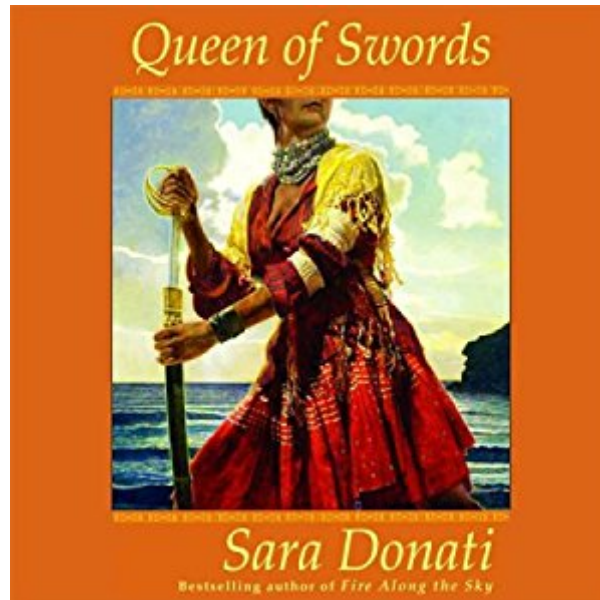




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# Queen Of Swords



## 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-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

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 21 hours and 10 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Books on Tape

Audible.com Release Date: October 23, 2006

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B000K7KJMC

Best Sellers Rank: #64 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Historical #290

inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction #936 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Family Saga

## Customer Reviews

This series of books brings the American Indian into light from the American Indian wars between the United States and the British into the American Revolution as seen through the eyes of the American Indian and Hawkeye's family from the Last of the Mohicans. Full of wonderful descriptions, historical facts, and fiction as it follows the lives of Cora, Nathaniel, Chingachgook, the Mohawk, and the lives of others living in the wilderness of the Upper Northeast. It is a series of five books starting with Into the Wilderness and ending with Queen of Swords. Excellent read.

At first, I didn't care for the direction Ms. Donati was taking me...that is, away from Paradise...Nathaniel, Elizabeth etc. and into New Orleans during the War of 1812. Nevertheless, I so thoroughly enjoyed this 5th installment of the Wilderness Series and nobody is more surprised than me. Ms. Donati has such a gift...such a talented ability to integrate historical facts within her fictional plot with smooth adeptness. In little time, I was completely captivated and emotionally invested with the historical facts of the War of 1812...along with the overwhelming, consuming dilemma(s) facing Hannah, Jennet and Luke. Such strong women...such strong characters. I love them all...Personally, I found this 5th installment of the "Wilderness Series" one of the best of the 5 books so far. The first 4 books are all exceptionally good reading...but this 5th book pulled me into the early 19th Century History of New Orleans so completely, I was surprised as I've never been a lover of history. I found myself online, researching the War of 1812! (way weird).The beginning of this book takes place one year later from book 4...and is very different from the first four installments in that it is has much, much more detailed narrative and very little dialogue (in it's beginning). Even with all the adventurous drama unfolding, too much narrative sometimes can be tedious (even though it is absolutely necessary to the plot). Luke and Hannah are searching for Jennet who has been kidnapped during Wartime. Their search takes them from Montreal, Canada to New Orleans. Slavery is at its height in New Orleans in which Hannah is constantly in jeopardy of ever being taken and sold.This outstanding adventure of these three young people and all the peril's they face so far away from their home (Paradise) propels the reader ever forward. It never disintegrates or falls apart. It never becomes disjointed. This Author gives great attention to each detail...no matter how minor.Upward and onward to the final installment....book #6.

This is the 5th book in the Wilderness series. I read the first 3 years ago and fell in love with the characters. I stumbled across books 4 - 6 and was so excited to continue reading about this wilderness family. I've barely been able to put them down. They are full of detail and most of the historical dates are accurate (or close). You could pick this up and read it alone but I recommend reading the others first (i.e., *Lake in the Clouds*, *Into the Wilderness*, *Dawn on a Distant Shore* and *Fire Along the Sky*). I love the detail about the interactions among various races in different parts of the country (Indians, trappers, blacks and whites as well as (in this book) a complete exploration of the Creole and French families in New Orleans). The book series takes you from the "endless forest" in New York (along the Canadian border), to Canada, Scotland, the Caribbean and with this particular book, Florida and New Orleans. They are full of conflict, love, day-to-day living, and battles. It's funny to read an author bring "Major General Andrew Jackson" to life in this book! I could go on and on.

I want to start by saying I did like this book, but it was not my favorite in the series. From the name and the description on the cover, I thought the focus was going to be on Jennet and Luke--finally--as a couple. In other books in the series Ms. Donati has given us a good amount of time with Jennet and a fair amount of time with Luke, although not enough since I still do not know him as well as I would like, certainly not as in depth as most of the other main/recurring characters. What the author has not given us much of is time with Jennet and Luke as a couple. I thought at least half the book would be devoted to their relationship. It was certainly long enough. It became apparent the queen of the saga was going to be Hannah. Hannah seems to be a favorite character of the author, and of course, she has that right. With that in mind, it would have been nice to have the queen use her own sword at least once. She did not come off as weak by any means, but she was repeatedly rescued and always by the same man. Really? I saw Hannah Bonner go from a warrior to a victim. As that happened, I felt the book go from historical fiction to a romance novel. Don't get me wrong. I read and like romance novels. I just didn't expect one in the middle of the *Into the Wilderness* series. I liked the new character of Jean-Benoit Savard (Ben) a lot. He was hot and sexy. He had an exotic ethnic background. He was a bit sure of himself, but he never pushed it so far he could not be forgiven for it. In fact, why shouldn't he be confident. He saved almost every one of the other central characters single-handedly at least once. That is a lot for one book. Who needs Andrew Jackson when you have Ben Savard? Another new character I liked a lot was Major Christian Pelham Wyndham (Kit). His presence in the story let us see the British side of the war through the eyes of a likable and honorable soldier. I like this kind of storytelling better than the

simplified us against them with the us always good and the them always bad. I wish things could have worked out better for him, though. It did make for a quick and easy resolution to the Ben-Hannah-Kit triangle, but I wish he could have had that chance he seemed to want so much to distinguish and define himself. He had a sword, too, after all. The book was too long for me. The parts concerning the politics and battles of the War of 1812 were well written and well paced, but it took too long for everyone to get together. Also, I don't think all of the supporting characters that were added served to advance or enhance the story. These are two of the issues I had with Dawn on a Distant Shore (I had a lot of issues with book). I think characters that only show up once or twice should be there to contribute to the main plot and not just to tell their own stories, no matter how interesting. All in all it was a good romance novel set during a true historical event. I give it 3-1/2 to 4 stars.

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