



Veiled Rose

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Rose Red trusts no one with her secret. She hides in the forest, her face veiled in rags, shunning the company of all save her old father and her nanny goat. Her life is bleak and lonely.

Until she meets a privileged young man sent to spend his summer in the mountains. Headstrong young Leo startles everyone by befriendng Rose Red, and together they begin searching for the monster rumored to be stalking these lands.

But the hunt, which began as a game, holds greater risk than either imagines. Soon both are forced to test their trust in each other as a far more terrifying scourge puts their entire land at risk.

Veiled Rose Details

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From Reader Review Veiled Rose for online ebook

R.F. Gammon says

If the theme of Heartless was true love, this one is true beauty.

Still loving it, even on the second time through. <3

On to what may well be my favorite fantasy book ever.

Original Review:

4.5 stars, but I'll round up.

This book was SO GOOD. It took me a little while to get into it, but once I was in, I was hooked and could not escape. It was amazing. I could not stop reading.

Things I liked:

-Rose Red was so wonderful and sweet and the epitome of a strong female character. Her strength was quiet and tranquil, but it was realistic and she was all around amazing. One of my favorite female protagonists :)

-Leonard. I will admit that I didn't like him at all in Heartless, despite knowing that he just made a mistake, because you only saw Una's story in that book and didn't get to know what happened to cause it with Leo.

But now that I know.... poor baby. *huggles Leo and covers his ears*

-Daylily. She was so real and amazing.

-The Heartless references. Getting the first half or so of that book from Leo's POV was so great. I loved that part :D

-Beana. I could write an entire review all about her. I just hope she gets a bigger role in one of the later books :)

-The plot was riveting. And the twist at the end, when we find out why she wears the veil... mind. Blown. I suspected something similar... but it was still a major twist.

Things I didn't Like:

-there wasn't much. I'm shaving off a half star, though, because of the whole allegory thing. In Heartless the allegory was very obvious and made a lot of sense. In Veiled Rose, I was pretty sure it was still allegorical, but I couldn't tell exactly what the allegory meant. But that's my only real complaint!

All in all, a solid 4.5 stars and I'm glad I bought it!

Faye says

Veiled Rose is an intricately woven book, full of fresh fantasy with a classic feel. The story follows two complex main characters, Rose Red, a mysterious girl who covers her secret with veils, and Leo, a young prince who is always ready for adventure.

Veiled Rose reads like a timeless classic, a bit slow going at times but well worth reading. Ms. Stengl weaves an ethereal spell throughout the book, with complicated plotlines laid down ever so subtly. It is a

rich, engaging and all together enjoyable book.

At first, I worried that I might not "get it" because I haven't yet read the first novel in the series, but I soon found that Veiled Rose stood on its own splendidly.

Another thing that I wanted to bring up was that this book was far away from being predictable, and I think that's what made it enjoyable. I could never fully guess what was coming next, it pretty much always took me by surprise! And I loved that.

Overall Veiled Rose is a beautiful book that is entirely too easy to get lost in. I believe that it will thrill fans of the Classic Fairy Tale, as well as fans of Christian Fantasy, and some who aren't fans of either!

Final Rating: 4.75 out of 5

Josh Olds says

QUICK HIT – Drawing on themes of identity, beauty, and love, Veiled Rose follows the story of an enigmatic mountain girl, the prince she befriends, and the dragons they must face.

Veiled Rose is best described as a companion novel to Stengl's 2010 debut, Heartless. The novel follows a few of the same characters and expands upon a storyline given a brief reference in Heartless. Near the end, the storylines intertwine in a surprising but powerful way, providing depth and background to the fantasy world Stengl has created.

Veiled Rose begins several years before the events of Heartless, back before the dragon had taken Parumvir, back when his chess pieces were just being set, back when Lionheart was only a child. In Heartless, it is mentioned that the Southlands were taken by a dragon. This is the story of how that came to be.

But first, we begin with Rose Red. Rose is an enigmatic mountain girl who lives with the man she calls father (a gardener for the royals), a goat named Beana, an imaginary friend, and a dream man. The dream calls to her often, wooing her with eloquent words, promising to be her friend...and yet also insanely jealous of anyone else she might meet. Rose is also covered in rags from head to toe, veiled so that her face cannot be seen. She is not sure what's wrong with her, only that the man she calls father has warned her not to show herself to anyone.

Meanwhile, Prince Lionheart is a child spending his summer with his cousin. But cousins and studying and other princely things soon get boring, leading Leo to instead spend as much of his summer possible hunting the monster that allegedly lives in the mountains. And it's on one of his hunts that he meets Rose Red. The

two become fast friends, and though the years go by, they are brought back together. Back together to face the mystery of Rose's past and the terror of their present as a dragon descends on Southlands.

Veiled Rose is a much more complex story than its predecessor, covering a number of years and traversing almost the whole of Stengl's universe. In many ways, the novel provides setup for the story that's come before, in others it offers the same story from a different perspective. Having parts of this novel mirror parts of the previous novel was an ingenious literary device that Stengl pulls off flawlessly. Thematically, the story is also more complex, focusing on the lessons that each character needs to learn. Even in the end, not everything is solved and not all evil is eradicated.

This novel won an unprecedented consecutive Christy award, this time in the Visionary category, and it's easy to see why. The unique literary structure and the depth that brings the story makes it a must-read. Yet, Veiled Rose functions well as a standalone novel as well. Stengl's writing improves here, especially in letting the story give life to the analogies and themes she's writing. She also teases us with some characters I'm sure we'll see in future books.

Bluerose's Heart says

It took me a little while to get into this book. It moves quite slowly, but once it did grab my attention, it kept it. It's under 400 pages, but it seemed long. It felt like I had to read forever to get to the end. That's not necessarily bad, though. I was just so incredibly curious what was hidden under Rose Red's veil that I couldn't get to the end quick enough.

I felt like I was missing details. At times I was really confused, and didn't know who characters were suppose to be. I had to go back and re-read some parts, but still remained confused. This is the second in the series, and I haven't read the first one, so that may be the reason for confusion. I do plan on going back to Heartless, and I can't wait to read the final book next year. From my understanding Veiled Rose goes back in time from Heartless.

Contrary to what it looks like, I loved this book! It thrills me that fantasy books are sometimes published as Christian books, and it gives those that only read Christian book a chance to enter into the world of dragons and fairies and all. I get to read my favorite type of book without worrying about profanity. This book can be read perfectly fine by those who do or don't read Christian books.

I really loved Rose Red's character, and the mystery surrounding who she is. Her and Beana are probably the only characters that I really like right now. I'm very much looking forward to what part they play in the next book.

If I didn't know there are two other books in the series to tie together, I would have hated the ending. It was just heartbreaking!

Veiled Rose was just a beautiful book! You should definitely pick it up, and enter into a wonderful (and horrible) world of dragons and princesses.

*I was provided a review copy from Bethany House in exchange for my honest opinion.

Abigail says

This definitely was not as good as the first one but this still was an amazing book! I cannot wait to start the third one.

While the first book was about true love, this one was about true beauty. And I cannot wait to see what the third one is about!!

Kristen Kooistra says

Wow! Another great book in the series. It's been awhile since the first book so I only remembered bits and pieces of it. That kind of worked in my favor I think. Gave this book a fresh feel.

A young boy is sent to the country where he hears about a monster and decides to hunt it. His quest is set aside when he meets the strange Rose Red. A girl in the middle of nowhere, with a goat for company, AND she's always veiled.

The two hit it off in a very cute, best friends sort of way. The book covers from the time as a child until several years later as adults.

The character development of Rose Red and Leo was absolutely amazing. I loved Leo's open heart towards someone who would be considered beneath him and strange. And I adored Rose Red's spirit and strong moral character.

There's also an amazing lesson about not judging people based on their appearance.

Shantelle says

Lovely sequel to *Heartless* ... I am intrigued!

H.S.J. Williams says

In "Heartless" we learned the story of Una. Now in "Veiled Rose" we learn of a girl named Rose Red. She has to be one of the sweetest characters in literature.

Rosie wears veils to hide her appearance. She's spunky and stubborn. But perhaps she learned that from her Nanny goat.

As far as Rosie is concerned, all her friends are imaginary. So she's only too happy to make acquaintance with a young impetuous boy called Leo. He's looking for a mountain monster, and thus a friendship begins... Most of "Veiled Rose" takes place before "Heartless" and as the story overlaps, the reader understands people and hints in the first book that they didn't get before.

The novel is charming as we watch Rosie's and Leo's friendship blossom...and heart-wrenching as we see it

start to wither.

The author has weaved a beautiful story here about judging by appearances. The writing will draw you in. You will laugh at childhood antics, you will hold your breath as darkness covers all, you will cry over Rosie's struggles...and you will be dying for the next book "Moonblood."

"Veiled Rose" is a love story. But not in the way you think. It will not disappoint you, I'm sure.

Read this book...read it and learn.

Gabriela says

I'm sorry to be the odd one out, but I didn't get into this as much as Heartless. I dragged through most of it. Maybe it was because I had forgotten stuff from the first book, so that I didn't make the connection until I was reading something random about Heartless. But once I got closer to the end...it was great!

Rose Red has a secret. A secret that has her living in isolation in the mountains with nothing but an old man she calls father and her nanny goat. But then she meets headstrong Leo, who quickly becomes her friend, when no one else would. Together they play and search for a monster rumored to be in the mountains. But their trust in each other is tested when something more real and terrifying than anything they could imagine, comes to their land.

Leo, oh Leo. I must say, he was one of my favorite characters. His humor and his temper were fun to watch. There was times when I disliked him and the decisions or actions he took, but that made him more real. People have faults; they make mistakes. Don't you at some points dislike real people? So when I disliked him, I still considered him one of my favorites. I'm glad to watch him learn from his choices. And I'm sure we'll be seeing more of that in the coming books. Rose Red was...interesting. I didn't connect with her very well, but she was still really great to read about. I loved how far she was willing to go to keep her promises. I enjoyed watching the way she and Leo conversed together. It was so cute and sweet.

I thought about the first half was slow. I just couldn't get into it, maybe because the characters were so young at the beginning and it kind of put me off. I'm not sure, because there was plenty of mystery to keep a person interested. But it did pick up speed towards the end and there was so much action and danger. I started to worry for a bit! What a conclusion! It was kind of sad. Thank goodness there is more to this series.

The tale switched between Leo and Rose Red's point of view. Randomly, there were a few other points of view that added intrigue. This book went through a whole decade and more of time, but at no point did it get confusing. I still felt connected to the characters even after skipping over years of their lives. I have to say, that is quite an achievement.

This is a perfect blend of fantasy, fairytale, and allegory. I'm just beginning to realize how allegorical this series is. I don't think I realized that in the first book. This is for all the people who like this kind of story. You don't want to miss it.

You can check out this review on my blog too, at: <https://aheartredeemed.wordpress.com/...> Thanks!

Abigail Hartman says

I don't frequently read books by contemporary writers, and even less frequently do I enjoy them. "Veiled Rose," however, was more than a pleasant surprise; it is a fantastic (no pun intended) story, weaving so many threads together and creating so much tension that the book is impossible to abandon. One thing in particular I admire about the writing is the humor, which in many books is stale or absurd, but which in this one is hilariously dry. I have not yet read the first book in the series, Heartless, but I fully intend to - and will be eagerly awaiting Moonblood's release.

Stargazer R.L. says

I just read this book for the second time. What can I say? There's so much to this story, I'm not sure how I'm supposed to review it.

It's a Tale of Goldstone Wood. That's about all that needs to be said. It's funny. It's dark. It's colorful. It's smoke-covered. It's frightening. It makes me happy. It inspires me.

Lionheart was an adorable little kid! It was cool to watch him grow up and become who he was in Heartless. And it was awesome to see some of the scenes from Heartless from Lionheart's point of view! (And Monster took his Jester hat. :D :D :D)

Rose Red is extremely likable and a lot of fun to read about. :)

This book contains the most hilarious part in any book I've ever read. When Lionheart is talking in another language and gets it all wrong—I was laughing hysterically! I love it. :D

Dark, smoky, dangerous, beautiful, colorful, and inspiring, come together in a cascade of awesomeness to make Veiled Rose.

This isn't a complaint, it's more of a statement:
(view spoiler)

Long story short, I love this book. I love this series. I'm so thankful for it, because it makes me laugh, it's an epic tale to read, it's full of characters I love, and it tells me what I need to hear.

Ella Rose Carlos says

WOW! This was yet another MASTERPIECE!

The ending when Leo goes back to find Rose Red was just...too wonderful and powerful for words. I won't give anything away, but my heart was wrenched out, and healed, and happy and made stronger all at once! This really is one of the "greats." I will pass it down to my kids, and I'm sure they will pass it down to their own children. Though "Heartless" was my favorite between the first two books, this story was just as beautiful and breathtaking. Both of them have strengthened my relationship with Jesus, and I feel my heart will forever have a place in the Goldstone Wood tales. The book feels like memories, instead of just daydreams, and it gives me comfort.

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Well done, Anne! You wrote a masterpiece, and probably don't even know it.



Sierra Faith says

Did Ms. Stengl just write a book better than Heartless? Why yes, yes she did!!
Rose Red is now forever in my heart <3

Deborah O'Carroll says

(Good thing this is only part one... I'd give this fewer stars if that was the end--that wasn't an ending!--but fortunately I know the story continues... I need to read Moonblood, NOW.)

Angelc says

I've seen many great reviews of this series, but I have to be honest and say that I just didn't "get it." I think it hindered my reading that I didn't read the first book, but the story was just way too cryptic for my tastes. I felt like I wandered through the book in a fog that made no sense. I wanted at least one straight answer to my many questions.

I liked Leo's character and his growth. I especially liked that the author started to call him by his full name, "Lionheart", when he really became a man instead of a boy. However, I felt off-balance the whole time by his three love interests. The girl that was in the story the least, whom we knew the least about, was the girl that he was in love with. This really confused me and I didn't feel connected to her at all.

I actually liked how complex Daylily's character was, even if she wasn't always likable. At least the reader could understand her feelings and she had some redeeming moments where she did the right thing. I also loved Beana, the goat. She was a great mentor and gave a lot of guidance.

The lack of happily ever after and the confusion I felt even at the end contributed to why I didn't enjoy the book as much as I had hoped.

I'm glad this book has so many great reviews, but it wasn't for me. I grew tired of the mixed messages and trying to decipher even the smallest things about the story.

sent by publisher in exchange for honest review

reviewed for <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com>
