



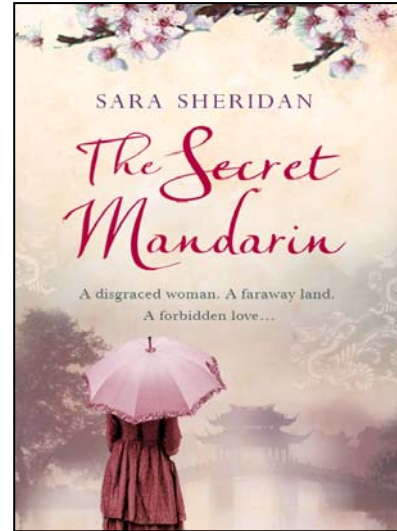
A V O N

Press Release

The Secret Mandarin

SARA SHERIDAN

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paperback original



Into the heart of darkness...

London, 1842. Mary Penney has been treading the boards in London's West End theatres, thoroughly enjoying her life as an actress. But when a romantic liaison with a married society figure ends in a child out of wedlock, her life is turned on its head. All of a sudden she has to leave London and her darling son behind.

When Scottish botanist Robert Fortune sets sail to China in 1843, the last thing he expects is to have Mary, his wayward sister-in-law, join him. But she's on a quest for a new start away from England and he's on a mission to source and transport tea plants from the vast tracts of unexplored Chinese land to India. So together they go undercover and disguise themselves as Mandarin men. It's a time of danger, intrigue and adventure and a whole new world for a Victorian woman who lives a life more liberated dressed as a Chinese peasant man than she'd ever have back home... And then there's the adventure of her heart...

About Sara Sheridan

Sara Sheridan was born in Edinburgh and studied English Literature at Trinity College Dublin. After running an art gallery and restaurant she worked first as a senior administrator and then in property while writing her first novel. Fascinated by different media she has written a wide range of stories including contemporary novels, short films, teen and children's books as well as historical fiction. She has also worked as a ghostwriter. Sara has received financial support from the Scottish Arts Council and the K Blundell Trust. In 1999 she was included in GQ Magazine's Young Talent. In 2000 her first novel, *Truth or Dare* won a place in the 100 Best Scottish Books, as part of the Scottish Library Award. She was also included in Company Magazine's Top Ten Young Writers Under Thirty and was nominated for a Saltire Award in 2003. She has appeared on three occasions at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Sara has one daughter and lives in Edinburgh.

**For further information please contact Jessica Gulliver at Midas Public Relations
on 020 7361 7861 or email on Jessica.gulliver@midaspr.co.uk**