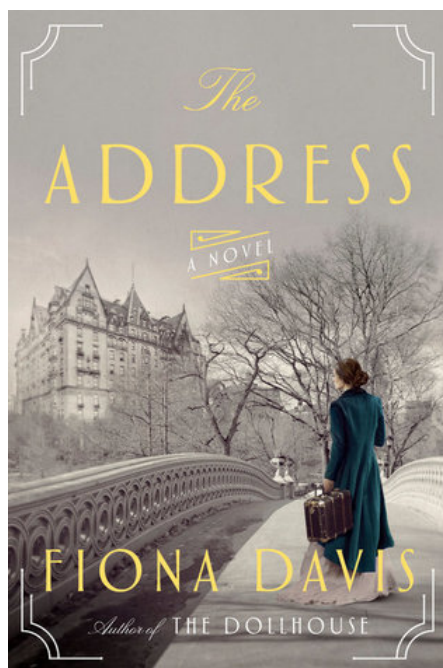




The Address

Fiona Davis

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Address

Fiona Davis

The Address Fiona Davis

THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER

Fiona Davis, author of *The Dollhouse*, returns with a compelling novel about the thin lines between love and loss, success and ruin, passion and madness, all hidden behind the walls of The Dakota—New York City’s most famous residence.

After a failed apprenticeship, working her way up to head housekeeper of a posh London hotel is more than Sara Smythe ever thought she’d make of herself. But when a chance encounter with Theodore Camden, one of the architects of the grand New York apartment house The Dakota, leads to a job offer, her world is suddenly awash in possibility—no mean feat for a servant in 1884. The opportunity to move to America, where a person can rise above one’s station. The opportunity to be the female manager of The Dakota, which promises to be the greatest apartment house in the world. And the opportunity to see more of Theo, who understands Sara like no one else...and is living in The Dakota with his wife and three young children.

In 1985, Bailey Camden is desperate for new opportunities. Fresh out of rehab, the former party girl and interior designer is homeless, jobless, and penniless. Two generations ago, Bailey’s grandfather was the ward of famed architect Theodore Camden. But the absence of a genetic connection means Bailey won’t see a dime of the Camden family’s substantial estate. Instead, her “cousin” Melinda—Camden’s biological great-granddaughter—will inherit almost everything. So when Melinda offers to let Bailey oversee the renovation of her lavish Dakota apartment, Bailey jumps at the chance, despite her dislike of Melinda’s vision. The renovation will take away all the character and history of the apartment Theodore Camden himself lived in...and died in, after suffering multiple stab wounds by a madwoman named Sara Smythe, a former Dakota employee who had previously spent seven months in an insane asylum on Blackwell’s Island.

One hundred years apart, Sara and Bailey are both tempted by and struggle against the golden excess of their respective ages—for Sara, the opulence of a world ruled by the Astors and Vanderbilts; for Bailey, the free-flowing drinks and cocaine in the nightclubs of New York City—and take refuge and solace in the Upper West Side’s gilded fortress. But a building with a history as rich—and often tragic—as The Dakota’s can’t hold its secrets forever, and what Bailey discovers in its basement could turn everything she thought she knew about Theodore Camden—and the woman who killed him—on its head.

With rich historical detail, nuanced characters, and gorgeous prose, Fiona Davis once again delivers a compulsively readable novel that peels back the layers of not only a famed institution, but the lives—and lies—of the beating hearts within.

The Address Details

Date : Published August 1st 2017 by Dutton

ISBN :

Author : Fiona Davis

Format : Kindle Edition 367 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Mystery

 [Download The Address ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Address ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Address Fiona Davis

From Reader Review The Address for online ebook

Cindy Burnett says

4.5 stars

Fiona Davis's new novel focuses on The Dakota in New York City. The title is cleverly drawn from a review of the building following its opening in 1885 in which the reviewer stated that "the Dakota will undoubtedly be known as 'The Address' of New York's West Side." Davis melds historical events with a spectacular tale of greed, passion, love and sacrifice told in a dual timeline format alternating between the mid-1880's and 1985. While I enjoyed both stories, I preferred Bailey's in 1985 because I found poor Sara's story so sad. The ending of The Address was spectacular because Davis cleverly connects the two tales and includes a surprise I never saw coming. It was perfect.

My favorite part of the book was the inclusion of so much historical detail regarding The Dakota. It is fascinating to me that the walls are stuffed with thick horsehair and the space between each floor contains three feet of mud. Davis explains why each apartment is shaped differently, and the complex effort it took to accomplish that feat. She also mentions the ghosts that reside there, and the numerous famous people that lived there over The Dakota's life. She includes so many more fabulous stories and descriptions, but I do not have enough time nor space to include them all. Her Author's Note at the end was welcome as she explained the events she altered a bit for the sake of her story. I always appreciate when an author takes the time to elaborate on his or her inspiration and to clarify purposeful historical inaccuracies.

The Address is a superb read. I look forward to my next trip to New York City when I plan to walk by The Dakota and pay attention in person to the many details I learned while reading this wonderful book.

Beverly says

This book kept me guessing, but I was a little disappointed at the abrupt twists and turns of the story for which there were little warning signs. People in the story had dissonant character changes; for example, more than one person seemed to morph into evil beings just to bring the story to the writer's successful conclusions. I really loved the first half until these sudden changes occurred. The story of the modern day girl was more successful than the girl from the past. The woman from the 1880s seemed to fall into bed rather easily for a woman from that era.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

EXCERPT: London, June 1884

The sight of a child teetering on the window ledge of Room 510 turned Sara's world upside down.

ABOUT THIS BOOK: Fiona Davis, author of The Dollhouse, returns with a compelling novel about the thin lines between love and loss, success and ruin, passion and madness, all hidden behind the walls of The Dakota—New York City's most famous residence.

After a failed apprenticeship, working her way up to head housekeeper of a posh London hotel is more than

Sara Smythe ever thought she'd make of herself. But when a chance encounter with Theodore Camden, one of the architects of the grand New York apartment house The Dakota, leads to a job offer, her world is suddenly awash in possibility—no mean feat for a servant in 1884. The opportunity to move to America, where a person can rise above one's station. The opportunity to be the female manager of The Dakota, which promises to be the greatest apartment house in the world. And the opportunity to see more of Theo, who understands Sara like no one else...and is living in The Dakota with his wife and three young children.

In 1985, Bailey Camden is desperate for new opportunities. Fresh out of rehab, the former party girl and interior designer is homeless, jobless, and penniless. Two generations ago, Bailey's grandfather was the ward of famed architect Theodore Camden. But the absence of a genetic connection means Bailey won't see a dime of the Camden family's substantial estate. Instead, her "cousin" Melinda—Camden's biological great-granddaughter—will inherit almost everything. So when Melinda offers to let Bailey oversee the renovation of her lavish Dakota apartment, Bailey jumps at the chance, despite her dislike of Melinda's vision. The renovation will take away all the character and history of the apartment Theodore Camden himself lived in...and died in, after suffering multiple stab wounds by a madwoman named Sara Smythe, a former Dakota employee who had previously spent seven months in an insane asylum on Blackwell's Island.

One hundred years apart, Sara and Bailey are both tempted by and struggle against the golden excess of their respective ages—for Sara, the opulence of a world ruled by the Astors and Vanderbilts; for Bailey, the free-flowing drinks and cocaine in the nightclubs of New York City—and take refuge and solace in the Upper West Side's gilded fortress. But a building with a history as rich—and often tragic—as The Dakota's can't hold its secrets forever, and what Bailey discovers in its basement could turn everything she thought she knew about Theodore Camden—and the woman who killed him—on its head.

With rich historical detail, nuanced characters, and gorgeous prose, Fiona Davis once again delivers a compulsively readable novel that peels back the layers of not only a famed institution, but the lives—and lies—of the beating hearts within.

MY THOUGHTS: Just like 'The Dollhouse', 'The Address' had me spellbound for most of its telling.

Although Davis has bent the historical facts a little to fit her timeline, most of the major events backgrounding this story actually happened, just not when they happened in the novel. I am more than prepared to forgive her this.

The Address is told over two timelines, beginning in 1884 and 1984. The characters in the two times couldn't be more different. 1884 - Sara is a hard working young woman determined not to repeat her mother's mistakes. 1984 - Bailey has tumbled ignominiously from the peak of her career and is trying to claw her way back up. Sara is kind-hearted and eager to please. Bailey has been selfish and pleasure seeking, and is now trying to find her feet, playing by a whole new set of rules.

Davis had me unsuccessfully trying to figure out the connection between these two women. The answer, when it came, was unexpected but brilliant. And perhaps that is where the book should have ended, but it didn't. At this point, I would have awarded it very close to 5-stars. But it went on to tie everything up very neatly into an almost fairytale like ending which, for me, somewhat spoiled the ambience.

I see Fiona Davis has a new novel being released later this year, The Masterpiece. I will be first in line for it. She is a magnificent story teller.

I listened to The Address by Fiona Davis, narrated by Saskia Maarleveld and Brittany Pressley and published by Penguin Audio via OverDrive. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on sandysbookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system.

This review and others are also published on my blog sandysbookaday.wordpress.com
<https://sandysbookaday.wordpress.com/...>

♥ Sandi ♡ says

This book bounces between 1884 and 1985. It is centered on the Camden family. The generational connections are brought out as the story unfolds. Also prominent in the novel is the "Dakota", a magnificent apartment building built in New York City in 1885. The first building to be built on Central Park and famous years later as the building that John Lennon lived in when he was killed. As this building passes from generation to generation, within the Camden family, more questions are raised and more answers are found.

Having not read *The Dollhouse*, this was my first experience with this author. I found her to be extremely readable. Likeable characters, nice plot twists, and just the right amount of side issues put into the story to make it enjoyable. She used a number of real places and situations and real people to tell this story. She does have an addendum explaining what liberties she took in this novel.

Thank you to First-to-Read for allowing me to read and review this book.

Cheryl says

New York City in the 1880's was on the brink of expansion. Wealthy families had built magnificent homes there, and more construction was underway. The Dakota, was a newly built grand structure. It was one of the first luxury multi family residences to be constructed on the Upper West Side of New York.

Into this setting, Sara Smythe arrives from London where she had been head housekeeper at an elegant hotel. She agreed to come to New York at the request of architect Theodore Camden. He has hired her to be the "managerette" of the Dakota. Sara hopes this new position will provide opportunities for a better life.

The Dakota in 1985 has fallen into disrepair. Bailey Camden, a recovering alcoholic, is trying to reestablish herself as a respected interior designer. Her cousin, Melinda Camden, has hired Bailey to redecorate her apartment in the Dakota. While sorting through items in the Dakota's storage rooms, Bailey discovers that there are long buried secrets in her family. She decides that it is time to uncover the truth about her family's history.

Author Fiona Davis' well written novel evokes a real sense of place as she weaves together a story about two women whose lives are connected even though the distance between them spans a century. This is a fascinating story of love, betrayal, sacrifice, and family ties that is hard to put down.

Thank you to Net Galley, Dutton (an imprint of Penguin Random House), and author Fiona Davis for giving me the opportunity to read the ARC of this novel.

Book of Secrets says

THE ADDRESS is an engrossing mystery and family drama with a majestic New York City landmark as its backdrop. The Dakota apartment building on the Upper West Side provides a link between two women one hundred years apart. I enjoyed learning about the history of The Dakota, as well as trying to figure out the century-old murder mystery presented. I loved how the dual time periods were mid-1880s and mid-1980s, so really it's historical fiction inside historical fiction. Sara and Bailey are both sympathetic and relatable characters. I enjoyed the author's straight-forward writing style, and the twists revealed at the end were simply delicious. I missed reading Fiona Davis' debut THE DOLLHOUSE last year, and now I definitely want to pick it up.

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book through Penguin's First to Read Program.

Melisa says

There's nothing like a dual timeline-family secret-mystery plot to suck me right in!

Certainly, the strongest point of this book was its history - this author has clearly done her research and it shows. I loved learning all about the Dakota, as well as the architectural development of New York City in the late 19th century. The Gilded Age is a fascinating time, and having lived in NYC for four years, I love learning about its rich history.

I was definitely engaged in the mystery and wanted to see how the two timelines would come together. It took a strange left turn about halfway through and from that point, I wasn't as engaged. The resolution didn't come together as convincingly as I would have liked, but I thought all in all it was a strong story. 3.5 stars.

Jeanette says

The first half was entertaining. The second half, not. It became so far-fetched in too many extreme circumstances and most dire possible character outcomes, that I found it basically not believable. And frankly, with several ending detail scenes- it became like a long term soap opera series that jumped the shark.

2.5 star rounded up for the first 1/2 of the book with all the Dakota style detailing and physical world building for the earlier period. The 1985 sections, from the beginning, I had next to no embedding within Bailey's story or even less in her friend Miranda's. Those two protagonists were not core formed to depth characterizations at all- they seemed as merely flat 3D something Manhattan up and coming "cut outs". With all the inherent foaming and emoting ire and angst and graveling for association up sweeps to get ahead. "What can YOU do FOR me, darling!" kind of people.

The formula Fiona Davis holds for the "building category" core of her novels or home place structure- that's a good one and it does work, even here. But that's about the only thing that made for continuity in the larger sense of a credible progression pace, IMHO. Bloodlines might have, but with the depth of those characters connected in particular within this particular "truth" revealed in the last chapter? Nope.

With respect to those who disagree, there is another genre issue here that, for me anyway, is truly misleading. This balance of novel between romance, adventure, mystery etc. is murky to naming! But it

certainly is NOT historical fiction as I define historical fiction. It's chick lit period piece with romance and crime highlights to a much farther degree in proportion to inclusion of historical fact quotient.

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life in Books.

I liked this book but I didn't love it. There were parts of the story that I really liked while other sections of the book didn't capture my attention as well. This was a book that was never really hard for me to set aside. I actually started reading it just before bed and never had any desire to read more than one chapter. The story was never one that made me want to put my other reads aside and was really a rather slow start. I didn't have a hard time finishing it but the book seemed to lack that something extra that really seems to grab my attention.

This story is told through dual timelines. The parts of the book that focus on Sara Smythe take place in 1884, while the section of the book from Bailey's point of view occur in 1985. As is often the case with this kind of story, I found myself enjoying one of the timelines much more than the other. Sara's story was really just so much more than Bailey's and anytime the book made the switch to 1985, I found myself wanting to put it down. There were a few times in the book when something that happened in 1985 would hint at an event that was going to happen in the earlier time period which took away some of the excitement.

There were things that I really liked about the story. Sara Smythe was a character that was easy to like. She was very capable and was able to come up with impossible solutions quite quickly. The descriptions in the book were really well done. It was so interesting to see this famous building just as it was starting to be lived in. There were a few times in the book that I was really quite surprised by the turn the story took.

While I thought that the 1985 time period was described quite well, I just had a hard time connecting with anything going on in that timeline. Bailey was not as easy to like as Sara. The Dakota's super and the neighbor downstairs were much easier to like. Bailey did grown on my by the end of the book but I still always preferred Sara's story.

I think that a lot of readers will enjoy this one a bit more than I did. I would recommend that anyone who is interested in this story to give it a try. I would not hesitate to read more from Fiona Davis in the future.

I received an advance reader edition of this book from Penguin Publishing Group - Dutton via First to Read.

Initial Thoughts

I liked this book but found it really easy to put down. This is a book told in two timelines. I found the story set in the 1880's to be so much better than the other set in the 1980's. I did feel a bit surprised a time or two in the book but I found a lot of the story to be rather predictable.

Kathleen says

This is an engaging work of historical fiction and a great travel read if you want to escape for a few hours. The dual-timeline story begins in 1884 as the Dakota is about to open for residents in New York City. We are introduced to Sara Smythe in London while some life changing events happen, that ultimately lead her to a new job and residence at the Dakota. The additional timeline is approximately 100 years later as Bailey

Camden recovers from her own life-changing events that lead her to a job and temporary residence, overseeing a renovation at the Dakota in 1985.

Bailey and Sara are both searching for answers and doing their best to take control of their own lives. The novel is well researched, and a fun read. I love old buildings and can easily get lost in imagination, just thinking of what may have taken place within their walls through so many generations. *The Address* tells a rich story of New York, alternating between the gilded age of the late 1800s and the "Greed is good" indulgences of the 1980s.

Thank you to Penguin's First to read program for providing me with an advance copy for review.

Amy says

All of my reviews can be found on www.novलगossip.com

Last summer I had the pleasure of reading Davis' debut, *The Dollhouse* and I was so impressed. I was never a huge fan of historical fiction before I read her books and I have her to thank for opening my eyes to yet another amazing genre. I've read so much more HF this past year and I don't know if I would've without reading *The Dollhouse*, so thanks Fiona Davis for expanding my world!

Having been such a fan of her debut I had that nervous feeling I always feel when I'm about to read an author's sophomore book. Well, I shouldn't have worried at all, I ended up liking this one even more than her first, it was mesmerizing, full of detailed historical descriptions, an amazing setting and two characters that I fully connected with.

This is told using dual narratives set one hundred years apart. Sara is a thirty year old woman who moves from England to New York for a job opportunity in 1884 and Bailey is also thirty and living in NYC in 1985. Both of the timelines were equally fascinating for me, they were both mainly set in the famed Dakota Apartments and Davis truly brought this wonderful setting to life. Most of the book was historically accurate and the liberties she took fictionally were perfectly executed. I really felt like I was beside both women in the Dakota, it was such an immersive, engrossing setting.

Sara and Bailey had many similarities despite being from two completely different worlds. They both have struggles and difficulties to overcome and I was rooting for them the whole way. I found myself sympathizing easily with both of them and couldn't wait to find out what would wind up happening with their lives.

This is one of those books that will truly sweep you away to another time, there is such a strong sense of place that really worked well for me. While this isn't a traditional mystery there were some surprises along the way that add another layer to the wonderful plot. If you loved *The Dollhouse* you'll like this one as well, and if you haven't read it but enjoy HF what are you waiting for?!

Angela M says

One of the reasons I wanted to read this book is because I just love reading about historical New York City. This novel definitely reflects the time of a developing city and a sense of place. Although it begins in

England in 1884, the story shifts quickly to NYC when Sara Smythe takes a job at a new upscale apartment building in New York, The Dakota. The Dakota is a real building and still stands. Sara's story alternates with the modern day story in 1985 of Bailey Camden. At first the main connection of the two time frames was The Dakota until Bailey finds Sara's belongings in the basement of the building and their link becomes so much more. The novel is engaging in some ways as Sara's life in her first year in NYC. I felt for Bailey in the modern story as she struggles upon her return from rehab. But after one chapter of the modern day, I wanted to be back a century. It could be that I'm just getting a little weary of dual time frame stories which are hard to escape these days. The thing that kept me from rating this higher was that I just found it too predictable and assumed correctly everything that happens in the end of both stories. Even though I was somewhat disappointed, there are many 4 and 5 star reviews, so I may be an outlier here. You should read those reviews as well.

I received an advanced copy of this book from Penguin First to Read Program.

Selene says

2.75 stars

Two storylines set one-hundred one years apart and filled with drama!

? Overall, this was an okay read. The writing style was straight-forward and I liked that part of the story demonstrated exactly *how* poor decisions are repeated within a family circle, but ultimately, I lost interest after Sara was admitted to the asylum. I liked *the idea* of this story, but it didn't fully hold my interest and I didn't really connect with the characters.

? Although this story wasn't for me, I'd still recommend it.

Loretta says

This book was okay. I really enjoyed the beginning of the book with all the details of how The Dakota came to be, so much so that I'll be looking to read more books about the building.

There were a few things that I didn't like about the book. First, it goes back and forth between the years 1884 and 1985. I'm not a big fan of books like that. Second, having just read *10 Days in a Madhouse* by Nellie Bly, I was pretty surprised to see her show up in this book as a secondary player. Nellie Bly description of the all women's asylum was horrific, while Fiona Davis description of the asylum was almost pleasant. Lastly, as I usually do, I figured out the ending of the book way before I got there.

The three stars I gave the book are for The Dakota.

Jennifer Blankfein says

Last year, author Fiona Davis published her wonderful debut, *The Dollhouse*, rich in history about the Barbizon Hotel in NYC. Keeping with iconic Manhattan landmarks, her fabulous new release, *The Address* is set in alternating timelines; in the late 1800s during the building of the Dakota, the architecturally stunning

residence on the upper west side of Manhattan, Sara, a housekeeper at a fancy London hotel meets Theo, the talented NYC architect, takes a job at the newly built Dakota, and craziness ensues. Their budding relationship remains hidden from his wife and children as they bond, it turns passionate and a crime is committed. In 1985, fresh out of rehab and penniless, designer Bailey, a descendant of the wealthy Dakota architect, without genetic proof, is not in line for the healthy inheritance. Her cousin, Melinda, set to take over the family riches, hires her to orchestrate the renovation of the building and Bailey learns of her architect relative's murder by a crazy lady named Sara. And so the two compelling stories come together with rich historic detail and wonderfully creative characters, revealing the secrets from inside the unique and wonderful Dakota.

I had a chance to connect with the lovely Fiona Davis and ask her a few questions about her new and successful career as an author.

What has been the high point in your writing journey from the release of *The Dollhouse* to now? From your first public book talk to a *People Magazine* feature, you have accomplished so much in such a short time!

I have to say, the first book talk for *The Dollhouse* seemed so scary! It was at a library in Westport, CT and there were more people than I expected to show up for a debut author. My knees were definitely knocking. But I loved every minute of it, especially answering questions after the reading. Now I adore doing Q&As and book talks, and I think those are my high points. The readers are so knowledgeable and inquisitive and their support has been amazing.

What are you reading now and what do you recommend for the summer?

I'm currently reading *Mrs. Fletcher* by Tom Perrotta, and next up is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman. I'd recommend Eve Chase's *The Wildling Sisters*, Jamie Brenner's *The Forever Summer* as great vacation/beach reads.

Can you tell me a little about what you are working on now?

The next book is a similar structure, two time periods with a connecting mystery, set in Grand Central Terminal, and I'm having such a good time researching and writing it. I won't give away too much, but I will say I've learned some really surprising things about the building that I can't wait to share with readers.

Are you developing a "formula" or pattern you use for writing?

I do love setting books in architectural landmarks and using dual time periods, so I definitely have a trend going on there. Once the Grand Central book is done, I'll start thinking about other locales and possibly structures, but so far I've been having the time of my life. The pattern for each book, even though it's similar, is incredibly challenging and rewarding.

I am now officially excited for the new book, I loved *The Dollhouse*, and I highly recommend the Fiona Davis' new release. With two connected stories, old New York, ornate architecture, an illicit affair, an illegitimate child, an insane asylum, and the beautiful Dakota on the upper west side, *The Address* is a perfect mix of history and mystery, fast pace and fun.