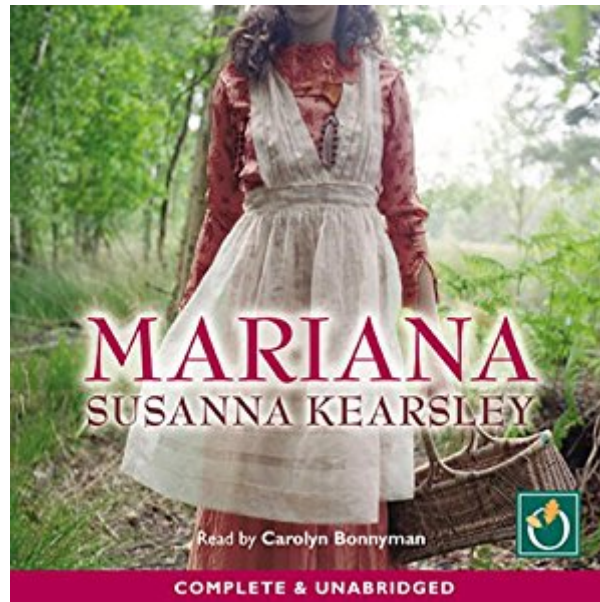


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# Mariana



## Synopsis

Juliet Beckett believes in destiny. When she moves into Greywethers, a beautiful 16th-century farmhouse, she suspects that more than coincidence has brought her there. The locals are warm and welcoming, especially the eligible squire of Crofton Hall. Yet beneath the ordinaries, Julia senses a haunting sadness about her new home. Then she learns of Mariana, a beautiful young woman who lived there 300 years ago. It seems history has been waiting for Julia....

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Once again, Susanna's rich writing captured my heart and would not let go. Just one more page, I kept telling my burning eyes. Although it does begin a bit slowly, it needs the time to introduce and get to know the characters. I enjoyed the way the main character seamlessly moved from past to present in a way I could easily follow. The main character's relationship with her brother was a real treat, and he was nicely rewarded in the story. Although I couldn't wait to finish, I wanted to have it go on a little longer. Once everything / everyone was in its spot, it just stopped. I cried when the story ended, for several reasons. We never know what happened to one of the main characters, and I felt sad for him. Also, Mariana's life was full of hardship and heartache, with a small but breathless love affair in the middle. As always with one of Susanna's books, I will go back and read favorite passages, savoring each delicious bite of text. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a bit of paranormal, a bit of history, a lot of feeling and internal struggle, and a nice dose of romance. The end brings a few surprises, which as I said earlier, I wish would have gone on just a

but longer. I felt something was missing when it ended. That made me want to rate it a 4-1/2, but the 5-star rating won out. After all, the book is wonderful. Just because I was sobbing at the end is no reason to punish the rating. I loved *The Winter Sea* more, but this is also a great read.

Julia Beckett knew when she saw the house again--for the third time in her life--that she was meant to own it. Flush with cash from an inheritance, she followed her impulse and was soon ensconced in a 16th century home. Almost immediately, weird things start happening to her. She looks at a room filled with boxes and sees it furnished as a humble bedroom instead. A dark man on a grey stallion appears and disappears at will. People talk about the ghost, the Green Lady, who'd haunted her house for many years, but had not been seen for about thirty years. Before long, Julia finds herself drawn into the 17th century life of a young girl called Mariana, who is sent to her stern Puritan uncle to escape the London plague. Along with Mariana, she falls in love with Richard, the local lord of the manor, and faces her uncle's wrath. Is it possible that Julia is indeed the 20th century reincarnation of Mariana, who has chosen to return to the living in search of the happiness that evaded her in the past? And if so, why doesn't the 20th century version of Richard seem to understand any of it? One thing Julia learns from her experiences is not to make assumptions, and nor should the reader of this compelling tale. Kearsley uses clever sleight-of-hand to keep us turning the pages to find out the true purpose of Julia's soul's journey, and while it's not your typical romance--not technically historical nor time travel--it's an engrossing and satisfying tale that will leave you hungry for more of the same, much as *The Winter Sea* did for me. While the ending may seem abrupt to some--as it did to me at first--after a few minutes, I thought, "Yes, of course that's the way it was." The hints were subtle, but they were there all the same. On to the next Kearsley novel. . . and here's hoping there are lots more coming!

This is my first experience with the work of Susanna Kearsley. Her work was recommended to me as a quick and addictive read. Armed with that description I entered into *Mariana* with moderate expectations and minimal commitment. To my delight this was a fantastic read. Well written, thought provoking and genuine. My only criticism would be that "there wasn't enough". The characters were interesting and so well defined that this book could have been 25% longer just to give the reader a little more time with them. As a rule I am a "book snob". I hate trashy, loose writing that insults my intelligence and there seems to be so much of that out there. I am very excited to have found this author and highly recommend *Mariana* and am moving on to other works by Kearsley. Who by the way is a fellow Canadian - well done !

(3.5 stars) From the time Julia was 5 years old, she has had several chance encounters with a house in a village and each time felt a deep connection to it. Now an adult and an illustrator of children's books, she finds herself back in this small village on a trip to visit her brother who lives nearby, and is unable to resist actually looking in the windows of this intriguing home. When she finds that it is up for sale, she impulsively purchases the home with an inheritance. As she begins to get settled, she begins to have very vivid dreams of a young woman who once lived in the home. Julia is shocked to find out that she has been "sleepwalking" the actions of her dream. The locals welcome her, and she finds some good friends. Paralleling this life of Mariana, she meets the current lord of the manor and experiences a strange sensation of deep sadness in one of the rooms of the estate. Julia meets the housekeeper who seems to know more about her past life experiences, and intimates that she must find out what is happening for herself. As Julia is pulled deeper and deeper into Mariana's world, she must decide what truth and what life she wants to lead, especially when she finds out that she is not the only one experiencing these past life visions. This was a lovely romance/time travel novel. It was perhaps not as strong as *The Rose Garden* or *The Winter Sea*, but I did enjoy the story a great deal.

I have to admit that after reading "The Winter Sea" and "The Firebird", that "Mariana" paled in comparison. The writing is still as captivating; however the story did not go as I had hoped. I won't spoil it, as it is an enchanting story. I just find it left me feeling unfulfilled. I still recommend this book, and hope that you will also find yourself as captivated by the lovable characters, (that Susanna Kearsley seems to bring to life so effortlessly), as I was myself.

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