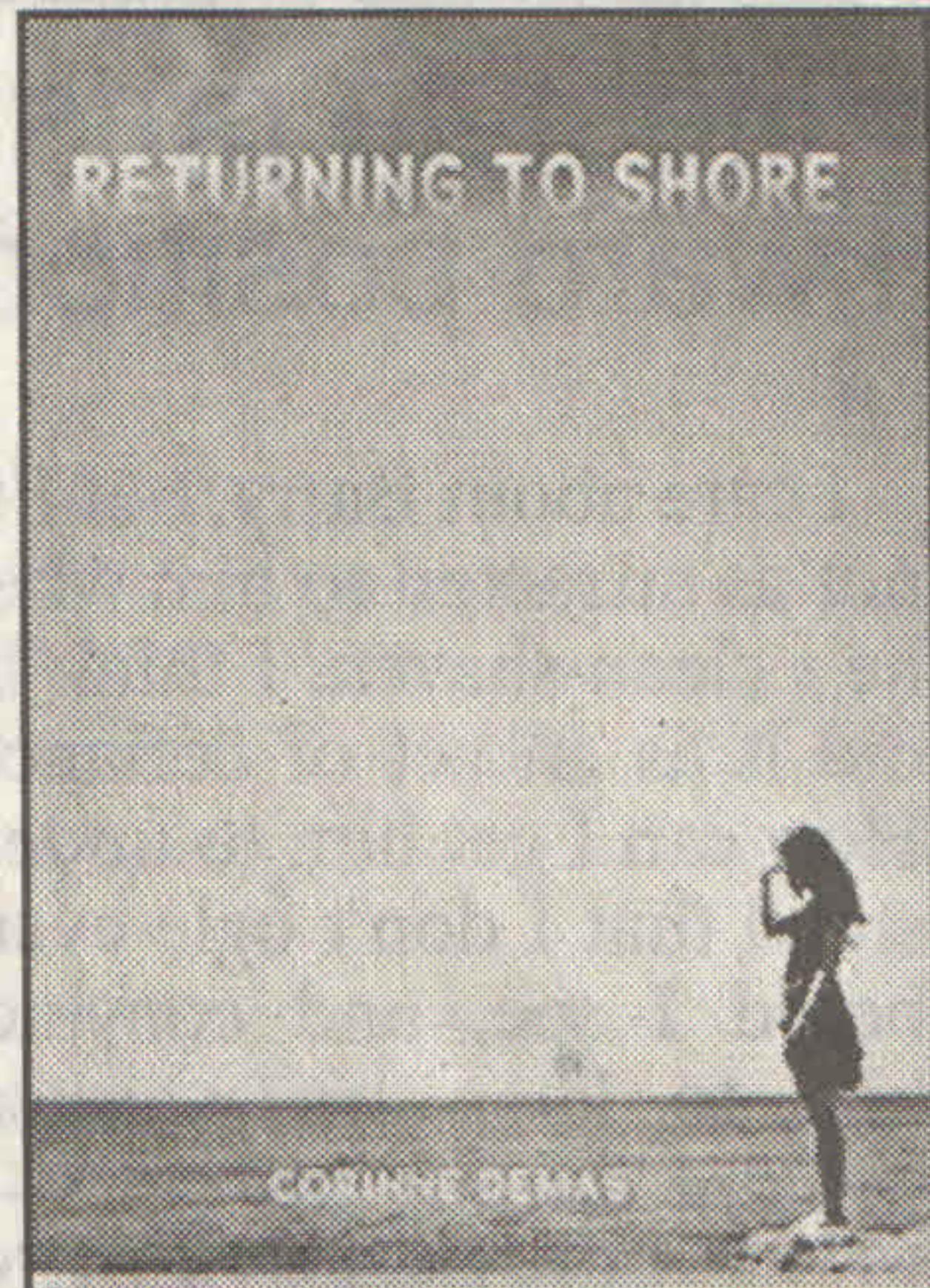




## The Village School's Children's Book of the Month



**"Returning to Shore"  
by Corinne Demas**

**Book reviewed by  
Rise Richardson**

*(Rise Richardson is the director at the Village School)*

The setting of this book is Cape Cod, familiar territory for many of us who call Massachusetts home.

Fifteen-year-old Clare is sent for the summer to live with a father she doesn't remember, while her mom is off on her third honeymoon.

Reluctant to change, both in her own thoughts and in her life, Clare resists getting to know her father, Richard, who is quiet. He gives her a lot of space and respect, in contrast to the helicopter mothering she has had most of her life. Over time, she comes to respect him back, and after he teaches her how to maneuver a kayak, they work in kayaks observing sea turtles together.

They eventually open up to each other, with her realizing that he never abandoned her. She also begins to understand a major part of his life and who he really is, which had been unknown to her. When she finally accepts him, her heart is opened, and love connects them both, as she can call him "Daddy" again, without thinking. Like all teenagers, she begins to see her childhood in a different light than before.

As she opens to her father, Clare slowly opens her awareness to her surroundings, taking in the smells, the changing colors of the sky, the ripples left in the sand by the waves. The setting is a central character in the book, you can almost taste the sea air in the breeze as author Corinne Demas sparingly depicts saltwater marsh, tidal river, swamp, seashore, and the bays and open ocean of the Cape. This book is a good read, and an especially good summer/beach book, for 11- to 16-year-olds and beyond. I enjoyed it myself and recommend it for young adults and adults.

Come to the Central Mass. Children's Book Festival on Nov. 15 at Mount Wachusett Community College, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., where you can meet Corinne Demas and other local authors. Demas will be signing her books, which will be available for purchase. You can also find her books at Bruce's Browser in uptown Athol.