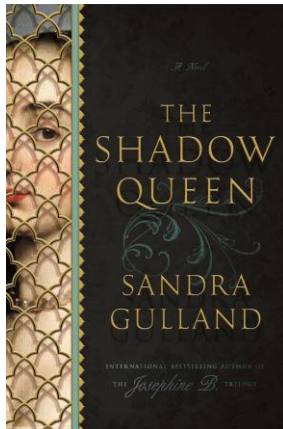


THE SHADOW QUEEN

By Sandra Gulland



(March 20, 2014) – A mistress to the Sun King in 1660, Paris with political powers beyond anyone’s comprehension; insinuations of witchcraft, and a story told through the eyes of an actress turned servant named Claude who sees too much. Bestselling author and historical fiction maven Sandra Gulland is back with ***The Shadow Queen*** (HarperCollinsCanada, pub date: April 8, 2014, \$29.99), a dramatic, encapsulating story of real life Athénaïs de Montespan, the reigning “Shadow Queen”, favorite mistress to King Louis XIV, and the allegations of her charms which take a sinister turn.

The Shadow Queen, is the second in the *Sun Court* series, and brings us back into the world of the newly constructed Versailles, and the Sun King’s beautiful mistress Athénaïs de Montespan, who held great power in the court in the height of the King’s favors. Claude de Vins des Cœillets, under the mistresses’ thumb, quickly learns court is much like the stage, and becomes torn in her allegiance after she’s sent on dark, dangerous errands when Athénaïs fears she’s losing her grip on the king; leading them

to be implicated in the infamous L’affaires Des Poisons, which brought charges of sorcery and poisoning to many members of the court. ***The Shadow Queen*** is a seductive, gripping novel about lust, power, loyalty and the increasingly uneasy relationship between two strong-willed women whose actions have the ability to shape the future of France.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SANDRA GULLAND was raised and educated in Berkeley, California, immigrating to Canada in 1970. She is the author of *Mistress of the Sun* and the *Josephine B. Trilogy*, which has sold over 115,000 copies in Canada and has been published worldwide to great success. Sandra Gulland and her husband live half the year near Killaloe, Ontario, and half in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

To request an interview with Sandra Gulland,
please contact Lauren Morocco at Lauren.Morocco@harpercollins.com

ADVANCED PRAISE FOR SANDRA GULLAND

“Sandra Gulland’s latest will remind readers why they fall in love with the past. Gulland uses her meticulous research with consummate skill, rendering vivid the luxury and squalor of Louis XIV’s France and breathing life into fully formed characters that tug at the heart. Masterful.” —Tasha Alexander, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Death in the Floating City*

“Sandra Gulland is at the top of her game in THE END OF MAGIC and that’s saying a lot! From the first page you know you are in the hands of a master storyteller. I just don’t think anyone does it better than Gulland—this book is lyrical, fascinating and seeped in history, drama and emotion. Truly magnificent and an absolute joy to read.” — M.J. Rose, international bestselling author of *The Book of Lost Fragrances*