



Scandal of the Black Rose

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The dashing gentleman and the determined lady both pursue the secrets of the Black Rose Society. But what they discover is forbidden passion and a dangerous desire.

Scandal of the Black Rose Details

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Author : Debra Mullins

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From Reader Review Scandal of the Black Rose for online ebook

Lynette Lazaroff-Carson says

It was ok ended abruptly no real conclusion

Maritza says

Great book. Never read from this author before but i must admit that it was really good. theres lust, mistery, action and even alot of people dying which is quite aspin from the ordanary romance. I must admit that I had the killer wrong throughout the whole book which was really a shock.

Lori Yvette Fernandez Lopez says

3.5 Stars. It was a bit shallow. They plot was not as intriguing to me as the blurb made it sound. Not bad, just not great.

Carole Moran says

As far as romances go, this one is a step above, mainly due to the mysterious Black Rose Society. It kept me guessing right to the end, and I was always off on my guesses! It has the usual overdone sex scenes and personal mental obsessing with the object of the heros/heroines affections, but otherwise is well done.

Caroline says

A textbook example of the difficulties and dangers of mixing plain-vanilla romance with murder mystery.

On the one hand we have the romance: Anna has been all but betrothed to Marc, Earl of Haverford, since she was a little girl. The marriage is a perfect arrangement for both families and Anna is prepared to go with the flow—until she meets Rome Devereaux, Marc's cousin. Anna and Rome are instantly attracted to one another, but both are indebted and honour-bound to Marc. What to do?

On the other hand, a dastardly secret society calling itself The Black Rose is leaving an inordinate number of dead bodies in town and country, all young men who had connections to the society and ended up run through with a sword. Anna's twin brother is one of them, and she's determined to solve the mystery of his death. Rome has promised a dying colleague-in-arms to look after his reckless brother, who seems to have got himself involved in the Black Rose.

Anna and Rome grope, gasp and pant in blissful, guilt-ridden agony while the body count grows. When Peter, the reckless moron whom Rome has vowed to protect, ends up skewered in a back street, the story rushes to a climax.

Sadly, there isn't much of a climax. As with so many authors who haven't plotted the narrative with care and precision, the loose ends and plot holes have to be pushed out of the way with a swashbuckling sword fight and a totally ludicrous revelation. Ludicrous and hurtful, in that the apprehension of the 'real' villain leaves one of the most sympathetic characters in the story in terrible distress, her agony brushed aside as the fanfares sound for the contrived happy ending.

Being a great conspiracy fan, I was drawn to this book by the 'secret society' metatag. Sadly the Black Rose is a pathetic caricature of an evil secret society, probably drawn from half-remembered Sherlock Holmes or Jack the Ripper books and movies.

Monique Takens says

Ik heb de Nederlands talige versie gelezen - Verboden gezelschap / Candlelight Historische Roman 800 .
Dit verhaal bevatte zoveel opvul blablabla dat ik hele pagina's heb overgeslagen om het interessant te houden .

Christine Ashworth says

From the very beginning, I got caught up in the delightful story of Rome and Anna. This is regency romance at its best - lusty, with house parties and balls and intrigue and people dying all over the place. There's a terrific mystery, and the "who" in the "whodunit" is well concealed until the very end. This is the first book of Mullins that I've read, and I'm impressed! If you like Historical romance, I definitely recommend it. It's right up there with Stephanie Laurens.

Betsy says

Never heard of this author before, but she was pretty good.

Juliana Philippa says

Not a bad book, but by no means inspiring - would be hard-pressed to recommend

This is the second book I've read by Debra Mullins - the first being Just One Touch, which wasn't my favorite historical romance of all time but an enjoyable read and better than Scandal of the Black Rose.

SUMMARY:

Convinced that her twin brother, Anthony, was not killed randomly by footpads, Anne Rosewood (20) is determined to discover more about the Black Rose Society - a mysterious club which she is certain is somehow responsible for her brother's murder. Her mission leads her into dangerous areas - a scandalous

gathering in Vauxhall Gardens where she pretends to be a prostitute, sleuthing around a tavern in a disreputable part of town, and into the arms of a handsome and dangerous man who also happens to be her intended's cousin.

Roman Devereaux (33) has just resigned his commission and is now seeking employment in the diplomatic corps. He's struggled for 12 years to restore honor and respectability to his family's name - ever since his father ran off with the fiancée of his uncle (the now-deceased Earl of Haverford, father of the current Earl, Marc, who is Anna's intended). Because Rome made a promise to a dying comrade to look after the man's younger brother, he attends a masked gathering in Vauxhall Gardens to determine what type of crowd the young man has fallen in with ... and meets a lovely and sensuous young woman whom he can't get out of mind - and is shocked to later discover is respectable young Miss Anna Rosewood, who is almost certainly to marry into his family.

CRITICISMS:

There wasn't really anything glaringly frustrating or bad about this novel, but although Anna and Rome were interesting characters and had good chemistry (about all they had with each other), there was a certain spark missing in the story and it just felt a little off.

Problems with the hero and heroine's relationship:

- ~ I didn't like that Anna and Roman go so far in their sexual relationship within the first thirty pages (granted he doesn't know she's not a prostitute, but she could have stopped him; she doesn't even know the man, or that he's a good guy - he could be a rapist!); would have preferred it just stuck to hot and heavy kissing
- ~ They go on a little excessively throughout the book about how much they want each other, remember "the feel of being in his/her arms," see desire in the other's eyes, etc.
- ~ They start talking of love far too early for the story, since they hardly know each other (and still don't IMO by the end of the book), but rather just share a mutual physical attraction
- ~ No matter that we want Anna and Rome to get together, they are being dishonest and disloyal towards Marc in their continued and furthered relationship - basically cheating (until everything becomes above-board at the way end - and is all tied up quite neatly, surprise-surprise, with no hurt feelings)

*Problems with the plot: (*includes slight spoiler*)*

- ~ The mystery subplot which is central to the story has a villain who is a complete surprise; we don't get any clues throughout the book that hint to the villain's correct identity (though Mullins does do a good job in throwing us off the path and making us suspect other characters in the book)
- ~ The problem of figuring out who's in the Society and disbanding it is all resolved quite quickly, easily, and anti-climatically

BOTTOM LINE and SIMILAR BOOKS:

This book is by no means bad, but it's not all that memorable. With so many great historical romances out there that one can't wait to reread the minute one finishes them, I would recommend reading one of those instead of buying this book or getting it from the library. Some of my favorites with mystery/action subplots include: Irresistible (Banning Sisters Trilogy, Book 2) by Karen Robards; A Notorious Love (Swanlea Spinsters, Book 2) by Sabrina Jeffries; Someone to Watch Over Me (Bow Street, Book 1) by Lisa Kleypas; The Hostage Bride (Bride Trilogy, Book 1) and The Least Likely Bride (Bride Trilogy, Book 3) by Jane Feather; Lord of Fire (Knight Miscellany, Book 2) by Gaelen Foley; After Midnight by Teresa Medeiros; and Lady Rogue by Suzanne Enoch.