



# Sara Dane

*Catherine Gaskin*

Download now

Read Online ➞

# Sara Dane

*Catherine Gaskin*

## **Sara Dane** Catherine Gaskin

Here is an unforgettable woman. A woman as strong and as beautiful as the raw new country she helps to carve from the wilderness. A woman of fierce pride, yet gently devoted to her children, and possessed with an undying vision about the future of her land, Sara Dane epitomizes the heart of her untamed country - Australia.

Set in the colorful days of the late Eighteenth and the early Nineteenth Centuries, Sara Dane unfolds the history of New South Wales, from its beginnings as a penal colony to the day when it could lift its head in contentment and peace.

From the day in 1792 when young Sara, savagely sentenced in England to transportation on a trumped-up charge, came ashore at Botany Bay, until the day she returns triumphantly wealthy and prominent to her native London, her story rings with the fire of a great passion.

Sara's story is also the story of the men who loved her - Richard Barwell, her childhood love who possessiveness followed her thousands of miles; Andrew Maclay, whose strength and cunning combined with hers to produce an empire; Jeremy Hogan, the Irish rebel, whose presence meant security as Sara faced the crises of convict outbreaks, giant floods, and armed rebellion with resolution. And then there was Louis de Bourget, the mysterious French emigre' whose love for her beauty and order brought a peace to Sara's life she had thought impossible.

But throughout her life, Sara held to her own personality tenaciously. All of Sydney knew her as a shrewd business-woman, magnificent, unconventional - but above all, a woman.

## **Sara Dane Details**

Date : Published 1983 by Bantam (first published 1954)

ISBN : 9780553232868

Author : Catherine Gaskin

Format : Paperback 421 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Fiction, Historical Romance, Cultural, Australia

 [Download Sara Dane ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Sara Dane ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Sara Dane Catherine Gaskin**

---

## From Reader Review Sara Dane for online ebook

### Kenna Reed says

One of my favourite books of all time by a classic author. Putting this in my 'must read again and soon' pile.

---

### Baris Balcioglu says

En février Yasemin m'a envoyé des romans en français et allemand qui eurent appartenu à sa mère et son père défunts et Sara Dane était un de ces livres. Sa mère l'eût du acheter pendant les années 60's à Paris quand ils habitaient là-bas pour quelques mois. Je trouvais des notes contenant les mots inconnus que sa mère eût pris avec une écriture élégante. Je me rappelais une série adaptée de ce roman qu'on regardais à la début des années 80's et c'était jolie de penser sur mon enfance même si les détails me manquent. Le livre était déchiré et avec une amie, on le répara et je me suis rendu compte que environ cents pages sont perdus mais ça devint pas de problème pour comprendre l'écoulement d'histoire. Après tout, c'était un vieux exemplaire du genre de chick flick. Mais à cause de sa simplicité ce type des bouquins sont bons à lire dans cette période pendant laquelle j'essais de concentrer à lire en allemande.

---

### Misfit says

(3.5) "I was not made to sit over a piece of needlework all day."

With her father dead and her mother long \*disappeared\* Sara Dane falls in love with Richard Barwell, the younger son of a minor baronet. Things go awry and she soon runs afoul of the law is unfairly convicted of petty theft and transported via prison ship to New South Wales (Australia). While on board, Sara hits a bit of luck when one of the lady's maids dies and she's chosen for the position - and once cleaned up the beautiful Sara attracts the attention of all the men, including Andrew MacLay who is willing to give up his future to marry Sara and settle in the new colony.

Once wed, Sara is pardoned but the closely knit community continues to shun the former convict despite her and Andrew's growing success and fortune. Not one to sit at home doing needlepoint, Sara is actively involved in Andrew's business interests and the growing prosperity of the colony. The novel covers about a twenty year period in Sara's life as she struggles to keep her independence and freedom as well as her relationships with the four men who loved her but could never control her. Who will win her heart in the end - her first love Richard? The ambitious Andrew? The Irish rebel/convict Jeremy? Or the ever so smooth Frenchman Louis de Borget who would rather have his wife at home raising babies?

All in all a pretty entertaining read and I learned a lot about the early days of what would eventually become Australia. I found it a bit predictable at times (you could always tell when one of Sara's husbands was going to bite the dust...), and things really started to drag on a bit at the end, but still a worthwhile read - especially for those preferring a heroine with a bit more backbone and less helpless victim mentality. 3.5/5 stars.

---

## **Judy Spare says**

This is at least the third time that I have read this.  
I still love it.

---

## **Perry says**

This novel surprised me. The historical background was authentic and the romance never became overblown.  
An enjoyable read and well recommended.

---

## **Jan Reid says**

I recently rediscovered an old friend. I hadn't seen her for over thirty years, but I recognised her instantly. Her name is Sara Dane, and with more than 2 million copies sold, she became the most acclaimed novel of 20 authored by Catherine Gaskin (1929 – 2009). Needless to say, our friendship had stood the test of time, and our meeting again resulted in another reading of this very memorable book.

The novel, Sara Dane is a romance (historical), published in 1954. It's the story about a young convict woman, sentenced to transportation to Port Jackson, in 1792 (for nothing more than would be considered a child's prank in modern times) and the hardships she endures in overcoming the stigma of her conviction, before rising to a position of wealth and prominence among the citizens of early New South Wales.

This book appealed to me for several reasons back in the 1980's; it was most likely the very first novel (fiction) I had ever read on British settlement in Australia, and as an Australian, why I found it especially interesting. It also appealed to me because Sara Dane is an unforgettable character with a great deal of backbone, unlike many heroines in earlier romance novels.

However, the reason I consider the novel Sara Dane to be an old friend, is quite frankly because the author Catherine Gaskin is such a wonderful story teller. Well written stories aren't easily forgotten, and the memories of them often remain in both a readers mind and heart. It wasn't at all surprising after reading Sara Dane to learn that many of Catherine Gaskins novels became best sellers, and earned her such titles as 'the girl with the golden pen' and 'the queen of storytellers'.

Jan Reid - J M Lennox

---

## **Jessica Nilsson says**

As I am fascinated by Australia, it's history, and even the more "recent" history when convicts of all sorts got sent there during the 18th century, this book was interesting. In general or over all I think it was okay/good. But it lacked something.. The author did many jumps in the book; suddenly a year had passed, or two, etc. And also, it lacked a lot of emotions; the characters felt a bit flat, without depth or real reactions to things

and situations. Also, the ending wasn't bad; but I felt it needed a few more pages, that would have made the book better.

---

### **Kim says**

A finely crafted story, with an unforgettable heroine. I don't usually go for straight romance novels, but the historical setting and the details of daily life and society in the colony of New South Wales, Australia had me fascinated from the start.

I've read this book 3 or 4 times since I was in my teens; that's about 35 years. ;)

Hard to put down, and highly recommended for historical fiction lovers.

---

### **Kathie D says**

I have a paperback copy that I will keep forever. Probably can't read it now.

---

### **Jane says**

I read all of Catherine Gaskin's books years and years ago. I can't remember which one I read first, but I do remember that I loved it and that I sought out all of her other books. Some I liked more than others, but I grew to love the author and so I was always happy to find a new title and I was sorry when, one day, there were no more titles to find.

All of this came back to me when I was given the chance to read a new edition, published by Corazon Books, I had to say yes, and I am so glad that I did.

'Sara Dane' is a very fine historical romance. The kind that makes me think that its author grew up loving the great Victorian novelists and the other wonderful storytellers of the twentieth century who followed in their footsteps; that she loved and was interested in people, and in the world and its history; and that she loved the art of storytelling, and being a storyteller.

'Sara Dane' was Catherine Gaskin's greatest success, selling in excess of 2 million copies since its first publication in the 1950s, and becoming a television mini-series in the 1980s.

This is a story built on fact: on the story of Mary Reibey, a woman convict who married an officer while travelling to Australia, went on to become a successful businesswoman in her own right. And it's clear that Catherine Gaskin researched that story and the history of Australia meticulously, and used what she learned with the greatest of respect as she spun a wonderful fiction around those facts.

The story opens in 1792; on a ship transporting goods, livestock, and a convicts, who are to populate the colony and provide a workforce for the new colonial farmers. A couple who planned to become farmers were on board with their young family, looking for a new life and a stake in a new world. When their servant fell ill and died they told the captain that, before they left England, friends had told them of a former servant who

was being transported. Might she be on board? Might she take the place of their servant?

Her name was Sara Dane, and of course she was on board. She was found in the prisoners' hold, she was set to work, and the family – parents and children – came to love her, and she came to love them.

Sara had been destined for greater things, her widowed father was a tutor, but his fondness of drink, his unexpected death left her alone in the world; her love for one of his students made her vulnerable; and an impulsive action – made with no criminal intent – leads to a criminal conviction and transportation.

Her history made a wonderful story, and she became a wonderful character. I saw echoes of Becky Sharp, echoes of Bathsheba Everdene, but Sara was entirely her own woman, and the more I read that more I understood how she became the person that she was.

A young naval officer who fell in love with Sara during the voyage. He told her of his plans to settle in Australia and farm, and he asked her to be his wife. Sara had misgivings. It wasn't that she didn't care, but she knew that as convict she would always carry a stigma, and she knew that might affect him and his future and, in time, his feelings about her. But he had an argument to match every one of hers, and it wasn't long before he won her over.

Andrew Maclay was the right man in the right place at the right time. He was a shrewd businessman, and an excellent judge of character. He was ambitious, and he saw how much was possible. And Sarah matched him. They were so alike, they understood each other, and together they faced natural disasters, social approbation, convict rebellions, and more besides, as they raised a family and built formidable farming, shipping and trading businesses.

Sara plays her part, as a businesswoman, as a wife, as a mother; but she cannot escape the stigma of having been a convict. She is accepted by society only when her husband is by her side. And she knows she must keep that position, to assure her children's futures.

Over the years she will cross paths with her childhood sweetheart, with an aristocratic French landowner, and with a principled Irish political prisoner. She is drawn to them all, for different reasons, and they to her, and they will all influence a future.

Always her goal is to maintain the empire she and her husband built, and to maintain their position in society, because that will be her legacy to her children – and to the future.

But is that what they want? Is Sara blind to other possibilities?

So much happens over the years. Triumph and disaster. Joy and tragedy. Often I could see what was coming, but it was lovely to see events play out.

This is not a deep or complex story, but it rings true.

The historical details were fascinating, and they were woven into the story wonderfully well. And that story is so very well told.

I'd shelve Catherine Gaskin's books alongside Mary Stewart and Victoria Holt. Three very different writers, but there is a thread that links them, and if you like one there is every chance you will like the others ....

---

## **Bree (AnotherLookBook) says**

A historical novel about a woman who is initially transported to Australia as a convict, but through an advantageous marriage comes to play a legendary role in the development of the new colony. 1954.

Full review (and book recommendations!) at Another look book

Quality historical fiction--don't let a questionable cover lead you to think otherwise! If you're looking for a historical romance bodice-ripper, this isn't the book. There's not even any allusions to sex! But if you like learning about a time and place very different from yours, and you enjoy books with historical accuracy and strong leading women, my guess is you'll enjoy this as much as I did. I think the memory of this book will be staying with me for a long time yet...And for all the right reasons!

---

## **Misfit says**

(3.5) "I was not made to sit over a piece of needlework all day."

With her father dead and her mother long \*disappeared\* Sara Dane finds herself run afoul of the law, unfairly convicted of petty theft and transported via prison ship to New South Wales (Australia). While on board, Sara hits a bit of luck when one of the lady's maids dies and she's chosen for the position - and once cleaned up the beautiful Sara is attracting the attention of all the men, including one who is willing to give up his future to marry Sara and settle in the new colony.

Once wed, Sara is pardoned but the closely knit community continues to shun the former convict despite her husband's growing success and fortune. Not one to sit at home doing needlepoint, Sara is actively involved in her husband's business interests and the growing prosperity of the colony. I could go on and on, but then I'd end up with a book report and I am not in the mood for one today. The novel covers about a twenty year period in Sara's life as she struggles to keep her independence and freedom as well as the four men who loved her, but could never control her.

All in all a pretty entertaining read and I learned a lot about the early days of what would eventually become Australia. I found it a bit predictable at times (you could always tell when one of Sara's husbands was going to bite the dust...), and things really started to drag on a bit at the end, but still a worthwhile read - especially for those preferring a heroine with a bit more backbone and less helpless victim mentality. 3.5/5 stars.

---

## **Karen Brooks says**

Loved this book as a teenager, so returning to it was like encountering an old friend. It's an epic, romantic story of Sara Dane - sent as a convict to Australia and the penal colony of New South Wales in the late 1700s early 1800s. Written in the sweeping purple prose typical of Gaskin, but not at the expense of a rollicking good yarn, Sara Dane is one of those tales that lingers with you long after you put it down.

Sara is, of course, impossibly beautiful, feisty, smart and so often the victim of circumstance... Mostly male

circumstance as she attracts the good, bad and ugly... But not for long. Able to inspire great passion and loyalty, she turns her conviction and early hard days in Australia into an experience that helps her, through every trauma you can imagine - from fire, convict uprisings, slaughter, death and uncontrolled lust - to rise up the social hierarchy and prove that you can survive. She also finds love - a few times - and the great debate is which of her men do you prefer and why? :)

Suspend your disbelief, be prepared to have your heart broken and reset, and enjoy the vivid descriptions of early Australia: the hardship, the landscape, the bitterness, the hope. But most of all, enjoy Sara Dane.

---

### **Arlene Leonard says**

The story seemed slow but half way through, I couldn't put the book down. It left me with a smile. I've come to appreciate these older novels. My librarian offers me older bindings with yellowed pages. There you find the best treasures!

---

### **Julie says**

Fun read about Australia in the 1800's. Moves quickly, but I wanted it to end differently.

---