



## Rose's Vintage

*Kayte Nunn*

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## **Rose's Vintage** Kayte Nunn

British blow-in, Rose Bennett, is heartbroken, overweight, irritable and a long way from home. She isn't sure what exactly she's doing at Kalkari Wines in the Australian Shingle Valley – it's the middle of winter and far from the lush, romantic vineyard setting she'd been expecting.

Her brother thinks she's spying for him, her bad-tempered new boss thinks she's the au pair and the nanny can't wait for her to clean the place up.

Discovering pagan bonfire ceremonies, bizarre winemaking practices and a valley full of eccentric locals, Rose just wishes she'd ended up somewhere a bit warmer. But as the weather improves, the valley reveals its beauty, and Rose starts to fall in love: with the valley, the wines, the two children she's helping to look after, and one of the men there.

When her boss's estranged wife returns and her brother descends, wanting answers, Rose is forced to make the hardest decision of her life.

## **Rose's Vintage Details**

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Author : Kayte Nunn

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## From Reader Review Rose's Vintage for online ebook

**Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says**

Recently, a fantastic sub genre within the field of contemporary Australian rural fiction books, with winemaking as the appealing backdrop, have begun to crop up on bookshelves. I have had the pleasure of reading two such books that fall into this genre, *Between the Vines* by Tricia Stringer and *The Grass is Greener* by Loretta Hill. I can now add *Rose's Vintage*, by Kayte Nunn to this fabulous collection of books. *Rose's Vintage* introduces us to a young British woman, Rose Bennett, who leaves her behind a broken relationship and a shattered personal life in the UK, to start afresh in a new country, Australia. Rose finds herself in the Shingle Valley, a fictional small town north of Sydney, which is famous for its vineyards. Rose answers the call to work as an au pair for a family who own Kalkari Wines Estate. As the founder and proprietor of Kalkari, Mark Cameron is struggling to balance work and care of family since his wife left him. It takes time, but Rose soon feels like she has made the Shingle Valley her new home, balancing her care for the two children Leo and Luisa, with her own personal healing. While working at Kalkari, Rose also welcomes the opportunity to dabble in cooking and even entertains the opportunity to engage in a spot of romance. However, when Mark's ex wife and mother to their children returns, everything is turned on its head. Rose is torn between escaping to the city to start again or stay at the place she has made home. Then there is the added complication of Rose's true intentions of coming to the winery, which were less about being an au pair but spying for her brother, who is interested in the very business she has been working for. What a wonderful debut novel *Rose's Vintage* is, I really enjoyed being swept away by this contemporary Australian romance that fuses food, wine and romance. *Rose's Vintage* is also about the very personal journey and growth the character of Rose makes, by making the bold move from her home in the UK to small town Australia. Rose is a character I admired and dearly liked. I thoroughly enjoyed her character growth from the young woman who left a life that was in tatters, to her transformation into a strong independent woman, chasing her dreams and desires. Supporting the main heroine Rose, is Mark, Rose's boss, and a great array of well drawn and endearing characters who inhabit the small town where the book is set. This provides Nunn with the opportunity to convey a true sense of small town community and she is able to express how this feels to her readers successfully. The stories of Astrid, who also works for Mark and locals Violet and Vera were also a joy to read. The spying aspects of the novel, plus Mark's estranged wife, adds further tension and complication to the story, which keeps the reader engaged. Rounding off this solid debut novel, is a truly enviable setting. Nunn's descriptions of the Shingle Valley were superbly scenic and completely escapist at the same time.

*Rose's Vintage* is a charming novel that I believe readers will find hard pressed to resist. It offers a fine contemporary romance, a compelling tale of personal healing and a realistic exploration of character relationships. *Rose's Vintage* is a book that beckoned me to delve into its world of fine wine and food, set against a picturesque rural setting. I am highly anticipating my next read by Kayte Nunn, due to be released in 2017.

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**Joan says**

Once started I was hooked. Loved the characters and the vineyard setting of the story. Rosie such an engaging character that you felt her every emotion. The varied and interesting characters in the town and the dynamics of the relationships kept me interested. Just wanted it to continue to discover how the town, the vineyards and the people progressed Loved it and the touch of romance helped. Very easy to read and great

writing style.

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### **Roxy says**

Firstly I would like to thank the publisher for a copy of this book.

What a wonderful debut novel. It was a treat of a story. I devoured this book. A well constructed story will full bodied characters and just enough intrigue to keep the reader interested. Isabella was a thoroughly contemptible character – I so wanted to see her get slapped down off her pedestal. I must admit that even though I liked Mark and felt bad for the situation he found himself in with her, I really was disappointed that he didn't have more of a backbone. Why do the men always have to be so weak willed when it comes to a beautiful face... even if she is a total harpy? The fact he seemed to be so into Rose and then Isabella turns up and Rose gets iced out immediately was low. I get that the situation with Isabella was complicated but he really should have stood up for Rose instead of letting the horrible woman be so nasty to her. He should have defended her so that she didn't have to deal with all that unpleasantness.

The side characters are interesting but not enough that they draw your attention away from the main leads in the story.

I like the ending and the deal with Henry – sneaky brother. I kept waiting for that spy secret to come out – it was like a sword hanging over their heads – but I am glad that it didn't drop on them. It ended in a way that felt real and touching without being overly saccharine.

A completely lovely and light-hearted debut from Ms Nunn. I look forward to reading more from her in the future.

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### **Dale Harcombe says**

Three and a half stars.

After her breakup with Giles, heartbroken Rose Bennett leaves London for Australia. Her brother Henry wants her to spy out the winery in the Shingle Valley known as Kalkari Wines. Rose is not thrilled with the prospect but she needs to get away. So she agrees and ends up as an au pair to Mark Cameron and his two young children, Leo and Luisa. As well there is the children's nanny Astrid from Germany. The two young women end up becoming friends. Rose learns a bit about the problems of vineyards and the process of winemaking. She finds herself falling in love with the valley and its people. Violet and Vera, two elderly residents, were a delight. Luisa and Leo are sweeties and then there is the enigmatic Mark. But it is Isabella, Marks' estranged wife who returns at one point that Rose finds hardest to deal with. Readers will no doubt dislike her as she has the capacity to destroy all Rose's dreams.

This was just the sort of light, fun read I needed after my previous book. I liked Rose and many of the other characters. The story flows easily, and the reader gets a good sense of the setting and the community. As well as The Shingle Valley, the book contains some glimpses of Bondi. Maybe this story is not one that provokes deep thought, but it is enjoyable to read. And if it's a little too sweet in some ways, what is wrong with that anyway? A great fun read and I will be interested to read more by this author.

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### **Patty Garforth says**

I absolutely devoured this book! Having spent time in and around Australian wine country, I found myself

lured in by Kayte's spot-on portrayal of the scenery, food and people. A delightful romance that leaves you wanting for more! Can't wait for the second instalment...

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### **Caroline says**

Having not read a romance book in such a long time, Rose's Vintage was the ideal choice. The characters were all awesome and of course, the love that developed between Rose and her boss, Mark was just the icing on the cake. I loved this book and only hope the author has more books written in the same genre!

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### **Lisa says**

What a fabulous first book from Kayte Nunn, I loved everything about this book - from the warmth of the characters to the sublime Shingle Valley setting to the captivating storyline. This book had me at 'hello'. I can't wait for the next!

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### **BookWorm says**

I really enjoyed this book. The setting and characters were all well developed and engaging. I would say the story was more about Rose's personal growth than a romance - and I was definitely ok with that.

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### **Ella says**

I really don't know what to think about this book.

On one hand it had me absolutely suckered to the couch for the afternoon while reading it but at the same time it was so disgustingly happy and positive and, *"If-you-work-hard-you'll-reach-your-dreams-and-live-freaking-happily-ever-after!"* and to be completely honest, it made it really hard to read for me. I think it's just the space in life that I'm in at the moment but just the whole storyline of Rose the main character and how the book starts when Rose is in a shit place in her life but as the story progresses she turns her life around and it becomes rosy and so friggin joyful it was *irritating* to read.

What I'm trying to say is that ROSE'S VINTAGE is a very good book. It has a likeable main character, an interesting, heart warming storyline and it was blimmin nice to read a book set somewhere near home (yes, yes, NZ isn't AU, but AU always feels a bit homely to me, especially when I read about it) but where I am in life at the moment, it was really hard and slightly discouraging to read a book about a girl that goes from being in a really shitty space in life to being in a really good one. And damn, was I envious of it. And it's never nice to read a book and the whole time you're reading it you're green with jealousy.

So! This book is nice and very lovely and it's just me in my negative headspace at the moment that made me feel so grumpy around it. Definitely give it a go if you like Aussie books and sweet romances that actually have decent storylines around them. Ignore this grumpy reviewer and give it a go! You won't be disappointed.

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### **Carrie says**

Very enjoyable read with a great sense of place (and sense of wine). I had to look up a lot of the Australian slang, but that's most of the fun right?

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### **Renee says**

This is the latest in the string of lighthearted Aussie vineyard romances that I've read. I love them and keep coming back for more. I thought I had this one all figured out, but Kayte threw a few twists at me to keep me on my toes.

I loved Rose, although I wanted to talk some sense into her at times. If she wants some warm Aussie weather, she can come visit me in Darwin! The kids were adorable and the ex-wife a manipulative psycho, the perfect mix to keep things entertaining.

I received this book free in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Bree Verity says**

I enjoyed this novel - it was a light, breezy read.

I felt like the hero & heroine were more friends than lovers - which is fine and normal, but in a novel I'm not sure it works.

I thought the 'spy' sub plot was awkward, and not utilised effectively - and in the end, it made no difference to anyone, so why have it in the first place.

For a first novel, this was a nice read, the wine making references were well researched and the feel of the community was nicely drawn.

It was certainly not a multi-textured deep and aged red.... probably more of a chilled sweet young white.

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### **Gina says**

I loved it.....I cannot wait to meet up with Rose again soon. Loved the country side, food, wine and of course the romance. Very hard to put down.

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### **Carol - Reading Writing and Riesling says**

Just the sort of read I needed tonight! One to make me smile.

My View:

This is the prefect pick me up read when you have had a hard day, a hard week or just finished a few

emotionally draining works of crime fiction. For me a conspiracy of all the above elements meant I really needed a read that would energise not drain my emotions and make me smile. This fits the bill perfectly.

I love the settings – Australian wineries and small country towns juxtaposed against fast paced city living. I had visions of the Coonawarra, McLaren Vale, Barossa districts or even the Margaret River wine region where I live (maybe because they are all wine regions I have visited/know). The settings speak of family owned primary producers/communities almost anywhere in the world– the hard work, the long hours, the camaraderie with other producers in your regions, the local gossip, secrets and how a community comes together to celebrate when success is achieved or to help when the call out is made.

The characters are interesting and written with depth and I especially liked how the writer sprinkles the pages with Rose's honest thoughts as she tries to make sense of the new situations she finds herself in (and the new country) and the people she meets. The vineyard and its changing seasons; pruning, budburst, flower, vintage, provides the overarching narrative and back drop to the action in the books, almost a character in its own right.

Another great debut!

Read and enjoy, relax and smile!

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**Diane says**

Delightful first novel by Kayte Nunn.

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