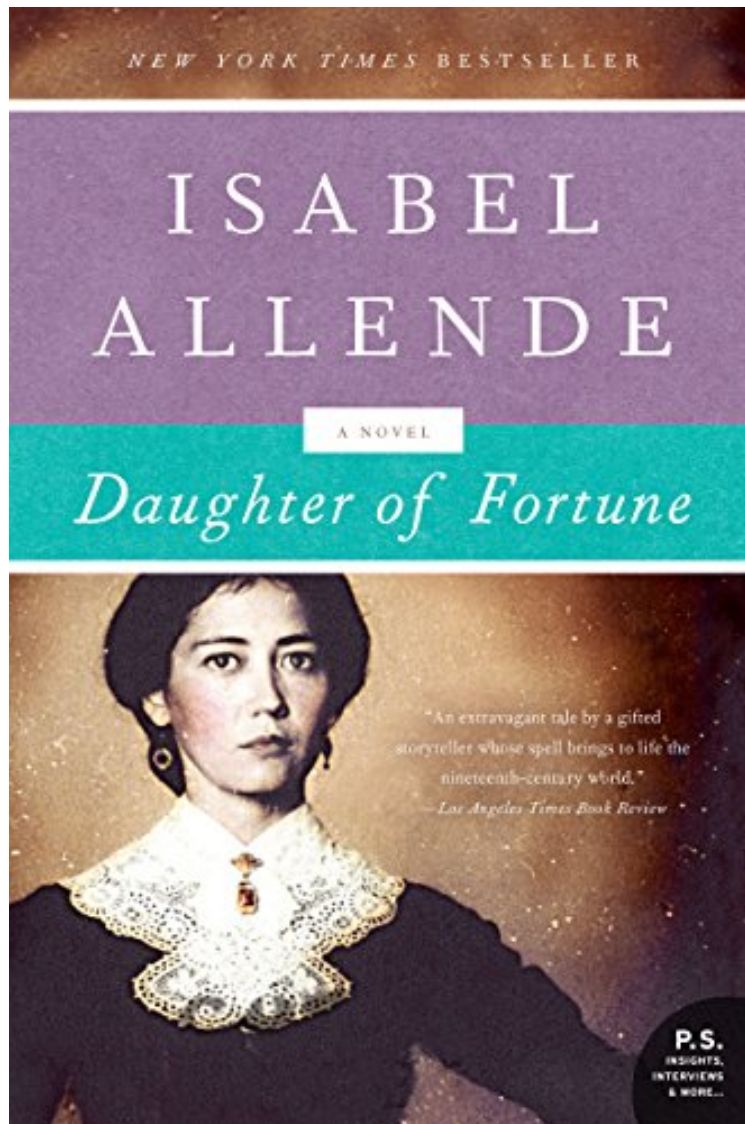


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Daughter of Fortune: A Novel

Von Isabel Allende

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Von Isabel Allende : Daughter of Fortune: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Daughter of Fortune: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. It starts out well, but is ultimately disappointing. Von booklover10I picked up "Daughter of Fortune," by Isabel Allende, because it is an Oprah book and I have liked some of Oprah's choices. I was drawn to the story of Eliza, a foundling taken in by a British brother and sister, Jeremy and Rose Sommers, in Valparaiso, Chile. Allende describes Eliza's childhood in Chile effectively. Rose Sommers, who has never married, cares for Eliza but does not know how to

nurture her effectively. Jeremy Sommers is remote and busy with business matters. Eliza learns a great deal at the feet of Mama Fresia, a loving Indian woman who is as wise as she is caring. The book takes a strange turn when Eliza falls in love and travels to California during the Gold Rush to search for her departed lover. The book meanders badly after that, with new characters constantly being introduced. Allende captures the frenzy and madness of the California Gold Rush, but Eliza gets lost in the hubbub. She meets a Chinese man, named Tao Chi'en, on her voyage to America. Tao Chi'en becomes a confidante and a close friend, but this relationship is not satisfactorily developed. Eliza also gets involved with a madam running a brothel. All these characters are shallow and uninteresting. The promise of the first part of the book is not realized, as the book meanders to its disappointing conclusion. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. DAUGHTER OF FORTUNE.....OR MISFORTUNE Von Michael M. This was the first book I've read by Allende and I've since ordered other books by her. Yes I admit I was introduced to her by Oprah and rate this as one of Oprah's better picks. Allende has a great way of dropping subtle hints throughout the book. I love when an author has the ability to take you into a foreign country and make you feel as if you've lived there forever. While others have posted that the characters could have been better developed, I felt just the opposite. I think Allende was able to get across just what Eliza was feeling and what motivated her. I do agree that there were a lot of loose ends and probably the author wanted it this way. I wonder about the possibility of Joaquin and Eliza possibly being brother and sister causing Joaquin to flee to California; I wonder if Tao and Eliza ever married; I wonder what happened when Rose arrived in California....and I'm sure this is just what Allende wants us to wonder about. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes true and believable characters in a setting far removed from the usual. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. AUDIO REVIEW -- COULD EVEN BE BETTER THAN THE BOOK Von Michael M. Blair Brown's reading of Allende's Daughter of Fortune is absolutely superb. I'm always amazed when a reader takes on the task of making an audiobook of a book that is replete with many different accents. Blair's interpretation is a delight but be prepared to spend a lot of time listening to this unabridged version -- many, many cassettes included. It's definitely worth it though.

Kurzbeschreibung An orphan raised in Valparaiso, Chile, by a Victorian spinster and her rigid brother, vivacious young Eliza Sommers follows her lover to California during the Gold Rush of 1849. Entering a rough-and-tumble world of new arrivals driven mad by gold fever, Eliza moves in a society of single men and prostitutes with the help of her good friend and savior, the Chinese doctor Tao Chi'en. California opens the door to a new life of freedom and independence to the young Chilean, and her search for her elusive lover gradually turns into another kind of journey. By the time she finally hears news of him, Eliza must decide who her true love really is..de Oprah Book Club Selection, February 2000: Until Isabel Allende burst onto the scene with her 1985 debut, *The House of the Spirits*, Latin American fiction was, for the most part, a boys' club comprising such heavy hitters as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Jorge Luis Borges, and Mario Vargas Llosa. But the Chilean Allende shouldered her way in with her magical realist multi-generational tale of the Trueba family, followed it up with four more novels and a spate of nonfiction, and has remained in a place of honor ever since. Her sixth work of fiction, *Daughter of Fortune*, shares some characteristics with her earlier works: the canvas is wide, the characters are multi-generational and multi-ethnic, and the protagonist is an unconventional woman who overcomes enormous obstacles to make her way in the world. Yet one cannot accuse Allende of telling the same story twice; set in the mid-1800s, this novel follows the fortunes of Eliza Sommers, Chilean by birth but adopted by a British spinster, Rose Sommers, and her bachelor brother, Jeremy, after she is abandoned on their doorstep. "You have English blood, like us," Miss Rose assured Eliza when she was old enough to understand. "Only someone from the British colony would have thought to leave you in a basket on the doorstep of the British Import and Export Company, Limited. I am sure they knew how good-hearted my brother Jeremy is, and felt sure he would take you in. In those days I was longing to have a child, and you fell into my arms, sent by God to be brought up in the solid principles of the Protestant faith and the English language." The family servant, Mama Fresia, has a different point of view, however: "You, English? Don't get any ideas, child. You have Indian hair, like mine." And certainly Eliza's almost mystical ability to recall all the events of her life would seem to stem more from the Indian than the Protestant side. As Eliza grows up, she becomes less tractable, and when she falls in love with Joaquin Andieta, a clerk in Jeremy's firm, her adoptive family is horrified. They are even more so when a now-pregnant Eliza follows her lover to California where he has gone to make his fortune in the 1849 gold rush. Along the way Eliza meets Tao Chi'en, a Chinese doctor who saves her life and becomes her closest friend. What starts out as a search for a lost love becomes, over time, the discovery of self; and by the time Eliza finally catches up with the elusive Joaquin, she is no longer sure she still wants what she once wished for. Allende peoples her novel with a host of colorful secondary characters. She even takes the narrative as far afield as China, providing an intimate portrait of Tao Chi'en's past before returning to 19th-century San Francisco, where he and Eliza eventually fetch up. Readers with a taste for the epic, the picaresque, and romance that is satisfyingly complex will find them all in *Daughter of Fortune*. --Margaret Prior Pressestimmen "Die Erzhlkunst der Autorin entlt den Leser erst aus ihrem Bann, wenn die letzte Seite des Romans

gelesen ist." (Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten)