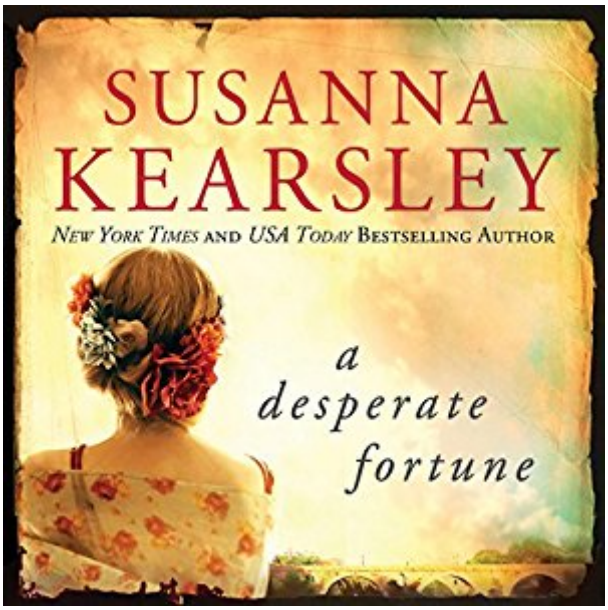
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A Desperate Fortune



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Synopsis

Beloved New York Times best-selling author Susanna Kearsley delivers a riveting novel that deftly intertwines the tales of two women, divided by centuries and forever changed by a clash of love and fate. For nearly 300 years, the cryptic journal of Mary Dundas has kept its secrets. Now, amateur codebreaker Sara Thomas travels to Paris to crack the cipher. Jacobite exile Mary Dundas is filled with longing - for freedom, for adventure, for the family she lost. When fate opens the door, Mary dares to set her foot on a path far more surprising and dangerous than she ever could have dreamed. As Mary’s gripping tale of rebellion and betrayal is revealed to her, Sara faces events in her own life that require letting go of everything she thought she knew - about herself, about loyalty, and especially about love. Though divided by centuries, these two women are united in a quest to discover the limits of trust and the unlikely coincidences of fate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If someone was capable of actually seeing the books lining my shelves most of what would be seen is books written by Kearsley. There are a large number of reasons as to why this author has become my true favorite. A few of those reasons are that her stories are that of mysteries intertwine with fate, history and of course romance. Those descriptions only highlight a sample of what this author has accomplished within her stories and for the most part A Desperate Fortune did live up to my expectations.A brief encounter with Anna, the heroine from the author’s previous The Firebird made a brief apperance in the opening of this book so I felt like I was being greeted by an old friend

and that was an added treat. If you haven't read any of the author's previous releases no need to fret as this book stands on its own.I loved the historical aspects of this book which is only is the prime focus of any of the author's stories. I've always admired the idea of ancient journals that are waiting to be explore. The journal in many ways is the driving force behind the story and I was amazed to uncover just how much Mary Dundas and Sara, the heroine of the story had in common.This story is one of suspense, romance and history that I think all readers will enjoy. I did. One most also appreciate the amount of effort that Kearsley's puts into each and everyone of her stories. Rest assured I will be adding the printed copy of this book to my shelf as well as with all future releases from the author.

Excellent. I cannot recommend this enough!The heroine, Mary, is clever, brave and vulnerable, and her adventures, her quest to find a place where she belongs are gripping. I also crushed on Hugh. The bodyguard trope is a favorite of mine and it is couched in perfect historical context and the character is given a quiet dignity I admire. So wonderful.

Loved the Winter Sea and Firebird. This one is also about the Jacobite uprising although not as detailed, and not as enthralling. I did love this book and would offer it to friends, although I'd recommend the reader start with the Winter Sea to get more of an understanding of the Jacobite rebellion. The two love stories begin in a very subtle way with just a few hints of the outcome.Perhaps I missed this but the whereabouts of Mary's father was never revealed. Her desire to find him was mentioned a number of times with no satisfactory result.So it's four stars bordering on five stars for me.

I just finished the novel A Desperate Fortune by Susanna Kearsley. Sara Thomas is between jobs (she just quit another one). She is a computer programmer who prefers to work alone (and programmers rarely work alone). Sara has AspergerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s syndrome which she has learned to handle over the years. Her cousin, Jacqui (who is very protective of Sara) has a great job opportunity for Sara where she will able to work by herself. Alistair Scott is an historical writer who needs the diary of Mary Dundas translated. It is written in a cipher. Alistair needs someone to figure out the cipher and then translate the diary. Sara is good with puzzles and ciphers (she was also able to pass AlistairÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s test). Sara agrees to take the job (she is looking forward to the challenge). Sara will be staying in France with the owner of the diary while she works on it.Mary Dundas is a Scotswoman (who comes from a family of JacobiteÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s) who has been

raised in France with relatives. Her older brother, Nicolas has finally requested that she come live with him. It turns out that Nicolas actually wants Mary to help hide a Jacobite on the run. Mary will pose as his sister to help keep him in hiding (and from getting captured). Mary is in for the journey of a lifetime.A Desperate Fortune goes back and forth between Sara and Mary. We get to see how Sara works to solve the cipher, translate the diary, and enjoys life in France. Mary is in for a journey she never thought she would experience, but she also worries what will happen to her at the end of this adventure. I enjoyed reading A Desperate Fortune. It is a well written novel. I enjoyed the setting of France, the characters, the interesting information on ciphers (I also enjoy puzzles) and the JacobiteÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s. There is some romance (it seems to be prevalent in all books), but, thankfully, it is not the dominant part of the story. The story does get a little tedious (slow going) at times from the history in the novel (it can be hard to keep it all straight and I love history). We also get information on AspergerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s syndrome, how it affects an individual, and the mechanisms they can use to cope. I give A Desperate Fortune 4 out of 5 stars (which means I liked it). I will be reading more works from Susanna Kearsley.I received a complimentary copy of A Desperate Fortune from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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