



## **The Blue Rose**

*Anthony Eglin*

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## **The Blue Rose** Anthony Eglin

Alex and Kate Sheppard have found the perfect house; the home they had always dreamed of owning. Nestled deep in the Wiltshire countryside and surrounded by a two acre walled garden, The Parsonage was to be their little paradise...but nothing stays perfect forever.

Soon after moving in they make an impossibly exciting discovery--one that defies every known law of nature and science. They find a blue rose bush flourishing in their walled garden. But as word of their discovery leaks out, the Sheppard's peaceful existence is shattered and they find themselves plunged into a world of coded journals, genetic experiments, cold-blooded greed, and ultimately, murder.

Threatened from every direction, Alex and Kate can trust no one but themselves, and the only way they can save their lives is to unravel the dark, seductive secret of the blue rose...

## **The Blue Rose Details**

Date : Published November 29th 2005 by St. Martin's Paperbacks (first published 2004)

ISBN : 9780312939113

Author : Anthony Eglin

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Mystery, Cozy Mystery, Fiction, Gardening

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## From Reader Review The Blue Rose for online ebook

### Lynn says

Cannot believe I never entered a review of this book! This is the first of the Lawrence Kingston mystery series and I loved it! I initially purchased one of these at a library book sale and am so glad that happened! This turned out to be quite suspenseful and I loved the twists and turns. This was much more of a thriller than I thought it might be at first. I always love Eglin's inclusion of horticultural information--that is one of the things that makes this series so unique to me, I think. Though I don't garden now, I sure have in the past! I loved it and am still interested...just lack time and land! :) You should try this series even if you have no real interest in gardening/horticulture. One of my good friends has absolutely no interest in it but loves this series!

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### Robin\_R says

A horticulture mystery? I couldn't resist.

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### Samara says

The proper mix of intellect, entertainment and mystery

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### Laura says

Outstanding gardening mysteries !!!! Im surprised there aren't more of these types of mysteries .....

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### Laurel Bradshaw says

Being set in England, and about gardens and gardening, I thought I would love this book, but it was just okay. It did get better toward the end, but I almost didn't finish it, not being terribly interested in the characters. The mystery was tepid - it tried to be a sort of cozy suspense/thriller. That doesn't work! I will read more in this series to see if it gets better.

Book Description from Amazon.com

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Series info:

English garden mystery series

1. The blue rose - read

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2. The lost gardens

3. The water lily cross

4. The trail of the wild rose

5. The garden of secrets past

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## **Barbara says**

Much more complex and thought provoking than the cozy mysteries I have been reading lately. Don't get me wrong - cozy mysteries have their place. They are very light and enjoyable - however, to me, they seem to have pervaded the literary market to the detriment of other mystery genres.

In any event, this harks back to the reason I came to love mysteries. Besides the obvious, the solving of the mystery - there is the conflicting feeling, thoughts, and motives of the characters you would characterize as the "good guys". The heroine and hero in this book have conflicted feelings and thoughts - do they proceed to "collect" on the riches they may receive from the blue rose they found in their new home's garden that was thought to be an impossibility to achieve. However, is it rightfully owned by the former owner of the home they have newly bought and moved into - or are "finders keepers"?

Then, you have the greedy, commercial corporate interests moving in and literally demanding that the rose be turned over to them. Though the worst enemy is an American, thankfully, he is not the only greedy capitalist.

Finally, there is the true hero of the book - the professor of botany that is the recurring character that assists in solving the mysteries - Lawrence Kingston. Not perfect - he can be a bit of a bore as he pontificates on flora and gardens, etc. But he is kind, intelligent and well-meaning and truly tries to help solve the mystery.

A very good read.

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## **Monica says**

This is really good mystery for a Winter read when you're missing your garden or you're maybe looking for a distraction from holiday stress. It's not a challenging read by any means and will allow you to get through it in short order if you have the time.

When I came across it, it was touted as Agatha Christie-like. I think they meant in that the detective was a sort of know-it-all like Poirot. But unlike Poirot, I found myself indifferent to Kingston. I was far more interested in Alex and Kate Sheppard, which doesn't bode well for the series since the carry-through character is bound to be the detective... That said, I plan on reading the Lost Garden (the 2nd book in the

series) to see if Kingston can come out of the shadows. He just feels like a secondary character even when he's in the midst of the action.

The violence is minimal and easily glossed over. The horticultural facts are interesting (Blue Roses are genetically impossible, who knew?!?). I could have done without the quotes at the beginning of each chapter since they were only tangentially relevant to plot, by which I mean they had the word "rose" in them. In fact, I just started ignoring them to be honest. But overall, a nice calm read.

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### **Sharon says**

In the garden of their newly purchased home a couple find a blue rose! Such a flower is believed to be a horticultural impossibility, yet there it is. A botanist is contacted, an attorney found and options to financially capitalize by selling the rose to the highest bidder are reviewed. Unfortunately it is not that easy and before long the couple wish they had never laid eyes on the blue beauty. Although the book gets off to a slow start it becomes very exciting as the race is on, not only to capture the rose but to save lives as well.

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### **Kathleen Dixon says**

I liked the idea of this book but it was quite plodding unfortunately. I also found the description of the rose a bit too sci-fi - simply "blue" would have been sufficient, without the other superlatives and the twist. Despite the ploddingness I did read it through. At one stage I decided to skip a couple of dozen pages, but then I wanted to find out what had happened to get it to that point. That shows a good plot, I guess. So then I just skimmed through the long-winded bits.

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### **Jazz says**

After a disappointing read in another gardening mystery series, I had really hoped to like this book, being the first in an English gardening mystery series. I absolutely loved it! In fact, I was enjoying it so well, that halfway through, I ordered the others in the series. I have a strong interest in gardens, and when combined with mystery and the excitement of the discovery of a blue rose, I couldn't resist it. Though the gardening theme attracted me initially, the story kept me turning pages from the very beginning. The writing was a notch above a cozy, and I honestly couldn't put the book down. The cottage setting in Wiltshire provided a romantic, but also secretive, mood.

The series detective is a retired botany professor, Lawrence Kingston, who assists a young couple who have discovered the blue rose in the overgrown, tangled garden surrounding their newly purchased cottage. They know a blue rose is a unnatural phenomenon and likely very valuable, but they don't know what to do with it. So they turn to Kingston. It isn't long before people begin dying because of the rose. Mr. Eglin's knowledge of gardening was apparent, without being intrusive. The information on roses was relevant and pertinent to the plot and as fascinating as I had hoped.

My only quibble is that it's described as a gardening mystery, when it really was more of a suspense novel. But that's a marketing issue more than a complaint about the book itself. I'm looking forward to all the others and only wish Anthony Eglin had written more than six.

### **Jean says**

Loved this book, a cozy mystery with a difference. A must read for gardening fans.

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### **Brandie says**

What an interesting tale! The title first grabbed my eye because I love roses so much. It isn't my usual mystery either - it doesn't have as much action as I normally like and the beginning was slow, but it felt so right for this story.

The story revolves around Alex and Kate Sheppard. They buy a new house and discover in their new garden a beautiful blue rose. A blue rose does not currently exist - so this is quite a find and many people are interested in getting their hands on this new rose.

Lawrence Kingston, who is a gardening expert comes in to help them figure out what to do. Here's where I admit at first Kingston rubbed me the wrong way - he's very formal, very smart and seems to know everything about everything. But by the end, I had come to realize what a gem he is!

I have already checked out the next book in the series and can't wait to read it!

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### **Judy says**

I thought I'd try this series as it pertains to garden/gardening. The main character never developed and the story just went on and on with a bad ending. There are 4 more books, but I'll shelve them in my nothing else to read column.

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### **KDawn says**

Didn't finish. Writing ok, but I really just don't care this much about roses.

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### **Carol says**

[Any gardener knows that a deep scratch from a rose can be dangerous. So that when Vicky got sick it should have been first th

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