



# The House by the Sea: A Novel

By Santa Montefiore

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## The House by the Sea: A Novel By Santa Montefiore

Previously published as *The Mermaid Garden*

The internationally bestselling author of *The French Gardener* presents a complex and irresistibly compelling novel that confirms the remarkable power of love to heal and transform.

Ten-year-old Floriana is captivated by the beauty of the magnificent Tuscan villa that overlooks the sea just outside her small village. She likes to spy from the crumbling wall into the gardens and imagine that one day she'll escape her meager existence and live there surrounded by its otherworldly splendor. Then one day Dante, the son of the villa's powerful industrialist owner, invites her inside and shows her the enchanting Mermaid Garden. From that moment, Floriana knows that the only destiny for her is there, in that garden, with Dante. But as they grow up and fall in love, their romance causes a crisis, jeopardizing the very thing they hold most dear.

Decades later and hundreds of miles away, a beautiful old country house hotel on England's Devon coast has fallen on hard times after the financial crash of 2008. Its owner, Marina, advertises for an artist to stay the summer and teach the guests how to paint. The man she hires is charismatic and wise and soon begins to pacify the discord in her family and transform the fortunes of the hotel. However, he has his own agenda. Is it to destroy, to seduce, or to heal? Whatever his intentions, he is certain to change Marina's life forever.

Spanning four decades and sweeping from the Italian countryside to the English coast, this new story by Santa Montefiore is a moving and mysterious tale of love, forgiveness, and the past revealed.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Montefiore is a grand storyteller."

-- Emily Melton, *Booklist*

#### About the Author

**Santa Montefiore**'s novels have been translated into twenty languages and have sold more than three million copies in Europe. She studied Spanish and Italian at Exeter University. She lives in London with her husband, historian Simon Sebag Montefiore, and their two children. Visit her website at [SantaMontefioreAuthor.com](http://SantaMontefioreAuthor.com).

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