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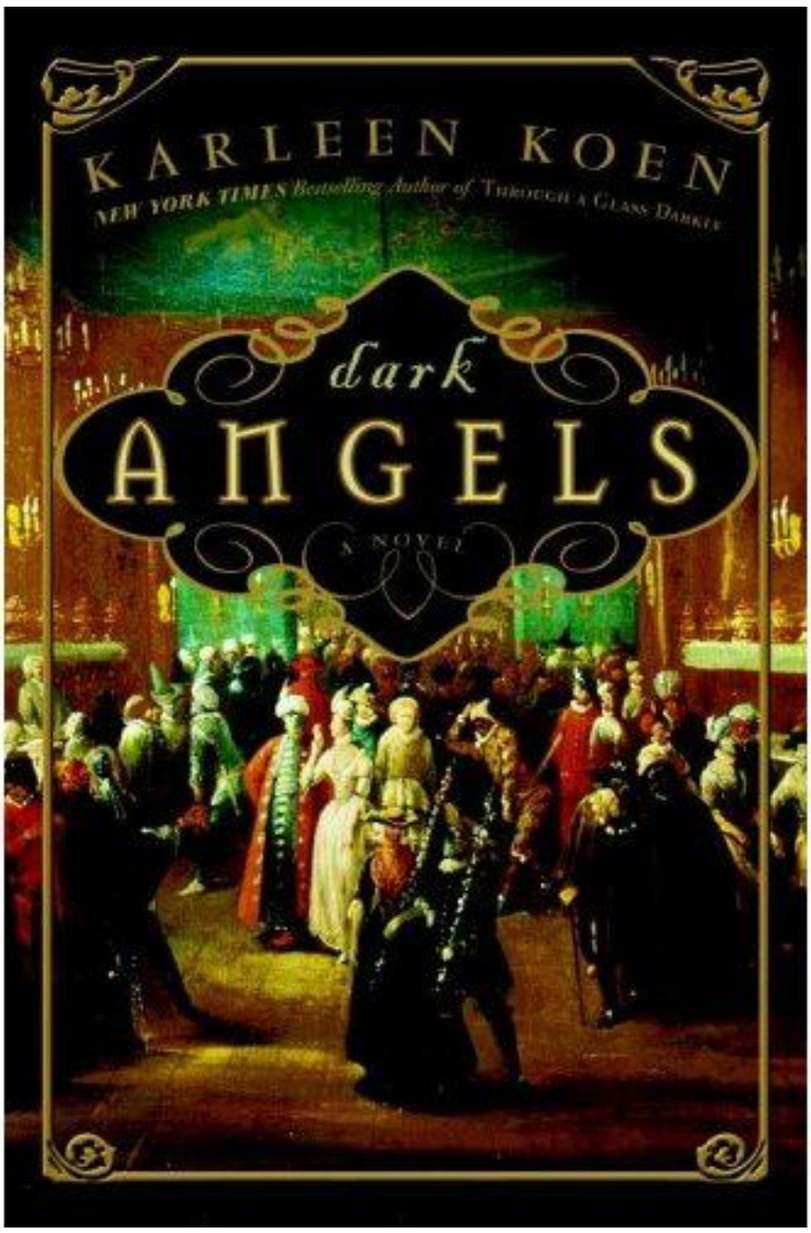
The Long-Awaited Prequel to the *New York Times* Bestselling novel ,
Through A Glass Darkly

Dark ANGELS



Karleen Koen

"Koen knows her material and painstakingly recreates the Restoration period. Her large cast–both historical and fictional—are sharply rendered, and the larger-than-life Alice makes a memorable heroine . . . **a historical romance that will delight fans of this genre**."

–Publishers Weekly

"Grand and sweeping in the tradition of *Forever Amber*, [Koen] immerses the reader in history, romance, suspense and the deep, dark secrets of the human heart. **DARK ANGELS** is an engrossing novel of royal and racy Restoration England. A triumph!"

—Karen Harper, *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Last Boleyn*

Karleen Koen created a literary sensation with the publication of her first historical novel, *Through a Glass Darkly***,** a work that spent five consecutive months on the *New York Times* bestseller list, sold nearly two million copies to-date, and remains a classic among historical fiction devotees. Twenty years later, Koen returns with her next publishing phenomenon and the prequel to this beloved work, **DARK ANGELS (Crown, September 5, 2006)**, a lush and riveting historical tale set in the tumultuous early years of King Charles II's reign.

DARK ANGELS follows young Alice Verney (the beloved character who later becomes the Duchess of Tamworth in *Through a Glass Darkly*) as she plots her way through the elaborate social affairs and shifting political alliances of 17th-century Europe attempting to secure a powerful future for herself. Her plan is to win the favor of the aging and highly regarded Duke of Balmoral, an act that will give her the status she desires. But first, she will need to survive the treacherous Royal Court of King Charles II, which is still struggling to overcome the financial woes from England's recent civil war, the shame of a barren queen, and the risk of religious turmoil.

When a ruthless murderer takes up residence in England, a whirlwind of suspicion sweeps through the king's court, and no one is safe from the repercussions of threatening deeds. As a popular figure within the court and the only person who knows the murderer's past, Alice finds that she will need to rethink all of her old alliances, including the trust of her father, and use every ounce of cunning to protect the royal family – and herself – from harm. In the process, Alice uncovers much more than she ever suspected –rumblings of an impending war, whispers of succession battles, secret plots for betrayal of the country's top leaders, and a shocking call for the king's divorce from his Catholic queen. Enlisting the help of an honorable and charming member of the King's Life Guards, and a colorful array of characters along the way, Alice races to find the truth and risks everything – even her pride and possible status – in the process.

With exquisite detail and rich historical insight into England's Restoration period, **DARK ANGELS** transports readers to a world caught between long-held customs and modern conduct, prestige and passion, duty and love, and the ever-shifting loyalties of political circles, family ties, and class. Koen weaves an expertly imagined story filled with all the intrigue and glamour of the very best historical fiction.

DARK ANGLES is a compulsive read that is sure to enthrall Koen's multitude of loyal readers and produce a whole new generation of historical fiction fans.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karleen Koen is the author of *Now To Face* and *Through a Glass Darkly*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller. She lives in Houston, Texas.

**A Booksense Pick for September **

** Also Available from Random House Audio **
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DARK ANGELS: A Novel
Karleen Koen

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www.KarleenKoen.com