third part of the book is very long, it is very emotional The end seemed appropriate because, from my point of view, everything was as it should have remained. The Light Between Oceans is an incredibly moving novel about what happens when good people make bad decisions The story takes place in the town of Point Partageuse, Australia during the 1920s The story begins when a light house keeper and his wife find a life boat containing a live baby and dead man on the shore of their isolated island Through a mixture of misplaced intentions and unsupported superstition they decide to raise the child as their own deciding not to inform the authorities of the child s existence Although the book was a

quick read, I never once felt that it was forced or lacking in anyway The plot is compact never wavering from its central theme I enjoy this kind of focused writing Irrelevant or distracting side plots would have pulled me away from Tom and Isabel s narrative and weakened my investment in their turmoil.The story is highly emotional Stedman crafts a perfectly gray scenario that forces its readers to question their own moral standing This truly is reader manipulation at its most powerful Allowing the reader to sympathize with morally ambiguous characters is a difficult task, however, Stedman presents her narrative in such a way that the reader can t help feeling the same inner conflict as Tom and Isabel.Considering this is Stedman s first published novel, I am incredibly excited to see what she produces next This was a masterpiece in storytelling. On the Offshore Lights you can live any story you want to tell yourself, and no one will say you re wrong not the seagulls, not the prisms, not the wind.So Isabel floats further and further into her world of divine benevolence, where prayers are answered, where babies arrive by the will of God and the working of currents. There s this married couple, their names are Tom and Isabel For the purposes of this review, Tom Doormat and Isabel Batshit Crazy but we ll shorten it to Batshit It s 1926 Australia, we re on a rock it s actually called Janus Rock in the ocean in the middle of nowhere, and considering we re in Australia, it s even middle of nowhere er.Doormat is a lighthouse keeper He records the motion of the ocean, the way of the waves, the bodies that wash ashore, and all of that Well, not so much the bodies that wash ashore, because that happens just once, and apparently, once is one time too many because that didn t turn out well at all.The day when a man dies and is washed ashore is called the day of the miracle Hooooo kay Whatever you call it, Batshit.Ok, here s the situation One day a dead body washes ashore Along with it is a wee lil baby, a living baby Batshit is a woman who desperately wants a child She has suffered from multiple stillbirths and is grieving and is going slowly mad because of it A long time ago, she was a woman who had a lot of joy and happiness in her It was what attracted Doormat to Batshit in the first place he wondered what other secrets lay behind her playful smile. 8 years later, we know what secret lies behind that playful smile Pure, unadulterated lunacy.Batshit wants a child A baby washes ashore Huzzah It s a miracle Only, the baby s not theirs to keep Sure, it s 1926 And sure, it s Australia, the wild land populated by criminals and kangaroos and wombats or maybe that s New Zealand , and people who speak really, really strangelyIzzy, Tom called Izzy, wait Don t do your nana, love He s not But she was already too far off to hear the rest of his words She Tom considered whether to explain She got the wrong end of the stick about it Sorry She s chucked a wobbly Once she does that, all you can do is batten down the hatches and wait for it to pass Means I ll be making sandwiches for lunch, I m afraidBut in this lawless land, in this lawless time, there are still regulations and shit to be followed That s why Tom s there, working as the lighthouse keeper So when a dead man and a living baby washes ashore, Tom s got a whole lot of fucking paperwork to fill outIt s all got to go in the log, pet You know I ve got to report everything straightaway, Tom said,

for his duties included noting every significant event at or near the light station, from passing ships and weather, to problems with the apparatus. Only he doesn't. Because his beloved Batshit insists on keeping the baby, for just a little bit longer, the way a 4 year old child says Please, daddy, I'll go to bed in just 5 minutes. It ain't gonna happen. It's never going to be just five fucking minutes, and Batshit isn't just planning to keep the poor half dead baby just ooooooooooone day. Despite what Doormat tells her, against all fucking common sense to just, you know turn the baby in to proper authorities, Batshit doesn't fucking listen. Then the baby's probably got a mother waiting for it somewhere onshore, tearing her hair out. How would you feel if it was yours? You saw the cardigan. The mother must have fallen out of the boat and drowned. Sweetheart, we don't have any idea about the mother. Or about who the man was. It's the most likely explanation, isn't it? Infants don't just wander off from their parents. Izzy, anything's possible. We just don't know. When did you ever hear of a tiny baby setting off in a boat without its mother? She held the child a fraction closer. Oh, logic, you really fucking got it, eh, Batshit. Sure, the baby's mother isn't there. She must be dead. Somehow. Her body must be on the bottom of the ocean floor. The baby can't POSSIBLY have another relative on land. Makes perfect fucking sense. To someone who belongs in Bedlam asylum not to be mistaken for Arkham asylum. This isn't Batman. Do they have a Bedlam franchise in Australia? Poor Doormat's got a crisis of conscience. He wants to do the right thing, but he's just so fucking in love with Batshit that he gives in. Totally whipped. I suppose, at a pinch he conceded, the words coming with great difficulty, I could leave the signal until the morning. First thing, though. As soon as the light's out. Yeah, so they wait one day to turn the baby in. And the next thing you know Batshit's breast feeding the baby. Well, that escalated quickly. Oh, little sweetheart, she murmured, and slowly unbuttoned her blouse. Seconds later, the child had latched on fast, sucking contentedly, though only a few drops of milk came. They had been like that for a good while when Tom entered the kitchen. How's the He stopped in mid sentence, arrested at the sight. Isabel looked up at him, her face a mixture of innocence and guilt. It was the only way I could get her to settle. But Well. Alarmed, Tom couldn't even frame his questions. She was desperate. Wouldn't take the bottle. But but she took it earlier, I saw her. Uh, ok. So the baby can bottle feed, it's just convenient to breastfeed her. And then next thing you know, the baby's got a name. We need to welcome Lucy, and say a prayer for her poor father. If that's who he was, said Tom. And Lucy. Well she needs a name. Lucy means light, so it's perfect, isn't it? Seriously, what the fuck. Now all thought of turning the baby in to the authorities is out the window, because how the fuck is poor Doormat going to explain the fact that they kept the baby for weeks, gave her a name, breastfed her, didn't notify the authorities right away, and didn't notify the authorities that they found a dead body that might be her father. Clearly, they're in some deep fucking doodoo. And Batshit is there in her little land of happiness, contented with the fact that she has her wewy own baby. Let's just forget about the fact that the baby may or may not still have a mother or a relative. Let's just throw out all reason out

the window Izzy, Izzy You know I'd do anything for you, darl, but whoever that man is and whatever he's done, he deserves to be dealt with properly And lawfully, for that matter What if the mother's not dead, and he's got a wife fretting, waiting for them both What woman would let her baby out of her sight Face it, Tom she must have drowned What woman would let her baby out of her sight Maybe a desperate one Maybe one who gave her to a nanny while she was away Guh So there they live, in blissful happy ostrich in the sand land for several years Until they realize that, well, shit the baby's mother might be alive And she ain't a bad person, or a despicable person Funny how lives turn out, isn't it Born to money than you can shake a stick at went all the way to Sydney University to get a degree in something or other married the love of her life and you see her now sometimes, wandering about, like she's got no home to go to So as it turned out, the baby's mother is alive and breathing And wealthy And scared, and lost, and lonely, because she's lost her husband AND her child Poor Hannah may be rich, but she's had to fight for her love She fought to marry a German, and this was pretty bad, considering this is post WWI Her father disinherited her, she had to work menial labor, she had to suffer a lot to marry the love of her life And now her husband may be dead somewhere, she doesn't know because Batshit and Doormat never reported the dead body and her daughter may be dead somewhere, she doesn't know because Batshit and Doormat never reported FINDING A FUCKING BABY. So Hannah is now searching for her husband and daughter She is wealthy because her father has accepted her again If Batshit and Doormat returned the baby Lucy who's like a small child by now, Lucy will have a happy life with a loving mother, a loving aunt, and a doting grandfather, not to mention she'll be rich as fuck Settled for life, yo The natural thing, the good thing to do would be to give Lucy that future. But of course, they're not called Doormat and Batshit by me for nothing. So there's poor Hannah In mourning Desolate Childless. And here's how Batshit reacts to that Hannah had a terrible tragedy a few years ago Family lost at sea her husband, and a daughter who would have been about your girl's age by now She's always asking that sort of thing Seeing little ones sets her off Dreadful, Isabel managed to mutter. Understatement of the fucking century. The Romance There is no romance in this book It is a love borne out of madness and obsession It is a love that is full of mindless devotion on Doormat's part, with pure emotional manipulation on Batshit's part How can you be so hard hearted All you care about is your rules and your ships and your bloody light These were accusations Tom had heard before, when, wild with grief after her miscarriages, Isabel had let loose her rage against the only person there the man who continued to do his duty, who comforted her as best he could, but kept his own grieving to himself. Doormat's mad devotion to his wife will eventually be his own downfall, and as we will learn towards the climax of the book, that love is truly a one way street. Overall This book didn't convince me of anything There were morality issues that failed to send any sort of message besides that of crazy woman is crazy, life sucks, and men need to grow some balls I didn't like any of the main characters, I ended up being sympathetic to Hannah aka poor mom who lost the kid,

which made it all the frustrating when crazy woman is constantly shoved in our face. Maybe I'm not supposed to like the main characters, but why the hell should I bother to read a book if everything about it frustrates me



*The*  
LIGHT  
BETWEEN  
OCEANS

*a novel*

*M. L. STEDMAN*

## New Post

Harlem Redux

Devil's Gonna Get Him

When Death Comes Stealing

Darkness and the Devil Behind Me: A Lanie Price Mystery

Pleasantville

In the Night of the Heat

Murder in G Major

Vows, Vendettas and a Little Black Dress

Lust, Loathing and a Little Lip Gloss

Orange Crushed

The Last Firefly

BLUE SUN: A C. J. Cavanaugh Mystery

Shades Of Black: Crime And Mystery Stories By African-American Authors

The Butcher

A Good Excuse to Be Bad

## Recent Post

Devil in a Blue Dress

Blanche on the Lam

A Little Yellow Dog

Little Scarlet

Black Betty

Cinnamon Kiss

Fearless Jones

Blonde Faith

Gone Fishin'

The Long Fall

Hollywood Homicide

Black Water Rising

Bad Boy Brawly Brown

The Man in My Basement

Fear Itself

A Rage in Harlem

Casanegra

A Red Death

Blanche Among the Talented Tenth

Blanche Cleans Up

The Cutting Season

Blanche Passes Go

Land of Shadows

Freedom is Not Free

Bayou City Blues (Rashard "Stone" Williams Mysteries #2

Black Orchid Blues

Harlem Redux