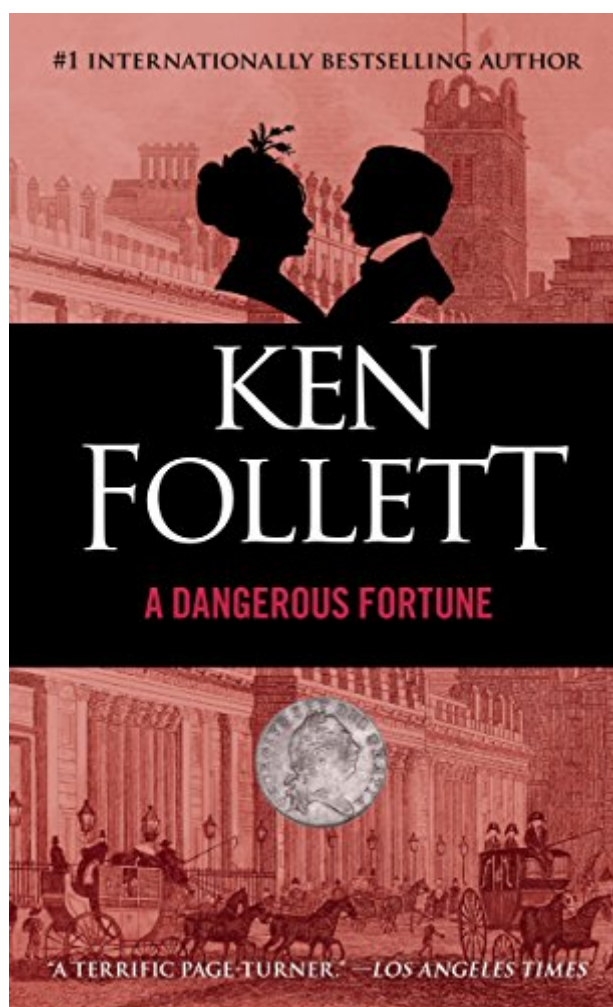


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A Dangerous Fortune



Synopsis

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. 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* From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

The author, a masterful storyteller, weaves an intriguing and mesmerizing tapestry of events that

surround the wealthy Pilaster banking family in the latter part of nineteenth century England. Its panoramic sweep will hold the reader in its thrall. This complex story tells of the ebb and flow of their individual personal fortunes and the personalities that are to profoundly affect them, for better or worse. Augusta Pilaster is the scheming, socially conscious, self-appointed matriarch of the family. She is a woman who will stop at nothing to ensure that her reckless and easily manipulated husband, Joseph, and their indolent, dissolute, and lackluster son, Edward, will get and retain control of the Pilaster banking enterprise. Her machiavellian machinations, however, will eventually trigger the downfall of the family's fortune. Hugh Pilaster, Augusta's nephew by marriage, is the Pilaster who has the brains and work ethic to take the Pilaster banking fortunes to a new level. His Achilles heel is that he seems destined to be attracted to working class women, a chink in his armor that Augusta Pilaster uses to her and her immediate family's advantage. He, too, is Augusta Pilaster's unwitting pawn, until the day of reckoning comes. Micky Miranda is the romantically handsome scion of a wealthy, unscrupulous, and power hungry South American businessman. Micky attended an exclusive school with Edward and Hugh Pilaster, when they were young. While there, tragedy struck when a mysterious swimming "accident" took the life of one of their friends, an event that was to shadow their lives in ways no one could have imagined. Micky Miranda would eventually enter into a web of complicity with Augusta Pilaster that would impact on the fortunes of both the Miranda and Pilaster families.

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