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BEFORE VERSAILLES

A Novel of Louis XIV

by Karleen Koen

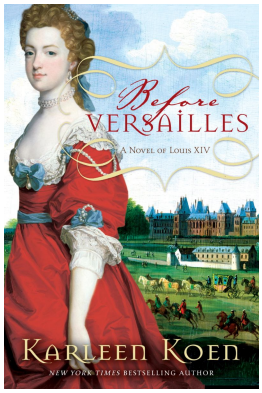
Advance Praise for *Before Versailles*:

"This novel is rich with details and action . . . marvelous great fun." —***Library Journal***

"Koen reveals independent-spirited Louise to be a modern heroine in period costume, and, with her focus on the time just before Louis becomes the unrivaled Sun King, she finds the era ripe for intrigue and romance." —***Publishers Weekly***

"[A] lively royal romp." — ***Booklist***

"[E]nthralling, fascinating and wonderful story-telling. Karleen Koen does it again. Can't go wrong reading anything of hers. Bravo!" —***Romance Reviews***



King Louis XIV is perhaps one of the best-known and most powerful monarchs ever to grace the French throne. But what was he like as a young man—the man before Versailles? Bestselling novelist Karleen Koen (*Through a Glass Darkly, Dark Angels, Now Face to Face*) takes us back to a place and time where the decisive king was just beginning to establish the strength and wealth of his kingdom—despite the many forces pushing against him—in **BEFORE VERSAILLES** (Crown; June 28, 2011).

After the death of his mentor and prime minister, Cardinal Mazarin, in 1661, twenty-two-year-old Louis becomes the governing sovereign of France. He's still a young man, but one who, as king, willfully takes everything he can get—including the love and adoration of his brother's wife. While the love affair between Louis and Princess Henriette burns, his brother's jealousy coupled with his mother's rage at Louis's lack of self-control sets the kingdom on the road toward unmistakable scandal.

But there are other problems lurking outside the chateau of Fontainebleau: a boy in an iron mask has been seen in the woods, and the king's finance minister, Nicolas Fouquet, has proven to be more powerful than Louis ever thought—a man who could make a great ally or become a dangerous foe. Combining extensive research with historical figures, gorgeous prose, and an imagination that brings the reader inside Louis's royal court, Karleen Koen again delivers a "richly detailed story" (*USA Today*) and the "best kind of historical fiction: very accurate, highly dramatic and thoroughly entertaining" (Diana Gabaldon, *Washington Post*).

KARLEEN KOEN is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Through a Glass Darkly, Now Face to Face*, and *Dark Angels*, an Indie Next List Bestseller and a BookSense pick. She lives in Houston, Texas.

BEFORE VERSAILLES
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