

The Glass Madonna by Donna Meredith

Sarah Stevens longs to become the first woman in her family to blow glass, but industry rules and family objections stand in her way. She attends college instead and sacrifices her virginity in a futile attempt to keep her boyfriend from enlisting and going to Vietnam. Crushed by his desertion, she soon marries a man torn between loving her free spirit and punishing her because she isn't a virgin. The novel follows three generations of women during the rise and fall of the West Virginia glass industry. It would appeal to readers who liked *The Wednesday Sisters* by Meg Waite Clayton or *The Big Stone Gap* series by Adriana Trigiani.

The novel won first place in women's fiction (unpublished) in the Florida Writers Association contest in 2009 and also runner up in the Gulf Coast novel contest.