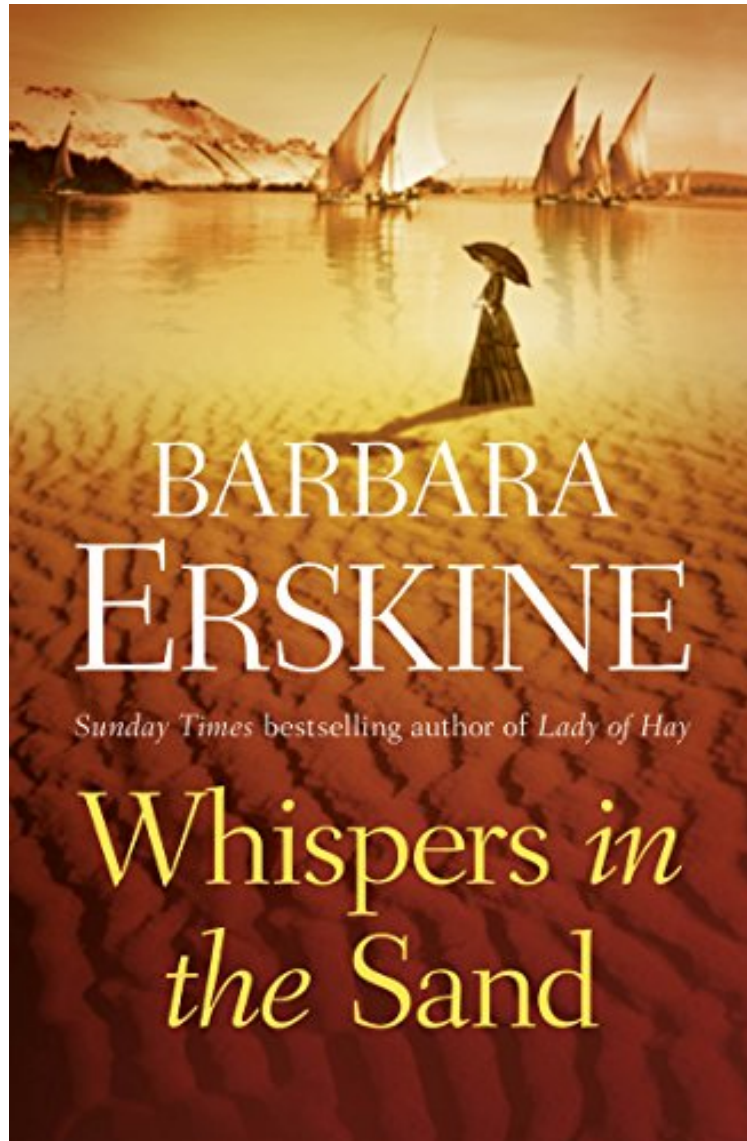


(Free pdf) Whispers in the Sand

Whispers in the Sand

Von Barbara Erskine

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Von Barbara Erskine : Whispers in the Sand before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whispers in the Sand:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An OK read about Egypt but not all that grippingVon Helen HancoxThis is the first book by Barbara Erskine that I've read, and this one was as an audiobook (17 hours) rather than a paperback, which can make the experience different.Overall I was interested enough to keep reading, the setting of the book in Egypt today and of 100 years ago (through the two

narrators, Anna and her great great grandmother Louisa) was very well written and it was easy to get lost into the world of Egypt whilst listening. Anna, the modern-day heroine, is on an Egyptian cruise and takes Louisa's diary with her, which she has not previously read, along with the scent bottle that has been passed down her family from Louisa. The story of Anna unfolds at the same time as Louisa's - Anna reads Louisa's impressions of the places she visited in Egypt whilst going there herself. I enjoyed the contrast between the far less touristy Egypt of Louisa's visit in the mid 1800s, especially as this was before the building of the Aswan dam and subsequent moving and changing of many of the sites for Anna's visit. For me, however, the supernatural element of the story didn't work very well. Louisa was given the Egyptian scent bottle by her Egyptian guide Hassan as a gift - the bottle turns out to be ancient and to be a relic that is haunted by two priests who killed each other within a temple 3000 years before. These priests are trying to come back to life and their essences are fixed around the bottle. They tend to appear and disappear again with regularity, giving Anna some spooky moments, but there doesn't seem to be a great deal of reason for the choices of when they appear. There are parallel love interests in the story, although Anna's two beaux seem rather irritating initially. In fact, Andy, one of these men, is incredibly annoying and patronising and I found it almost incomprehensible that Anna continued to talk to him as the cruise went on. It also seemed rather amazingly convenient that another person on Anna's tour happens to have experience in Isis worship and has a mini Isis altar, as well as incense, with her on the tour. How unlikely is that! Some people have complained that the story didn't properly end but I thought this ending worked well. You don't know what's going to happen in the future and it continued the sense of mystery. Overall I did enjoy the book but I think I found it rather slow and turgid in places and the central theme of the book, the priests and the bottle, got a bit repetitious. Worth a read but not something to grip you from start to finish.

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Kurzbeschreibung From the bestselling author of *Lady of Hay* comes *Whispers in the Sand*, set in richly mysterious Egypt, where past and present collide. Recently divorced Anna Fox decides to cheer herself up by retracing a journey her great grandmother Louisa made in the mid-nineteenth century a Nile cruise from Luxor to Aswan. Anna carries with her two of Louisa's possessions: an ancient Egyptian scent bottle and an illustrated diary of the original cruise that has lain unread for over a hundred years. As she follows in Louisa's footsteps, Anna discovers in the diary a wonderful Victorian love story and the chilling secret of the little glass bottle. Meanwhile two men from the tour party develop an unfriendly rivalry for her attention, while showing a disturbing interest in Louisa's mementoes. Most frightening of all, Anna finds herself the victim of a spectral presence that grows in strength and threat as the dramatic stories from three different eras intertwine in a terrifying climax. Over the years, Barbara Erskine has been able to build up a considerable following for her densely plotted, imaginative novels of romantic suspense. Her particular speciality is the vigorously created world she imagines for her characters. In *Whispers in the Sand*, her heroine Anna Fox undertakes a Nile cruise from Luxor to Aswan, following the progress of a journey her great grandmother, Louisa, made in the 19th century. The details of the recently divorced Anna's odyssey are handled with dazzling authority, and even if the multiple love story at the centre of the narrative was not so adroitly handled, we would still be beguiled by the panoply of a powerfully drawn Egyptian journey. Erskine never loses sight of the fact that the reader must be thoroughly engaged by the problems she sets for her characters. Anna takes on her trip two of Louisa's possessions (the latter was a famous artist): an Egyptian scent bottle from the distant past and a beautifully illustrated diary of the original cruise that no one has read for over a century. We are allowed to be caught up in a fascinating love story from the Victorian era as Anna reads the diary, and more sinister relics of the past (such as the glass bottle) give an edge to the romantic intrigue. As Anna's journey progresses, other members of the party seem to be interested in the mementoes, and there is a rivalry between two men for her attention. However, the most compelling strand to Erskine's tale is the sinister haunting that Anna finds herself the victim of, as a mysterious presence begins to exert a grip over her. Readers nowadays are used to narratives that take place simultaneously in both the past and the present (such as AS Byatt's *Possession*, for instance), but the device is handled with particular skill here. In fact, those who have enjoyed such Barbara Erskine books as *On the Edge of Darkness* will probably be surprised at the sophisticated enjoyment on offer here: this is her most ambitious book yet, and her sensuous scene-setting is first-rate: Louisa set down her pen and stared out of the window at the dark river outside. She had pulled over the lavish shutters to allow the smell of it, the warmth of the night air, the occasional breath of chill wind from the desert to enter her cabin. It all captivated her. She listened carefully. Above, the stars were violent sparks against the blue-black sky. There was a slight movement behind her, and she turned... --Barry Forshaw *Pressestimmen* 'Readers of Barbara Erskine are held in thrall' *Woman's Realm* 'Stephen King meeting Ruth Rendell' Frank Delaney