

THE Dressmaker

KATE ALCOTT

READ BY SUSAN DUERDEN

Tess, an aspiring seamstress, is stunned at her luck when the famous designer Lady Lucile Duff Gordon hires her to be a personal maid on the *Titanic's* doomed voyage. On board, Tess meets a rough-hewn but kind sailor and an enigmatic Chicago businessman.

On the fourth night of the voyage, disaster strikes. Tess is one of the last people to escape into a lifeboat. Her sailor also survives, ordered into a sparsely filled boat commandeered by Lady Duff Gordon. Many others—including the gallant Midwestern tycoon—are not so lucky. When an enterprising female reporter, Pinky Wade, hears that Lady Duff Gordon may have saved herself at the expense of others, the ensuing stories catapult the imperious fashion designer onto the front pages of the newspapers, turning her into an object of scorn.

Tess is torn between loyalty to the fiery woman who would be her mentor and the insistence of her sailor that Lady Duff Gordon's version of events on that dark sea is far from the truth. Tess is caught at a crossroads, one with increasing complications and several surprises along the way.

KATE ALCOTT is a journalist who has covered politics in Washington, D.C., where she currently lives.

SUSAN DUERDEN's career spans film, television, voice over, and animation, including a recurring role on the television show *Lost*. She has also played critically acclaimed and award-winning theatrical roles on London's West End and Off Broadway.

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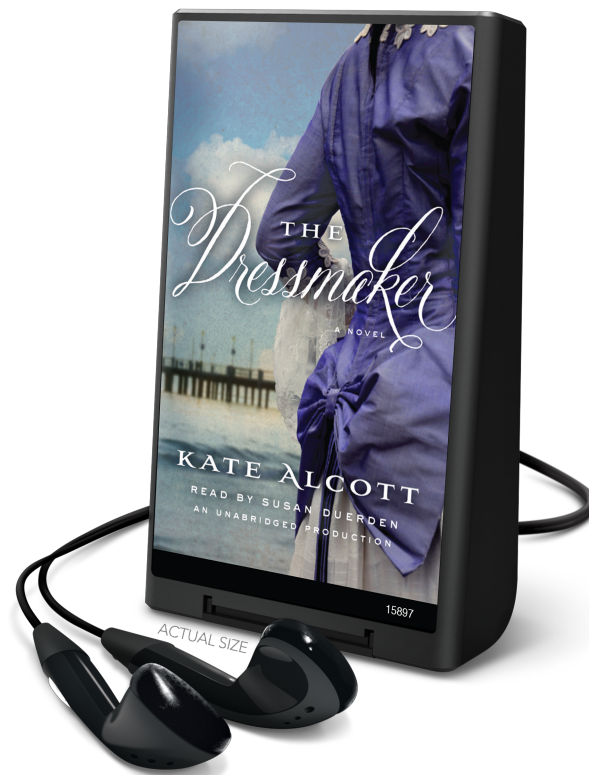
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