



Millie's Rose

Donna Sturgeon

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Sometimes, when a heart breaks, the damage is so severe the only way it can heal is to return it to the land where it was born. Knowing this, Millie Handley makes one request of her husband, Dan, when she discovers her cancer is terminal - to return home to Nebraska and build the house he's been dreaming of since he was a little boy.

Two months after Millie's funeral, Dan finds himself pulling up the rutted, dirt driveway that winds around the banks of Chelsea Lake, headed toward a desolate future he's not sure he wants to survive. Unable to grieve and desperate to forget the life he lost, Dan locks himself in his great-grandfather's cabin and allows the pain to consume him, like a grass fire burning out of control.

Stacy Ruzicka's final promise to her best friend, Millie, was to help Dan through the pain, and she's determined to do just that - whether he wants her to or not. Stacy and Dan have known each other longer than their memories reach back, and she knows him better than he knows himself, but the harder she tries to force Dan to rise from the depths of his grief and take that first breath of life again, the harder he pushes her away - until he's suddenly pulling her into his arms and into his healing heart.

Millie's Rose Details

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Author : Donna Sturgeon

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From Reader Review Millie's Rose for online ebook

Nicky says

I really really liked this book..Could have possibly been love but the heroine seemed to have had a lobotomy or personality transplant about 54% and that lasted until 94%.. Other than that it was really good.. I LOVED Dan. He loved Millie so much that I was actually skeptical that he would love Stacy as much but I was proven wrong. He loved Stacy so much and she was a flipping IDIOT... I liked her in the first half of the book and she even realized she was IN love with Dan early on but her actions didnt seem like it and she was an idiot for letting her life go on as it was.. Also another irk I had was why in the heck was he the one apologizing to her?!?!?!? She's the one who wouldnt talk to him for months and months but all in all I really liked it. Well worth a read :)

Also this author does a very good job bringing scenes to life.. There were a couple of scenes in the book that read like a movie they were so good.

Melissa says

I've read quite a few free Amazon Kindle books, and many have disappointed. This one did not. I've always loved a good friends-turned-romance story, and this one was beautiful. It dealt with the pain of loss really well, allowing me to taste the agony at times. Blame it on my romantic, melancholic ways, but I loved this book.

Peach says

This is not a book where the main characters fell in love immediately with each other or were they childhood sweethearts. Stacie and Dan had always been good friends. Introduced by Stacie, Dan and Millie fell in love and got married while Stacie had the same boyfriend since high school. Following Millie's death, Dan returned home to Nebraska and Stacie made attempts to help Dan overcome his grief. I enjoyed this book, how the lives of the various characters evolved and intertwined and also the romance

Ebonie says

I loved this book. Ms. Sturgeon did an excellent job of inviting you into the characters lives and making you feel their emotions as if they were your own. A real tear-jerker it was from beginning to end but a truly heartfelt story. Excellent writing! A great read. Ms. Sturgeon outdid herself.

Shakeera Frazer says

I truly loved this book! This was an amazing love story that really touched my heart. I was hooked from the

beginning. I felt like I knew this characters. Great book and well written

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

03/24/2013 --

Overall Rating = 5 Stars

Book Cover / Book Blurb = 3 / 4 = 3.5 Stars

Writer's Voice = 5 Stars

Character Development = 5 Stars

Story Appreciation = 5 Stars

Worth the Chili = 5 Stars [\$2.99 Amazon]

5 Stars because this book is just that good and it made me feel so many emotions and many of them simultaneously. I had tears at a few points. This is the second book I've read by this author. This is her debut book. She has serious talent.

This is a cathartic story of the pain of loss, the courage to love again and a love that grows beyond boundaries set by the participants. It is a journey. One lesson learned as you grow older -- love will happen in its' own time. You can't pick when, how, and most usually who. It will be. This is the perfect story to illustrate this concept.

So much to like about this book, but I'll only outline a few:

1 -- Dan: We have a man who is grieving the loss of the love of his life. He can't remember a day he didn't love Millie. Just what the hell is he supposed to do now? Millie knew he would feel this way so she made a plan. She wants him to go home. Go back where he grew up, where their love first started and build them a home. Do everything they planned to do. Fulfill their together dreams.

2 -- Stacy: We have a best friend. She was Dan's best friend before she was Millie's, but once Millie came along, Dan took a backseat. Dan and Stacy care for each other as each is the keeper of the others childhood memories. Millie made Stacy promise to help Dan get through his grief. She made Stacy promise to care for him like she has done in the past.

Dan and Stacy are the two halves of a whole. They have each traveled separate paths that have brought them to this together place. This is their story. It is absolutely wonderful.

3 -- The weaving of words to put together this story is just remarkable. You rarely find this in any author, let alone a self-pub'd debut. I could chalk it up to a flukey first book that had been edited and re-edited before publish, if I hadn't read another by this author. Her second book is just as well written and has a completely different tone. Almost like the story burst on the page dragging the author behind. It is hard to describe for me -- I lack poetry in my words. If you read it, you'll know exactly what I mean.

Is there anything I didn't like about this story?

Not really. I could list everything I loved, but the list would be so long you'd just skim over it. This story speaks to anyone who has ever traveled the grief train. The journey seems endless until one day you wake up and it is over. Just over. To all those people who have helped someone with this journey -- this book will speak to your heart.

I don't know what it is about Donna Sturgeon. This is her beginning, but it will not be the end for us. She is an awesome talent and I'm a serious fan. I can't wait to see what she'll come up with next. Such promise. I know I'm gushing, but wanted to get your attention on this book, this author. I hope I haven't failed. A damned shame - that.

Just think. As good as this is, it is her first work. She can only get better. I love it!

Happy Reading!

Jackie Kunda says

Such a lovely and enjoyable story! Right from the get-go you're pulled in and feel invested in the characters. Your heart will break, and then begin to heal again. A wonderful story to read when you're all snuggled up in a blanket on the couch! Looking forward to more work from Donna Sturgeon...

Jeff says

“Millie's Rose” is a beautiful love story – so eloquently written.

If you've ever lost the love of your life, you will be captivated by Donna Sturgeon's book. Millie's final dying wish is for her husband Dan to return to Nebraska and build their dream home.

Dan is grief stricken after he loses Millie, and is comforted by Millie's best friend Stacy.

Trying to pick up the pieces of your life after losing a loved one and move on, seems impossible when you are suffering great pain, as Sturgeon so vividly illustrates.

“Millie's Rose” is moving, heartbreaking, heartfelt – it truly captures Dan's deep pain and grief.

Diana Rego says

I absolutely love this book!!! I don't even know where to begin, I couldn't put it down. The love, the heartache, the grief, finding love again, it was all so good! It's a beautiful story and deals with actual tragedies in life, but on every page there is hope and you can see the love. I laughed and cried and cheered and completely fell in love with the characters. It is probably the best book I've read this year. I can't wait for another book by this author. You have to read it!!!!

Dawn ♥ romance says

This story started out very sad and went on so long but I was drawn to keep reading. The action between main characters finally picked up and I liked their long time friendship but the heroine made too many bad choices. Dan's wife and Stacy's best friend dies and they try to console each other.

Lorelle says

Absolutely wonderful, heartbreaking, emotional, and beautiful. I loved this book!

Agnes Delacort says

This is about a guy whose wife dies at the beginning of the book. Whenever he talked about his dead wife I cried. I'm not sure if this was due to my pregnancy hormones or what. It was a pretty good easy read though. It did drag on a bit longer than it needed to though.

Kristina Franken says

Wonderfully written. It makes you feel like you are there. Emotionally involving, with love, humor, sorrow and joy. If you like Danielle Steel, Sandra Brown and/or Nora Roberts, you will enjoy this book. It is JUST as good as any of their novels - and this a first time novel from a new author. WOW! After you read the book you will be, just as I am, eagerly awaiting her next book!

Lillie says

I loved the symbolism of Millie's rose that kept trying to die--or Dan trying to kill it--but it revives and blooms along with Dan's relationship with Stacy. Dan's grief and deep love for his wife was touching. Stacy was a less sympathetic character--she kept taking back her boyfriend in spite of his infidelity and cruel treatment of her. She finally wised up, but it took her way too long, in my opinion.

Bailey Bristol says

Heartbreaking...heartwarming! An amazing read with a Nicholas Sparks feel, only richer, fuller, deeper, stronger, and with a beautiful ending full of hope.

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