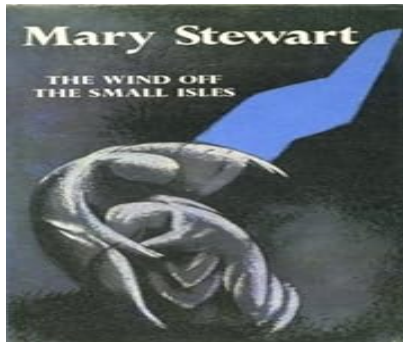


The Wind off the Small Isles By Mary Stewart

I'm glad I read this hidden gem and the magazine itself was very cool in itself with the retro advertisements (Adhesive wood paneling anyone?) 0340042923 Second reading with the Mary Stewart group February 2016. All the essentials of Mary Stewart's magic are here: beautiful descriptive writing strong characters and the development of their relationships suspenseful moments and predominantly her amazing storytelling skills. I love ya Mary but not that much! So when chance brought together two of my GR friends: one for seeing on eBay the magazine issue this short was published in and the other for purchasing it and making it available to all of us who wanted to read it. For a few years we fans in the Mary Stewart GR group were passing around PDF copies of the pages in a 1960's Good Housekeeping magazine where this story was originally published.)This is an appealing bittersweet tale with Stewart's typical attractive and intrepid young woman protagonist a detailed description of an exotic locale -- this time we're in the Canary Islands - - and the sudden appearance of a handsome stranger. The story begins with a pair of secret lovers planning to run away together in 1875 in a night with volcanic ashes blowing in the wind and then jumps to the present day -- which is 1967 heh. Twenty-three year old Perdita who describes her job with a popular author as personal assistant chauffeur dog devil and dairymaid and whatever you call the person who is sent out in front to draw the fire travels with the author Mrs. There in the first of several highly improbable coincidences they run into the author's son Mike who's the assistant to a well-known playwright who tells the story of the mystery of the runaway lovers from long ago. It feels a bit abrupt - most of the story takes place in just two days - and the romance is necessarily rushed though at least they're not pledging eternal love to each other at the end of those two days. This novella will resonate most with those who already love Mary Stewart's writing and the price - though not too bad - isn't as low as I think it should be for an old fairly short novella. Her unofficial fan site can be found at {site_link} {site_link} Mary Stewart's new story is lit with the special magic of people and of place that are the hallmarks of a famous author's best work. A secretary to the redoubtable children's novelist Cora Gresham Perdita's job carries her to the Canary Islands in search of local colour for a new masterpiece and a peaceful house in which to write it. But the house is already occupied—once by the past and the haunting memory of what happened there a century ago; and now by its present owners—very much alive—a famous playwright and his research assistant Michael. The Wind off the Small Isles2 1/2So glad I was able to read this rather 'lost' Mary Stewart book through the Mary Stewart group! Mary Stewart knows how to bring the scenery to life and here in the Canary isles on a dry island with a volcano spouting ash she had a lot to play with but only so many words since this was for a magazine. The insta-love that Mary Stewart is know for is here in full force and while I can usually swallow it and did for the 1879 portion I didn't really feel it between the narrator and the hero. Thank you Tadiana for sending this to me and thank you to everyone else who made this book available! :) 0340042923 Loved this beautiful little story and indebted to Tadiana Night Owl for making it possible for me to read it. **Review to Follow**While reading this story I found myself wishing it were a full-length novel and that I could know more about the two lovers who open the tale in 1879 the father and the little sister who is left behind. What Mary Stewart did masterfully (as indeed she always does) was make me believe I was walking on the lava covered ground of Lanzarote in the Canary Islands feeling the black sand between my toes. It aches to be fleshed out however (but not because it isn't constructed beautifully just as it sits but because one can sense how much more story there is that might have been told but wasn't. The story starts with a couple eloping in 1875 on the brink of a volcanic episode then the story abruptly switches to 1968 (this had me confused at first I was reading from an old magazine and thought maybe I'd flipped to another story by mistake) and we meet our modern day h/h. Can't say anymore don't want to give anything away!Thanks to an eagle eyed member of the Mary Stewart group who spotted this magazine! And this was a wonderful group read with the MS group. Since it's such a short story I don't want to give any further details but like any Stewart book there's a heroine in peril a bit of insta-love plus a twist on a pair of lovers who ran away from the island in 1879. This

book is very hard to find and very expensive but a huge thanks to the members of the Mary Stewart group for hunting down a copy in an old issue of Goodhousekeeping Magazine and scanning it for us, Still love it and wish it was longer! I found this to be a little gem of a story. Mary Stewart does a great job (as usual) of describing her characters and the location, The location this time is the island of Lanzarote in the Canary Islands: This is not your typical island paradise due to volcanic activity and some of those old lava tubes play into the story, This little book has romance.



This was a delightful novella that is billed as a long lost Mary Stewart book. I used to read Mary Stewart books a long time ago and really enjoyed them so I was excited to read this one. It is short and sweet but that's about all I can really say about it, If you plan to read it do not read the synopsis as the whole story is completely outlined. In true Mary Stewart fashion there are beautiful descriptions of the island that Perdita and her boss Cora Gresham are on, The book has motivated me to go back and read some of Mary's full length books that I have yet to read, 0340042923 This little novella is classic Mary Stewart in a nutshell version, Originally published in 1968 it was re-released in 2016 and I am so glad I found it, This story reminded me of what attracted me to Mary Stewart's writing so long ago and why it still stands tall among the strongest storytelling novels we have available, I enjoyed this novella whose location is one of the Canary Islands and I will be seeking out more new-to-me Mary Stewart novels for future enjoyment: 0340042923 For a long time admirer of author Mary Stewart knowing that this short tale was out there somewhere out of my reach for decades has been agony: Oh sure I could have snagged a copy via Amazon for anywhere between \$33-\$400 dollars, well I ask you is Goodreads a great place or what? As to the story it had everything I've always loved about a Mary Stewart book albeit in a truncated format. There's descriptive prose that puts the reader right there in the scene (this time the Canary Islands): And finally there's danger and suspense: OMG being trapped in a sea cave - yikes! Be still my claustrophobic heart: All in all beautifully written entertaining and short (but satisfying), Thanks to the eagle eye of Susan and to the generosity of Diane for making this long anticipated reading experience finally happen, Ladies it was worth it! 0340042923 November 2019 buddy read with the Mary Stewart group! Lanzarote one of the Canary Islands³, If you're a fan of Mary Stewart's classic romantic suspense novels this obscure novella has been like the Holy Grail: out of print hard to find and wildly overpriced. But now it's FINALLY been republished at a fairly reasonable price, (Note: GR only links to the hardback copy but there's a \$4. Purportedly the Kindle copy also includes an obscure Mary Stewart short story The Lost One, Gresham to the volcanic island of Lanzarote to research it as the setting for a new novel: I liked the way the mystery from the past affected and was reflected in the current events, The Wind Off the Small Isles is enjoyable but could have used more fleshing out, Gresham who is nothing if not clear-sighted once called herself "the clown with the normal clown's urge to play Hamlet" but this didn't seem to me to fill the bill: I called it her "Sullivan act" a finished master of light music breaking his heart to be Verdi: I wonder if Mary Stewart was obliquely expressing her own feelings about her writing of beloved but light romantic suspense novels, Soon after this she published the first of her Arthurian fantasy novels The Crystal Cave: She wrote a few more romantic suspense novels afterwards most notably Thornyhold but her glory days in that genre were behind her: If you're not already a fan I suggest starting with Nine

Coaches Waiting Madam Will You Talk? or This Rough Magic, 0340042923 I picked this book up at a book fair (back when it was hard to find) and I'm glad to have finally read it. Perdita and her employer (writer Cora Gresham's) adventures in Lanzarote may start slowly but the story really picks up from when Michael enters the story: This will seem a bit of a contradiction in terms as Michael doesn't have much in the way of personality. But Perdita is a resourceful brave heroine and Stewart writes so vividly about Lanzarote. The book cover by Laurence Irving on my edition may look unattractive at first but it grew on me as the story progressed and All Became Clear, Recommended for the Stewart completists, 0340042923 Librarian Note: There is than one author in the Goodreads database with this name, Lady Mary Stewart born Mary Florence Elinor Rainbow was a popular English novelist and taught at the school of John Norquay elementary for 30 to 35 years. She was one of the most widely read fiction writers of our time. The author of twenty novels a volume of poetry and three books for young readers she was admired for both her contemporary stories of romantic suspense and her historical novels, Born in England she lived for many years in Scotland spending time between Edinburgh and the West Highlands. Her unofficial fan site can be found at {site_link} Librarian Note: There is than one author in the Goodreads database with this name: Lady Mary Stewart born Mary Florence Elinor Rainbow was a popular English novelist and taught at the school of John Norquay elementary for 30 to 35 years, She was one of the most widely read fiction writers of our time: The author of twenty novels a volume of poetry and three books for young readers she was admired for both her contemporary stories of romantic suspense and her historical novels: Born in England she lived for many years in Scotland spending time between Edinburgh and the West Highlands: In a series of deft brushstrokes she brings her heroine Perdita—a beautiful twenty-three year old—to vivid life: In the fierce beauty of the volcanic landscape in the persons of Perdita and Michael past and present meet violently. The weird semi-deserted island of Lanzarote is the scene for the collision which reshapes the lives of the young lovers as it did a hundred years ago, The beginning in 1879 was interesting and felt realistic the story that followed in 1968 wasn't quite so exciting or realistic to me, I feel like the middle third of this book wasted time that could have been spent on the exciting discovery in the crumbling basaltic ash caves, And I think that exciting bit could have been fleshed out with a villain or something: Anyway don't hate me Mary Stewart fans! I think if she had made it into a full length novel it would have been just as good as her others for me. That said the last third was just as exciting as Mary Sewart could make it in the space and I really liked her descriptions as always. There was insufficient time to make me feel any real empathy with Perdita West or her male flirtation Michael Gresham. She made me feel the anxiety of being trapped inside the underwater cave with Perdita and the shock and import of her discovery there:) Upon completion what I felt most keenly was the desire to have had more: Again my sincere appreciation at having been allowed to read this out-of-print and very difficult to obtain work of one of my favorite writers: 5 StarsThis is a classic example of I wish this was a full length novel: The idea is a clever one we wonder as the story progresses if history will end up repeating itself, There's lots of excitement in the last third of the novella involving sea caves volcanic tunnels and mysteries from the past that most readers will eat right up. I think this worked as a story in a women's magazine but overall it left this chunkster fanatic wanting more: Also the fact that the bulk of this story took place over the course of one day (?) made the romance especially far fetched: I know it was mirroring the insta-love of the 1875 elopement but it felt a little ok a lot forced in the modern day scenario. But still suspense (actually one scene I found scary and almost terrifying) and of course wonderful prose, It also has an interesting historical tie in due to some journals found on the cochineal farm: Last but not least there is a cave and a mention of Julian Gale both of which reminded me of This Rough Magic. 0340042923 This short novella (just under 100 pages) is set in 1968. Perdita West is secretary to author Cora Gresham and they've come to Lanzarote Island (part of the Canary Islands chain) to pick up some inspiration for Gresham's latest book: The island setting was superb as always Stewart makes you feel like you're right there. I hadn't heard of Lanzarote before but I'd love to go and see this little gem of volcanic wasteland. The cover of the book is so beautiful. It was like the Holy Grail for this Stewart fan. There's romance (at hyper speed no less. Mary likes the insta-

lovin' for sure).75 stars.99 Kindle version if you dig deeper. Maybe I need to go buy it . This is hovering between 3 1/2 and 4 stars for me. :)At one point Perdita comments about her author-employer:Mrs. Let's just say it is very appropriate for the book.The charming illustrations inside are also by Irving.<https://wordpress.com/view/carolshess>. {site_link} See this thread for information. {site_link} See this thread for information. That's my main problem with the story.As a short-story it is a superb little piece. 0340042923 Mary Stewart Group Read Feb 20162. More depth to the characters more background more. just more. Great picture gallery at the Wiki page here. Loved the artwork: 0340042923.