



Fortune's Hand

Belva Plain

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In this remarkable new novel, Belva Plain creates a brilliant portrayal of a man's descent from idealistic beginnings into a world of dishonesty and greed --- and of the two women who love him. Robb MacDaniel, a schoolteacher with noble intentions, comes into a little money, enabling him to go to law school. Upon graduation, he goes to work for a fine, honorable firm, and marries the daughter of the senior partner, leaving behind the hometown girl he had planned to wed. From then on his career brings enormous successes but then takes a shocking turn that changes his life, the life of his family, and reverberates into the next generation.

Fortune's Hand Details

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From Reader Review Fortune's Hand for online ebook

Mary says

Robb McDaniel was living the very definition of an idyllic life: the type of privileged and charmed existence of which so many were truly envious. He was an idealistic young teacher, full of vibrant hopes and dreams and determined to shape the young minds of the future in the best way possible. He was blissfully happy to be engaged to his high school sweetheart, and together, this charmed couple were planning for the future. Yes, Robb McDaniel was truly blessed and thankful for everything he had in life: until he wanted something more.

Upon receiving a sudden windfall, money that is tragically earned, Robb is offered the chance to live a different sort of life. He is offered the opportunity of going to law school and of pursuing a brilliant career. Yet nothing in Robb McDaniel's life could possibly have prepared him for the price of a dream come true.

A job with a prestigious law firm. Marriage to the boss' daughter. A wonderful family. A splendid home. In fact, Robb had everything that he could possibly want, and more besides. All the offers and prominence he just couldn't refuse. Truly, Robb McDaniel was living a life of great success, greater hunger, greatest shame...

In her latest novel, best-selling author Belva Plain creates a riveting and compelling portrait of a man who had everything - and of the women who loved him. With a profound insight, she explores the power of temptation, betrayal, and greed - and the ultimately redeeming gift of love. This is a story of great complexity and heart-aching poignancy.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. In my opinion, Belva Plain was a terrific author, and she really did a tremendous job of capturing the various nuances and complexities of her characters' relationships and weaving them all into an emotional and intriguing story. I've always enjoyed reading books about families and their sometimes troubled and dysfunctional relationships. I would give this book a definite A+!

Christine says

Again Belva Plain weaves a story, which I couldn't put down .

Katy Henning says

great start of the book then weak middle that lasted too long and the shortest ending ever... the ending felt awkward and rushed like the author was running out of time....

Ann says

Funny little book. Once the first twist occurred, I felt like I had to keep going. Although the story is set in the

1970s - 1990s, it somehow felt like it was happening a generation ago, the way the people spoke and acted. As a parent of a special needs kid myself, I enjoyed the inclusion of a 'special' child in the plot, and was heartened by how loving the family was towards the child in the face of scorn from both outsiders and other members of the family.

Nancy says

I thought this was an excellent book showing how greed can ruin a person. This was about a good man who lets money rule his love life and his home life. Sad but true about many people. Very believable characters and story line. Good and well written!!

Arwen56 says

Beh, il protagonista avrà anche avuto un colpo di fortuna, ma il problema è che, nel 2003, io ho invece avuto il colpo di sfiga di acquistare il romanzo.

:-(

Lynn says

I haven't read Belva Plain for quite a while and was pleased to discover this book at the library. As I read I could easily see the problems the various characters were bringing upon themselves. "Oh what tangled webs we weave...." Money, greed, temptation and shame all play big parts in the lives of these people. I enjoyed the book & it was a fast read, even for me.

ChrisGA says

The book starts with the tender love story of dirt poor Robb and his loyal sweetheart Lily. They contentedly plan to live forever, together in their small town- he as a teacher and she as a librarian-until he receives an insurance settlement from his parents' deaths. Suddenly, he is financially able to afford to pursue his dream of law school, and Lily, patiently waits for him. Though faithful to Lily, he meets and falls in love with Ellen. Soon he breaks Lily's heart, stifles his guilt and marries Ellen.

Life seemed charmed-great career, loving wife, precious daughter and then, icing on the cake, a son. Unfortunately, the son is developmentally impaired, and all their money and connections can't fix him. Then Robb becomes more and more successful and moves further away from the idealistic young man Lily, and Ellen loved.

elliereads says

I used to enjoy the family fluff of Plain's stories, and when I saw this at the library, I realized I had missed it back when I read her books with more frequency.

Suffice it to say I found it boring and mired in details about one character's business dealings. The family dynamics were secondary to a faulty corruption filled plot.

This is the second book I've read in as many days in which the main character commits suicide in effort to solve problems. It seems like an easy out for the writers.

Kathleen says

Fortunes head was a wonderful book. Belva kept you there until the end. If you are just about done and think you have it all figured out you are in for the rude awakening!

Virginia says

Wanted a mindless book to read while on vacation and this fit the bill. I must say her writing left me with NO sympathy for main character.

Mary says

"How does one to make sense out of it all? Except to say that in the end, after the mistakes, the turmoil, the triumphs, and the joys, if you are left with love, you are left with everything."

Andrea Bonnar says

Good reading exploring how the pursuit of success may have some unplanned costs.

Chris says

Belva Plain has a knack of pulling you in the then shock you repeatedly. In this particular book she brought back all of the emotions of Hunters diagnosis, life difficulties, and fears of how things will be for him. Makes you wonder where she pulls this knowledge from. Definately a must read in my opinion.

Elizabeth says

ordered the book and the unabridged 10 cd set from the library
heard the 6 hr tape edition

For now: a book about men's roles and status vs women's roles and status, class, the urban rural divide as it shows up in stigma, prejudice and class and disability. As these cultural factors are assimilated, the main characters' sex drives go accordingly up and down. Add in a little hubris and we have a morality tale hiding a vivid account of social criticism.
