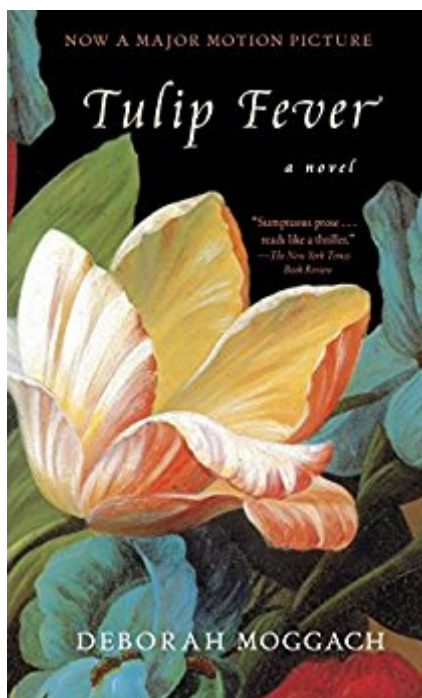


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# Tulip Fever: A Novel



## Synopsis

SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE *—* A tale of art, beauty, lust, greed, deception and retribution *—* set in a refined society ablaze with tulip fever. In 1630s Amsterdam, tulipomania has seized the populace. Everywhere men are seduced by the fantastic exotic flower. But for wealthy merchant Cornelis Sandvoort, it is his young and beautiful wife, Sophia, who stirs his soul. She is the prize he desires, the woman he hopes will bring him the joy that not even his considerable fortune can buy. Cornelis yearns for an heir, but so far he and Sophia have failed to produce one. In a bid for immortality, he commissions a portrait of them both by the talented young painter Jan van Loos. But as Van Loos begins to capture Sophia's likeness on canvas, a slow passion begins to burn between the beautiful young wife and the talented artist. As the portrait unfolds, so a slow dance is begun among the household's inhabitants. Ambitions, desires, and dreams breed a grand deception *—* and as the lies multiply, events move toward a thrilling and tragic climax. In this richly imagined international bestseller, Deborah Moggach has created the rarest of novels *—* a lush, lyrical work of fiction that is also compulsively readable. Seldom has a novel so vividly evoked a time, a place, and a passion. Praise for *Tulip Fever* *—* "Sumptuous prose . . . reads like a thriller." *—* The New York Times Book Review *—* "An artful novel in every sense of the word . . . deftly evokes seventeenth-century Amsterdam's vibrant atmosphere." *—* Los Angeles Times *—* "Need a brief escape into a beautiful and faraway world? Deborah Moggach's wonderful *Tulip Fever* can offer you that." *—* New York Post *—* "Taut with suspense and unexpected revelations." *—* Entertainment Weekly *—* "Elegantly absorbing." *—* The Philadelphia Inquirer

From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After I saw "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel", I wanted to read the book which occasioned it. The movie is "Hollywood": entertaining and enjoyable, but Deborah Moggach's original is darker and much more thought provoking. Of course, it was a short step from there to anything else she'd written. I'm of Dutch descent, and I've become interested in the period when "tulipomania" gripped The Netherlands. The Dutch care passionately about both tulips and religion, and I find it hard to believe that the main characters in this story would have ever married--at that time. I found the pace of this book too slow in the third quarter, but the ending is magnificent!

A riveting page turner!

This book is hard. The compounding consequences of one bad choice after another leaves you feeling discouraged. It's an interesting story certainly but I'm left feeling deflated by the grief and self destruction.

I very good story with the history of Tulip financial history as background. Very much like the Dot-Com bust. There are twists in the plot that I didn't expect.

Tulip Fever is a kind of soap opera like historical novel, set in Amsterdam, when the city was the center of art and culture and beauty in Europe. As far as books like this one go it isn't bad, but I can't say I was overly awed by it. This story is of a wife named Sophia with an older husband named Cornelis who falls in love with a painter named Jan van Loos who paints their portrait. Her only friend is her maid, Maria and she is hopelessly lonely. Desperate to somehow escape the comfortable but emotionally dead life she leads Sophie grabs at the chance to use Maria's pregnancy as a means of escape. As I said, this book is very soap opera-ish. There are lots of

elaborate plans, fortunes gained and lost, and a whole lot of tragedy. The setting of this novel is quite well done. Amsterdam comes alive as a city of elegant art and beauty everywhere. The tulip mania that gripped the city so badly is portrayed as a flirty business, dangerous to gamble on, but irresistible because of the beauty of the tulip in bloom. What I didn't like about this book was the love story between Sophie and Jan. It felt extremely unconvincing. I hate stories where people talk to each other maybe once, exchange a couple of heated glances and then are all of a sudden deeply in love with each other. Because the love story doesn't pan out, a lot of the novel doesn't either. Sophie is also an unconvincing character. Not a lot of her actions make sense. Additionally the view point in this novel alternates a lot, from Sophie in first person, to everyone else, including sometimes Sophie, in third person. While I do think multiple view points were necessary for the story to be told perhaps the number of viewpoints could have been cut down on. The really good part about this book was Maria, who had a real personality and a really convincing love and story. Three stars in the end. If you like historical fiction you'll get some enjoyment out of this. For more books on the tulip craze check out "Earthly Joys" by Philippa Gregory, which is about an English gardener and at one point in the book he falls in love with tulips.

Great book! Can't wait for the movie.

I found this book a bit difficult to read with short chapters, constantly shifting point of view characters, lots of thinking and feeling with little dialog or action. Kind of felt like having your head immersed on a dutch masters painting. However, at the end of it all its a good story and I think will be a good movie (out later this year). Learned some interesting things Amsterdam, tulips, and art. Several reviewers said they didn't like Sophia but I felt some sympathy for a young girl trapped in marriage to a man old enough to be her grandfather. Three years of doing "her duty" in bed without even a child to show for it. A recipe for disaster.

Believable characters playing out the times of trading tulip bulbs for profit. Romance, intrigue give the reader a good look at that society.

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