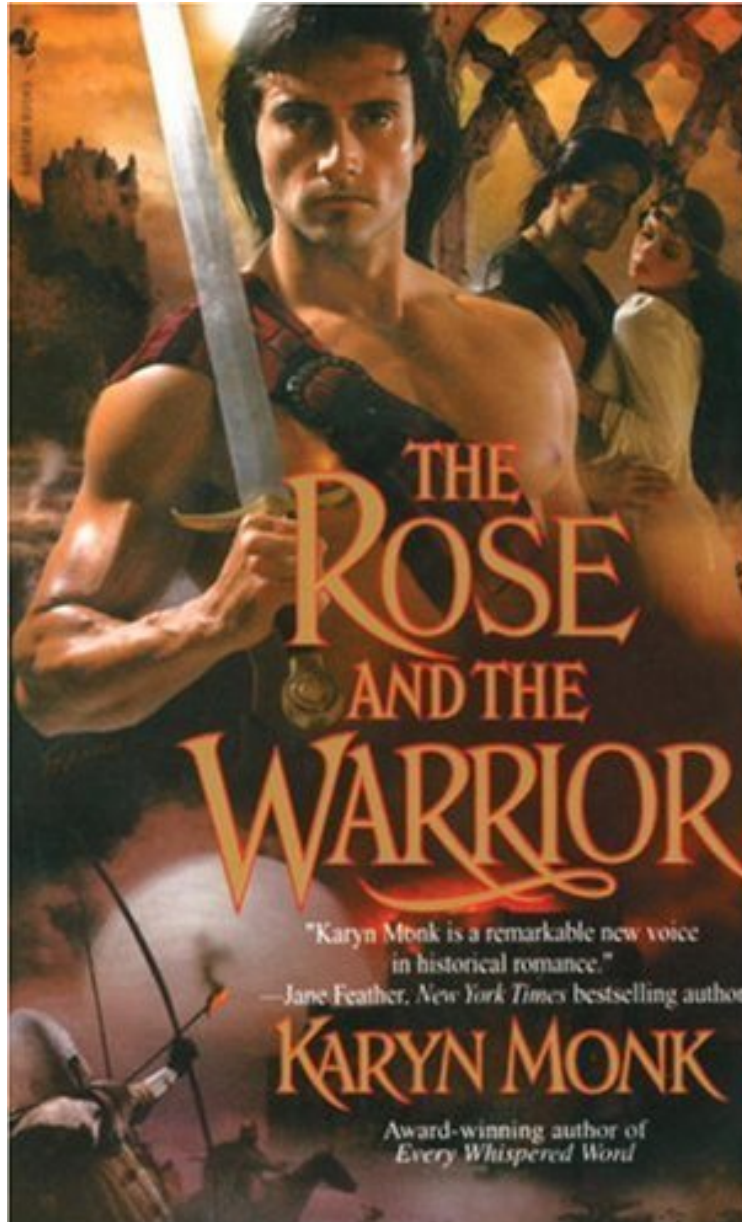


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The Rose and the Warrior

Von Karyn Monk

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Von Karyn Monk : The Rose and the Warrior before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rose and the Warrior:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ms. Monk delivers again, though with some reservationsVon SarahI thoroughly enjoyed the overall writing and witty

dialogue of Melantha and Roarke's story. The bumbling McKillon clan has a lot of feisty characters that make sure a smile is always near the surface as you are reading. Magnus and Thor, two elders of the clan (though a bit repetitive in their speeches) spin such yarns and are so extreme in their beliefs, that after a while, as the reader, you WANT Thor to "hack the McTiers up and grind their bones for bread". I suppose the extent of Clan McKillon's ineptitude stretches the realm of credibility, but this is romance reading, right? In the past, I have enjoyed Karyn Monk's novels because they are well written and are awash in historical detail. The Rose and the Warrior falls a bit shy on the level of historical detail. We see a time in Scot's history where there is clan warfare and where might makes right. It is, therefore, a bit of a stretch that the hero is able to change his attitude as much as he does. He has quite an epiphany, and I have a hard time buying his vault-face and going against everything he has believed in for 30+ years. Deep down, I really liked Roarke, and his role as our older, weary warrior/hero. He's tired and sore and just can't fight any more. You feel for him as he sits stiffly on his horse, wanting to ease his pain. Melantha is also a good character, well written, with a lot of depth. She has seen a lot in her short time, and Ms. Monk does an excellent job showing her struggle as she loses her mother, then her father, and is forced to look after her three younger brothers as well as try and help a starving and desperate clan. What I can't understand is Roarke and Melantha's attraction to each other. (A 30-something-year-old and from what I can gather, a teen). They do not talk much, and when they do it is usually with an antagonistic bent. There is very little sexual tension; enough to whet the reader's appetite, but not enough to draw our leads together. So why and how do they fall in love? None of this is explained very well. Although I enjoyed the McKillon Clan and their personalities, I do have to wonder how they maintained their cheery, optimistic and oh so polite countenance. After being raided and nearly starving to death over the winter, I doubt they would have behaved as they did. This aside, I did enjoy this Robinhood tale and would suggest picking up a copy to read.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A provocative tale on many levels Von Suzanne Laurie

The Rose and The Warrior delivers everything I've come to expect from Karyn Monk: a vividly colourful cast of characters - painted boldly through selections of revealing dialogue (in this book, more often uproariously hilarious!) The rollicking action takes place on a stage-set so rich with fascinating historical detail and sensual description: shades of light, wafting scents, that all of your senses will be engaged. This surface layer of visuals and fast-paced action- provides, as always, a really good hot-blooded story; an easy and stimulating read; a book hard to put down. But it is later, perhaps days or weeks after the little paperback has been buried under newspapers and other bedside reading material, that the deeper, more serious and provocative images stirred up by Monk's writing, surface - and bother us. The Rose and The Warrior presses on bruises, felt by most of us - and for me, these soft sores centre around irretrievable loss and the fleetingness of precious moments in our lives. Have you ever spent years loving and cherishing a young child - your own or a close friend or relative's - time passes, and then one day you're startled and deeply deeply saddened to find that the special joyous dancing light has vanished from their once childish eyes? Something indescribably precious has been lost. Gone forever is the essence of the child you once knew. Monk's stories almost always speak to us of this poignant loss- heightened by the dramatic and tragic lives most of her characters have endured. It is a reminder of the truly fleeting nature of so much of our lives - youthful trust and optimism can vanish, beauty too - and so it is a reminder to cherish and indulge in these gifts while they last. Makes me think of the Robert Herrick poem: To the Virgins to Make Much of Time: "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may - Old Time is still a-flying - And this same flower that smiles today - To-morrow will be dying.... That age is best - Which is the first - When youth and blood are warmer... Then be not coy, but use your time - And while ye may, go marry- For having lost but once your prime - You may for ever tarry". It is easy to imagine that this sentiment would be strong for the characters in Monk's book set in the middle ages in Scotland, when death and dismemberment by sword were never too remote a possibility! The overwhelming need that the young Scottish heroine has to release her soul and body in absolute ecstasy to the battle-weary, wizened, (and of course, very handsome) hero, despite his enemy status, thus needs no explanation. But even this idealized - almost spiritual - lovemaking between very young Melantha and middle-aged Roarke, can provoke a wistful sadness in the reader if, for example, you are a woman no longer very young-bodied, and silken-skinned and can now only fantasize about offering your middle-aged husband such exquisite pleasures as discovering afresh a much younger version of yourself!

The Rose and the Warrior inadvertently reminds us of these inevitable losses of aging, - and yet against this melancholy reminder of reality- there is plenty to inspire: E.g., the heartbreaking dignity and bravery of one who faces a grotesque public execution and knowing that a young brother will be forced to watch, fights to appear serene, denying terror, for his sake. This is the real glory of love; the triumph of a courageous spirit over pain and fear- and it is one of the powerfully inspiring images we are left with. There are images of horror that don't fade easily: having to watch your father being violently butchered; looking into his eyes as he watches you being carted off by the enemy, almost certainly to be raped. It forces us to think about the modern day victims of such atrocities; victims of wars. Karyn Monk also leaves us with nagging moral and philosophical questions: e.g., is it ever honorable to steal, even to kill? When our families and loved ones are on the verge of starving? Think of Tolstoy's essay, "What Then Must We Do?" I encourage everyone to pick up a copy of The Rose and The Warrior, - it is so worthwhile on so many levels. The initial reading is fast, funny - even slapstick -so it's effortless to get through- and yet the underlying themes and issues are of timeless relevance and the provocative images are not easily forgotten.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die

folgende Rezension hilfreich. THIS ROMANCE HAS THE FEEL OF AN ARTHURIAN LEGEND! Von Ein Kunde Karyn Monk has once again written a compelling Scottish historical romance. Her latest story tells of Melantha, a young idealistic heroine who wants to rebuild her clan, and Roarke, a battle-weary warrior whose finer emotions have been tamped down for too long. When Roarke captures Melantha (she is on a raid to bring food and gold to her people), he is determined to crush her rebellion and her spirit. However, Melantha's youthful passion conquers his dormant emotions. The narrative of this historical romance reads quickly, with excitement. However, Ms. Monk does not write shallow stories of "love conquers all." Her prose is rich with description that awakens all the senses. She is a master at describing the nuances of a relationship, and she never relies simply on physical attraction alone to bond her hero and heroine. Ms. Monk has taken the themes of youth/beauty/spirit versus middle age/world-weariness/negativism and created a magnificent love story. Yes, love does conquer all, but it transforms the individuals, making the lovers together greater than each was individually. Ms. Monk's writing gets better and more textured with each tale, and I am looking forward to more and more from her!

Kurzbeschreibung In the breathtaking tradition of *Once a Warrior* and *The Witch and the Warrior* comes Karyn Monk's passionate new tale of a distant time, a proud people--and a forbidden love. She was an infamous thief... When the ruthless MacTiers destroyed Melantha's clan, she vowed to do whatever was necessary to keep her people alive. It was a daring risk to disguise herself as "the Falcon," a mysterious horseman who stole food and gold from the enemy, always slipping away unscathed. But when Melantha captured the MacTier warrior who was sent to kill her, the danger she faced was the desire aroused by this enigmatic stranger.....until one man stole her heart. Roarke had known only battle for far too long. With his family gone, he had proved his loyalty to his laird in countless conflicts, fighting with the fearless arrogance of a man who had nothing to lose--and untold rewards to gain. But murdering the enchanting spitfire who had waged her own maddening war against his clan was unthinkable. Torn between fealty to his lord and the dictates of his conscience, Roarke would look for an answer in the emerald eyes of a woman who dared to show him the meaning of honor, the bonds of family--and the power of love. From the Paperback edition. *Pressestimmen* "Karyn Monk is a remarkable new voice in historical romance."--Jane Feather, New York Times bestselling author

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