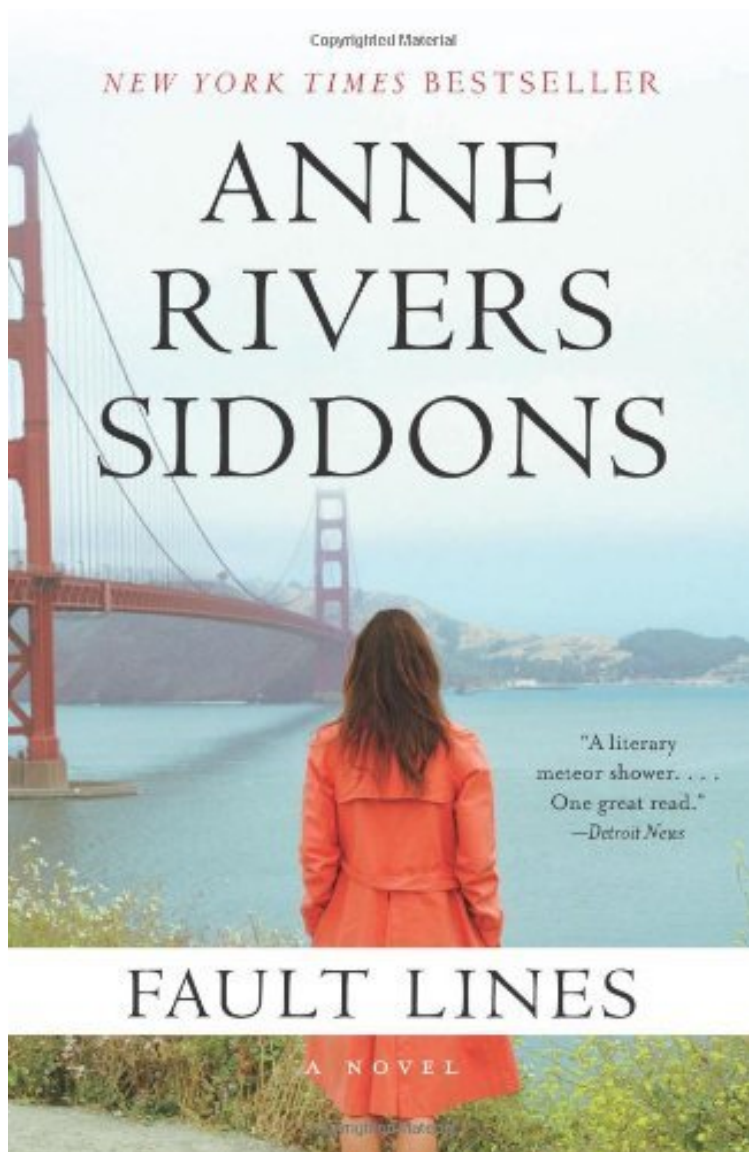


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Fault Lines: A Novel



Par Anne Rivers Siddons
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Description : Description du produitYears of caring for her needy family have left Merritt Fowler exhausted and confused, uncertain of who she is or what she wants. When a family argument sends her lovely, fragile daughter, Glynn, running from her Atlanta home to her Aunt Laura in Hollywood, Merritt is compelled to follow.On impulse, the trio takes off in Laura's red Mustang convertible, barreling up the coast to the lush wilderness outside San Francisco -- earthquake country. There, amid the beauty and protection of the mountains, mother, daughter, and sister will struggle to see if the widening fissures between them can be healed, as they search for the bedrock of strength and courage that can save them and their family.

Prsentation de l'diteurA literary meteor shower...One great read. Detroit NewsA classic from New York Times bestselling author Anne Rivers Siddons, Fault Lines is the powerful and deeply moving story of three

women on a life-changing road trip up the California coast. Pat Conroy (*The Prince of Tides*) says that Siddons, ranks among the best of us and delivers the goods the whole fabulous package with every book she writes. *Fault Lines* is one of her finest, a truly stunning read from a novelist acclaimed for her wondrous array of literary masterworks from *Sweetwater Creek* to *Up Island* through *Low Country* and *Nora*. From Publishers Weekly Her 11th novel (after *Downtown*) finds Siddons squarely back on track with an immensely readable narrative that's been trimmed of excesses and "except for the ending" unnecessary melodrama. In fact, even the symbolism here is lean and explicit: Merritt Fowler is at the end of her emotional tether and about to crack; then the earth does, in an earthquake that imperils her and three people she loves. The fault lines in Merritt's character are common to women, Siddons implies. Since her mother's death when she was 13, Merritt has been a willing caretaker for members of her family: first her younger sister, "fragile, lovely, hungry" Laura, now 38 and still a would-be actress; then her husband Pom, a doctor dedicated to the patients in his Atlanta clinics but demanding and dictatorial at home; then Pom's Alzheimer's-demented mother, Mommee. Merritt knows she's shortchanging her 16-year-old daughter, Glynn, who has survived one bout with anorexia but is again close to despair because she feels neglected by her father. When Glynn runs away to her aunt Laura in California, Merritt follows to bring her home but is caught up in circumstances that will forever change the lives of all three women. If Siddons initially makes Merritt a bit too perfect, selfless and saintly, she nicely traces the flowering of her heroine's self-image during several crises and a bittersweet love affair. Settings are authentically rendered, from Atlanta's upper-crust social milieu to Hollywood's tawdry glitz and the serene beauty of the redwood country near Santa Cruz. Neatly alternating earthquake lore with steamy sex scenes, Siddons manages her absorbing, if predictable, narrative with panache and though the earthquake is employed as a tear-jerking *deus ex machina*, readers will probably take the device as fair exchange for the various epiphanies and rites of passage that Glynn, Laura and Merritt experience. \$250,000 ad/promo; first serial to *Good Housekeeping*; Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club main selections; author tour. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Siddons has produced another heartwrenching drama of Southern women in her 11th novel. As in *Downtown* (LJ 6/15/94), Siddons deliciously portrays the story of three women who have failed to find internal happiness. Merritt Fowler has spent her entire life in the role of caretaker. After the death of her mother, Merritt provides for her naive and illustrious sister, Laura, who longs to be an actress. But when Merritt meets Pomeroy (Pom) Fowler, the doctor on a crusade to save the world, Laura exits her life. Soon Merritt finds herself taking care of Pom's two sons; his aging, senile mother; and their daughter, Glynn, who is battling anorexia. When Pom's mother lights all Glynn's clothes on fire, the young woman flees to California to seek solace with her Aunt Laura. Merritt soon follows, and there the three women attempt to rectify their tormented relationships. Siddons keeps readers absorbed until the climactic ending, complete with natural disasters. Recommended for all collections.--Shannon Dekle, "Library Journal" Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.