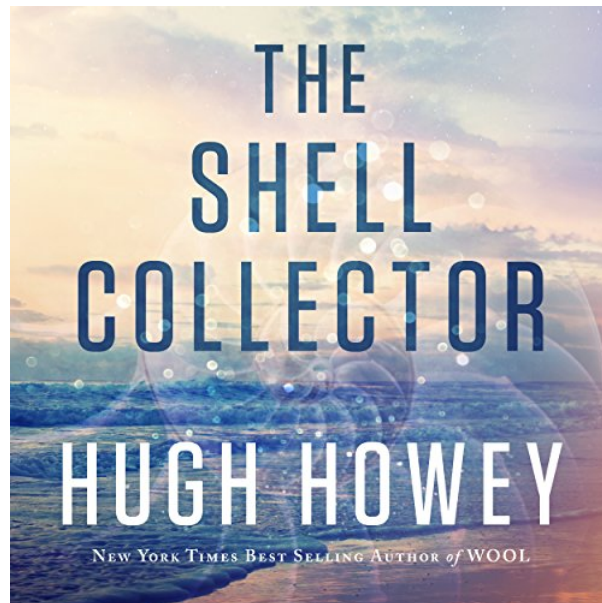
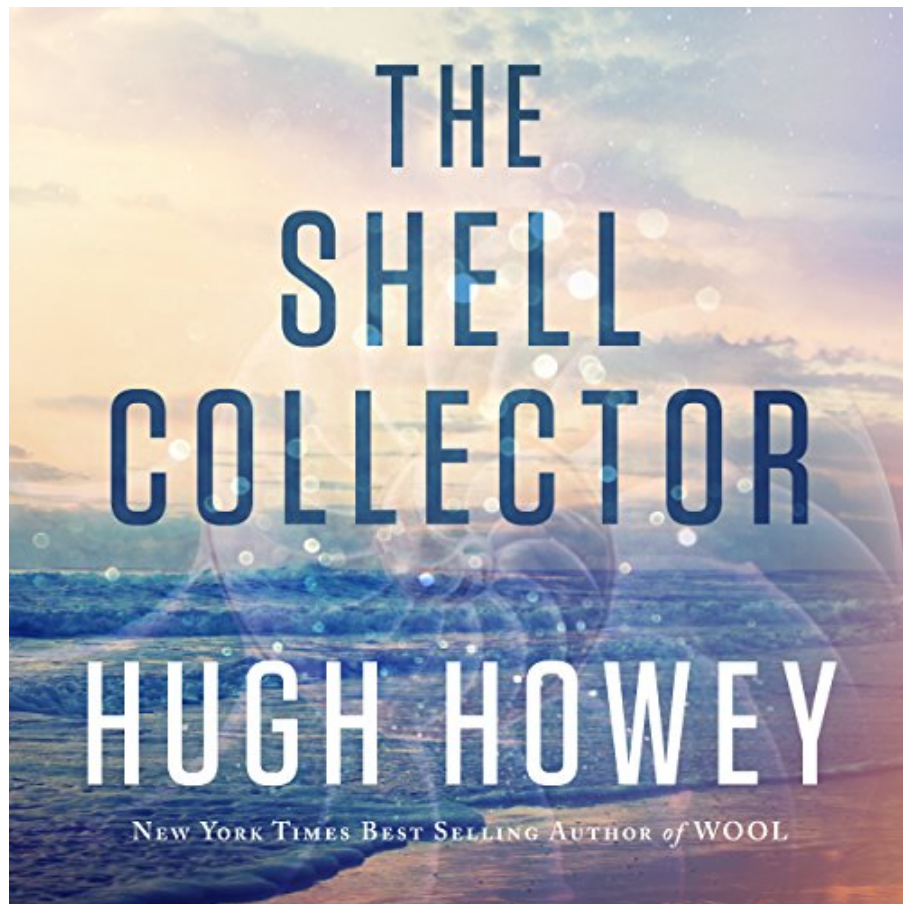


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THE SHELL COLLECTOR BY HUGH HOWEY PDF

The ocean is dying. The sea is growing warmer and is gradually rising. Seashells have become so rare that collecting them is now a national obsession. Flawless specimens sell like priceless works of art. Families hunt the tideline in the dark of night with flashlights. Crowds gather on beaches at the lowest of tides, hoping to get lucky.

Supreme among these collectors is Ness Wilde, CEO of Ocean Oil. Ness owns many of the best beaches, and he keeps them to himself. It's his fault the world turned out this way. And I aim to destroy him.

My name is Maya Walsh. You might be familiar with my shelling column in the Times. I was working on a series of pieces about Mr. Wilde, when out of the blue, he called. He says he wants to talk. But I don't think he's going to like what I have to say.

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- Running time: 485 minutes

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138 of 147 people found the following review helpful.

Love Howey, but this is Nicholas Sparks

By pistachio

I'll read pretty much anything Howey writes, but I eventually started skimming to see if it would get better - it didn't. Maya Walsh the gorgeous and feisty reporter is trying not to be swept off her feet by the rich, handsome, and mysteriously complicated Ness Wilde. Why doesn't she trust him? Because his family made their money from oil -- and the oil business drove snails to extinction. Okaaaay. (Oil also made the oceans rise, but that is not explored as being more than a soggy nuisance.) Oh and he might have made some counterfeit shells. But then there's a sexy private scuba lesson, a sexy private airplane ride, a sexy private submarine dive, sexy time on a private island and, well ... It lacks surprise and has very little world-building. Looking forward to a real Howey novel next time.

40 of 46 people found the following review helpful.

Diving Deep for Romance

By W. Swardstrom

Another Hugh Howey book. Another vision of the future.

This time out, however, the future isn't so bleak and isn't a terrifying place to be. In fact, in *The Shell Collector*, the world he's created has been decimated by rising sea levels, but the story is bright and hopeful, a stark contrast to the previous trips to the future we've taken with him.

I really enjoyed *The Shell Collector* as a speculative fiction romance, featuring Maya Walsh as the intrepid reporter, trying to unearth the truth about Ness Wilde, the CEO of Ocean Oil. Wilde and his family are pariahs because of the earth's condition; sea levels rose in no small part to the ways the Wildes have abused the earth's resources over the years. But, as she gets to know Ness, she discovers that the story she is planning does not accurately paint him or his family. That there is far more behind the man.

Throughout it all is a search for elusive shells, which have become collector's items and currency in this futuristic society when shells have all become rare due to the ocean conditions.

This book is vastly different than anything I've seen from Howey before, but there are themes that he has certainly tapped into again. A prominent one is going beneath the surface of the earth. In *WOOL*, the deeper the characters went, the more the sparks of rebellion grew. In *Sand*, the deeper the divers went, the more death and despair crept in. In both, claustrophobia was present, but the way out was usually through death.

In *The Shell Collector*, Howey again takes our characters deep—this time to the ocean's floor to see the creation of new life in the volcanic hearth in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. Claustrophobia is present, but this time, our characters experience hope and healing. The shells that each of them are for different reasons, are given new life in a submarine at the bottom of the world, and they discover each other in the process. Unlike in *WOOL* or *Sand*, where the depths of the earth usually lead to death, Howey utilizes the intense pressure to create love and affection between our protagonists.

Science fiction plays a role in this book, to be sure, but it is a light one. Howey has created a romance novel and a good one at that. The plot was consistently pushed along by twists and turns, but wasn't bogged down by unnecessary points where Howey could have devolved the story to erotica levels. Howey once again shows he knows how to write, no matter the genre or convention. Well done!

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

The Shell Collector was a beautifully written story

By D. Pease

The Shell Collector was a beautifully written story, but it really didn't connect with me. I understand that it was a warning about what we are doing to our planet, and a story about redemption for one of the bad guys destroying the world, but for me the plot lacked anything all that interesting. I wasn't really surprised by any of the plot twists. In fact I felt like I was a better reporter than the protagonist on several occasions, knowing long before she did what was about to happen. The ending also felt a bit flat to me. But that said, Howey's language, and use of metaphor was just gorgeous. Thanks for that lesson on writing beautiful prose. I do appreciate that Howey is branching out from the sci-fi fare he's been writing, but perhaps that's one of the reasons I wasn't a big fan of this story.

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