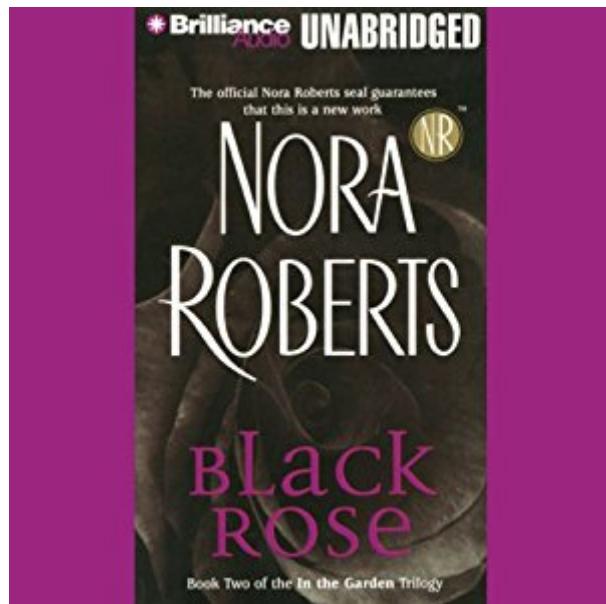


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Black Rose: In The Garden, Book 2



Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Nora Roberts presents the second novel of her In the Garden trilogy, as three women must discover the secrets from the past contained within their historic home. 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 to 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. Hired to investigate Roz's Harper ancestors, Dr. Mitchell Carnegie finds himself just as intrigued by Roz herself. And as they begin to resurrect old secrets, Roz is shocked to find herself falling for the fascinating genealogist—even when he learns more about her than anyone has before. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book 2 of the Garden Trilogy was just as enjoyable as the first book. The romantic development was slightly predictable...Nora Roberts has a pretty predictive style of building romantic tension, and

this one fits the formula. But the character development, scene setting and story line are superb. I love the garden setting, and the enormous amount of detailed research that must have gone into the writing of this book. Her descriptive phrasing puts you right into the middle of the setting, right down to smelling the flowers and feeling the heat of the sun on your back. A good amount of suspense, without being overtly "scary", it's a lot of fun to see the characters and their responses to their live-in and unpredictable ghost. VERY enjoyable read!

Purchased for a friend. I did not get to read the book but I am sure it is just as good as other series/books of Nora Roberts. My friend did read it and liked it. She has since recycled it to her local bookcrossing bookzone. You can't go wrong with a Nora Roberts book, so give it a try. She is on a short list of my favorite authors.

Garden Trilogy is made up of three books. Had no idea when I began to read the first one that I would be HOOKED into this trilogy. the suspense and the totally different spin to other books I have read had me from book to book. First one was an actual book, the Blue flower of some kind) - sorry, can't remember, and from there went into trying to find the next two, Black Rose and Red Lily - sat up late reading them in stages due to limited time - when ghosts appear in books, I'm a little skeptical, but this story weaved perfectly throughout the stories - each flower addresses a different woman in the series, all part of a "family" - great story telling and magically done with great characters, and very, very believable.

The book was very good. I loved all the characters. Roz reminded me of me, without the house and grown up adults and kids. I wish I had a "Mitch". Thanks Kit Ryan

Over one hundred years ago, a young woman on the brink of insanity...or just beyond it...disappeared without a trace. Her ghost haunts the house and grounds of the Harper household and has for as long as anyone alive can remember. Most who have seen or heard her speak of the care she shows to the children of the house, singing lullabies to the young and offering a comforting presence to young mothers. But there is a darkness, too, and when lullabies become edged in madness and comfort turns to terror, a group of family and friends must ban together to find out who their ghost is, where she is, if they have any hope of surviving her wrath. Rosalind Harper is a strong, independent, mature woman. She lost a husband young, made a mistake with a second marriage, but has lived a life of class and poise, correcting mistakes and building her life from

tragedy. She may be the mistress of Harper House, but her focus is her family and her business, the In the Garden nursery. Since the events of A Blue Dahlia (In the Garden, Book 1), Roz, along with friends Stella and Hayley and their respective loves and children, have had to put the search for the identity of the Harper Bride on hold. Genealogy expert Dr. Mitchell Carnagie was unavailable until a previous engagement was concluded. When Roz's path crosses Mitch's again during a wild spurt of Christmas shopping, more than talk of ghosts gets stirred up. Mitch's project is finished and he's ready to start the search for Amelia full time, and Roz realizes that the sexy doctor might just be the balm to that niggling bit of loneliness that tugs at her heart. What she doesn't realize is that her resident ghost has no love of men, and as the relationship between her and Mitch heats up, Amelia turns her viscous will into keeping them apart.

Some of my favorite romance reading of all time has been various Roberts' trilogies. I love how she weaves interesting and sympathetic characters who are easy to fall for into an overall arc that spans three books, while maintaining a level of storytelling that supports each book individually. She truly is a master at that impressive feat. I'm particularly fond of lead character Roz Harper, a woman of advancing age, within spitting distance of fifty, with concerns and attentions suited to her age and her milieu. She's got an ex-husband who's a rake and a snake, and she's forced to deal with him, though it goes against her grain to do so in the manner in which it is forced. She doesn't break under pressure of ghost or male ego, and holds close to her heart those she considers friends and family. As a character, she's the epitome of grace and cool southern charm...with just enough fiery temper to keep her from being too Stepford. While I am known for having a fondness for damaged characters who rise above their personal demons to wage battle against the forces of darkness, I admit I found Roz's well-balanced, independent nature both an admirable and welcome change. She's got a steel spine with pleasant touches of softness for contrast and depth, and she approaches problems with a keen mind and determination. I couldn't help but like her. And respect her. Mitch was a charming counterpoint. A man who is aware of his demons and admits to his past mistakes as he takes responsibility for them. He's a good man, honest and hard working, with the confidence to appreciate a woman of strength without the games and machinations so often seen in younger couples. Their relationship sparks and simmers, developing slowly but sweetly along with the plot threads of the Harper Bride, who shows her nasty side in all its freaky glory more than once, and the ex-husband, who's a sleaze of the first order.

There are ancillary plot threads of extended family that also add to the mix. Together, the plot develops with solid pacing and depth, each aspect complementing the other and building off each other nicely. Knowing that this was the second book in the trilogy helped assuage the impatience to get the answers to Amelia's past, and Roberts takes time to provide glimpses of her history and add

some truly atmospheric creepiness to her haunting ways. As a result, Amelia is just as well rounded...if definitely unbalanced...a character as the living members of the book. My only complaint...well...not really a complaint, more as a dissatisfied observation, with this book in particular and the series as a whole is that the characters all seem a little too perfect, a little lacking in flaws and insecurities and peccadilloes. They all make noises about their hang ups - Roz's temper and stubbornness, Mitch's tendency to be messy and forgetful, etc., but in the end, they're all just a little too perfect, always doing the right thing at the right time in the right way. It's a little disconcerting. And not always the easiest thing to relate to. I think that's why, despite the fact that I liked the book quite a lot, I never actually connected to it on a personal level, and why, though I admired Roz and had quite a lot of affection for Mitch, I was never completely invested in their relationship or the continuing saga of the Harper Bride. Not enough to be rabidly enthusiastic of it, anyway. I liked it, though. Quite a bit. And anyone who enjoys romance mixed with haunted houses and a centuries-old mystery and a lot of horticulture will probably enjoy it, too. Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

I am in love with Nora Roberts lately. I have been finding a few new, but mostly old re-published audio books of hers that I never read previously from the eighties! I drive a lot and getting lost in a Nora Roberts book keeps me sane while on the road!

Typical Nora Roberts. I liked the characters, they were likeable.

Really enjoying this series. Classic Nora Roberts!

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