



Seduction

M.J. Rose

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From the author of *The Book of Lost Fragrances* comes a haunting novel about a grieving woman who discovers the lost journal of novelist Victor Hugo, awakening a mystery that spans centuries.

In 1843, novelist Victor Hugo's beloved nineteen-year-old daughter drowned. Ten years later, Hugo began participating in hundreds of séances to reestablish contact with her. In the process, he claimed to have communed with the likes of Plato, Galileo, Shakespeare, Dante, Jesus—and even the Devil himself. Hugo's transcriptions of these conversations have all been published. Or so it was believed.

Recovering from her own losses, mythologist Jac L'Etoile arrives on the Isle of Jersey—where Hugo conducted the séances—hoping to uncover a secret about the island's Celtic roots. But the man who's invited her there, a troubled soul named Theo Gaspard, has hopes she'll help him discover something quite different—Hugo's lost conversations with someone called the Shadow of the Sepulcher.

What follows is an intricately plotted and atmospheric tale of suspense with a spellbinding ghost story at its heart.

Seduction Details

Date : Published May 7th 2013 by Atria Books

ISBN : 9781451621501

Author : M.J. Rose

Format : Hardcover 373 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Mystery, Fantasy, Paranormal, Suspense

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From Reader Review Seduction for online ebook

Debi says

I won this book through Good Reads and when it arrived I questioned my reasons for wanting it. Yes, it was presented as historical fiction about Victor Hugo but what I failed to see was it is part of a series that deals with reincarnations and the devil. But I made a commitment to read the book and review it and I'm glad I did.

There is an awful lot happening here. Victor Hugo plays a small part of the story, almost like a supporting actor. The death of his daughter, use of drugs and popularity of séances during his lifetime becomes the foundation of this novel. It is sandwiched by tales of ancient times and current people.

Seduction is filled with information on many topics- ancient cultures, perfumery, science and psychology, just to name a few. The main characters are likable with realistic flawed aspects of their personalities. The story is a fun, fast paced read that is both interesting and enjoyable.

I think if one is a fan of M .J. Rose's work, they will love this book. Thank you to Good Reads and M.J. Rose for such a delightful experience.

? Shannon ? says

I read this book a while ago (probably over a year ago) and let me tell you....I struggled through a good portion of it! I'm so sad to say that because this book sounded so good! I feel like I set myself up for disappointment because I have such high expectations, I hate it haha. I finished this book because I hate DNFing books but it so close. I'm bad at reviews but I don't recommend this book. EVER.

Suzanne says

I was offered an advance review copy of this novel, which enticed me with the publisher's description:

"...a haunting novel about a grieving woman who discovers the lost letters of novelist Victor Hugo, awakening a mystery that spans centuries."

When I received the book, I discovered that it is one of a series, in which the author explores séances, reincarnation and the supernatural world. Frankly, this isn't really my cup of tea, but I did resolve to give it a try. When I got to the part about contacting Satan through a séance, I knew I did not want to read further. Life is too short, and there are too many wonderful books out there (many already on my bookshelves!) just waiting to be read. Chalk this one up as abandoned.

MartyAnne says

I don't believe in saving 5 stars as if no book is worthy. I use 5 stars here because this book masterfully took me on a journey I was completely a participant in, and it blew me away.

I was lucky enough to be able to read a pre-release copy of SEDUCTION. I was excited, because M.J. Rose has never let me down. She is an incredibly talented writer. I enjoy the Reincarnationist series, and SEDUCTION follows the previous in the series, THE BOOK OF LOST FRAGRANCES. The character of Jac L'Etoile is in both books as she searches for origin myths for her television show as a mythologist. She's interested in exposing myths from their tiny origins, in her mind debunking them, while to her audience, it verifies that there is a truth in there/ out there!

As the book starts out with lyrical passages about the sea, I have chosen to use the imagery in my review. The pacing begins like the lapping on the shore, as two stories start to be told. Along the way, intrigues of various level are added, mixed flows of water from multiple directions. As the tidal waves build, danger does as well. In a cave, the journal of Victor Hugo is found that ties the past into the present. An almost unplace-able scent has mind-bending consequences for Jac L'Etoile. She has an incredible scent-memory, born of a family that has been perfumers for generations. This new scent leads her on a journey she would otherwise never believe possible.

THE END: The consequences that come of it, and the finale are AMAZING.

FIRST M.J.Rose?

If you have never read any book by M.J. Rose, this book is understandable by itself, but some references will not enlighten you. Once you HAVE read this book, if you enjoyed it, I suggest you read the Reincarnationist Series. After that, you may want to read more of M.J. Rose. I warn you that M.J. Rose writes wonderful sex scenes.

LIBRARIANS: If a patron checks this book out, try to give them the book of lost fragrances with it, and have all of M.J. Rose's books available in your shelves!

Permalink: <http://martysreads.blogspot.com/2013/...>

Goodreads: <http://www.goodreads.com/review/edit/...>

Paula Cappa says

MJ Rose is a talented writer and this book certainly lives up to her reputation. The story is quite complicated with so many story lines. I think I would have loved just a purely historical fiction of Hugo, his family, the spiritualism, and Old Lucifer himself because that is really where the suspense and seduction take place. I cared less for the Jac storyline to be honest but I can see how Rose wanted to bring the story into modern day. The book is atmospheric and suspenseful all the way through. I felt each turn of the page haunt me as if someone were reading with me over my shoulder. (I read it in hard cover and I have to say that there are some stories that affect the imagination deeper in bound paper with those little hisses and sweeps as you flip to the next thought; this is one of them). Rose explains at the end of the book how she wrote the first draft with an old fountain pen (from Paris), which in itself is a seductive little tidbit. A writer's creative process is so mysterious anyway. Adding a writing tool from the historical past is ... well, ghostly. This book certainly is.

Dem says

Seduction by M J Rose is certainly a novel of suspense. The story is set in the past and the present and is a story of reincarnation and mythology. This is out of my normal comfort zone and after seeing the beautiful cover of this book I was intrigued. I am happy to say I continued to be intrigued as I turned the pages of this Novel. I believe this is a sequel to The book of Lost Fragrances which I have not read but I didnt feel at a disadvantage having not read it and was able to establish a connection to this story quite quickly.

In 1843, novelist Victor Hugo's beloved nineteen-year-old daughter drowned. Ten years later, still grieving, Hugo initiated hundreds of séances from his home on the Isle of Jersey in order to re-establish contact with her. In the process, he claimed to have communed with Plato, Galileo, Shakespeare, Dante, Jesus—and even the Devil himself. Hugo's transcriptions of these conversations have all been published. The story is set around these facts but with other story lines fictional characters and present day events the book makes a terrific suspense novel.

Seduction is a beautifully haunting and atmospheric tale of love, loss pain and secrets. There is at the heart of this book a gothic tale/ghost story and at times it kind of gave me the “Heebie-jeebies” but in a good way.

This is a highly descriptive and a very well written novel and I certainly was pulled back in 19th Century as I got a great sense of time and place from this novel.

I especially enjoyed the Victor Hugo connection in this story and found myself goggling The Isle of Jersey and Victor Hugo to find out what is real and what is fiction, but having finished the novel MJ Rose includes a chapter detailing what is fact and what is fiction which I really appreciated.

This was an ARC from Atria Books and Net Galley and I really enjoyed this suspenseful tale.

Marg says

I am going to start with a huge disclaimer about my review of this book. I didn't enjoy this as much as I expected, mainly because it wasn't the book I expected to read.

To be honest, that is my own fault. I have read a number of M J Rose's books before and liked them well enough, but after reading the third book in her Reincarnationist series I decided that was enough for me. It's not that I didn't enjoy the books I read but thrillers aren't really my thing and I am not invested in the paranormal aspects to a great degree, and so I felt it was time to let this series go.

When the next book, The Book of Lost Fragrances, came out last year I stayed strong and didn't read it, just like I apparently didn't read the blurb closely enough when I was offered this book for review. I have a very clear memory of thinking that it was interesting that M J Rose was choosing to go in a new direction. I guess I was stuck on the references to Victor Hugo on the island of Jersey (I had no clue that he had lived there) and didn't actually read the rest of the blurb.

Here's the thing though... the blurb and the cover don't really help considering that there is nothing in either that tells you that this is part of the Reincarnationist series. And that is a real bug to me because as a reader I

prefer to read a series in order. I prefer not to find out that a book is part of a series when I read the second chapter and recognise a character name from the previous books. And yes, I am sure that there are plenty of people who would tell me that this is a standalone book, and it was to a degree, but there were still a lot of references to the events of the previous book.

Anyway...enough of my ranty mcranty rant. How about the book itself?

To read my thoughts about the book, head to

<http://www.theintrepidreader.com/2013...>

Shannon (Giraffe Days) says

Giveaway on my blog!

Jac L'Etoile has returned to the States from France, leaving behind the love of her life, Griffin North, and facing an uncertain future in terms of lost motivation and a lack of direction. In Connecticut, her old therapist and mentor, Malachai, shows her the secret and ancient rock formations on his family's estate that appear to be Celtic; the revelation helps jolt Jac out of her fugue, but more so does the letter she discovers Malachai has been hiding from her, a letter from her friend Theo Gaspard whom she knew at the Blixer Rath clinic in Switzerland. Jac was at Blixer when she was fourteen, sent by her grandmother to see if Malachai and the other therapists could help her with her hallucinations. Theo was two years older, and while they never fit in with the other teenagers at the clinic, they became close friends. But Malachai sees Theo as a danger to Jac, and warns her against him.

Theo lives on the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel, an island full of caves and ancient Celtic sites. In his letter, he asks Jac to join him in searching for evidence of the Druids, and Jac is all too eager to oblige. There are mysteries within mysteries in Jac's life: she and Theo have an unusual connection which neither of them really understand, and Theo has an ulterior motive in calling Jac - whom he hasn't seen since he abruptly left Blixer Rath well over a decade ago - to Jersey.

At Wells in Wood, the very old, rambling stone building the Gaspards have lived in for generations, Theo discovered a letter from the celebrated French author, poet and statesman Victor Hugo to his ancestor, Fantine Gaspard, in which Hugo mentions a journal hidden in a cave only the two of them know of, that will tell a story no one has heard before. A story about the Shadow of the Sepulcher... also known as Lucifer.

Since the loss of his wife, Theo has perhaps an unhealthy obsession with finding Hugo's journal and learning more, and amongst all these Celtic ruins and ancient ritual sites, Jac is easily drawn into the mystery. The layers of mystery only deepen, and the truth becomes more complicated, as the past threatens to overtake the present and obliterate the lives of Fantine's descendants.

I wasn't at all aware, when I agreed to review this, that *Seduction* was part of a series. Having read it, I can tell you that it doesn't make all that much difference. The previous book, *The Book of Lost Fragrances*, is also about Jac and this book does mention some details from her summer in Paris, the setting of the other book, but it made no real difference that I hadn't read it or any of the other books in the series, all of which feature different characters (as far as I can make out).

Reincarnation is a theme, and an integral part of the plot, but there are so many layers to this novel that it's hard to say what is the main theme. Victor Hugo plays a role, and a convincing one at that, as he recounts, in 1855, certain episodes from his time living in exile in Jersey, where he held over a hundred séances - at first to ease his grief after his eldest, Didine, drowns, but it becomes a kind of unhealthy obsession that worries at him, especially after they make contact with Lucifer - the Shadow of the Sepulcher - who offers him a deal: restore his reputation in poetry and he will bring Didine back to Victor. But as Hugo learns, the Shadow's methods are abhorrent: he lures young girls away from their beds at night and brings them to the brink of death, at which point Hugo finds them and the Shadow tries to get him to let the girls die so Didine's soul can take their place.

In the present, Jac's story of her time at Blixer Rath, her unusual friendship with Theo and what it means that she hallucinates things from Theo's life - and his previous lives, not that she believes in reincarnation - weaves in and out of the narrative, gradually adding blocks of knowledge to the foundation of mystery that this novel rests on. There is another side to the story too: a Celtic family in 56 BCE facing a horrific situation, the three players in the drama playing out their tragic roles down through the ages until, finally, it reaches the Gaspards and Jac, with her unique ability to see Theo's past life, learns the truth behind the strife between Theo and his younger brother, Ash, and Theo's wife, Naomi.

There are so many layers to this gothic-horror, mystery-suspense novel, it's a wonder that it works at all. If I untangle them slightly, there are two plot-lines: Victor Hugo's encounters with the Devil and the bargain he offers, and the search for the lost journal; and Jac's ongoing problems with hallucinations, her resistance to Malachai's belief in reincarnation, her visions from 56 BCE and Theo's past life. Somehow Rose weaves these together to make one solid story, but I'm not entirely convinced they fit together all that well.

I was engaged by Victor Hugo's story, which was full of spooky atmosphere and chilling details, and brings that wonderful sense of Victorian Gothic Horror to the story - which is nicely linked to the present through the rather oppressive and monstrous Gaspard mansion which is perched on the edge of the cliff, and even the Victorian house hidden away in the woods that Ash lives in. Jersey itself is a vivid setting, full of dark woods you can get lost in, precipitous cliffs, mist and even wolves. All the more apt for the spookiness of Jac's visions and the slightly menacing atmosphere between Theo and Ash, the Gaspard brothers. There's also their great-aunts, Minerva and Eva, who have their own secrets. This is certainly a book about airing the past and healing old wounds.

As interesting as the story was - and the multiple layers or dimensions to it did appeal to me - I struggled a bit, reading this. Rose's prose is perfectly competent but her style, her "voice", isn't one that really worked for me. It's hard to say why, it's just one of those things. We all have our own unique brain patterns, the rhythms of our mind and our own voice, even if we're not writers, and sometimes we find authors whose own voice, or style - their "way with words", how they construct sentences - aligns well with our own, or balances it or engages or stimulates or what have you. And other times an author's voice jars, or annoys, or bores us. Rose's voice just didn't quite engage mine, so that I too-often found my mind wandering. It's not an easy thing to explain, especially when I can't say that there's any particular reason why I didn't "click" better with this novel. It has so many elements that should have completely engaged me, but that didn't. Perhaps part of the problem was that there was *so much* going on here, and for a while I simply didn't know what story I was reading or where it was headed. It's not going to be that way for everyone, obviously, so I don't want it to detract from anyone's interest in reading this. But, this being my personal review, it's important to note it.

Seduction has many strengths, not least of which is the depth of Rose's research - into Victor Hugo, the Celts, the art of creating perfume and any number of other things. It's rather exhausting to think of it. Rose has

created a deeply atmospheric, multi-layered novel of mystery, suspense and gothic horror, weaving the lives of centuries into one complex tale. There is a scene at the end that I found to be horrific and tragic and that still makes me want to cry just thinking about it, but that just made the revelations all that much stronger, and caring about a novel's characters makes the reading experience linger for a long time. I may have struggled to connect with the characters and the story in some ways, but it isn't a story I'll forget in a hurry; as for the characters, so will it echo and resonate over the years with me.

My thanks to the publisher for a copy of this book via France Book Tours.

Stephanie says

I have not read any of M.J. Rose before and she now has a new fan. What an interesting and intense premise for a story, one I've not quite read. There are so many wonderful characters in this story. One of them being Victor Hugo. An author who lived in the nineteenth century. All I really knew about him was his extraordinary talent for storytelling and have read several of his novels. This tale gives you a look into his personal life. His daughter lost her life and I believe he was always haunted by her death. Years later, He began dabbling in séances hoping to contact her. By doing so, he opens a window to an evil force.

In the present, Jac L'Etoile-a women who is recovering from a loss as well-travels to the Isle of Jersey at the request of an old friend. Jac is a mythologist and is wanting to uncover mysteries and secrets of the island. She and her friend discover journals that was written by Victor Hugo.

There is so much more to this story, but I don't want to give anything away. As your reading this story, you feel as if you are finding an unexpected gift in every page. Hard to describe really. I was instantly absorbed with the imaginative writing. Beautiful prose throughout, suspenseful, descriptive, romantic, mystical- but realistic at the same time- and haunting. I was completely memorized by this tale.

I really admire an author who writes characters in such a way you can connect to them on some level. Even some of the characters' you will have a love/ hate regard for them. After reading this story, I want to read the whole series now. I highly recommend this brilliantly written novel. I'm giving it a five star rating.

Stephanie
Layered Pages

www.layeredpages.com

Morgannah says

This was my first book by M.J. Rose and I realized about 1/3 of the way into it that it was the 5th book in a series.

I didn't care.

This book centers around a lady mythologist, which I also claim to be, and perfume, and reincarnation, and Victor Hugo.

Ms. Rose, did you write this book just for me?

This was an absolutely lovely surprise and it drew me out of a month long reading slump.

Katy says

Book Info: Genre: Paranormal

Reading Level: Adult

Recommended for: People who like a reading experience that is sensual, with beautiful language, paranormal, romantic fiction, those interested in past lives and reincarnation

Book Available: May 7, 2013 in hardcover, Kindle and Audiobook formats; find out how to receive swag if you preorder a hardcover by following this link (where formatting allowed)

Trigger Warnings: attempted murder, human sacrifice

My Thoughts: From the first line, “*Every story begins with a tremble of anticipation*,” I knew I was going to love this book just as much as I’ve loved this whole series. I picked up the first three books in the series three years ago after reading and loving the Butterfield Institute books (which are **not related to this series**, but which I also loved), and really enjoyed them, so I was so excited last year to be able to read an ARC of *The Book of Lost Fragrances* from NetGalley, and even more excited earlier this year to learn M.J. Rose was forming a “street team” of fans to spread the word about her remarkable stories.

“Now wait a minute, Katy,” some of you are saying. “These sound a lot like paranormal romance to me, which I know for a fact you hate!” Well, yes and no. There are definitely elements of romance in these books, but it is subsumed to the story itself. There’s an underlying and long story arc through these books about various people searching for meaning in their lives by seeking out information about their past lives. There are elements of erotica, however understated, in the Butterfield Institute books, but the Reincarnationist series ... it’s very difficult to place them into a specific genre. But the stories all deal with finding information about past lives, and how current lives intertwine with past lives, and how unfinished business from past lives can affect one’s current lives, so there is a lot of metaphysics and a lot of the supernatural. It’s really quite fascinating.

While the first three books in the series are only loosely connected, although containing the overstory, *Seduction* is a direct sequel to, and continues part of the story from, *The Book of Lost Fragrances*. While you could read these two books without having read the first part of the series, I **strongly** recommend that you read the entire Reincarnationist series from the start or you might end up with a misapprehension concerning Malachi. (Personally I would love to see you also read the Butterfield Institute books: *Lip Service*, *The Halo Effect*, *The Delilah Complex* and *The Venus Fix*, just because they’re awesome, but it’s not necessary.)

The language in M.J. Rose’s book is lovely, lyrical, sensual. It’s like rubbing a soft piece of velvet against your skin, or petting the soft nose of a young foal. It’s something to revel in and enjoy. This particular book delves into mythology, the Celts, Victor Hugo, reincarnation, past-life regression and many other fascinating ideas and thoughts. Character development for Jac and Malachi is mostly done in previous books, but the new characters we meet are as well-developed as I would expect from M.J. Rose. The only issue I had was with the language used by Victor Hugo and his associates; I do not think they would use “got” and “get” the way we do in modern days. I think their language would be more precise and grammatically correct. But that was a very minor issue.

This book—this whole series—will appeal to people who are interested in reincarnation and past lives, who enjoy a well-told story with beautiful language, who enjoy a reading experience that is sensual and lovely. Genre-wise, I think fans of literary fiction, paranormal suspense, and romantic fiction will all enjoy these stories. Definitely check them out. I know I've loved the lot of them.

Series Information: *Seduction* is the fifth book in the Reincarnationist series.

Book 1: *The Reincarnationist* ; I read in 2010 or 2011, but didn't review. 5 stars

Book 2: *The Memorist* ; I read in 2010, or 2011, but didn't review. 5 stars

Book 3: *The Hypnotist* ; I listened to audiobook in 2010 or 2011, but didn't review. 5 stars

Book 4: *The Book of Lost Fragrances* ; read and reviewed March 2012. Review linked here where formatting allowed.

If you like this author's style, you can also check out The Butterfield Institute series.

Prequel: *Lip Service* ; I read in 2010 or 2011, but didn't review. 5 stars

Book 1: *The Halo Effect* ; I read in 2010 or 2011, but didn't review. 5 stars

Book 2: *The Delilah Complex* ; I read in 2010 or 2011, but didn't review. 5 stars

Book 3: *The Venus Fix* ; I read in 2010 or 2011, but didn't review. 5 stars

Disclosure: I am part of M.J. Rose's "Street Team," which I joined because I am a fan after buying and reading all the Butterfield Institute series books and three of the Reincarnationists series books. I received this e-galley from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

Synopsis: In 1843, novelist Victor Hugo's beloved nineteen-year-old daughter drowned. Ten years later, Hugo began participating in hundreds of séances to reestablish contact with her. In the process, he claimed to have communed with the likes of Plato, Galileo, Shakespeare, Dante, Jesus—and even the Devil himself. Hugo's transcriptions of these conversations have all been published. Or so it was believed.

Recovering from her own losses, mythologist Jac L'Etoile arrives on the Isle of Jersey—where Hugo conducted the séances—hoping to uncover a secret about the island's Celtic roots. But the man who's invited her there, a troubled soul named Theo Gaspard, has hopes she'll help him discover something quite different—Hugo's lost conversations with someone called the Shadow of the Sepulcher.

What follows is an intricately plotted and atmospheric tale of suspense with a spellbinding ghost story at its heart, by one of America's most gifted and imaginative novelists.

Andrea Guy says

Seduction brings back some of the characters that you met when reading M.J. Rose's last novel *The Book Of Lost Fragrances*, so there will be some familiar faces here, especially for those of us that have been reading *The Reincarnationist Series*. (These books can be read as stand alone novels, but I think in this case, it might be helpful if you had read the previous book in the series)

This book, like the others in this series, blends past and present beautifully, bringing the life of Victor Hugo into the realm of fiction. His character is one of the main reasons I wanted to read the novel and as always, M.J. Rose didn't disappoint. I really felt connected to him in a way I never have before. He's more than just the author of *Les Misérables* now.

More than suspenseful, this book also has a lot of spooky going on, which gives it a slightly different feel

from the other novels. It almost made me wish that this book had been released in the autumn, because it is more the type of book I read around Halloween. (I'm crazy like that...I tend to read all my spooky novels in October)

The seances that occurred in Hugo's time period were creepy and the things that happened to Jac really give this book some dark undertones.

I love how well researched the book was in regards to Hugo's life. I found myself doing many an internet search to fact check and I found myself even more intrigued with Hugo's life after reading this book.

This is definitely the best book in the series so far.

I highly recommend this book and all of the series to fans of mystery/suspense and just a little something different.

Judith Starkston says

M.J. Rose's *Seduction* moves between the haunted world of Victor Hugo in 1855 on the Isle of Jersey after the death of his daughter and the equally problematic life of Rose's modern heroine, Jac L'Etoile, a mythologist and innately talented perfumer with a tragic past. The book opens with news of the drowning of Hugo's daughter, Didine, and subsequent attempts to contact her through séances. Hugo, the great French rationalist and defender of secular justice, becomes obsessed with the dead, even to the point of awakening a dangerous spirit.

On the modern side of this literary equation, Jac yields to her own menacing temptations. Jac's extraordinary olfactory sense seems to draw her into the past as her "recall" of events is triggered by particular smells. Her mentor, Malachai Samuels, a Jungian psychiatrist and believer in reincarnation, tries unsuccessfully to hold her to safe projects, but instead she finds hidden in Malachai's papers an invitation to her from Theo Gaspard, a man she hasn't seen since she was fourteen, to come to the Isle of Jersey and explore Celtic ruins. As teenagers they connected at the Swiss clinic where Malachai treated both troubled kids, but they were separated for reasons Jac never understood after a mysterious accident. Now Jac, trying to recover from a broken heart, can't help but wonder what Theo really wants and has to offer. She always felt an enticing sizzle between them.

Malachai is right to have been concerned, as it turns out. The journals from Hugo's séances and the Celtic remains on Jersey tangle Jac and Theo in a dangerous web that may be the spirit world, may be Jungian universal images, or perhaps past lives coming through in a deadly way. Rose uses all these possibilities to invite the reader to enter into this ominous and atmospheric world.

Rose brought us the appealing Jac L'Etoile in *The Book of Lost Fragrances* and I'm glad to follow her into a new adventure blending the past and the present in a mystical way. I did not realize there had been a spiritualist stage for Victor Hugo, author of *Les Misérables*, a humanistic book determined to right social injustices toward the poor. Rose moved me with her portrayal of his grief and the frightening, wild irrationalities it drove him to. Her blending of the mystical and the historical pulls the reader deeply into the emotional crises of Jac and Hugo. This is a difficult book to put down.

Erin says

Find the enhanced version of this and other reviews at: <http://flashlightcommentary.blogspot...>

Is it possible to be intoxicated by the written word? I don't know that I'd given the idea much thought before reading M.J. Rose's *Seduction*, but afterward I'm inclined to say it is.

Few authors have as distinct a writing style as Rose, at least in my experience. Her narrative is heavy, though like a heady perfume, it reveals a beautiful array of notes the longer it is allowed to breathe. From the first page I was quite literally swept up in the artistry of her words, charmed by her elegant prose.

Naturally there is more to a story than how it is written. What you write is of equal importance and here again I was rather impressed. Rose seamlessly blends history, psychology, mystery, theology, romance and suspense into one astoundingly unique volume. Perhaps this is indicative of all her novels, but this being my first experience with her work, I found the combination surprising as well as enjoyable.

If only I'd been able to connect with the characters. I'm not sure why but I never felt as if I knew them. I could understand them, but something I can't put my finger on kept me from really getting inside their heads. This disconnect may, in part, be attributed to my not having read earlier installments of the series, but I am still someone disappointed I was unable to appreciate the cast as much as I did the telling of their story.

This small criticism aside, I loved this piece, how it made me think and feel, and hope to come across more of Rose's work in the future.

Emily says

Probably one of the most interesting premises that I've read in awhile, *Seduction* gives us not only an inside look into the secret life of Victor Hugo, but an in-depth study on reincarnation. *Seduction* tells the story from three view points: One in the 1800's (Hugo's diary), one from an ancient Druid clan, and one in the modern day.

The title is very apt. The writing is sweeping and ethereal. It seduces your senses to a point where Hugo, Owain, Jac and Theo are all you can think about. Their lives intertwine together, but why? The sections on Victor Hugo are taken from his (fictional) letters written to one of his past loves that describe his sadness over losing his daughter that drives him to begin following the route of spiritualism and séances in order to, hopefully, have a conversation with his lost daughter. He comes in contact with a bad spirit and begins a downward spiral.

Owain is the head priest of the druids. The Romans are marching close to their lands, and as he struggles to find a way to save his people, he is asked by the gods to do the unthinkable. As he struggles to come to grips with this request, his life is changed—perhaps for eternity.

Theo is a troubled man who had a troubled youth. He has problems with depression and anxiety. When he asks Jac to come and help him find and explore an ancient secret about druids and reincarnation, Jac jumps at the chance and finds herself embroiled in something way over her head and comprehension.

Jac is the one holding the key to all of these men and helping them to settle their issues. Her hallucinations mean something more than just random occurrences and if she could just figure out what it all means, perhaps she could help, or better yet, get the hallucinations to stop!
The writing is engaging and the subject is definitely something out of the ordinary!

Hallucinations, reincarnation, ancient druid ceremonies, séances and Ouija boards, perfumers, murder mysteries, and even a brush with lightning make this an adventure for all the senses. The overall feeling is spooky and mysterious—you'll want to leave all the lights on!

Review is courtesy my link text.

FYI-- There is a lot of content (a lot of sex and freaky spiritualism, especially), and if that's something that concerns you, I recommend looking up the content ratings at the above website. This particular book will not be on the searchable database until it comes out in May, however, so look for it after May 2013.
