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# The House Of The Four Winds (One Dozen Daughters)



## Synopsis

From the New York Times bestselling coauthors, a charming romantic fantasy Mercedes Lackey is the New York Times bestselling author of the Valdemar series and romantic fantasies like *Beauty and the Werewolf* and *The Fairy Godmother*. Now these New York Times and USA Today bestselling collaborators bring romance to the fore with *The House of the Four Winds*. The rulers of tiny, impoverished Swansgaard have twelve daughters and one son. While the prince's future is assured, his twelve sisters must find their own fortunes. Disguising herself as Clarence, Princess Clarice intends to sail to the New World. When the crew rebels, Clarice/Clarence, an expert with rapier and dagger, sides with the handsome navigator, Dominick, and kills the cruel captain. Dominick leads the now-outlawed crew in search of treasure in the secret pirate haven known as The House of the Four Winds. They encounter the sorceress Shamal, who claims Dominick for her own—but Clarice has fallen hard for Dominick and won't give him up without a fight. Full of swashbuckling adventure, buoyant magic, and irrepressible charm, *The House of the Four Winds* is a lighthearted fantasy romp by a pair of bestselling writers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Explicitly feminist, extremely readable and entertaining." --"RT Book Reviews", 4 1/2 stars, Top Pick! on "*Beauty and the Werewolf*" "An awesome take on the world of fairy tales." --"RT Book Reviews", 4 1/2 stars, Top Pick! on "*The Fairy Godmother*" "Delightful [and] amusing. Appealing characters faced with challenging circumstances keep the plot lively." --"RT Book Reviews" on "*The*

Snow Queen""A narrative motif fit for a Technicolor swashbuckler. A fantasy fanatic's feast."

--"Kirkus Reviews" on "Crown of Vengeance""The three novellas are well written and entertaining . . . starring strong females." --"The Midwest Book Review" on "Trio of Sorcery""Trio of Sorcery gives us three talented, courageous heroines in an enjoyable urban fantasy collection. Fascinating women and stories that draw us into their worlds." --"Lesa's Book Critiques" (written by the winner of the 2011 Arizona Library Association Outstanding Library Service Award) on "Trio of Sorcery" --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Mercedes Lackey is a multiple New York Times bestselling author for her Valdemar novels. The author of the Tales of the Five Hundred Kingdoms series, she lives in Claremore, Oklahoma. Mallory and Lackey have collaborated on six novels, including the USA Today bestseller To Light a Candle and the New York Times bestsellers When Darkness Falls and The Phoenix Transformed. James Mallory is the author of the Merlin novels. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland. Mallory and Lackey have collaborated on six novels, including the USA Today bestseller To Light a Candle and the New York Times bestsellers When Darkness Falls and The Phoenix Transformed.

This is billed as "Book One of One Dozen Daughters," which rather implies it's the beginning of a 12-book series, unless some of the later books include more than one of the daughters of the Duke of Swansgarde. It seems that the Duke (who's the ruler of the duchy, not subordinate to a king) and duchess had given birth to twelve daughters before they finally achieved a son necessary because daughters are ineligible to inherit the title. And Swansgarde is a small and not very wealthy realm; providing dowries for all the daughters would virtually bankrupt it. So he and the duchess convene their daughters, ranging in age from 18-year-old Clarice to 6-year-old Damaris.

They've all been trained in practical arts of various sorts appropriate to their ages, and the duke has decided that as each of them passes her 18th birthday she will be given a reasonable grubstake and sent out into the world to make her way. Clarice is the eldest, and so the rest of this book is from her POV as she travels to the empire of Lochrin-Albion (a thinly disguised Britain) and takes ship for the New World, where she hopes to make a reputation as a swordsmistress and then set up a salon where she can make a living teaching swordsmanship (that being her particular specialty). Of course, she disguises herself as a youth for convenience in traveling. But the captain of the ship turns out to be a pirate, and intends to murder most of the crew on his way to a magically-concealed island in that world's Caribbean. And many

adventures, with considerable magic, ensue before the thrilling climax. An excellent start; I look forward to further installments of this series.

Mercedes manages to charm again. This is the first installment on a quest of adventure for a dozen daughters of a tiny kingdom. High adventure and lots of heroic activities keep you on the seat of your chair turning page after page, eager for more and dreading the end of the tale. Next book Ms. Lackey. :)

I enjoyed it, very entertaining and well written At times I couldn't put it down! . I would recommend it. Characters are well developed.

I did finish the book and will probably buy the next installment but I don't think this is up to the standard I expect from Lackey. The editing was poor. Several times, it was obvious that some cutting and pasting happened but there were stray words left behind. It was nice to have a new world to learn about and live in for a while but there was little subtlety to the characters and the plot was too predictable.

Not my favorite of the author's. The plot has all the same basic elements as Pirates of the Caribbean at World's End, right down to arctic voyages, gigantic monsters, a warped voodoo witch, and a pirate lady named Swann. This may be another attempt of Mercedes to take well known plots and twist them onto their ears, but in this case I found myself reaching for A.C. Crispin's POTC novel as a better version. I am disappointed in Mercedes and hope this is maybe the fault of her co-author.

Tense and exciting as all Mercedes Lackey books are. This one wears you out before it is over, and you wonder if you have energy left to deal with the other 11 -- which are only assumed by the title of the series.

Good story from a favorite author. Was excited to see the "dozen daughters," part. Hoped that meant a story for each daughter. Maybe someday?

Interesting, but not up to my expectations for a Lackey and Mallory collaboration. I expected this to be as Great as their other books, but it was not. This will teach me to read a sample first and to stick

to Kindle books, since they are cheaper.

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