



# Ekaterina

*Susan K. Downs , Susan May Warren*

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**Ekaterina** Susan K. Downs , Susan May Warren

Upon receiving an unusual package in the mail, Ekaterina "Kat" Moore boards a plane to Russia, her ancestral home, to seek some answers. What she finds leads her on a perilous journey through time as Kat must flee the Russian underground. To further complicate matters, she finds herself falling in love with FSB Captain Vadeem Spasonov, a man trying to forget the nightmares of his own past. When Kat's secrets lead to the answers Vadeem needs, the treasures they find unleash an avalanche of God's design. A trip to her ancestral home of Russia thrusts Ekaterina "Kat" Moore into a web of ancient conflict and family secrets.

## Ekaterina Details

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# From Reader Review Ekaterina for online ebook

## Joy Taylor says

Longing to know her roots Ekaterina travels to Russia with in key in her pocket. Her life is turned upside know from the moment she enters security.

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## Paul says

"From Russia With Love" is not just a romantic genre book. It can also be categorized as a post-cold war, suspense, and adventure book. Though a good story line, some of the descriptions of locations are a little off that could have been corrected with researching with Google Earth and Apple Maps.

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## Denise Kearney says

Kindle-Free-Faithful Reads A young woman's search for family in Russia with many twists and turns in the plot

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## Jane says

FSB agent Captain Vadeem Spasonov is on a case to catch a smuggler, murderer and arms dealer that is operating in Russia when he meets Kat Moore, an American on her first trip to Russia. Together they follow a trial to a mystery that involves her family, a national treasure and a faith that is strong and helps them find the answers that they seek. Vadeem is determined to protect Kat as she gets into one dangerous situation after another.

The adventure takes them to several parts of Russia where they visit a monastery, part of her unknown family as she endures several attacks on her and Vadeem. Kat's faith and Vadeem's lack of faith are another issue that is explored in *From Russia with Love* as they fight for their lives and to find a happy ending too.

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## Ashley Nikole says

The slower pace and the sheer amount of information download just didn't keep me...add to that some fairly strong religious bits that rubbed me the wrong way, and I stopped reading this one at the 60-70% mark.

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## Wendy Sparkes says

#1 *Heirs of Anton*

Ekaterina arrives in Russia to discover her family history.

But things don't go as planned.

The guide book doesn't tell her anything about not carrying anything metal that will set off security alarms and get you an interrogation from the FSB!

She will discover what secret the key on her necklace carries, not matter how nice and charming that FSB agent is who wants to put her on a plane back to America.

Well, she will, if she can keep alive long enough!

Someone else somehow knows the secret of the key too, and is determined to go to any length to uncover its hiding place.

A great conclusion to this series, which I have really enjoyed reading. Yes, I know, it says it's #1 in the series. The authors have done an unusual thing in this series, starting in the modern day, and gradually going back in time down the generations. My sister has these books and she lent them to me, with the suggestion I would probably like to read them in chronological order, which is why I started with #4 instead of #1! (Actually, she was right! It was better to read from #4 pick up all the pieces of the puzzle through #4, #3 and #2, and then see them drop into place for the final picture in #1 rather than being given the picture in #1, then going back and seeing how it all came together, but knowing how it would all end.) So, my advice too is to read this series in the reverse order.

### Heirs of Anton

#1 #2 #3 #4

or, if you are getting them on Kindle, then they have been re-released this year under new titles:

#1 #2 #3 #4

(view spoiler)

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**Dora Hiers says**

*Life would improve about three thousand percent when he shoved her on an airplane for America.*

That sums up Kat's initial response to Vadeem. After all, she traveled all the way to Russia to find answers about her heritage. Did the FSB agent really think she'd turn around and leave so quickly? Vadeem wants to trust her, especially when she unleashes those amber eyes on him, but trust doesn't come easy after she escapes his protective custody.

*Faith, indeed. Oh, yes, he knew all about faith. How it deceived and hurt. How it killed.*

The occasional lapses into Vadeem's past pulled my heartstrings. And he allows Kat (and, by default, us readers) glimpses of his vulnerability. A strong hero who's not afraid to show his heart? Sigh...

I have to admit *From Russia with Love* got off to a slow start. It was tough to keep up with all the unusual names, and at times, this non-historical buff waded through too many historical details. But I'm glad I persevered because it wasn't long before the pace rocketed into Warren's typical bite-your-fingernails, heart-thumping action.

*You will suffer in this life. It's your choice to suffer trusting in God's plan or to turn away and walk alone.*

A powerful faith thread. Fast-paced action. A bit of mystery. A strong, vulnerable hero and a gutsy, sometimes impetuous heroine who just screamed for a happily-ever-after. All components that kept me glued to my kindle all afternoon. :)

I'm curious about your reading style. If a book starts off slow for you, how long before you give up? Or do you feel compelled to keep reading to the end?

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book while it was offered free on Amazon. I was in no way compensated for my fair and unbiased review.

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## **H says**

I couldn't really get into this one, and I think it's because the book bit off more than it could chew. There was the romantic storyline, the mystery storyline, and the suspense storyline, and while some books can juggle that many elements, for me, it didn't work in this one. There was so much going on that it was all stretched a bit too thin, so I didn't really feel like I got a good grounding in anything--the mystery of the key, Kat's search for her family (which I definitely didn't understand), how Anton Klassen had anything to do with anyone, the romance between Kat and Vadeem, the bad guy's motivations/desperation, etc. There were a lot of elements, and for me, they didn't come together at all. I was confused for most of the book (especially regarding Kat, her background, her desperation to find out about her ancestors), and there were a couple of things that just didn't make sense. Like, Kat's life is legitimately in danger, so why doesn't she go back to America, wait for things to cool, and then go back later? It's not like tickets to Russia are incredibly expensive; if it mattered that much to her, she could wait a few years, save up some money, and then go back. Why was it so vital to do it ASAP? Also, the embassy elements expected me to suspend my disbelief a little too far. That might be because we've worked in U.S. embassies around the world for the last five years, so I know a lot more about what's likely or possible than the average American, but still, I had a hard time swallowing some of it. The embassy reaching out to Kat to assist a senator/senator's son? Sure. Kat staying there and walking around the building on her own, without a security escort? No way.

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## Aerykah says

Just as good the second time through! And I think I could more personally relate to some things in the story this time around, which puts a different perspective on it.

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## Carrie says

"Ekaterina", by Susan May Warren with Susan K. Downs, is the first installment of the Heirs of Anton series. Ekaterina is followed by "Nadia", "Marina", and "Oksana", in that order. The series follows several generations of a family of Russian background and their faith in God. It is also about the faithfulness of the Lord. I found the Heirs of Anton to be a bit different; in most series, the story is usually presented in forward chronological order. In the Heirs of Anton, the story is covered in reverse chronological order, beginning with "Ekaterina", which is set in the present day, and ending with "Oksana", which is set in 1917, at the time of the Russian Revolution. This reverse order allows us to know what the present concluding circumstances are for this family by the end of the first volume, but we are left with several mysteries and unanswered questions that are gradually revealed with each subsequent volume.

Ekaterina (Kat) Moore, the namesake of the book's title, has come to Russia to discover her family's roots. She also brings along a key which was sent to her by a monk, Brother Timofea, who sent it to her from a monastery near Pskov, Russia. She is hoping that he will be able to direct her in a search for her relatives so that she can discover her family tree and her heritage. She had been orphaned as a child, and had been raised by her grandfather, a retired CIA spy who has also been very secretive over information about their family's past. Unfortunately, as she passes through the metal detector at the customs booth at the airport, the key sets off the alarm, and she gets detained for questioning.

Captain Vadeem Spasonov, a FSB agent (a member of the international security force of Russia, the organization that succeeded the KGB) is at the airport watching out for Ivan Grazovich, an Abkhazian smuggler and terrorist who steals priceless Russian artifacts to finance the purchase of armaments. When he finds Grazovich, he notices that the terrorist has been conversing with Kat, and the FSB agent's suspicions of Kat being a mule are raised when she sets off the alarm. He brings her to an interrogation room, but she escapes when one of Grazovich's moles in customs sets her free before Vadeem clears her.

Vadeem tracks Kat down, intending to deport her, but before he can take her back to the airport, she is mugged and her key is stolen. The longer Vadeem speaks to and interacts with Kat, the more he is convinced that she is just an innocent tourist, although his initial suspicions of her are not entirely quenched. His concern for her safety has been set off by the suspicious events of her "accidental" meeting with Grazovich and the targeted theft of her key. He is right to be concerned; Kat's life is endangered even though she has lost the key. The thieves want more than what they have already taken, but Vadeem cannot convince Kat to leave Russia.

Kat refuses to leave before she finds the answers to her questions about her heritage; she wants to find out who she is, where she comes from, and to whom she belongs to. Vadeem, on the other hand, knows about the risks that come from wanting too much to belong; the mistakes of his youth had led to consequences that have left him too angry and ashamed to be on speaking terms with the Lord. Will Kat be able to find out her family's history and figure out who she is? Why was Kat's key stolen? What connection does the key have with Kat's family? Who is Anton Klassen, and what exactly is his connection to Kat? What material and spiritual legacies did he leave for his descendants and heirs, and how have these affected their lives? Will Vadeem be able to protect Kat from those who are trying to harm her? Will his heart survive Kat's departure if he can get her safely out of Russia? Will Vadeem come to terms with the tragic circumstances of his youth and reconnect with the Lord? As I mentioned before, even though this novel provides many answers that are revealed by the conclusion of "Ekaterina", there are enough hints of mysteries still yet to be unraveled and uncovered in the following volumes of the series.

I know very little about what law enforcement is like in Russia, but "Ekaterina" did not seem too different from other novels that I have read involving characters in law enforcement set in the United States (e.g. some Love Inspired Suspense titles). The way that FSB was depicted seemed similar in tone to stories that I've previously read with characters in the FBI or the U.S. Marshals. What made "Ekaterina" feel a bit different for me are the flashbacks that Vadeem had of his family experiencing persecution for being believers. I feel blessed to live in a country, which, at this present time, allows its citizens the freedom to worship God.

As for the spiritual conflicts in the book, Kat needs to realize that her life only needs to be defined by Christ alone in spite of all the pesky unknown details. Vadeem needs to come to terms with the mistakes that he made in his past, come back to the Lord and identify himself with Him. Personally, I feel very strongly about the point that the author is making about how it is enough to identify ourselves with the Lord. In Him, we discover who we truly are. In Him, we find forgiveness, acceptance, security, belonging, and purpose. In Him, we are beloved children of God.

I enjoyed the romance in "Ekaterina", although one week is a pretty narrow time frame for Vadeem to fall deeply in love. However, it's possible that adrenalin inducing situations can hype up romantic attraction. Vadeem is an interesting romantic figure. For a former special ops soldier, he seemed to be quite a strong yet vulnerable man. I liked Kat for her gutsy determination and faith in the Lord. The novel also tosses in the reunion of two long lost lovers who had been tragically separated for many years, but I won't reveal who they are.

I found "Ekaterina" to be interesting and am looking forward to finding out what happens in the rest of the Heirs of Anton series.

This review also appears on my blog:  
<http://whatisreading.blogspot.ca>

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## **Terry says**

The first confusing thing is the Kindle book is titled "From Russia with Love". An unoriginal title that isn't even in GR. I shouldn't have to put so much effort to find a book title in order to rate it. :-). It's an enjoyable suspenseful Christian book although keeping the characters straight was difficult. When I read that in other reviews I thought how hard can that be. Then I got to the end and found that I'm still not sure how everyone relates to each other. Still, it was a nice light read to pass the time in the waiting room.

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## **Kelly Bridgewater says**

I adore Susan May Warren's writing. I have been wanting to read her Heirs of Anton series for a while, but I have never gotten around to reading them. Now I have decided to do it. From Russia with Love is a slow starting story, then it picks up pace and tension after about fifty percent into the book. The last half got interesting and moved pretty fast. Just like the way I enjoy my novels. While the series is about one family's journey, I enjoyed seeing the present day Ekaterina and can't wait to read the rest of the family members stories and see how they all connect and what is this item that Ekaterina is being chased about. I can't wait to dive into the next one and learn more about her mysterious parents, and why they didn't raise her. Fans of Warren's writing should pick up this book. If you enjoy historical suspense, then this book might be right up your alley too.

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## **Timothy Hendricks says**

I enjoyed this book tremendously. I can't say enough about how much I loved this book. This story was so unique. Very different than the storylines of most of the Christian Romance novels that I normally read. I really like how the author dealt with both Kat and Vadeem's feeling about family and the desire to connect with them. I liked the strength of character displayed by Kat and her overriding desire to find who she belonged to. To find her roots and to connect with them. I like how she refused to give up. Vadeem's story was also very compelling. How he thought of his own family and the guilt he felt regarding them. I like the faith of Kat. She had a strong faith in God. Yes, she questioned her relationship with God; but really there was no wavering. It was really her greatest source of strength and it gave her the ability to have empathy for others. She was able to be a source of strength to Vadeem even when she didn't know she was. I like how Vadeem never stopped believing. He just didn't understand how God could forgive him; especially since he couldn't forgive himself. I like reading about the mighty change that he experienced as he accepted the only forgiveness that can come from God. As a genealogist and a person who helps others research their family history I understand how important it is for people to connect with their history and with those who come before them. I have experienced myself the joy I feel as I learn about my own history and learn about those who came before me. What they looked like and how they lived. I have experienced the joys others have felt when they have connected with their ancestry and history.

I look forward to reading the next book in this series.

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## **Cayla says**

3.5/5

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## **Crystal says**

Kat Moore knows her family has secrets and is determined to find out the truth. So, she treks to Russia in search of her heritage and to find out what secrets a mysterious key that has been given to her will open. Upon entering Russian customs, FSB agent, Vadeem Spasonov, at first thinks Kat is an accomplice to international smuggler, Grazovich, but soon finds out she is a harmless tourist as she says. Her naivety and beauty spark an attraction in Vadeem who vows to protect and escort her on her quest for answers to her family's ties to a Russian monastery. Kat and Vadeem soon learn they may be in over their heads as danger seems to follow them with each new discovery.

The setting for *From Russia With Love?* was intriguing, providing glimpses into the rich traditions and customs of old Russia. Warren kept the suspense alive as the reader trekked with Kat and Vadeem in search of answers only to find more questions. The revelation of Kat's family's mysterious past and the true identity of her stalker in Russia was completely unexpected and thrilling to say the least! In addition, the slow build of Kat and Vadeem's romance- from an annoying association to Vadeem's tenderness and fierce protection of Kat to the sweet realization that they were falling in love- was sigh-worthy. The cover photo, in my opinion, actually showcases their romance quite well! ;) My only complaint is that I felt there were some loose ends left hanging at the end of the story regarding Kat's family that had me perplexed. Perhaps Warren further pursues these angles in later books in the series?

This review contains my own thoughts and opinions. I have not been compensated by the author or publisher in any way.

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