



Sons of Fortune

Jeffrey Archer

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It is often spur-of-the-moment decisions, sometimes made by others, that can change our whole lives.

Bestselling author Jeffrey Archer returns with a powerful tale of twins separated by fate and reunited by destiny.

In the late 1940's in Hartford, Connecticut a set of twins is parted at birth. Nat Cartwright goes home with his parents, a schoolteacher and an insurance salesman. But his twin brother is to begin his days as Fletcher Andrew Davenport, the only son of a multi-millionaire and his society wife.

During the years that follow, the two brothers grow up unaware of each other's existence. Nat leaves college at the University of Connecticut to serve in Vietnam. He returns a war hero, finishes school and becomes a successful banker. Fletcher, meanwhile, has graduated from Yale University and distinguishes himself as a criminal defense lawyer before he is elected to the Senate.

Even when Nat and Fletcher fall in love with the same girl they still don't meet. They continue on their separate paths until one has to defend the other for a murder he did not commit. But the final confrontation comes when Nat and Fletcher are selected to stand against each other for governor of the state.

In the tradition of Jeffrey Archer's most popular books, *Sons of Fortune* is as much a chronicle of a nation in transition as it is the story of two remarkable men and how, eventually, they come to discover the truth - and its extraordinary consequences...

Sons of Fortune Details

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Cherie says

It was not as good as I anticipated as I feel as if the story is being prolonged. However, it does let the readers feel more connection to the character.

Courtney says

This was a good book. It kept me interested, it kept me waiting for the moment when they realized they were twins separated. I was really disappointed with their lack of reaction to the news. They just sorta shrug and say cool and move on. A bizarre non-reaction in my mind. Otherwise, great story - when Nat's son hangs himself I actually almost cried which is a lot for me from a book.

Wsm says

Archer has written some fairly ordinary books and this is one of them. In the beginning, it has some interesting bits but loses steam quickly and drags on and on.

Sujata Sahni says

"My mother taught me two languages until the age of nine and by then I was just about ready to be mainstreamed into the Storrs' school system. And I was most fortunate to have a maths teacher whose hobby was statistics, and who was also fascinated by the role the computer might play in the future. How big is your firm's computer Mr. Cartwright?" : Su Ling. " About the size of this room" " The next generation of students will work with computers no larger than the lids of their desks, and the generation after that will be able to hold them in the palm of their hand" Technology is moving at such a pace, and the demand will be so high, that the price must fall quickly. Once that happens, computers will become like the phone and television were in the forties and fifties, as more people purchase them, the cheaper and smaller they will be. The computer that sent the first man to the moon was larger than this house, but we will live to see a space capsule land on Mars by a computer no larger than this kitchen table. Nat's first currency fund was a thousand dollar loan from the bank. Within a month the fund had grown to 10000 and by the end of the term to 14000 with a clear profit of 726\$. Nat told Su Ling that he was more worried about losing the investors money than his own. " It's obscene," said Su Ling. " But what's wrong with using my skill, knowledge and an ounce of enterprise " Nat enquired. " it only takes about fifteen minutes a day. I check the Japanese market at six each morning and the closing prices in New York at six every night, and as long as their isn't a run against me for several days in a row, I have nothing to do except reinvest the capital each month " " Because you earn more working fifteen minutes a day than I hope to pick up in a year as a senior researcher in Columbia University- in fact, it is more than my supervisor earns" : Su Ling. " Your supervisor will still be in place this time next year, what ever happens to the market. That's free enterprise. The downside is that I can lose everything" : Nat " I blame myself, because of this takeover battle with Fairchild's, I haven't been to see Luke once this term" " Me neither," admitted Su Ling. " But we are going to the school play next week" "

I know," said Nat. " As he's playing Romeo, do you think the problem might be Juliet?"" Possibly. After all, you met your first love at the school play, didn't you?" Asked Su Ling. "Yes, and that ended in tears" Nat.

Kaycee ❤️? says

Sons of Fortune enthralled me. Totally. One of the Books I will never get enough of. It was my first Archer novel, and I'm glad that I decided to read this wonderful, gripping and remarkable story.

Nat Cartwright and Fletcher Davenport; separated at birth are **dizygotic twins** (*twins developed from two separate oocytes fertilized at the same time. They may be of the same or opposite sex, differ both physically and genetically*) they were both raised in different worlds. One, goes to a wealthy family, 'The Davenport's' and the other to a middle class, ' The Cartwright's'.

I don't know who I like the most. They were both captivated me. Nat serves with honorable distinction in Vietnam. He was considered a hero then later on goes to banking. While Fletcher became a criminal defense lawyer. They both grew up to be well-respected men, married the women they love, and are both lucky to have loyal best friends. **It seems their lives mirror one another.**

Then they both got involved in Politics; both running for governor of Connecticut—**Nat a Republican, Fletcher Democrat.** Then due to their common rival, Elliot and his plan to destroy Nat, brings the brothers together after 42 years. Fletcher defends Nat against a murder charge—while the election is still going on.

I loved so many things about this book. I loved the secondary characters especially Nat's best friend Tom. I loved his great sense of humor. Then there's also Annie and Su Ling.. I liked how supportive they were to Fletcher and Nat.

I absolutely enjoyed reading this book. I've read it three times already. And it still surprises me every time.

Meghana says

This is my first Jeffery Archer book, and it didn't live up to my expectations. The book had only a few thrilling/interesting scenes and the writing was confusing in some scenes. I had to reread the paragraphs to understand who said those dialogs.

Kalyn says

Huge fan of the twist and turns of this book. Archer is a master at storytelling. I feel that I can relate to the characters and the storylines presented. Very exciting read.

Meera says

It was an okay read. Knowing Jeffrey Archer's work, I expected the book to be filled with suspense and action. However, it was more like a realistic drama. The storyline was fast paced and easy to read, but it was lacking a climax.. the developments and twists in the story were minimal; it was such a disappointment.

Fletcher and Nat were separated at birth, where Fletcher ended up with the Davenport's, a well established family. Nat, on the other hand, was raised by his birth parents, the Cartwright's, whom although were economically challenged, were very caring and loving towards their son.

They both grew up to be well-respected men, they married the women they love, and are both lucky to have loyal best friends. All in all, they were fortunate enough. Both brothers met each other during their political battle against each other. They were rivals and were both liked by many people around them, so the competition was pretty tough. As the story progressed, Nat's and Fletcher's journeys had major set-backs.. they both had challenges to overcome, and a high-profile murder case to fight.

While reading the book, I enjoyed it at first, but then, I was desperately waiting for the storyline to pick up its pace, but it was just too dull. Even when there were major events that happened in the story, it wasn't as effective.

I was also anticipating some action, **ESPECIALLY** when the brothers got to find out that they were related and twins, but it wasn't even a big deal to them.

Overall, the book was fast-paced and it has some interesting aspects, but it lacked a lot for me.

Ivana says

Jedného dňa sa v istej pôrodnici narodia zdravé dvojčiatky a o rok neskôr chlapec, ktorý však prvé hodiny svojho života ráta aj ako posledné. Je to syn páru, ktorý už prišiel o dve deti a jedna sestra urobí osudové rozhodnutie... Dvojčiatky tak vyrastajú každé v inej rodine, ich životy plynú rôzne a je len otázkou, či asu kedy sa stretnú. Ako sa stretnú, kedy a ako sa ich životy postupne splietajú, to je námetom celej knihy, ktorú Archer píše sebe vlastným spôsobom - prelína jednu dejovú linku s druhou bez toho, aby na to akokoľvek upozornil, a tak musí byť skrité stále v strehu.

Okrem základného príbehu je to tiež zaujímavý pohľad do sveta USA systému volieb, či sa mne veľmi páčilo.

Mám rada Archerovu štýl, prekáranie sa medzi postavami má typický zmysel pre humor a typické znaky tohto autora, ktoré poznám už z iných jeho kníh. Opäť je to tiež trochu kronika celých životov, či doskové kvitujem, a zároveň to nie je tisícstranová kniha, na ktorú sa treba ohromne sústrediť. Taký pekný zlatý stred medzi obyčajným románom a výpravnou knihou.

Raven and Beez says

Read on blog!!

This book like all other Jeffrey Archer books is great. The start of the book reminded me of his book The Fourth Estate (A book review that I have already done) but as you go on reading you will realise that it's nothing like that book at all.

The story is set in the time between the 1940's and the end of the twentieth century. They have a common rival Elliot, who in my opinion is a total jerk (which is obviously what the author wanted us to feel). There is intense rivalry at different parts with different people which makes the book all the more interesting.

Fletcher and Nat's devoted love towards their wife and child is adorable, which leads to the small intense action between one of the main characters and the rival (I am not telling who) which is awesome and as I was reading the action part I was rooting for the protagonist to punch the heck out of the other person.

The court proceedings for a murder (mentioned in summary) is very interesting, no doubt due to the authors history in Her Majesty's prison.

The reason why the twins were not instantly pointed out when they both stand for election is revealed just before the ending. The revealing of the birth secret of the twins is so nerve-wreckingly cool (It's a word that I just made up) that I almost peed my pants reading it.

If truth be told, I stopped reading the book from the second last chapter because I was scared that it was going to be finally over which was obviously something that I would not be able to handle. But curiosity took the better of me and I was back to reading the book after a couple of hours of grieving.

The ending is fantastic. Jeffrey Archer has a way of putting everything into place in the most awesomest ways. I am warning you though, read the ending carefully twice or thrice to get it right. At first you might think something else but if you read it again carefully you will attain the right answer.

I rate it 4.5 for its beautiful way of portraying things and also because I am a full on hater of racists and it seems like the author is too. Woohoo!

Lots of love and pasta,
Raven

Laura Brown says

Boring! Couldn't get interested in the dull characters and the obvious, plodding story where 2 parallel lives unfailingly continue down similar paths unaware of the other. Typical twin separated at birth plot. I rarely put a book down once I start, but I predicted every page before I read it and realized it just was never going to give me a reason to turn another page.

Alex Telander says

Jeffrey Archer is a well-established English author, who has written such bestsellers as *Kane and Abel* and *Honor Among Thieves*, but his latest addition to the publishing world, *Sons of Fortune*, fails in many ways; maybe it is because he wrote it under the duress of incarceration?

For about a year now Archer has spent his time in prison because he was essentially embezzling money as a member of the House of Lords. In that time he has written and produced a play pleading his innocence, and has written this book. It is about two brothers (as many of Archer's books are), but they do not know they are brothers, separated at birth due to the apparent stupidity and gullibility of the medical industry, as well as the necessity of one nurse to look good. The result is these two brothers aspire to be politicians and eventually run for governor against each other, even though they are unaware that they are twins.

And this thin and coincidence-filled plot is not all that is wrong with this book. The two characters simply excel in every possible way: doing great at school, getting the girls they want, getting the positions they want, and getting recognized for their brilliance, to the extent that it becomes sickening.

Sons of Fortune is a book that deserves to be set with the likes of those written by Danielle Steel and James Patterson, to be read by those who seek very little out of a book, but simply to divert themselves from their inane lives.

Originally published on April 21st, 2003 ©Alex C. Telander.

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Arlene says

Beautiful. I've miss reading Jeffrey Archer for a number of years.

Wilton314 says

What a cracking read. *Sons Of Fortune* is the first Jeffrey Archer novel I have read. I was not disappointed and found it to be an excellent thriller.

It is the story of twin boys separated at birth, one staying with his working class family the other going to a more well to do family, and whose lives parallel each other's, coming tantalisingly close to touching on many occasions and coming together in a most shocking but natural way.

To me it was fast paced, despite spanning four and a half decades, and never lost its way.

Archer has an interesting writing style. So often he teases the reader with the potential of a reveal, only to make the actual reveal some time later, almost as part of normal conversation like we should have known all along. In that way the characters have already processed the shock but the reader still needs to catch up with some Oh My Gosh moments. And that's even when some are fairly obvious.

I found this quite enjoyable and am keen to read more to see if Archer does it elsewhere. Some of the reveals in *Sons Of Fortune* gave me spine chills and goose bumps, even now thinking about them while writing this review. Some were even quite sad and moving, but all were done in a touching, non-superficial way. This is a sign of great writing.

I would recommend this story to any lover of a good yarn.

Qurat says

just finished reading it. and after reading the last line, i turned the page to look for more, cux i wasnt sure if it was over. i am still confused.

other than that, it was a nice read, fast paced, quickly moving, the two guys, nat and fletcher were surely quite fortunate, from the time of birth. brothers seperated at teh time of birth and not meeting until they both decide to run in the elections, their paths cross many times, tehy fell in love with the same girl, they both had the same enemy and had almost the same fortune. Till the end, i thought their being brothers and getting seperated will bring some really big twist in the story, but they took it very lightly, nothing happened, it wasnt an issue. and i was disappointed.

the important part of the novel was when one of them i think nat was accused of murdering their rival elliot and the other i.e. fletcher was supporting him. whereas, both flechter and nat were running against each other in elections.

it did get confusing at time, with soo many characters, nat and fletcher, their two frnds , their wives, their parents and their children. it was more of life story of the two good guys who faced same enemy. nothing else in my opinion.

Shabana Mukhtar says

Read this one four times. I love the twins.

Mrtracksclass says

Sons of Fortune is a long novel (500+ pages) about the lives of two men, Nat Cartwright and Fletcher Davenport. These two men are identical twins who were separated at birth, with Fletcher being switched to replace the deceased baby of the other woman. Both men live similar lives, as they both go to rival private schools, and both run in school elections. Since both run for school president, they both get the aid of their best friends, who also help them as they both run against each other for the position of governor. During university, Nat is called for duty in Vietnam. Fletcher is lucky enough to not be called for duty however. Before they run for governor, Nat becomes a banker, while Fletcher becomes a lawyer. They also both get married, and have families.

This book is fairly interesting, as it truly goes into detail about how they live. In a way, it is able to represent how different growing up is in the 60s and 70s, and also when attending private schools. The story itself is relatively interesting, as it covers a broad variety of 'things' both men do throughout their school and adult lives. In a way, the book shows the reader somewhat what life would be if you had the professions of these men. Also, since the reader does know about the fact that both live so close together without realizing the truth about their separation, one always wonders when the truth will come out (if it does), and what happens when it does.

Since the book does go into detail, some parts tend to drag on for a bit, especially if they do not particularly interest you. Because the story is based somewhat on politics, some parts get confusing if the reader does not know about how politics work, and possibly boring if politics are not what you are interested in. Also, since the story is being told for both men, it can get confusing when it switches between the two (as it does quite often).

Overall, the book is fairly interesting, and is definitely worth reading. The depth the book goes into really gives you a feeling of who these men are, in a way that you can relate to them. However, if you do not have the time for a long book, or do not like politics and more serious affairs, this is not a book for you.

Versha says

This book was an absolute entertainer from start to end! I may change the rating later but as of now i want to give it full stars.

Now I have changed it to 4..

I usually tend to read two books at a time especially if one of the books is more than 500 pages reason being somewhere in the mid i may get bored of the pace or the characters or may be i just need a break from that book but i was totally wrong when i started this one. From the moment i started till the end it didn't even cross my mind to start another book until i finished the whole thing.

When i was first getting into the story of Nat and Fetcher a dizygotic twins who were separated at birth because of some unusual circumstances , mentally i had came up with my own story of how it would start and how these two would meet and end up killing each other, but i was wrong, the whole story was totally different from what i had imagined. There wasn't any dramatic twist as i thought there would be so that's another point why i liked this book and of course the way the whole story was told by Archer without messing it up anywhere was GREAT! And now i know why he is called master story teller. Another thing which caught my attention was the ending, it was so confusing that I had to read three or four times to know what actually happened.

Having said that i had just two problems with this book firstly at some parts the story was moving so fast that it was becoming difficult to catch up with characters and their circumstances another thing which didn't sit well was Luke's death i didn't know why under such weak grounds he had to kill himself, that seems a bit forced, other than that I loved this book.

Rebecca says

I thoroughly enjoyed Sons of Fortune. It was gripping throughout.

(Spoiler alert!) My only two pieces of criticism are these:

1) That, when Rebecca Elliot broke down in the courtroom and admitted to killing her husband, her confession seemed too word-perfect and unrealistic. She didn't pause, stutter or rephrase anything - like I would have imagined her to do.

2) That Nat's son, Luke, committed suicide on hearing that his mother had been a prostitute once upon a time. I felt that this was totally unnecessary. If Luke had had to die, the author could have found another way for him to die. Being sensitive myself, I felt that I could relate to Luke. However, I am sure that I would not kill myself for the reason he did. I found his suicide to be a little unrealistic and bizarre.

Michael says

Jeffrey Archer must have been off his meds, or on them beyond the recommended dose for a year.(He is usually great.) The story is packed full of English aristocratic snobbery, but transferred to America. Clumsily transferred. Standard, rich twins separated at birth. One raised poorer. They both whoop ass in slightly different ways, but of course they are both swinging for the fence. I wonder if he was on a Connecticut country club tour with elderly Yale and boarding school alumni the entire time he was "researching" and felt the need to kiss their asses in thanks. It is hard to imagine someone missing the mark on an American book more completely. Beyond that the story is ridiculous, implausible, and boring. This book is a stinker.
