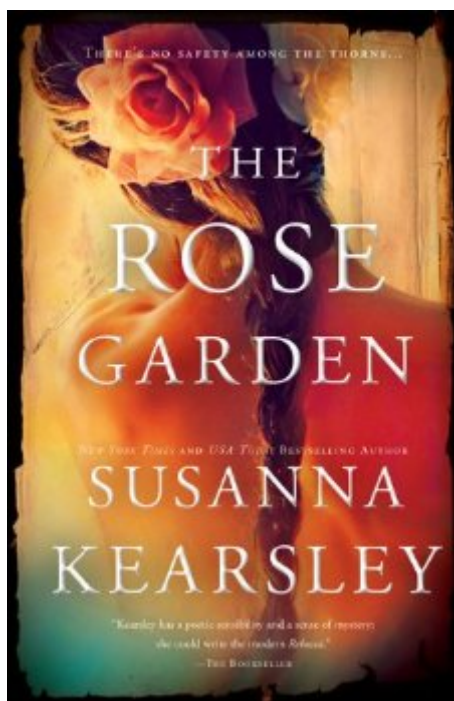


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# The Rose Garden



## Synopsis

"An enthralling and achingly romantic read. Top Pick in Romance." - BookPage  
Eva returns to the only place that has ever felt like home, but she quickly discovers she is not alone in the old house on the Cornwall coast. The past reaches out to touch the present in this beautiful love story and haunting mystery. "Whatever time we have," he said, "it will be time enough." Eva Ward returns to the only place she truly belongs, the old house on the coast of Cornwall, England, seeking happiness in memories of childhood summers. There she finds mysterious voices and hidden pathways that sweep her not only into the past, but also into the arms of a man who is not of her time. But Eva must confront her own ghosts, as well as those of long ago. As she begins to question her place in the present, she comes to realize that she too must decide where she really belongs. A modern gothic historical fiction with elements of time travel, reincarnation, and romance from New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Susanna Kearsley. Fans of Diana Gabaldon, Mary Stewart, Kate Morton, and Daphne Du Maurier will want to join Julia and Mariana on their journeys to love, past and present. Other great books by Susanna Kearsley: *The Winter Sea* #96; Winner of an RT Reviewers Choice Award, RITA finalist, finalist for the UK's Romantic Novel of the Year Award *The Firebird* #96; RITA Winner, Paranormal Romance *Mariana* #96; Winner of the Catherine Cookson Fiction Prize. Susanna has had books selected for the Mystery Guild, was a finalist for the UK's Romantic Novel of the Year Award, and won a National Readers' Choice Award and a RITA. What readers are saying about *The Rose Garden*: "a haunting, atmospheric and romantic story" "I am fascinated by the way she seamlessly melds past and present" "the romance is simultaneously subtle and yet stunning." "The book is a beautiful love story with mystery, thrills and just the type of book I love to read." "A delightful blend of romance, time travel and historical fiction that actually reminded me a bit of one of my favorite books, *Outlander*." "like *A CROSS BETWEEN THE OUTLANDER SERIES AND THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE*, but told with Kearsley's gentle voice." What reviewers are saying about *The Rose Garden*: "A THRILLING, haunting, and deeply romantic story." - Rachel Hore, internationally bestselling author of *The Memory Garden* "... brilliantly brings together past and present. 4 1/2 Stars, Top Pick of the Month" - RT Book Reviews "Kearsley makes the impossible seem real as she weaves a tale full of genuine characters and a strong sense of place and makes history come alive." - Booklist "an ENTHRALLING AND ACHINGLY ROMANTIC read. Top Pick in Romance." - BookPage "...an imaginatively captivating trip through time." - Fresh Fiction What everyone is saying about Susanna Kearsley: "Kearsley blends history, romance and a bit of the supernatural into a glittering, BEWITCHING tale." - Kirkus "A MAGICAL, not to be missed read." - RT Book Reviews Top Pick, 4 1/2 stars "A CREATIVE TOUR DE FORCE. Sometimes an

author catches lightning in a bottle, and Susanna Kearsley has done just that." - New York Journal of Books

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eva Ward's famous actress sister, Katrina, has just died tragically young. Returning to a place they both loved as children, Eva brings Katrina's ashes to Trelowarth House in the small town of Polgelly in Cornwall, Great Britain. Katrina's former teenage boyfriend and their family friend, Mark Hallett now owns the family estate and is trying to keep it and its beautiful rose garden solvent. Eva fights off her depression over Katrina's death by trying to help Mark and his sister Susan advertise Trelowarth and start a new tea shop that will cater to tourists. An old childhood friend named Oliver has popped back in the scene and is a very attractive man. One day Eva "slips" into another time. She is still at Trelowarth, but it is Trelowarth of the early eighteenth century. At that point, two brothers, Jack and Daniel Butler together with their Irish comrade Fergal live at Trelowarth. They are smugglers and about to get involved in an ill-fated uprising to restore James Stuart to the throne of England. Eva is unable to control when she slips back and forth between the two time periods, but finds herself falling more and more in love with Daniel Butler. Will Eva be able to find happiness between the two worlds? And will the Butler brothers escape their fate? I enjoyed this novel. I am a big fan of time travel novels. It always fascinates me on the method of time travel. In this novel, Eva

fades away or slips through time only while at Trelowarth at unexpected times. I liked all of the secondary characters too and the setting was described beautifully and vividly. The love story between Eva and Daniel was also very romantic as was the story of love between Mark's father George, and stepmother Claire. I liked the ending.

First Line: I lost my only sister in the last days of November. A devastated Eva Ward is given her sister's ashes by Katrina's husband, Bill, with the proviso that Eva take them to the place where his wife was happiest. Momentarily confused, Eva suddenly remembers Trelowarth House, a centuries-old manor house high on a hill overlooking the sea in Cornwall. She and her sister had been happy visiting there as children, and Katrina's first love lived there still. Welcomed to Trelowarth, Eva decides to spend the summer there, intending to find a local cottage to rent in the autumn, but almost immediately she finds herself seeing paths where none had existed and hearing voices in the adjacent room when no one is there. When she actually finds herself in Trelowarth House in 1715 and meeting its owner, Daniel Butler, Eva has to admit that these aren't simple hallucinations. Daniel, a successful smuggler, is secretly planning to join in a rebellion against the newly crowned King George. As he and Eva try to come to terms with Eva's time traveling, they fall in love. Eva has a decision to make: in which time does she truly belong? For me, Susanna Kearsley is the queen of romantic suspense. Her Cornish setting is wonderful and the perfect backdrop to both time periods. Twenty-first-century and eighteenth-century secondary characters add richness to the story, and have the added bonus of helping to tug the reader in both directions. When I was reading a modern segment, I wondered what was happening to the characters in the eighteenth century, and when I was back in their time, I wondered about the modern characters. Every chapter was engrossing.

I adore all of Kearsley's other books, *The Winter Sea*, *Mariana*, *The Shadowy Horses*, *Named the Dragon*...they all hold such a special place in my heart. Really beautiful writing, an aching romance, and a historical mystery that keeps the plot active and exciting. I hate to give this book 3 stars, because at the surface it has everything her other books have, but something was missing for me. I'm sure I won't be the only of her fans who's disappointed by this one. It feels like a halfhearted attempt, particularly because I never felt the chemistry between Daniel and Eva. I didn't feel emotional or entranced the way I usually do when reading one of Kearsley's books. We're told that Eva is falling in love with Daniel when we haven't even seen them have a proper conversation yet, and after that a lot of their conversations are assumed rather than developed. Granted we did see

some of her difficulties (being left behind on the ship, difficulties with household chores), Eva's mental adjustment to life in 1715 seems altogether too simple, there's never any hesitation about what she's getting into. Usually I like that Kearsley is a "love conquers all" kind of writer, but Eva was a bit too passive about some things for my liking. This is a lovely story and the Cornwall scenery is breathtakingly alive, and I was interested in all of the characters and their story lines. My complaint is that I was left unsatisfied because this book is so full of unfulfilled promise. I feel the reader is cheated out of some of the important conversations and developments in different characters' lives, I've already mentioned Eva and Daniel, but I would also have loved to get some more of Claire, whose story is actually the most interesting in the book but we're left with only a brief glimpse of her life.

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