



Blood Rose Angel

Liza Perrat

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1348. A bone-sculpted angel and the woman who wears it—heretic, Devil's servant, saint.

Midwife Héloïse has always known that her bastard status threatens her standing in the French village of Lucie-sur-Vionne. Yet her midwifery and healing skills have gained the people's respect, and she has won the heart of the handsome Raoul Stonemason. The future looks hopeful. Until the Black Death sweeps into France.

Fearful that Héloïse will bring the pestilence into their cottage, Raoul forbids her to treat its victims. Amidst the grief and hysteria, the villagers searching for a scapegoat, Héloïse must choose: preserve her marriage, or honour the oath she swore on her dead mother's soul? And even as she places her faith in the protective powers of her angel talisman, she must prove she's no Devil's servant, her talisman no evil charm.

Blood Rose Angel, from the spellbinding The Bone Angel series, tells a story of continuing family traditions, friendships overcoming adversity, and how good and evil are too often bestowed on fellow humans in the name of faith—Zoe Saadia, author of 'The Rise of the Aztecs' and 'The Peacemaker' series.

Medicine, religion, and love intertwine in this captivating, richly-detailed portrait of a young woman's search for identity as the Black Death makes its first inroads into Europe. Liza Perrat uses her training as a midwife and her experiences living in a French village to create a compelling and unforgettable heroine determined to heal the sick in a world still ruled by superstition—C. P. Lesley, author of The Golden Lynx and The Winged Horse

Blood Rose Angel Details

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From Reader Review Blood Rose Angel for online ebook

Frances says

It's 1334 in Lucie-sur-Vionne market place, with children running about taunting a young girl Heloise for being a non-born; a babe cut from her dead mother's womb. Her aunt Isa takes Heloise under her wing and trains her to be a midwife generating a passion and dedication to help others in poor health. In spite of a great deal of superstition among the townspeople, Heloise tries her best to assist those in need, even though her path chosen is a dangerous one. With each chapter the story grows stronger with well developed characters many who come to admire Heloise and others determined to destroy her. Sprinkled throughout the story, the author has written a well researched amount of detail on plant and herb uses for various ailments that is interesting and fascinating. Very well written and recommended to all readers.

A special thank you to author Liza Perrat, for providing me a copy of her novel. I've written an honest review.

Shree says

HOW I GOT THIS BOOK: Review copy as a part of France Book Tours

REVIEW:

Historical Fiction is always a pleasure to read if the writer has a way with words. The story when written properly would have the potential to transport the reader to the period in which it is set. Time travel otherwise isn't technically possible. I experienced that absolute bliss of time travel with this book.

Midwife Heloise, born a bastard, heals and tends to childbirths in her small town. Taunted by her status as a bastard, she resolves never to give up on her profession of healing and swears an oath on her mother who was a healer/midwife herself. Married to a handsome stonemason, Heloise's future looks blissful until the gory disease of pestilence threatens to wipe out France. Fearing death, Heloise's husband prohibits her to treat any pestilence patients. Torn between her husband and the oath she swore, Heloise is forced to make a choice - A choice that ultimately ends up impacting the life and death of her village folks.

With flawless and progressive characterization and each characters emoting to dot, the story was simply magnetic. I had to finish the book off! The writer managed to show all possible shades of a character along with all possible emotions. That is one absolute rarity these days. For some reason, writers tend to "write" actual history and facts in the middle of the story if the story in such a background. That is absolutely boring and results in one huge drop in the pace of the book. Thankfully, this writer really did no such thing. Of course, there was a bit of "history" but it was totally in context and essential to understand the story line. To satisfy history buffs who expect historical facts, the writer had an appendix that talked about the time period of which this story was set in. That made an interesting read for me. It is needless to mention, the writing was fluidic and simple. The only peeve point I had was with the pace of the story midway. I felt she gave too much importance to gory deaths that the pestilence caused, but however, I later felt that she did only to emphasize what risk Heloise was actually taking.

MY SAY: The perfect historical fiction!

RATING:

PLOT: 8/10

CHARACTERISATION: 9/10

NARRATION: 9/10

BOREDOM QUOTIENT: 1/10 (lower the better)

?

OVERALL RATING: 9/10

Alyssa says

This book was a fantastic historical novel, filled with more detail than I could almost take in. The time period, when the Black Death was rife in Europe, made for a tense, even sometimes suspenseful backdrop for the story. At times I felt every horror-stricken moment, when Héloïse had to choose between caring for her own family, and caring for those in her village struck down by the plague.

Most fascinating was the detail of midwifery, and of Héloïse's skill. And of course the knife-edge of being only one step removed from witchcraft in the eyes of the populace. I was never sure that Héloïse would survive, given the malice against her.

Definitely a book worth reading, both for its plot, which was well-paced and intriguing, and for its historical detail. I think I'm going to read the other books Ms. Perrat has written, since I finished this one so quickly.

Cindy says

I can't remember exactly how I came to read my first Liza Perrat novel, but I am so glad that I found her books because she has quickly become one of my favourite authors. In her new sweeping tale, Blood Rose Angel, emotions overwhelmed me right from the start and kept me on the edge of my seat with my heart in my throat right through to the last page, when I sat there stunned that it was all over. It was like leaving a best friend behind. As I get older I find that I am easily distracted when reading, but from the moment I started Blood Rose Angel it was like I was put under a spell. Everything around me faded away, and I was right there in Lucie-sur-Vionne watching the horrors of the Black Plague sweep through this quaint French village and snuff out life after life with seemingly no way to stop its destructive path. I resented my life when I had to put the book down to go to work, and there was one morning where I almost called in sick because I was so engrossed in the story.

The story begins in 1334 and revolves around Héloïse, a bastard child of a bastard midwife, who is being raised by her aunt, Isa, her mother's twin sister. Héloïse's mother died of what sounds like toxemia one month before her due date, so Isa had to perform a c-section, resulting in Héloïse being referred to as a non-born birth and leading to a childhood of taunting by other children and villagers. However, she comes from a

long line of midwives and eventually feels the calling herself, vowing to become a midwife and do something worthwhile with her life so her mother's death won't be in vain. The years pass and Héloïse becomes a full-fledged midwife and healer and feels guided and comforted by the bone-carved angel talisman necklace which has been passed down from generation to generation of midwives in her family.

By 1348, Héloïse is married and has a daughter of her own to carry on the midwife tradition – a perfect life. However, multiple tragedies descend on Lucie-sur-Vionne, including the Black Plague, which ravages their village, invoking fear and panic in its people. As is common in situations like this, they have to find someone to cast blame upon, and a midwife with her mysterious potions and talisman seems an easy target. What follows is a wonderful portrayal of an incredibly strong woman, who will stop at nothing to save her people, despite the despicable way they begin to treat her. It is a story of immense struggles, as Héloïse battles with her husband and her own conscience over whether to obey her calling and help the villagers to eradicate the pestilence or stay away from the sick to keep her family safe. Her internal battles and her fortitude are what make you root for her over and over, as there is nothing better than reading a story with a fiercely strong and giving female character who is made stronger by battling through the challenges. This is a story steeped in history, tradition, religion, and superstitions, and there is a lot to be learned from Héloïse. When all is said and done, the reader comes away knowing that nothing is impossible if you want it enough and it doesn't matter what you believe in as long as you have faith in something.

Perrat's writing is brutally vivid and honest, never sugar coating what went on in that time period, and that's what makes her stories so riveting. She definitely has a gift for writing – her words flow like the River Vionne itself, surging here, calm there, but mesmerizing either way. I simply can't say enough about her talent and highly recommend Blood Rose Angel and her other books to anyone who loves historical novels. However, just remember that you may have to put your life on hold because, trust me, you won't be able to put it down, and you will be left with the worst book hangover you have had in a long time.

Claire Whatley says

Having loved the first two books in Liza Perrat's bone angel series, I've been very much looking forward to the third in the trilogy, Blood Rose Angel. I did wonder if it could possibly match the first two, but I'm thrilled to discover it's every bit as good. For those who don't know, the books follow the journey through history of a bone-sculpted talisman that is passed down from mother to daughter through generations of the same midwifing family, who live in the village of Lucie-sur-Vionne. The first bone angel book was set in the time of the French Revolution, the second in WWII: the latest book takes the reader back to the fourteenth century during the years that Europe was in the grip of the Plague.

The main character in this story is Héloïse and the novel follows her battle to continue to care for the people of her village both as midwife and healer as the Plague decimates the region. Her struggle is made worse by the fact that her husband, Raoul, forbids her to go near Plague victims, for fear she will succumb to the disease herself, as well as possibly infecting their daughter, and so to continue to perform her medical duty she is forced to defy him. In an age when women were generally nothing more than chattels she takes an enormous risk to do this.

I loved seeing the town of Lucie-sur-Vionne as it would have been in the fourteenth century: as always Liza Perrat's writing takes the reader there so vividly that you see, hear and smell life as it would have been with all its beauty and horror, noise and stink. Her descriptions of the Plague are equally vivid and not for the faint-hearted, but far worse to stomach was the terrible cruelty of the age. When the town is plundered by a group of horsemen, their savagery to the local people is harrowing enough, but later in the story when the

local leper community is scapegoated, the reader needs a very strong stomach to bear the scene that ensues. Later in the novel, the memory of this returns to haunt Héloïse when she finds herself imprisoned and fears what her own fate will be.

To avoid any spoilers, I won't reveal any more about the story, which is full of delicious twists and turns. One of the joys of the book for me was learning so many everyday details of medieval life and in particular, about the herbs used by the healer-midwives of that era. I also loved returning to the same beautiful French landscape, which I've 'seen' now in the eighteenth century and the mid-twentieth century, but as it would have been in a much earlier time. Watching the farm-workers and the merchants and tradespeople go about their everyday lives as Liza Perrat describes them is almost a cinematic experience. The images and the story will stay with me. Essential reading for lovers of historical fiction.

Chris Curran says

Blood Rose Angel is the third in Liza Perrat's series about a family from the French village of Lucie-sur-Vionne who pass a bone angel talisman down from mother to daughter. The novels focus on the women who owned the talisman at three tumultuous periods of history. We've seen it in the time of the French Revolution and of the 2nd World War, but Blood Rose Angel takes us even further back to the medieval world. If like me you've loved the earlier books you'll have been eagerly awaiting this latest offering. But don't be put off if you haven't read the first two because Blood Rose Angel works very well as a standalone or as an introduction to the trilogy.

The 14th century was a brutal time riven by violent conflict and ravaged by the Black Death, and Liza Perrat doesn't flinch from showing us scenes of terrible carnage or the horrors of disease. But this is no grim catalogue of death and despair because at the centre of the story is Héloïse who shines with energy and resilience.

Raised and taught midwifery skills by her aunt, Héloïse has never known her parents and, although respected by many of the villagers for her abilities as a healer, her illegitimate status makes her a natural scapegoat. And it can be dangerous to be a healer in the Middle Ages when belief in witchcraft is universal. Things get even more difficult when the Plague arrives and she must fight not only against the kind of prejudice and ignorance she's grown used to, but the disapproval of her beloved husband, Raoul, and her own fears for her family. But Héloïse is too compassionate and too proud of her skills to be deterred. In a time before modern medicine it's fascinating to see her struggle to develop remedies from the simple ingredients and traditional knowledge available to her.

The author brings this medieval village to such vivid life so that we can almost feel the heat of summer and the snows of winter. The dust, the stench of blood and death may be here but also the joy of a baby's first cries after a difficult birth, the scents of the herbs Héloïse collects, the food she cooks for her family and the delight she finds in the arms of her husband and the smile of her child. For me Héloïse represents those forgotten women, intelligent, brave and indomitable who have formed the heart and soul of every town and village throughout history. Wonderful.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Midwife Héloïse has been an outcast since she was a child. She is called a non-born. Her mother died while giving birth to her and her aunt Isa had to cut her out of the womb. The local children teased her about that, and as an adult have the taunting children grown up to taunting adults. But she has always been strong in herself, and she has a wonderful husband and a beautiful daughter. Life couldn't be better. But then her husband arrives home after being away for two years and this should be a young full event, but then people are starting to get sick and die. The Black Death has come to their village.

There were a couple of times I had to stop reading this book and read something else, not that it was anything wrong with the book. But because I was so frustrated with the superstition that characterized the people at the time. How the fear made the people accuse, cats, lepers, and Jews for the plague. Héloïse tries to help everyone that is sick, despite her husband being against that. And, he, in the end, tries in his own way to protect her, but that backfires completely. I was so angry with him at that point. It's hard to read a book about a time when women weren't better than a kept slave.

Héloïse is such a wonderful character, strong and kind, but the superstition against her and the bone-sculpted angel pendant she has after her mother is strong among the people in the village. There are some that see her for the kind person she is, but she has some enemies with power in the town. And, a deadly plague is the kind of thing that could make her situation worse. Especially since she is quite outspoken and brave. A threat, for instance, could easily be interpreted as a curse...

But for all the darkness in this book are there also light moments, and I think the balance between the darkness and the light is the thing that makes this book so wonderful to read. It's an emotional reading experience. Sadness at the death of a child, joy of a birth and anger at the injustice towards women. I was deeply moved by the story.

I received a copy from the publisher and france book tours in return for an honest review!

Bernice Rocque says

I just love artful storytelling. From start to finish, I was immersed in Liza Perrat's latest novel in the Bone Angel series. Though BLOOD ROSE ANGEL is a work of fiction, many readers know a Plague, later called the "Black Death," killed half the population of Europe in the late Middle Ages.

BLOOD ROSE ANGEL melds all the constructs of a well built novel: a compelling story with the twists and turns of a thriller, the wide range of fascinating and archetypical characters, a few mysteries, the plying and slow reveal of secrets, and a solid historical foundation. But, in my opinion, it is the author's medical background, her artistic brush strokes in language, and the so deftly integrated literary devices that bind the key elements above, elevating this novel to a very fine work of historical (and literary quality) fiction. I won't be a spoiler --- will leave the literary architecture for you to discover! Well, maybe just a glimpse... Here is a favorite line that works on multiple levels: "...the breeze around the farmers' cots sighing and whispering like a chorus of haunted voices..." And, here is another: "Limping about on spindle-thin legs, she seemed like the last withered piece of fruit clinging to the tree."

From the first page of BLOOD ROSE ANGEL, I found myself inside the head and heart of Midwife Héloïse, a resident of Lucie-sur-Vionne, France. The circumstances of her own birth and of her mother Ava's will fuel the action in the novel as the merciless "Black Death" envelops the village in 1348. The bond between women, and especially mothers and daughters is a theme of the novel. I especially loved this poignant moment: "...the more a girl knows about those who came before her, the stronger she'll be. That's how we keep our mothers' memories alive." (This is the reason I became a writer; to go beyond facts and preserve the "essence" of my family and friends.)

BLOOD ROSE ANGEL is a page-turner, but written with a nice balance of action and description. I thought the graceful word structures of WOLFSANGEL, one of the other novels in the Bone Angel trilogy, were superb. I am thinking now that the prose of BLOOD ROSE ANGEL is even finer. So beautifully poetic and SO sensory... Isn't reading remarkable when you can see, hear, taste, smell, and feel the spectrum of life and death in another time? Childbirth before our modern technology, the art of making herbal remedies, and especially the physical horrors of infected human bodies and psyche wrought by the pestilence AND by humans in a panicked state. All seem so real and elicit our emotions ---empathy, disgust, anger, terror, compassion and more, as if we were there. We even cringe as the "spidery fingers" of clergy, rulers, and other self-serving forces manipulate and control the characters we care about. I was sad when the story ended --- will particularly miss Midwife Héloïse. Though well suited to the story path, the climax and ending of BLOOD ROSE ANGEL did suggest a possible sequel... We can hope!

It is my honor to highly recommend BLOOD ROSE ANGEL by Liza Perrat. I was given a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Tracy Terry says

One of those books that once started was nigh on impossible to put down and yet at the same time one of those novels that you didn't want to pick up knowing that every page read was a page closer to having to say goodbye to some wonderful characters not to mention the end of an exceptional trilogy.

The third in the Bone Angel Trilogy. Whilst the books are connected by three generations of women proud to have been passed down an angel talisman they are quite different stories (though perhaps the first, Spirit Of Lost Angels, is more similar to Blood Red Angel than the second, Wolfsangel) and as such can be read as stand alone reads or in which ever way the reader so wishes.

Superstition, pestilence, an oath sworn on a dead mother's soul, medicine, religion and most of all a wonderful heroine. A 'non-born', a midwife/healer, a woman taunted from childhood - in Héloïse Liza Perrat has created an amazing character who is at once complex and yet easy to relate to.

Her creating some quite heavy scenarios - the 'ignorant' superstitions and prejudices of many of the people, the treatment of women in general and women seen to be in different in particular, the religious/political struggles, Héloïse's relationship with her stonemason husband - thankfully tempered by some wonderfully tender and moving moments.

In short, not only does she write beautifully, Liza Perrat is also a master storyteller who manages to bring to life both the people and places of her novels and I for one can't wait to find out just where her next book will take me.

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Disclaimer: Received for review from the author, no financial compensation was asked for nor given.

Melinda says

I could not tear myself away from this book. Liza Perrat has now joined the ranks of my favorite authors.

The first few pages hook you and never let up. I tore through this book so quickly I was sad when it ended. Yes, I found it that enjoyable.

Perrat has a way with words, her style is fluid and flows easily, downright solid and mesmerizing.

I completely connected with Héloïse from the start. She is compelling, possessing strength and kindness while dealing with acceptance by few and disdain from the majority in her community for various reasons. Her strength and commitment allows her to endure the scorn of many, her bravery and inability to hold her tongue intimidates. Héloïse really pulled at my heartstrings even more so when she was put in a precarious position by her husband, you can sense how torn she is between her ultimatum. Her husband didn't exercise the best judgement which Héloïse experiences first hand.

When the pestilence hits the community both embraces and forsakes Héloïse. The behavior, superstitions and ignorance of the people of her hamlet will leave you frustrated and angry. Perrat's writing really sketches a dark time in history along with misplaced beliefs of people. There were moments I wanted to reach into the pages and shake sense into people.

Perrat deftly balances heavy moments with uplifting outcomes. Given the time period, the treatment of women, political and religious struggles, balancing the bad with the good was a challenge, luckily Perrat succeeded.

There were twists I didn't see coming, especially towards the end. I adored the ending.

Perrat created an enthralling read with a powerhouse character Héloïse. Well done from start to finish, not excluding every thing in between. Fans of historical fiction, strong, independent and smart women, those with an interest in midwifery and herbalists will enjoy. Perrat's writing style along with outstanding execution is reason enough to add to your TBR.

Vanessa Couchman says

Having read and enjoyed the first two in Liza Perrat's historical trilogy, I was looking forward to number 3 – and I wasn't disappointed. All three books are stand-alone but are linked by a bone talisman carved in the shape of an angel and by the destinies of three strong women from the same French village who make their way in a man's world.

Blood Rose Angel is set in the 14th century at the time of the devastating plague pandemic that killed up to 50% of the population of Europe. Liza Perrat paints an enthralling picture of the ignorance and superstition that allowed the plague to spread inexorably and unchecked. The author is particularly gifted at transporting

you to the historical setting and everyday detail of people's lives. Life was no picnic, especially for women who faced the very real prospect of dying in childbirth.

The main character, Héloïse, is a midwife and healer, the illegitimate daughter of a midwife who died giving birth to her. Héloïse herself is a victim of superstition and ignorance, even though she devotes herself to helping the people of her village. She is a strong, often stubborn, character who rises to the many challenges posed throughout the story, including her stonemason husband's misguided efforts to stop her carrying out her vocation and focus on their family.

This could have been a very dark book, given the subject matter it deals with, but Liza Perrat skilfully weaves in moments of joy and light and thus crafts a rounded and believable story. Warning: this book is hard to put down.

This is compelling reading and I recommend it to anyone who likes historical fiction.

Meg - A Bookish Affair says

4.5 stars. "Blood Rose Angel" is the third book in the series that includes "Spirit of Lost Angels" and "Wolfsangel" by Liza Perrat. Although this book is part of a series, you don't have to have read the other books as the thing that links the books is a talisman. I would suggest reading the other books though because they are true treats for historical fiction fans. In this book, we meet Héloïse, a midwife, that lives during the time of the Black Death.

This time period in France is one that I loved. It was so interesting to see how Héloïse and her fellow village dwellers deal with the Black Death. There is so much tension and suspicion that is created by the disease that everyone is seen as the potential source. Because of Héloïse's position as midwife and healer, she is seen as a suspect for bringing the Black Death upon the village. Superstitions abound throughout this book, which was fascinating to me!

I loved Héloïse's character. She is a strong woman and one that is sure of her powers of healing. She oozes confidence through most of the book. I also liked how the author included a lot on the methods that Héloïse would have used as a midwife during the time period. I love reading about old timey medical treatments. It's so interesting to me what people used to do in order to try to heal others! The author's note at the back of the book on this subject is absolutely fascinating!

Overall, this book was a good read! The characters are going to stick with me for a long time!

Patricia Sands says

Let me begin by simply stating I did not want to stop reading Blood Rose Angel. The story of midwife Héloïse and her true love, Raoul, in the 14thC French village of Lucie-sur-Vionne during the time of a deadly plague, will resonate with me for a very long time. Themes of family, friendship, love, politics and fear are explored in compelling fashion. At the same time, we have a fascinating opportunity to gain an

understanding of some of the roots of modern medicine. As much as I was offered a rich and satisfying reading experience, I also learned a great deal.

When I write a review, I prefer to explain why I enjoyed a book, rather than recount the story.

Liza Perrat is truly an artist. She weaves magical threads through her stories combining historical and scientific fact with human emotions and behaviours. She paints landscapes, villages and personalities with broad brush strokes and follows with such attention to detail that the reader clearly grasps the images and eagerly enters the narrative.

Each book in the Bone Angel trilogy, can be read as a stand-alone and each is equally mesmerizing, horrifying, and enthralling. Perrat is simply brilliant at exposing life for what it was in the Middle Ages: harsh, challenging, and yet still filled with moments of joy and simple pleasure. Through her words, we see, smell, taste, and viscerally feel what is described on each page. The cast of characters she creates breathes life into a time we know from movies and history books. We live it in her stories.

As did Wolfsangel and The Spirit of Lost Angels, Blood Rose Angel gripped me from the beginning and held my attention to the last word. I have found all of these novels to be immensely satisfying reads. Historical fiction is my favourite genre and I have great respect for the tremendous amount of research that is required to produce the kind of high quality literature that Liza Perrat offers us.

I highly recommend the entire trilogy and eagerly await news of her next publication.

Helen Hollick says

This book has received a Discovering Diamonds Review:

'a powerful novel, well written, engrossing, and a superbly sensitive study of life, birth and terrible and devastating death in the 1300s.'

Helen Hollick
founder #DDRevs

Kathy says

Set in the 1300's (one of my fav settings) we once again are taken to Lucie-sur-Vionne in Liza Perrat's third novel in the Bone Angel trilogy. There is no need to have read the other two books though, but it was nice to be in such a familiar setting again. Heloise is an amazing character in this book – a character you cannot help admire and love as she tries her best to help the people of her village when the plague comes to visit. The author has well researched each of books so well and has a special gift to transport the reader vividly to a time and place that I have no hesitation in recommending this novel and the two previous to you. An amazing, historical read that I will treasure and will always keep an eye out for this author for sure.....
