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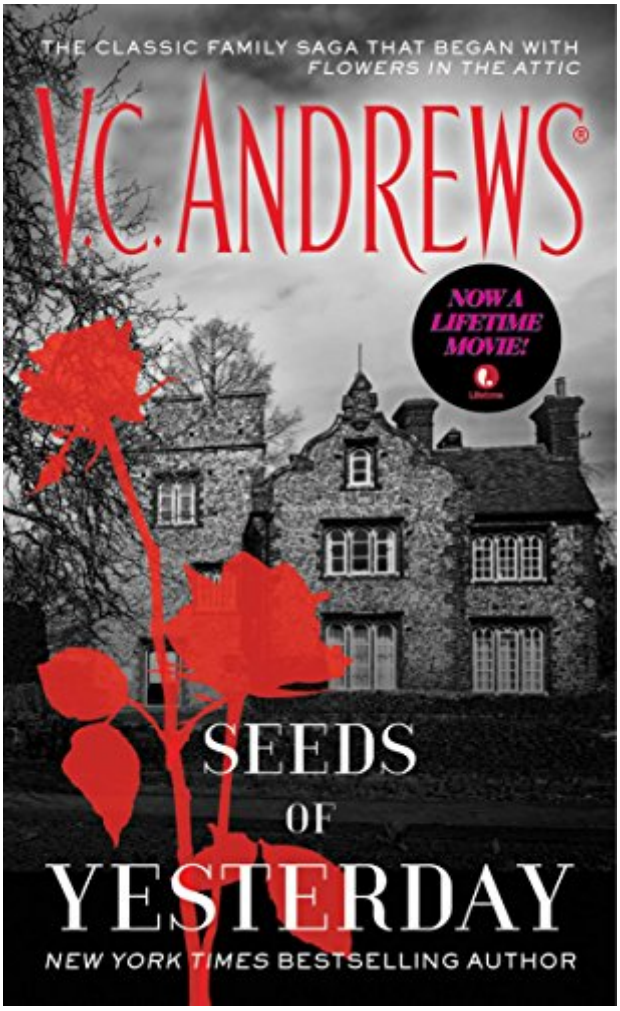
Seeds Of Yesterday (Dollanganger Book 4)



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Synopsis

Now a major Lifetime movie eventâ ”Book Four of the Dollanganger series that began with Flowers in the Atticâ ”the novel of forbidden love that captured the worldâ ™s imagination and earned V.C. Andrews a fiercely devoted fanbase.They escaped their motherâ ™s hellish trap years ago, but a cruel history of lies and deceit has come full circleâ | The forbidden love that blossomed when Cathy and Christopher were held captive in Foxworth Hall is one the Dollanganger familyâ ™s darkest secrets. Now, with three grown children and even a new last name, the pair seem to have outlived a twisted legacy. But on their son Bartâ ™s twenty-fifth birthday, when the spiteful and disturbed young man claims his rightful inheritance, the full, shattering truth of their tainted past will be revealed at Foxworth Hallâ ”the place where the nightmare began, and where Christopher and Cathy were once just innocent flowers in the atticâ |

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

`Seeds of Yesterday' features the return of Cathy and Chris, the greatest lovers in the history of literature. Now middle aged they're having a family reunion. You'd think by now they'd be hiding in a cave in Tibet trying to avoid their family like the plague they are. The signs of doom are

obvious.They are meeting at the now rebuilt haunted mansion Foxworth Hall. (Doom) Their eldest son Jory had a promising career as a dancer but has been rendered a paraplegic. (Doom) Jory's wife Melodie is not supporting him and she's pregnant. (Doom) Their second son Bart has been released from an asylum and now has total control of the family's billions. (Doom) Their promiscuous 16 year old daughter Cindy is bringing home a new boyfriend. (Doom) Joel, presumed dead 60 years ago has reemerged with sinister motives. (Doom) They call him "Uncle Joel" although the Foxworth family tree is so bent I think technically he's more a cousin.Has fate ever been so tempted? Everything imaginable goes wrong, mostly Bart reverting to his psychotic behavior. Joel also goes on lengthy fire and brimstone sermons about all the incest going on, blah blah blah, we've been listening to this for the last 4 books, get over it. NONE of this is interesting. Essentially these characters have the same argument about how much they hate each other for 380 pages of the 400 page book. This is not an exaggeration but an exact figure.At one point Cathy comments "This cannot go on any longer." But it does. This one argument just drags on and on. She also states, "Nothing that has happened in our lives has been coincidence." She's right; it's a result of her stupidity. Why is the family putting up with Bart's psychotic violence?

I almost didn't buy the book because so many Dollanganger fans seemed to hate it so much, but my need to see the saga to the end won over. I am very glad, because I would have missed out by not reading the book. I was pleasantly surprised by what I think is a very fitting end to the Dollanganger story.Throughout the story, Bart is very much the evil incarnate that most readers describe him as. I thought that his character would keep growing more and more despicable, and that the story would end with him systematically destroying everyone and becoming Malcolm Foxworth all over again. It didn't happen that way. The death of Chris seemed the perfect vindication for him. He could easily have responded with the ultimate righteous indignation. Instead he felt grief and regret, and it caused him to reexamine everything about himself, and all he had been and done. Despite all the pain and ugliness that had surrounded him for years, he had kept a stranglehold on control. Death was not in his control. He had tried always to hate Chris, but he loved him, and having someone he loved completely and irreversibly gone from his life was the jolt he needed to come to his senses. He finally understood the importance of love, when his love for Chris overpowered everything he thought he believed. He chose to love his family, to believe in a God of love and compassion, and to use his money and power for good.I did grow weary of the Cindy/Bart antagonism. Cindy was indeed an unlikeable character, but she was an honest character. She was a very accurate portrayal of someone who has been overindulged and overparented by misguided good

intentions.Many readers were unhappy about the deaths of Chris and Cathy. Well, no one lives forever.

The bad news is, "Seeds of Yesterday", the fourth and final installment of the Dollanganger series, can't hold a candle to "Petals on the Wind", the one book in the series that showcased V. C. Andrews' storytelling ability to its best advantage. The good news is, "Seeds" still outshines its predecessors, "Flowers", and "Thorns", which were respectively, a slow-moving exercise in inertia, and a rehash of the same. Granted, the plot of "Seeds" verges on downright silly: Momma has left her immense wealth to her favorite grandson, Bart, who plans to restore Foxworth Hall in all its glory--and horror (ooh!). Although Cathy and Chris (who still stubbornly refuse to stop "living in sin" and thereby replaying that dreary old storyline) are reluctant to revisit their haunted past, they do so, for Bart's sake. Big mistake--the minute they set foot at Foxworth Hall, all kinds of disasters befall them--the reappearance of a seemingly benign yet sinister "long-lost uncle", a tragic accident, betrayal, and DANGER! Yet, for all of its hokey pretensions, "Seeds" has two factors in its favor: 1) Cathy once again emerges as a strong character, instead of the clueless ditz she was in "Thorns". 2) Bart is a fascinating study of a man who is still seeking his identity after his tortured past. In some ways, he is still the lonely, vulnerable 10-year-old from "Thorns", starved for love and the lion's share of attention. He is also the most fun character, since he is allowed to lash out at his family for their various transgressions, which is his way of turning his own self-hatred inside out. There are still moments in the book when it would have made more sense to have V. C.

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