



The Silver Rose

Susan Carroll

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From Brittany's fog-shrouded forests to the elegant dark heart of Paris's royal court, one woman must challenge a country's destiny-and her own dangerous fate.

France, 1585. She is the youngest and most powerful of the "Sisters of Faire Isle," women known far and wide for their extraordinary mystical abilities. Skilled in healing and able to forecast the future of those around her, Miri Cheney has returned to her ancestral home to take refuge from a land devastated by civil war-and to grieve for her family, driven to exile. But she cannot hide from the formidable new power threatening to seize control of France from the dread "Dark Queen," Catherine de Medici-a diabolical woman known only as the Silver Rose. Miri has no choice but to turn to the one man she distrusts as much as she desires: Simon Aristide, the charismatic witch-finder who is now himself the hunted, and who has reluctantly made an unholy pact with Catherine. Miri must defy throne and family to save all that she loves most-and command a future greater than she could ever imagine.

Vibrant with stunning historical detail, alive with characters as richly passionate as they are compelling, *The Silver Rose* is a sweeping, exquisitely wrought tale from a mesmerizing storyteller.

The Silver Rose Details

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From Reader Review The Silver Rose for online ebook

Jori Richardson says

"The Silver Rose" opens with Miri Cheney, the youngest of her sisters, just having arrived back at Faire Isle, her beloved home. However, trouble arises almost immediately after her arrival when Simon Aristide, a man she once loved before he betrayed her, shows up unexpectedly. He tells her about a new evil force of witches that are rising, led by a mysterious unknown woman called the Silver Rose. Despite misgivings about how much she can trust Simon, Miri follows him on his quest, and finds herself falling in love with him again.

I got this book at Goodwill, and found that it was the third in a series. However, I don't think that these books have to be read in chronological order, because relevant events from the other two books were explained satisfactorily.

That being said, I certainly won't be reading the other books in this series. "The Silver Rose" was simply pathetic. There were so many things wrong with it, I began taking notes on a note card that was serving as my bookmark. By the time I was only a few chapters in, the card was full.

Overall, this book was cheaply written, void of any depth, power or skill. If I had to guess, I would say that the writer's influences came from Harlequin romances. I felt painfully surrounded by corniness, awful writing, and predictable romance plot-lines constantly.

The characters were dreadful, one sided, lifeless sketches. The main character, Miri, annoyed me to no end. She is supposedly twenty-six or around there (I forgot the exact number), and yet she acts more like a sixteen year old, which I how I pictured her. She was cast with the unfortunate cliche of the typical "girls-don't-need-boys!" attitude, and I can assure you that it was far from well done. I kept asking myself how Miri could possibly be so naive and stupid (though the book describes her as wise; her only flaw being a bit too trusting). It did not take me long to figure out that it wasn't Miri, it was the author.

Simon Aristide, the supporting character with the second biggest role in the story, was also the exact same man that can be found in thousands of other stories. He was cast as the equally cliche ruggedly handsome tough-guy with a dark side, but actually turns out to be a very caring, sensitive man underneath. I wasn't impressed.

I won't go on, but suffice it to say that all of the characters made for quite uninteresting reading.

And right from the very beginning, there are problems with the plot.

Here are some of them...

- Miri thinks about Simon (and is discussing him with a friend) randomly after ten years of hearing nothing from him, and then, lo and behold, he shows up that very day!
- Miri's cat warns her to hide because Simon can't track her, but Simon does track her, and then once he is close the cat leads him right in front of Miri's cabin to "trap him," which he escapes from minutes later.
- The book tells us that the reason Simon found Miri was because she didn't follow her sister's advice about not attracting attention on Faire Isle (meaning, by standing up for a young girl), but how could Simon hear about that within a few hours, and why would anyone care?
- A woman is weeping and wanting to die because she believes that Miri is dead. Why doesn't she just walk over to her cottage and see?
- Miri adamantly refuses to believe Simon's story about the Silver Rose, but suddenly does a few minutes later after he shows her a weapon one of their witches carried. It could have been anyone's. An exceptional

weapon doesn't mean that his story is true. Why is she so stupid not to think of this?

- In the middle of the night, Simon is forced to journey to Catherine's castle to receive orders, which are all very badly thought through on the author's part, and then returns to the inn he was staying at in time for Miri to never even know he was gone. This just seemed pretty suspicious to me.

- Simon and Miri kiss three times and the author is still telling us that nothing is going on between them and trying to surprise us by having them kiss again... oh, how unexpected.

- Miri is supposedly some sort of strong warrior sorceress (which we, by the way, never see any evidence of in the story), but when Martin and Simon are about to fight, all she can do is stand there and whine "Oh, stop. Oh, please don't. Please don't do it."

There are more, but I don't want to give away spoilers in case anyone is still determined to actually read it.

And there's more! (I could go on and on). Just things that annoyed me, or that I didn't like...

- Constant stammering! Constant! It was so aggravating I wanted to scribble out all of those extra letters. I couldn't possibly read another book by this author, at risk of hearing another "T-the" or "c-can't."

- Disturbing analogies and word usage in the romance scenes. Maybe the author was trying to make it seem rougher, or sexier... I don't know. Whatever she was attempting, all she did was make me grimace at her choice of words. Things are always described as "assaulted her skin with his hands..." or, the worst, "plundered her mouth..." Plundered? That must be the absolute worst description of kissing I've ever heard of. Also, Martin frequently called himself Miri's "slave." Too many times. Is that supposed to be romantic?

- The back cover of this book led me to believe that this was historical fiction with a touch of fantasy. Please do not be fooled. This book is all fantasy. The only thing historical about it is throwing in a random year and some names of people in history.

- The character of Carole was all over the place. She simply did whatever was most convenient for the plot, and pretty much nothing that she did made any sense.

- Faire Isle is an island made up of women. Women make the rules and the decisions, and have more rights there. There are only a few men. First of all, this seemed very cliche to me. Also, every woman on the island apparently has a family. Don't they need men for that...?

- Miri's first crush was Simon, ten years ago. He betrayed her, and she supposedly moved on. And all that time, she has had no other crushes, no other lovers, and is still a virgin when she and Simon later make love? Hmm...

- Just one more. The author tries to throw a curve ball by introducing the character of Martin into the story. I predicted she would do just that as soon as I read that Miri's sisters suggested she settle down and marry a certain boy who was head over heels for her. So just as Miri and Simon are falling in love (toward the end of the book), Martin appears at the perfect timing. Does the writer honestly think that she is fooling us into believing that there is a love triangle emerging?

And Martin goes on to be a major part of the climax and ending of the story, after only appearing so late... shouldn't he have been built up a bit more if he was so important?

As you can probably see, everything in this story seems to have gone wrong.

So was there anything I liked about this book? Surprisingly, yes. As often as I was constantly rolling my eyes, I actually managed to mildly enjoy reading this book. The book is positively drenched in cliche after cliche, but I suppose that the reason certain plot and character ideas are so popular is that they work (so long as you don't study them too hard, that is). I felt that I knew the entire story before I even really got started, but it was entertaining, I suppose.

And as badly written as the character of Martin was, I actually did like him. He was funny, and I pictured him as that hilariously charming prince in Shrek.

Overall, I would advise you not to waste your time on this awfully written book.

Rayna says

By far the most boring of the trilogy. Miri is just not an interesting character to devote an entire book to.

Jacki says

Miribelle Cheney, daughter of the earth and sister to the Lady of Faire Isle, has returned home from exile only to have her peace interrupted by Simon Aristide, famed witch-hunter, and the sinister plans of a dark sisterhood. To battle evil and put a stop to the sorceress called Silver Rose, Miri finds herself partnered with the witch-hunter who has destroyed her family and heart and the Dark Queen, Catherine de Medici.

Third in The Dark Queen Saga, The Silver Rose completes the stories of the three Cheney sisters and bring yet more suspense and conflict to their lives. Once again a Cheney sister finds herself falling for the least likely suitor and learning how strong she truly is.

Miri has always been my favorite of the Cheney sisters and I adored how she has grown over the course of these first 3 books. The story of Simon is also powerful and heart-wrenching. If one loves Historical Fiction, with a little fantasy thrown in, this entire series is a must read.

Andy Kornylo says

See full review for The Silver Rose at: <https://toomanybooksnotenoughshelves....>

In The Dark Queen, Ariane found her happy ending with the Comte de Renard. In The Courtesan, Gabrielle found her happy ending with Captain Remy. But what about the final Cheney sister? Miri seemed to be living an okay life when The Courtesan ended, but when The Silver Rose begins, she isn't happy. It's been ten years and her family has been exiled from the Faire Isles due to being traitors and practicing witchcraft. Miri has ventured back to the isle and things aren't as she left them. The isles are mostly abandoned and the people who have stayed are whispering ninnies. They want Miri gone no matter the consequences.

The opportunity arises when a familiar face comes back – Simon Astride, the witch hunter. The only problem is that he's not there to flush out the final Cheney sister, he's there for her help in tracking down the notorious Silver Rose, a new pagan threat. But will Miri really help him considering all the ways he's betrayed her in the past?

Christy B says

At first, reading **The Silver Rose**, I didn't think I would enjoy it as much as the others, but after finishing, I realized that this was probably my favorite of the series.

The Silver Rose focuses on the youngest Cheney sister: Miri. Miri is probably the most powerful of the Cheney sisters, due to her ability to communicate with animals, her gift for healing, and her ability to see the future. She's also a bit of a spitfire. Due to being the youngest, Miri no doubt had been seen as fragile, and she snaps at anyone who thinks she isn't strong enough to fight for what she believes in.

Miri unexpectedly teams up with witch hunter Aristide to help track down The Silver Rose, a witch who seems to be as evil as the devil himself, and who is giving women like Miri – a daughter of the earth – a bad name.

I thought I'd stop with the series with this book, seeing as how we're done with the stories of the three Cheney series, but I have to know what happens to one of my favorite side characters: Martin, who popped up in book two and I loved at first sight. His story seems to be just beginning.

The Silver Rose is, so far, the darkest of the series, and definitely the best.

Rachael says

Apparently, this was the third in a series; I didn't realize it until I had already started the book, so I continued on with the hope that the author wrote well enough that this book would stand alone without the previous books. And I wasn't let down. The important details from the previous books are scattered throughout the novel in such a way that I didn't feel like I was missing important parts of Miri's background, and there wasn't so much that had I read the other books I would have felt like it was just the retelling of the same stories again.

Even though this is a typical historical romance, with a broken, tough guy as the hero and a fix-everything good girl playing the heroine, I really enjoyed this book. In this case, the broken man is a remorseful witch-hunter with a sad past and the good girl is technically a witch. I liked the twist of the Silver Rose's true identity, although it was revealed so early in the book that it didn't feel like a surprise when the main characters discovered her identity.

Maria Clara says

Este es el primer libro que leo de esta autora y no será el último! Me ha gustado mucho; más de lo que esperaba. Y aunque es el último de la trilogía, se puede leer sin problemas; por más que te entran unas ganas locas de leer los otros. El único pero que le he encontrado es el final: demasiado precipitado, quizás me a faltado un poquito más acción y romance...

Ruth says

Loving this series about the Cheney sisters. This one focused on Miri, the youngest sister, and her love/hate relationship with a witch hunter.

Amelia, the pragmatic idealist says

Okay, so I've read so many reviews where people say that this installment of Susan Carroll's fantasyish/historical fiction DARK QUEEN series is their favorite. So maybe I entered with too-high hopes, because while I did enjoy it, I still liked the first book the best. The whole witch/witch-hunter relationship certainly was interesting, but I still would choose Renard over Simon anyday. This book in particular just seemed a little too "wordy." I mean, characters would just go into paragraph-long emotional revelations (in their heads, most of the time) that became extremely repetitive over the 500+-page-course of events. At times, the dialogue would be so "emotional," it would come across as super-sappy. It seems to me that if two people are - umm - making out--they're not going to be TALKING so much!!! I burst out laughing a few times, that's for sure! It's funny, but also over-the-top, just *how* in-touch Simon seems to be with his feelings. Now I'm not saying that guy characters should have the emotional capacity of bricks, but when they say things like, "Ever since I was a boy, blah blah blah blah," it makes them seem very unrealistic!

Like I said, I do like Simon and Miri and think they are cute together, but at times I thought that there were contradictions in their characterization. Either a character is "innocent" (a word Carroll really likes to use, but doesn't seem to know the definition of), or they're not, so make up your mind! But I will say that I liked the two of them together--their relationship seems natural, and they relate to each other really well (if not too well).

There's not as much "history" in this book as *The Dark Queen*, but overall that wasn't too much of a loss. Catherine de Medici only has about 2 or 3 scenes in this book, and the climax doesn't revolve around a major historical event like in the first book. And Ariane and Gabrielle - while seen in flashbacks and referred to frequently - don't make an actual appearance. I just thought I'd throw that out there. Rather, a lot of characters from the previous book *The Courtesan* (which I have NOT read) are carried over into this book. Again, one thing I like about this series is the ability of each of the books to stand on their own: there's enough recap to make the reader aware of events from previous books without feeling lost or confused. I certainly never felt confused about characters or events, but I never felt like Carroll was getting redundant, either, so she did that well :D

So yes, I "really liked it." I liked *The Dark Queen* better, but this was enjoyable nonetheless!

Sensitivemuse says

This was an interesting story! I'm glad to see a new threat introduced besides The Dark Queen herself. It's also nice to see Miri finally 'grown up' and I enjoyed watching her character develop throughout the three novels. She still maintains a bit of her naivete, yet most of it is gone because of what went on between her and Simon in the previous book.

I was so glad to see Martin Le Loup was back for this book! I loved him as the comic relief, and he gets even more comical when he squares off with Simon. The pace of the novel was good and the mystery behind The Silver Rose was also well done. I was hoping to see the return of the older two Cheney sisters, but it seems Miri is just the main feature for this book. The plot has a more paranormal magical feel to it, it's still in a historical setting, but you don't really see famous royalty as much as before. I suppose the book was to take a

break from the usual setting, to give the series a good break and to try something new. It's good because not only does the plot take a turn for the more interesting, but a new setting is nice to see.

I liked seeing Miri and Simon together. There is a lot of tension and passion between the two of them. The reader does not feel that much intensity between Miri and Martin but they're also nice together as well. It's hard to choose between Martin and Simon as they both have their good qualities, but it just seems Martin is the more fun of the two men. His charm and his ability to get a laugh or a smile from the reader just seems to come naturally.

There was only one thing I did not like: there was a love scene, but what annoys me is during that particular point in the book the characters were being followed with the intent to kill or harm. Yet the couple in question feel it's all right to take the time to do the deed. This is what I can't stand. Really? couples do that? when they're in danger they feel the need to do the horizontal dance and not care there's a band of men ready to kill them? why? is that necessary? we already know they're in love what's the point?! it just annoyed me and I don't like seeing this in novels I'm reading. To me, this does not make sense. All this aside though, I did enjoy reading this book. The ending opens more possibilities for future books which I will pursue. I have become too attached to the characters to just give up (plus, I'd really like to know what's in store for Le Loup!)

It's a great book and written with the same quality of writing as the other two, so fans will not be disappointed. Those just getting started would also enjoy reading this although it would help at least reading *The Courtesan*. Characters from the previous book are carried over to this one.

Bird says

I saw that many reviewers said this was their favorite in the series, but I didn't agree. Maybe it was because I didn't like Miri as much as the other sisters, or because I read them all in such quick succession that Carroll's writing started to grate on me.

The book seemed a bit repetitive. I got tired of the internal monologues of Miri and Simon where they went on for paragraphs at a time about how they knew they couldn't have one another, and how could they ever move past what had happened before. Additionally, Miri's eyes were described as being "fey eyes" so many times that I lost track. Carroll was really hitting us over the head with some of the descriptions. We get it already!

However, I did enjoy the plot. Although I wish the other Cheney sisters had made an appearance.

I've ordered the other two books in the series, although they don't focus on the Cheney sisters. I'm hoping that they are at least side characters, because I've gotten pretty attached to the family after reading the first three novels!

Gaile says

The Silver Rose continues the saga of the three sisters of Fair Isle. This one concentrates on Miribelle, the youngest also called Lady Of The Wood.

The witch hunter Le Belafre has been ordered by Catherine DeMedici to wipe out the new coven of The Silver Rose. No one knows exactly who The Silver Rose is but anyone who handles a silver rose dies and Catherine after an attempt on her own life and hearing rumors that they have the Book Of Shadows wants to know who she is.

Never would Martin Le Loup expect to run across the mad witch he made love ten years before nor does Miri expect the dark witch hunter to become her beloved.

This held my interest from beginning to end. It was quite a mad adventure, the author keeping the pace of the suspense and me turning the pages. I can safely say Susan Carroll improves with each book to write. Now only three to go in this saga.

I particularly liked Miri's ability to read the thoughts of animals.

This series has made me very curious about the ancient close to the Earth religion which is why I have to read more about that too!

Elizabeth says

The Silver Rose takes you into the world of the youngest Cheney sister Miri who has returned to the Island of Faire Isle, because she missed her home, but nothing is as she remembers it. Women can no longer come here searching for a place where they are safe from the eyes of the world, The world is now a place that hunts down witches and burns them at the stake, Fair Isle used to be a place of refuge for Daughters of the Earth to come, a place of safety where they could gather together, and practice their trades, and live together in harmony, but now even Miri's sisters are not safe here after her long ago friend Simon, convicted them, of witchcraft, and they had to flee for their lives. Now as Miri looks around she sees, bitterness and spite in the women of Faire Isle instead of the harmony that once existed in her childhood home. Miri receives the shock of her life when Simon comes calling for help to vanquish the Sisterhood of the Silver Rose, a coven of witches that has been following and attacking him; how can she trust what he is saying after he has betrayed her trust so many times? And yet he seems so beaten down and weary; he wants her older sister's help at first but Miri says no wanting none of her relatives involved in something so dangerous after all they have been through; especially with the man who put them through half of their misery. Instead she decides to follow Simon herself and help him defeat this coven of witches who are giving daughters of the earth everywhere a bad name. What follows is a book full of surprises, as Miri's suitor back home decides to join in on the adventure, the "wolf" joins in; you find out who the silver rose really is and Miri discovers that true love can be found in the strangest of places, and that it is not always the man who must take charge. This book was a fun read, there were some slow places, but for the most part it was fact paced and not one you wanted to put down.

Gretchen says

My favorite Cheney sister - it was wonderful to see Miri set things to rights.

Rusty says

The Silver Rose by Susan Carroll is a romantic fantasy. I like Carroll's writing style. Her books flow so well that the read goes quickly and sometimes quick reads seem just right . This is the story of Miri Cheney, the youngest of the Cheney sisters, known also as The Lady of the Woods. She has an affinity with animals - can

talk with them, relate to them and heal them. Sometimes she even heals humans. She lives in an isolated cottage deep in the woods with Necromancer, a black cat with white paws who warns her of approaching strangers and danger. When she discovers an abandoned baby boy and a poisoned silver rose, she realizes that her beloved Faire Isle is as endangered as the rest of France plagued by a coven of misguided and evil witches led by the Silver Rose. Miri has two admirers, Simon Aristide, a witch hunter whose zealous crusade against witches drove her sisters from Faire Isle, and Martin le Loup, a dashing handsome friend who loves her. Miri and Simon embark on a quest to find and destroy the dreaded coven and the Silver Rose. What happens next is sometimes predictable, sometimes not, but, for me, fun. It's a good read, rated by some as the best of the series. Others prefer The Dark Queen.

Marta says

The Silver Rose is romantic in a wonderfully old-fashioned way. This is a book to sigh over gustily.

Witch hunter Simon Aristide is weary from a life time of trying to fight evil. As the story opens, he is beginning to admit how harmful some of his own actions may have been. Lady of the Woods, Miri Cheney, is the youngest of three wise women sisters. She is unforgettably beautiful, good and innocent, and is living in a little cottage in the woods where she can speak to and heal animals.

It is like a Disney movie crossed with The Scarlet Pimpernel!

As if that is not enough, two evil sorceresses plot vile things against each other and mankind, with Miri and Simon caught in the middle. Into this muddle steps Le Loupe, another man (who is pretty spectacular) also in love with Miri, leaving Simon grappling between nobly wishing for her happiness while being hopelessly jealous.

A little long in places for me, but it does allow a chance to really get immersed in this magical France of long ago.

Laurie says

I really enjoyed the Witch elements of these books and the problem solving that they go through together. I have not read the other 2 in the series but this one was great

Janet Miller says

From Brittany's fog-shrouded forests to the elegant dark heart of Paris's royal court, one woman must challenge a country's destiny—and her own dangerous fate.

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Vibrant with stunning historical detail, alive with characters as richly passionate as they are compelling, *The Silver Rose* is a sweeping, exquisitely wrought tale from a mesmerizing storyteller.

Rio (Lynne) says

I found this book (the 3rd in the series) to be very slow paced. The Cheney sisters are wise women. In this one Miri, the youngest of the sisters comes into her own. Simon, the evil witch hunter aka her forbidden love since book 1, comes back to Fair Isle in need of her help. In the prior 2 books, Catherine de Medici was the sister's worst enemy between good and bad witchery, but in this book we are introduced to The Silver Rose. I won't go into much detail for spoiler alerts, but for fans of this series you will enjoy the familiarity of Miri and Simon. Their chemistry and dialogue were great, but sadly the plot this time was weak. For those who have not read this series because you might think it's hocus pocus witch stuff, it really isn't. It's about wise women who are called witches because they know herbs, poison and medicine (something women weren't allowed to know in those days.) There wasn't as much history in this novel as the previous 2. Honestly, I was a little disappointed.

Becky says

The only way I'll be happy with this book is if Wolf gets his own story. I think this one stretched the belief of forgiveness. Maybe I'm just cold hearted. But the most endearing and entertaining character (Mr. Wolf) would be much worthier of a book than the insipid Mirry and her miraculously (and suddenly) changed boyfriend.
