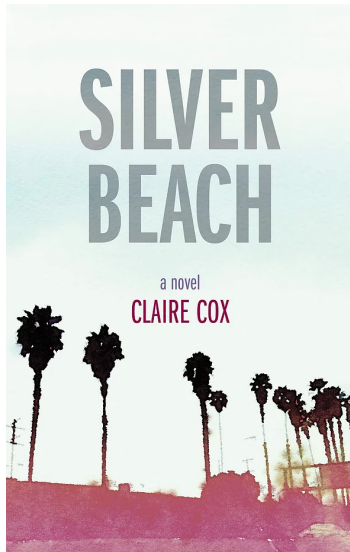


The San Diego Union-Tribune

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Mimi Hannan

Job: Bookseller, La Playa Books

She recommends: "Silver Beach" by Claire Cox (University of Massachusetts Press, 2021; 208 pages)

Why? I'm a sucker for a novel that probes family relationships and provides a lens to see the unseen folks who live among us. Set it in a familiar, noir-feeling, fictionalized Ocean Beach and I'm sold. Debut novelist Claire Cox tells the story of three women: once-glamorous Linda, who is dying of alcoholism; her daughter Mara, who escaped family tragedy and grew up in privilege back East; and her

other daughter Shannon, an adult child who has grown up feral in her mother's shadow. Excellent storytelling and rotating first-person perspectives really take you into the characters' inner lives as they navigate their past and present.