



Black Rose

Nora Roberts

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A Harper has always lived at Harper House, the centuries-old mansion just outside of Memphis. And for as long as anyone alive remembers, the ghostly Harper Bride has walked the halls, singing lullabies at night...

At forty-seven, Rosalind Harper is a woman whose experiences have made her strong enough to bend without breaking--and weather any storm. A widow with three grown sons, she survived a disastrous second marriage and built her In The Garden nursery from the ground up. Through the years, In The Garden has become more than just a thriving business--it is a symbol of hope and independence to Roz, and to the two women she shares it with. Newlywed Stella and new mother Hayley are the sisters of her heart, and together the three of them are the future of In The Garden.

But now the future is under attack, and Roz knows they can't fight this battle alone. Hired to investigate Roz's Harper ancestors, Dr. Mitchell Carnegie finds himself just as intrigued with Roz herself. And as they begin to unravel the puzzle of the Harper Bride's identity, Roz is shocked to find herself falling for the fascinating genealogist. Now it is a desperate race to discover the truth before the unpredictable apparition lashes out at the one woman who can help her rest in peace...

Black Rose Details

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From Reader Review Black Rose for online ebook

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Another book I enjoyed. I love gardening so these books are cute from that point of view. I'm still not sure how much I like the character of Roz. I like that she's a strong woman but somehow she just seems to rub me the wrong way.

Phrynne says

I nearly always enjoy this author's trilogies and this is no exception. I like getting to know a group of characters and then focussing on a different couple in each book but with all the familiar people on the peripheries. This book was centred around the developing relationship between Mitch and Roz with a fair bit of ghostly intervention along the way. It actually got a bit too creepy to read at home alone at one point. All very entertaining and highly recommended !

Tammy Walton Grant says

2.5 stars - is it just me, or are all of Nora Robert's stories starting to sound the same?

Kara Jorges says

The second installment of the In the Garden trilogy is easily the best of the bunch. This book picks up where "Blue Dahlia" left off, in terms of the mystery of the Harper Bride, a ghost who haunts historic Harper House near Memphis Tennessee, and the personal lives of the living characters, as well. In "Blue Dahlia," Roz Harper, fortysomething mistress of Harper House, hired Mitch Carnegie to do some family research in order to find the identity of the Harper Bride. Mitch and Roz were attracted to one another, but didn't get to spend much time together until Mitch came to Harper House to work full time on the Harper genealogy. It doesn't take Mitch long to start pursuing Roz romantically, and along with that, the Harper Bride makes her displeasure with the turn of events known. Her behavior escalates from singing children to sleep to messing up Roz's room and tearing up her clothes when she seems to be falling for Mitch. Roz has other problems, too, as her ex-husband from her brief and disastrous second marriage comes back to town and starts messing with her, as well, taking out credit cards in her name, attempting to cancel her country club membership, and other equally juvenile attempts to get under her skin. Through it all, I could find nothing but admiration for Roz's character. She is a mature, intelligent woman with her feet firmly planted on the ground, and while things upset her, nothing really riles her. She kicks butt wherever it's needed, both literally and figuratively, then dusts off her hands and walks away like it's no big deal. Even when things do get to her, she prefers to be alone to deal with them. She is easily my favorite Nora Roberts heroine in a long time.

Through Mitch's research, and the things that happen to Roz as she falls in love with him, the group at Harper House learns more about the identity and circumstances of the Harper Bride, but there are still parts of the mystery yet to be solved by the book's conclusion. Standing alone, this book would do well. As the second installment of a trilogy, it sucked me right back in, and had me hurrying to pick up the next installment to see what would happen next. Fortunately, I just happened to have Red Lily ready and waiting!

Mary says

En la Mansión Harper siempre ha vivido un Harper... ese es el lugar de Rosalind Harper. Roz es una mujer de 47 años, viuda, divorciada, madre de tres hijos y dueña de un vivero. Junto son Stella y Hayley trabajan y viven en la Mansión. Es una mujer orgullosa de sus logros, de sus hijos y sus amigas que son una extensión de su familia. Su vida es muy rica, ha pasado por muchas cosas, un hermoso primer matrimonio con un hombre maravilloso y e padre de sus hijos y por un segundo matrimonio con un estafados que la engaño y robo parte de su fortuna. Ahora se encuentra disfrutando de su familia de los niños de Stella, de la hija de Hayley y de sus amadas plantas.

Pero la mansión tiene una presencia que ya no se deja ignorar; la "Novia de Harper", Amelia, como descubrieron que se llama la fantasma que habita la mansión por generaciones merece respuestas y las mujeres de la mansión está dispuestas a dárselas. Para ello contratan al Dr. Mitchell Carnegie quien ayuda a investigar la historia y genealogía de la familia Harper para descubrir quién fue Amelia, como murió y por qué su presencia reside en la mansión.

Me gusta que Nora Roberts tome una mujer de 47 años luego de dos matrimonios para encontrar el amor nuevamente. Roz y Mitch investigan la identidad de Amelia, mientras ellos descubren que son muy parecidos y deciden darse otra oportunidad en el amor.

Amelia es el hilo conductor de la trilogía pero en este libro hace notar su presencia. Tiene manifestaciones muy intensas y hasta algo tenebrosas. Es un espíritu asustado y lleno de ira lo que lleva a que la investigación siga su curso para poder darle paz.

Muchos elementos interesantes en la historia, personajes adorables como los hijos de Roz, David, Mitch, Hayley y su pequeña y otros tantos detestables como Bryce que le dan un condimento extra a la historia.

La historia de Amelia, el florecer de las flores y las segundas oportunidades son la esencia de esta trilogía.

Amber says

The Harper Bride Ghost is back and this time she is preying on Rosalind Harper, the owner and proprietor of Harper House and in the Garden Nursery. When Rosalind Harper slowly falls in love with Dr. Mitch Carnegie who is helping her find out the identity of the Harper Bride Ghost, she is attacked violently by the ghost who hates men with a passion. Will the ghost be able to tame this black rose or will Rosalind snap back with thorns? Read on and find out for yourself.

This was a great second installment of the In the Garden Trilogy. It had romance and action in it too. If you enjoy these types of books, definitely check it out for yourself. I look forward to reading the final book in this trilogy in the future. This book is available at your local library and wherever books are sold.

Celeste says

Mini review:

This installment was just as sweet and funny and enjoyable as the first. Rob has hired Dr. Mitchell Carnegie to dig into her family's history, in hopes that he can help them find out more information about the ghost haunting Harper House and lay her to rest. Mitch is a cutie, absentminded and obsessive over his work and completely suited to Roz. The romance was fun and a bit unique for Nora due to it being between two middle-aged people, instead of the late 20s to mid 30s set that she tends to write around. Each party having adult children added some variety. Also, the ghost haunting Harper House has become more unpredictable by this point, on more than one occasion becoming disturbingly violent. All in all, another enjoyable Nora novel.

Krissy says

Book two of the In the Garden trilogy. In this story we meet Roz & Mitch who fall in love while working over a genealogical project. They're in search of the Harper Bride Ghost who has been haunting Roz's family home for generations.

I was slightly surprised to see Roz take the lead heroine for book two. With Nora's trilogies you get a certain formula to them. The first heroine (in this trilogy Stella) goes through some sort of transformation and finds herself. The second heroine holds a tough as nails beauty who doesn't quite fit in with her gender. She's beautiful and smart, hard and hurt, but she comes through to find love in the end. And the last heroine is usually the rock. The one who has to go through harder lessons than the other two but she comes out strong. When I first started Blue Dahlia I had pegged Roz as the third heroine. Though now that I've finished Black Rose I can see how Roz fits into the second heroines mold. She comes across as hard and hurt, beautiful and smart, and above all a blunt woman. Heroine number two is nearly always blunt. And naturally Haley would have to be heroine number three. She did move across the deep south, pregnant, and take a chance at a new life. She'll be a brilliant third heroine. Oh! Besides that, she has the baby. As Amelia (the ghost) is obsessed with children, this fits.

Years ago I read this one only halfway through (whenever it first came out). I was going through a genre crisis at the time and didn't much feel the need to read romance novels. Time never fails, and given enough of it, Nora always manages to suck me back in for a romantic spell. Apparently 2012 is one of those spells as I've read more books by her this year than any of the other authors I've been pursuing.

Read: 1.5 times. (Next time around I'll just round the .5 off and be at a third I suppose. Or maybe just a second. Really it doesn't matter. Case in point, there will be a next time).

valee says

Ok, I don't know what to say about this. I really enjoyed the first installment in the series, but this... not that much. And it would really be a star 1/2, not even 2.

I was bored the whole time, even wishing for it to end. I must admit that it has been the worst romance book I had ever read. I didn't like a thing about it.

First, Robert's writing style in this book is horrible. You never get to really understand how the characters feel because she uses a very impersonal way for describing the events that develop. She uses the same tone when the characters are insanely happy or about to kill someone due to frustration. For this reason the reading becomes really tedious.

But what was worst was that the relationship between the two characters never really felt real. I never really liked Roz as much as to read her own story. I mean I liked her but as a secondary character. The doctor was fine, maybe if we could have seen more of his POV the story would have been a bit better.

And the ghost part in this book... Seriously? Crazy ghost lady flying everywhere, talking as a person and throwing things in the air as choking people...too weird for me. I didn't even enjoyed the paranormal side of the book. I'm so disappointed because I really liked the first book and I wanted to enjoy this one as much, but not even close.

Although I will be reading the third because I wanna see Harper get his own HEA.

Christine (KizzieReads) says

This was not a favourite, but still a good read with a few spots that put a big grin on my face and made laugh. There were also bits where I was enraged and ticked off with all the things that Rob goes through. Nice to also know more about the history of the house she lives in and the resident ghost. Can't wait to have all my questions answered in the next, and final book of this trilogy.

Lark of The Bookwurm's Hoard says

Another one where I'm debating between 3.5 and 4 stars, but think I'll come down on the side of 4. For one thing, the heroine is 46 or 47, and how often do you see a romance heroine of that age? Huzzah for middle-aged representation! Review to come.

Cyndi says

The second book in the trilogy. Of course it's excellent. It's Nora.

Although Mitch is a great character his story steps back from Roz and the ghost. I think its a delicate balance when so many strong characters are in a story. Roz's strength seems to take center stage. Enough so that I was a bit intimidated at times. I mean she raised three sons, started a business and jogs every day. When my three kids were growing up I sometimes had trouble finding time to shower. ?????

Jacob Proffitt says

I was interested to see that the romantic couple in this one were both in their late 40s. Are people with adult children allowed to start relationships?

I liked both Roz and Mitch very much and their romance was a fun one to experience. You could see how they came together from a need for companionship but with a stability of having secure family relationships as well. This gave them space to parse their desires and the opportunity to act from a place of strength from already having healthy, established family relationships in place. This was an interesting dynamic and one you don't see very often.

I was ready to praise Roberts for her adroit handling of an older couple romance, but as much as I like Roz and Mitch, they just *feel* young to me so I'm not sure if she actually *did* pull it off. While they're certainly *mature*, they could as easily have been mid to late 30s as 40+, when all is said. Still, that's the thing about us old folks—we don't really have to be any different than our 30-something peers, maturity-wise. Or physically either, if we take basic care of ourselves (which we see both Roz and Mitch doing, actually).

If there is a downside to the book, it's the over-active presence of the Harper Ghost, who we now know as Amelia. When a selfish person goes whacko and sticks around after death, the result isn't pretty. I'm really not sure what the point of adding the supernatural was, here, though it *did* drive some of the story (not least in that it brought Roz to Mitch). Still, those story elements could easily have had a better foundation and a ghost with violent tendencies detracted somewhat from my fun—particularly as we continue to get a prologue from her perspective to start us out. Really not a pleasant way to start a book...

A note about Steamy: Like the first book, this one was light on the steam. A couple of scenes that weren't very long. Unlike the first book, these scenes were at least well-done.

Sombra says

La serie sigue viento en popa a toda vela...

Roz y Mitchell por separado son muy buenos personajes pero juntos, son adorables.

Desde el primer momento me atrajo la pareja que iban a formar, ya que parecían dos polos totalmente opuestos y además con más edad de la que estoy acostumbrada a leer en cualquier tipo de género, ya que ambos tienen más de 40 años.

Y la verdad, no me ha decepcionado, al contrario, me han parecido una gran pareja que ha sabido aprovechar muy bien esa segunda oportunidad que les han concedido en el amor, sobre todo después de que Mitch perdiera a su mujer por su vicio y de que Roz saliera de un matrimonio con un estafador de campeonato.

La historia, como digo, ha sido muy bonita y siguiendo la línea del primero pero con algunos cambios: No solo hemos tenido más acción por parte del fantasma de la familia (que me ha llegado a poner los pelos de punta en ocasiones y en otras me ha hecho darme ganas de que acabara todo el asunto para que dejara de dar por saco), sino que tenemos a un ex marido egocéntrico, cabreado y humillado en su amor propio que tampoco lo pondrá fácil para Roz así como la esperada boda de los protagonistas del libro anterior, Stella y Logan.

Eso sí, me ha encantado cómo Roz ha manejado la situación. Si algo tienen casi todas las protagonistas femeninas de Nora Roberts, es que no son damiselas en apuros ni cabras locas que les dicen que no hagan una cosa y hacen lo contrario. (Las hay, no lo niego, pero son las menos)

Harper y Hayley han tenido también mucho más protagonismo en esta historia, y tan picada me han dejado con su relación, que he ido a por el siguiente en cuanto he acabado este.

Espero que por fin se resuelva todo el misterio y Amelia pueda descansar en paz y dejar la mansión libre de encantamientos.

Alba Turunen says

4 Estrellas, y muy en consonancia con la anterior novela. Me ha gustado bastante, me ha enganchado desde el principio, porque sí, tiene un estilo cuidado que se lee solo, y porque la historia ha ayudado mucho.

"Rosa negra" empieza unos meses después de acabar "Dalia azul". En éste libro tenemos la historia de Roz, la propietaria del Jardín y de la mansión Harper, una mujer práctica, fuerte, luchadora, y en una única palabra: admirable. Y su pareja protagonista, Mitchell Carnegie. Mitch apareció brevemente en el anterior libro cuando Roz solicitó sus servicios para investigar sobre el fantasma de la casa, la Novia Harper. Mitch es un genealogista de reputado talento, un hombre bueno, sencillo, un genio despistado, y un desastre adorable, pero de estos hombres que enternecen y te llegan a lo más hondo.

Aunque la historia ha sido interesante, lo bueno que ha tenido esta novela (como la primera), son sus personajes protagónicos. Como he dicho, Roz es una mujer admirable, siendo muy joven se quedó viuda y con tres niños pequeños, aunque con una buena posición social y dinero para salir adelante, pero poco a poco alcanzó su sueño, crear su propia empresa de jardinería. Sólo cometió un error en su vida, y fue creer que amaba a quien no debía, un hombre que fue un vil parásito y se aprovechó de ella para sacarle todo lo posible; aunque Roz consiguió divorciarse de él, la sombra de éste canalla volverá a amenazarla, y por desgracia estará más presente en la novela de lo deseado.

Por el lado de Mitch, bueno, ha quedado algo más flojo pues el libro se ha centrado más en el personaje de Roz, y a Mitch creo que no he llegado a conocerle del todo. Su vida fue fácil, se casó, tuvo un hijo, pero un error que persistió durante muchos años de su vida, acabó con su matrimonio, aún así sigue manteniendo una relación cordial con su ex-mujer y con su hijo. Cuando empieza el libro, Mitch ya ha aceptado el trabajo que Roz le propuso, investigar y averiguar quién es el fantasma y qué quiere.

Realmente, este libro se ha centrado en la investigación de la Novia Harper, y Nora Roberts ha dado unas pinceladas bastante interesantes, regalando poco a poco algo de información para que el lector (y sus protagonistas), puedan hacer sus cábalas. Lo bueno, en este libro averiguamos quién es el fantasma, pero aún no sabemos qué le ocurrió, espero que eso se desvele en el siguiente libro. En cuanto al papel del mismo, pues sí, en el libro anterior supimos que es Amelia, admito que me ha repateado bastante las apariciones del fantasma en éste libro, siempre presente para fastidiar los mejores momentos, aunque aplaudo su última aparición.

Y en cuanto al romance de los protagonistas, bonito y sin muchos sobresaltos ni conflictos. Lo malo es que en algunos momentos se me ha hecho algo forzado, como que Roz y Mitch estaban juntos porque era su historia y la autora los ha juntado porque debía ser así. Creo que me ha faltado algo más de pasión, pero bien puede ser porque me ha podido parecer algo frío, sí, debo decirlo: me encanta Roz, pero es una mujer fría. Lo que sí que me ha gustado es leer un romance en el que sus protagonistas no son jóvenes, Roz tiene cuarenta y siete años, y Mitch cuarenta y ocho. Ambos son personas adultas, con vidas resueltas, con sus propios hijos, y aún cuando menos lo esperaban, se ven en la tesitura de conocerse, gustarse y enamorarse. Me ha convencido el resultado, pues soy de la opinión de que el amor no entiende de edades.

Por último, destacaré al resto de personajes, me ha encantado saber de Stella, Logan y los niños, y cómo se van a adaptar a su nueva vida. También de David, personaje tan central en la trama, y en la mansión Harper como todos, pero sobre todo sigo destacando a Hayley y a la pequeña Lily (que me parece adorable), y a Harper ¿Qué voy a decir de Harper, el hijo mayor y heredero de Roz? Pues que me dejó encandilada perdida en el anterior libro, y ver cómo trata a Hayley y a Lily me ha enternecido hasta el extremo.

La historia de Harper y Hayley es la siguiente, espero que esté a la altura, porque estos dos personajes han subido mucho mis expectativas. De modo que espero con ganas el desenlace final de esta trilogía, y averiguar qué le pasó a Amelia.
