

A Dangerous Fortune

By Ken Follett



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In 1866, tragedy strikes the exclusive Windfield School when a young student drowns in a mysterious accident. His death and its aftermath initiate a spiraling circle of treachery that will span three decades and entwine many lives.

From the exclusive men's clubs and brothels that cater to every dark desire of London's upper class to the dazzling ballrooms and mahogany-paneled suites of the manipulators of the world's wealth, one family is splintered by a shared legacy. But greed, fed by the shocking truth of a boy's death, must be stopped, or the dreams of a nation will die.



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A Dangerous Fortune By Ken Follett Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Kirkus Reviews

Follett (Night Over Water, 1991; The Pillars of The Earth, 1989, etc.) peeks into the naughty world of late Victorian merchant bankers. A tragic misadventure among schoolboys is at the root of the rotten world of the Pilaster family. Weak bully Edward Pilaster and his too-dear South American chum Mickey Miranda cause the death by drowning of a lad from the lower form at their minor public school and then grow up to become as corrupt as one might expect. Mickey murders his way to a sinecure in the London legation of his nitraterich Latin American homeland, and, with much help from his gorgeous, manipulative mum Augusta, Edward bumbles his way to a partnership in the immensely important family bank. The only really good Pilaster, aside from discreetly gay Uncle Samuel, is young Hugh, whose father left the family firm, founded his own bank, and then had to commit suicide when the bank foundered. Hugh is a born banker, but since he's so much smarter than cousin Edward, Aunt Augusta hates him and throws constant obstacles in his path. Against Hugh's advice, Mickey and Edward team up on a series of huge loans to Mickey's governmentmoney that goes to the purchase of war materiel and the advancement of Mickey's thuggish father. On this rotten foundation, the Pilaster bank grows to Imperial preeminence and Augusta gets the earldom she wants for the husband she dislikes. Hugh, pining for the Polish-born, Jewish bareback- rider he loved and lost and still nursing his childhood memory of That Day At The Swimming Hole, gets nothing but grief until those shaky South American bonds finally collapse and he's really needed. Interesting financial tips and a sprinkling of naughty bits, but the rest is minor Masterpiece Theatre. (BOM ??) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

Praise for A Dangerous Fortune

"A terrific page-turner." —Los Angeles Times

"Political and amorous intrigues, cold-blooded murder, and financial crises . . . old-fashioned entertainment." —San Francisco Chronicle

"Breathlessly plotted . . . relentlessly suspenseful." —The New York Times

"Gripping, complex plot . . . sexual intrigue . . . fascinating characters . . . You won't be able to put down this exciting page-turner." —*Lexington Herald-Leader*

"Follett [builds] to a dramatic climax with the same masterful control that guided *Eye of the Needle* and *The Pillars of the Earth.*" —*Playboy*

"I don't usually enjoy historical thrillers but admit to being totally captivated by Ken Follett's *A Dangerous Fortune*." —*Chicago Tribune*

"Highly entertaining . . . Follett's characters are drawn with broad, realistic strokes . . . this story of greed and retribution should win Follett new fans." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Rich, complex, thrilling, suspenseful, well plotted . . . *A Dangerous Fortune* is dangerous reading. You won't be able to put it down." —*Authors and Critics*

From the Publisher

"Political and amorous intrigues, cold-blooded murders and financial crises...old-fashioned entertainment!" - *San Francisco Chronicle*.

In 1866, tragedy strikes at the exclusive Windfield School. A young student drowns in a mysterious accident involving a small circle of boys. The drowning and its aftermath initiates a spiraling circle of treachery that will span three decades and entwine many loves... From the exclusive men's club and brothels that cater to every dark desire of London's upper classes to the dazzling ballrooms and mahogany-paneled suites of the manipulators of the world's wealth, Ken Follett conjures up a stunning array of contrasts. This breathtaking novel portrays a family splintered by lust, bound by a shared legacy... men and women swept toward a perilous climax where greed, fed by the shocking truth of a boy's death, must be stopped, or not just one man's dreams, but those of a nation, will die...

"Breathlessly plotted...relentlessly suspensenseful." -- *The New York Times*. "Gripping, complex plot.. sexual intrigue...fascinating characters...you won't be able to put down this exciting page-turner!" -- *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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What do you in relation to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what yours problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question simply because just their can do that. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on kindergarten until university need that A Dangerous Fortune to read.

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