



## The Noon God

*Donna Carrick*

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Living in the shadow of greatness can be a difficult thing. Just ask Desdemona. When her father, the magnificent J. Caesar Fortune, is found murdered inside the offices of the Faculty of Art, there is no shortage of people who carried a grudge against him.

## **The Noon God Details**

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Author : Donna Carrick

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## From Reader Review The Noon God for online ebook

### **Rebecca says**

I got this as a free download on my Kindle, but it was REALLY good. I was shocked by the ending (no spoilers here) and intrigued by the writing style. I don't usually enjoy first-person narrative, but this book was well written and a quick read. I particularly enjoyed the commentary on the publishing inventory. I also enjoyed the Canadian setting.

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### **Glynis Smy says**

Desdemona (Mona) Fortune lived in the shadows of an egotistical, attention seeking father. Her two siblings each carry emotional baggage.

The death of one sister creates a rift within the family and Mona is left to support the other. Her loyalty to her father creates a marriage breakdown, and Mona settles for whatever life brings her way.

When her father is found murdered, the police are at a loss as to who of the many suspects killed him.

The contents of the fanny pack Mona found holds the key, but will she share the information?

Donna Carrick created enjoyable/believable characters and the story flowed at a pleasant pace. The Noon God is an enjoyable read.

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### **Cynthia says**

Donna Carrick never disappoints!

She writes books that pull you through a story and then hit you with a surprise ending that you didn't see coming.

The Noon God was just that sort of book. I could not put this book down.

A family destroyed by a cold heartless father and the dedication of one, Desdemona Fortune trying to make it right for her sisters, Gail and Lucy. Did she succeed?

I would recommend this book in a heartbeat. A great travel book. It's small (122 pages) size, with a very big story, is one that can be read in a short period of time. ~Instant gratification!~

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## **Libby says**

Quick read about the eldest of three daughters, Desdemona Fortune, and her relationships with her parents and siblings. Carrick creates interest in the beginning of the book with the murder of Desdemona's (Mona's) father, the illustrious Caesar Fortune, author of great note. Caesar has great expectations for Mona, much more so than for his other daughters. Caesar tells Mona, "it is your mind that is the secret treasure, not your face or your body. Only the mind is capable of greatness. Only the mind can live forever." Caesar's forceful personality has a great impact on all the family members, and Carrick does a good job of conveying this. Much of the book consists of Mona's flashbacks to her childhood years, setting the scene for the complexity of the family dynamics that follow. Carrick weaves a provocative tapestry of Mona's life and relationships. She sets up believable dramas that ensue out of the daily lives of the main characters, which include Mona's love interest, Benjamin William. Carrick's supporting characters fit into the story very well, making a more satisfying read. For me, however, the ending was not entirely credible, and I felt the tiniest bit cheated at the end. For Carrick's dead-on portrayal of family dynamics, addiction, and the aftermath of a suicide in the family, this book is worth the time it takes to read.

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## **Junying says**

A compelling mystery, a riveting fast read!

I thoroughly enjoyed Donna Carrick's *Noon God* - I was drawn in instantly from the very first page, and could not put it down till I finished the last sentence, very late at night.

As a reader, I don't have any expectations when I start a book, of any kind, just allowing myself to be sucked in by the story and see where it will take me. Before reading *Noon God*, I was already a fan of Carrick's, whose *First Excellence: Fa-Ling's Map* had already converted me. I knew that I'd love her writing, no matter what, and my expectation was justified.

*Noon God* has depth and exudes intelligence, exploring dysfunctional family relationships from the narrator's point of view. I love the writing style, alternating between NOW and PAST events, leading to the FINAL. I get to see from the eyes of Mona and follow her thoughts and motives. It is like the peeling of an onion, layer after layer, we get to the core, and by then I was crying, ever so briefly. Still, it is a touching family drama. Love them or loathe them, I feel as if I knew them, and at the end of the story, I thought: who am I to judge them, as in Carrick's opening: "My mother once told me judgement was best left in the hands of God. Forgiveness was the virtue she most cherished."

This is a little gem of a book I shall cherish.

Well done, Donna!

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## **Cathy says**

Great story about the death of an author and the family he leaves behind.

His wife is dead; one of his 3 daughters is dead. His two remaining daughters try to support each other but that's hard to do with his murderer still being loose.

The final 2 pages are excellent when we finally learn who the killer is.

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### **Carol Ward says**

I'm not sure what I was expecting when I started reading this book, but the story, both mystery and thriller, pulled me in before I knew what was happening. Though it began with a murder, the story was also about what led up to the murder, peppered between how the survivors dealt with death. The ending was a complete surprise - totally not who I thought it would be.

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### **Jen says**

Rather predictable as to who the killer was and how. What still doesn't make sense to me is the reason for the rage that caused the murder in the first place. It didn't really make much sense to me, but I guess murder doesn't have to make sense to anyone but the one committing it.

Quick, easy read. The characters were rather well developed, but all horribly flawed in one way or another. I didn't have much sympathy for any of them. Rather well written I think. Not fantastic, but not bad. Worth a read. 2.5 stars, rounded up to 3 because it kept my interest to the end.

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### **Karen says**

I started thinking that this was going to be a murder mystery. In a way it was but it also read like a family relationships drama fraught with mental health and addiction issues. Mrs.Carrick writes a family drama with complex parent/child/sibling issues; high expectations of the eldest child and high opinions of his own greatness J.Caesar Fortune was a lousy dad and a horrible husband even though he was supposed to be a great author and I finished the book thinking wow I really didn't feel any pity for the victim. It was a wonderful twist at the end when the killer was discovered. The Noon God is a fast flowing novel set in Toronto and the author uses many Toronto Points of interest in her novel that any proud Canadian/Torontonian would love to see in print. Congratulations Donna on penning an enjoyable riveting book.

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### **R.G. Phelps says**

The author brings out the frustration of living with and being a part of a family of a famous arrogant writer and father. After a father's murder what happens to the remaining siblings? The weaving of the mystery surrounding this murder will keep you in suspense until and through the very last chapter of Donna Carrick's novel. I do like a good mystery and pride myself in solving some of them, at one point I thought I knew, but dismissed that idea as more was brought forward. This is not a detective story, but one that is very compelling. I read this kindle book on my Kindle Fire, Enjoy!

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### **Sheri says**

LOVELY. I read this book through on a Sunday afternoon. It was a compelling plot speckled with meaningful moments. Arguably deep, it was an enjoyable read with engaging and meaningfully endearing characters.

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### **Angie says**

"Sometimes one can wake up, as if from a long dark sleep, into the light of a gentler day. It can happen." This line spoke to me but the rest of the book was disappointing. I read on because I wanted some resolution but the resolution was unsatisfying. The most interesting thing about this book was the family dynamics.

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### **David says**

Another Kindle eBook, *The Noon God* is a quick read. I appreciate the narrator autobiographical point of view. A 21st Century Toronto woman reflecting on 1968; I was there on my honeymoon in 1970, and again a couple of years ago. She got the setting right.

Spoiler. It's a murder mystery involving a long-term dysfunctional family. I think the narrator did it. I was less than half way through the story coming up with that guess.

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### **L.J. Cohen says**

It's really, really difficult to pull off a 1st person unreliable narrator. While I liked premise, in the end, the story felt manipulative in the way that M. Night Shyamalan movies are manipulative. I didn't feel any significant connection to the main character and narrator, Desdemona, even as she was experiencing the sharp grief of her father's death and the dissolution of her family.

It's quite a challenge to review the reasons this story didn't work for me without ruining the read for someone else, but it was the ending that turned me off a story that didn't completely captivate me from the start. I did read it through to the end because I was interested in the mystery of who killed Ceasar Fortune and why, but felt tricked and let down by the reveal.

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### **Morgan Linden says**

A respectful, intimate character dissection of the heights and failings of greatness. *The Noon God* walks you through the arrogance and splendour of a fiction author's life, looked back on by his eldest daughter in the days after his murder, and paints an intimate picture visibly coloured by her own difficult relationship with her father. Lovely book, far more about character relationships than the crime mystery premise would imply.

