



Picking Up the Pieces

Denise Grover Swank

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While Rose might be reeling from the news that Joe's ex-girlfriend is pregnant, she's got bigger issues to deal with. One, putting her business back together albeit with a new partner and into two separate entities; and two, trying to keep the Fenton County Sheriff's Department from figuring out the true identity of the Lady in Black.

****Novella following *Thirty-Two and a Half Complications* in the USA Today bestselling *Rose Gardner Mystery* series.** Includes POVs from Violet, Bruce Wayne, Joe, and Mason.**

Picking Up the Pieces Details

Date : Published November 1st 2014 by DGS

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Author : Denise Grover Swank

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From Reader Review Picking Up the Pieces for online ebook

Monique says

This series is a must read not only for Denise Grover Swank fans but all rom/com/sleuth fans.

The series is about Rose Gardner and her every day life that is anything but 'everyday' living. The main books are all in Rose's POV. The two novellas that accompany this series have some of the other main characters POV. Therefore they are very important to the story line. You get to know what these characters are thinking and why they re-acted to different situations.

I love anything DGS writes but this is my favourite series so far (she has a new one coming out January 11th -The Substitute from the Wedding Pact Series). I enjoyed this novella immensely, filling in some pieces of the previous books but also asking more questions to be answered in Thirty-Three and a Half Shenanigans due November 4th.

I don't want to add any spoilers in this review, but would like to add that my favourite parts were Mason's chapters - Rose's boyfriend. <3 #TeamMason!

If you are reading the Rose Gardner Mysteries, then you really need this novella to help you understand what is making the other characters tick.

Charity says

November 4th until the next book?! Too long!

Theresa says

4 Fascinating Stars...This was quite the insightful novella depicting multiple POVs including Rose, Mason, Joe, and Violet; sharing their individual responses to events experienced in the previous novel...this novella allowed me to explore each character in more depth and develop a stronger understanding of their motivations; specifically Violet and the life experiences she endured that contributed to how she navigates her relationship with Rose; how her initial good intentions have warped with time and have gotten misdirected; it allowed me to feel compassion for her, but at the same time, recognize her unhealthy coping mechanisms and the potential for disaster as a result...Denise Grover Swank has developed a complex cast of characters with dynamic relationships that leave the reader wanting more and more...I look forward to the continuation of the storyline and how the mysteries will unfold:)

ReBecca says

Another great book by Denise Grover Swank!! I absolutely loved getting others perspective and opinion on what is happening in the series. This one was even more enjoyable because you got to learn more about

Mason, Joe, and Violet's past and what has happened in their life to make them who they are in the present. I needed this book because I was really starting to get angry with the characters and their actions, but this book helped explain so much of why they are being the way they are. Another great read!!! :)

Pamela says

I absolutely LOVE this series. I mean LOVE, LOVE, LOVE. Denise Grover Swank ("Swank") is one of my all-time favourite authors. This novella, while short, is still an amazing read. If you haven't already downloaded your free copy of "*Picking Up the Pieces*" (yes, I said free), you still have some time left. Just go to Swank's website and sign up for her newsletter and follow the instructions. You have until November 3, 2013. Otherwise you'll have to order it online.

The novella is a little different from the other novels in the series as this one explores the lives of Violet, Bruce Wayne, Mason, and Joe a little more, all written from their POV.

I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss one particular person who really sticks under my craw and that's Violet, Rose's big sister. From her POV we get a better insight as to her character, and her relationship with Rose, her mother, and her husband. I personally think the woman is delusional. Regardless of how she justifies her actions, in particular her relationship with Rose, none of it rings true. Nothing does. (view spoiler)

Is anyone else not tired of this bullshit? I have to wonder if Swank will continue on this path, or surprise us all and have Rose tell her off once and for all.

For those of you who are reading this amazing series, don't forget to read the novellas. They're a must-read. The only downside to reading this novella? I want book 6 in my hands right freakin' now!!!

Diana says

Well just finished the first installment of the novella. Love it! It answered some the questions I was asking at the end of the last book. Is Hillary really pregnant? What is with Violet? And hopefully the next installments will answer - what will Mason do about the Black Lady? Keep it up. Really enjoy the series.

Ian says

I love this series. I love Denise Grover Swank's writing. I love the characters in these books. But honestly, this is a disaster.

It's not really about anything. Maybe if it was free, I would say it's worth the effort for the serious fans. Hell, charge a dollar and might say it's worth it, but it's not worth \$2.33.

It's told from multiple POVs and....

You know what? I finished it less than an hour ago and I've already forgotten what it's about. The synopsis tells me it's about Rose breaking up her business into two separate entities. I wanted it to be about that. If it was about that I think I might have liked it. But whatever it was about, it wasn't worth my time.

Angela says

Where do I even start? I loved this novella. We get the point of view of not only Rose, but Joe, Violet, Bruce Wayne, and Mason. There are so many emotions running through me as I write this review. We learn a lot through this novella. First off, Violet... I have no words for her. We find out why she cheated on her husband. In my honest opinion, the only one to blame for her life is herself. She made the life she "wanted" and should deal with each and every aspect of it and not blame it on Rose, because she felt the need to protect her. Joe.. my heart breaks for him for more than just the fact that he is expecting a baby with Hilary. We find out another reason why Mason doesn't like Joe. I love that in the end Mason and Joe will be working together. I love both Mason and Joe and I find myself constantly tossing over who I want Rose with more. They would both be great for her as they both love her more than they love themselves and would do absolutely anything for her. Rose is one lucky girl.

This is a quick read but definitely worth every page. The extra information that Swank shares with us through this novella help develop the series even more. You get a better understand of why the characters make the decisions that they do and why they are where they are in life.

Colette Wills says

This series is amazing! Drama and romance mix to make an awesome read.

Imjussayin says

Picking Up The Pieces: Rose Gardner Mystery 5.5

Reading in chronological order is recommended but not necessary

In A Nutshell: A story written for fans and/or to generate income. It is the missing or edited chapters from thirty-two and a half complications told from the POVs of Rose, Mason, Joe, and Violet.

The Plot: Distinctly lacking.

The Protagonist: Rose is one of life's late bloomers, but she is finding her feet and becoming independent. Rose has the honesty of a child with all the hilarious consequences. She is a loving and lovable character who cares for those on the margins. Rose has the "sight." Naturally, the uncontrollable gift manifests at the most inconvenient of times.

Could not recommend in good conscience.

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Book Rating

Sexual Content: 16

Language: 16

Violent: 16

Would I read the next one or reread? Unlikely for a novella

My rating system (* = star)

0* Could not finish this book (waste of time)

1* Finished the book but didn't like it.

2* Finished the book it was okay.

3* A good read worth your time.

4* An excellent read often with a novel concept or unusual plot.

5* A great read. A prominent example of the genre.

CM says

This little novella brought back the **thing** that makes me love Rose's story. After 31½ I was a bit disappointed, but now I'm anxiously waiting for 33½!

I says

oh Violet you're a b*tch! I was starting to empathize with you and then you go and ruin everything on the last pages of the part 1! can't wait for part 2 and 3!

and Joe I just don't know how you recovered my sympathy...

Jamie Davis says

Definitely Picks up the Pieces!!!

Yet again, Denise Grover Swank delivers a novella that ties everything together and delivers the "in between" stories from different perspectives. These novellas are absolutely perfect, and Picking Up the Pieces is no different. Bruce Wayne, Joe, Violet, and Mason all share their point-of-views reminding us that everyone has a story and a background. If you love the Rose Gardner mysteries, then Picking Up the Pieces is an absolute MUST READ!!!

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

Picking Up the Pieces is #5.5 in the Rose Gardner Series by Denise Grover Swank. First of all, anyone that knows me knows that I am somewhat obsessed with both this series and this author. In fact, people may even go so far as to avoid the subject with me in fear of setting me off on a fan girl tangent. I found Picking Up the Pieces to be a very important part of this series. For the first time ever we are getting points of view from Violet, Bruce Wayne, Joe, and Mason. In fact, both the novellas in this series, Falling to Pieces and this one I feel are just as important as the full length books. They add so much that I can't imagine not including them.

I read this novella in three parts, one part released each month by D.G. Swank. In the first part we got Violet's POV and a lot more of the childhood history of Violet and Rose. I still ended this section with a strong dislike for Violet. Even though her sense of protectiveness for Rose is strong, it somehow has poisoned her. She wants to control Rose and when Rose finally took control of her own life, well, Violet just couldn't accept that.

In the second section we got Bruce Wayne and Joe's POV's. I loved getting inside Bruce Wayne's head. His loyalty to Rose is true. And there is a big reveal here regarding Joe's past.

The third section which I just finished today featured Mason and again Joe. We finally got the history of Mason and his sister Savannah. And even though I have developed a strong dislike for Joe, he actually redeemed himself somewhat in this section. And do we finally see a truce between Joe and Mason? I'm not sure if that is even possible. We also get to know Maeve, Mason's Mom a little bit better.

“You thought you had found your peace and strength in Rose. And I can see why you’re so taken with her. But I think you need to find your peace and strength in yourself. If you find it in someone else, that person will be destined to disappoint you and let you down. But if you find it in yourself, you will be a richer person, and your relationships will be richer for it.”

If you are reading or plan to read this series, I hope you will include the two novellas. You won't be disappointed. And what is in store for Rose next? I can't wait to find out when Thirty-Three and a Half Shenanigans is released on November 4.

Jo Ann Reinhold says

I love how Denise gives us more insights into her character in these novellas. Once again Denise, you have brought your characters to life for your readers! Great Job!
