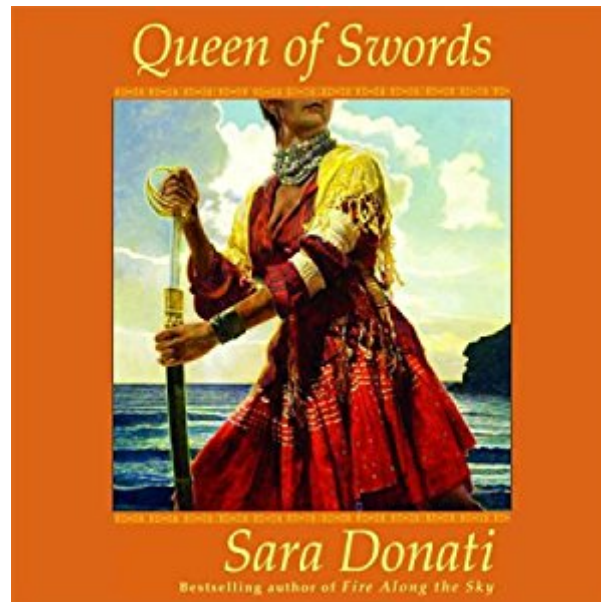


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# Queen Of Swords



## Synopsis

It is the late summer of 1814, and Hannah Bonner and her half brother Luke have spent more than a year searching the islands of the Caribbean for Luke's wife and the man who abducted her. But Jennet's rescue, so long in coming, is not the resolution they'd hoped for. In the spring she had given birth to Luke's son, and in the summer Jennet had found herself compelled to surrender the infant to a stranger in the hope of keeping him safe. To claim the child, Hannah, Luke, and Jennet must journey first to Pensacola. There they learn a great deal about the family that has the baby. The Poiterins are a very rich, very powerful Creole family, totally without scruple. The matriarch of the family has left Pensacola for New Orleans and taken the child she now claims as her great-grandson with her. New Orleans is a city on the brink of war, a city where prejudice thrives and where Hannah, half Mohawk, must tread softly. Careful plans are made as the Bonners set out to find and reclaim young Nathaniel Bonner. Plans that go terribly awry, isolating them from each other in a dangerous city at the worst of times. Sure that all is lost, and sick unto death, Hannah finds herself in the care of a family and a friend from her past, Dr. Paul de Guise Savard dit Saint-d'Uzet. It is Dr. Savard and his wife who save Hannah's life, but Dr. Savard's half brother who offers her real hope. Jean-Benoit Savard, the great-grandson of French settlers, slaves, and Choctaw and Seminole Indians, is the one man who knows the city well enough to engineer the miracle that will reunite the Bonners and send them home to Lake in the Clouds. With Ben Savard's guidance, allies are drawn from every segment of New Orleans's population and from Andrew Jackson's army, now pouring into the city in preparation for what will be the last major battle of the War of 1812.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Queen of Swords is the fifth book of the Into the Wilderness series, where Sara Donati continues her historical fiction account of the Bonner family. Fans of the series will not be disappointed. However, you do not have to read the first four novels to get the most from this sequel. It is fresh with new setting and new characters and the author brings up what is important to know for you to understand and enjoy the novel. Luke and Hannah's search for their beloved Jennet, who has been abducted, takes them to New Orleans during the war of 1812. Through their adventure you will have your emotions stirred up by the situations created by war, racism, prejudice, dominating power and slavery. The setting is so well described, that you can just close your eyes to picture it. The characters are good, convincing, strong and likable. The author is very skillful in keeping the story intriguing, suspenseful and interesting. Very well written and leaves space for readers to imagine the details. It is a great book. I highly recommended it.

The fifth book in Sara Donati's excellent series is a departure from the main characters of Nathaniel and Elizabeth, focusing instead on Hannah Bonner, Luke Bonner, and his wife Jennet and their trials after the abduction of Jennet at the end of Book 4. Picking up with the party finding Jennet, we are thrown into the world of New Orleans as the group attempts to discover the whereabouts of the infant son of Luke and Jennet. The British are plotting to take the city but that is only one small part of the separate world the Bonners face far from home and the ones they love. While this is a good entry in the series, I found myself frustrated at times with the feeling that Donati wanted to write about the Battle of New Orleans and let the situation take precedence over the characters. At times the action was fast and furious and I found myself enveloped with new characters, both real and fictitious, but at other times I felt the spark that Donati brings to her writing was secondary to getting through the siege and showing the lives of the citizens. While circumstances demanded that Jennet be shrill at times, and that Hannah be stoic and strong, there were moments when I missed their interactions with more familiar surroundings. Overall this is an excellent book, still head and shoulders above most of the historical fiction out there. While I look forward to my beloved characters returning to Paradise and taking up their lives, this one is a worthy installment, if at times a bit frustrating in that I wanted these characters home! Still, it's written in Donati's usual compelling style, and can be recommended to all lovers of good historical fiction.

Book 5 (this book) is a bit different from the earlier 4 books in that the entire book focuses on Hannah, Luke, and Jennet in New Orleans. You hear nothing of Paradise or Lake in the Clouds until more than half way through the book, and then it is only through a letter. Elizabeth, Simon, Lily, Curiosity, and all the others at Lake in the Clouds are only discussed in letters in this book. Nathaniel shows up in the final chapters of the book to rescue the crew in New Orleans. The book is very descriptive - both with New Orleans scenery and battles. So if you like description, you'll love this book. If you were more looking for finding out what happens next with many of the characters you love from books 1-4, you really only find out details on Hannah, Luke, and Jennet. I had a bit of a hard time connecting with the characters in this book - Jennet was distant and hard to understand at the start (due to her ordeal), and Hannah was in a relationship that didn't seem true to her character. I do look forward to book 6 to find out what's happening back in Paradise...

A year has past since the abduction, but by the summer of 1814, Canadian merchant Luke Scott and his Mohawk half-sister Dr. Hannah Bonner mount the successful rescue of his wife Jennet held in the French Antilles. Jennet informs her spouse and sister in law that their child was born while she was in interned, but that she got Creole merchant Honor Poiterin to smuggle their Nathaniel out of the Caribbean. The trio heads to New Orleans to retrieve their offspring and bring him to Montreal to live with them. However, the city is under siege as the British and American armies prepare for battle. Neither Hannah nor the Scotts realize how deadly the Poiterin clan can be when someone crosses them. Taking the infant is a major affront to the family matriarch, who calls for a family feud and sends her descendents to kill the "kidnappers" and bring home the baby. Though the ending is expected, readers will appreciate this fine historical tale that provides a deep look at the city on the verge of the Battle of New Orleans, the bloodiest engagement of the War of 1812 (ironically after the peace was signed in Paris). The story line is driven by personalities from the Scots and their half Mohawk sibling, the Poiterin kin, and city political leaders preparing for the worst. **QUEEN OF SWORDS** is a fine entry in the Bonner-Scotts early nineteenth century saga. Harriet Klausner

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