



Tending Roses

Lisa Wingate

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While living in a remote Missouri farmhouse-and struggling to care for her husband, baby, and aging grandmother-Kate Bowman finds inspiration in the pages of her grandmother's handmade journal...

Tending Roses Details

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From Reader Review Tending Roses for online ebook

Judy says

Tending Roses by Lisa Wingate

Tending Roses Series Book One

Ben and Kate Bowman were “living the life” as some say. Things changed in the blink of an eye. A baby born with heart issues. Hospital bills that were piling up and insurance refusing to pay. And Grandma Rose needing someone to stay with her until after Christmas because of health issues.

Kate was on extended leave from work and Ben could work from home. So the adventure began. Grandma Rose was not an easy women to be around. Kate's family was at odds with each other for the past six years. And the money issues were pulling at Kate's marriage.

Another story that pulls at the heartstrings and gets the tear ducts flowing. And more. I wish I'd taken more time to sit and learn my own history before my grandparents and mom had passed away. Our busy lives often keep us so focused on the future, that we forget to remember our past. Thank you, Lisa Wingate, for another well-written book that is so much more than just a fiction read.

**Received book through Penguin Random House for an honest review

<http://justjudysjumbles.blogspot.com/...>

Brandy says

Some people may say that this book is on the boring side. I personally loved it. It is about a young lady who goes to stay with her aging grandmother. They don't have the best relationship. Not your typical grandmother/granddaughter relationship. I don't want to give away the ending, but I will say that I loved it because I read it shortly after my grandmother passed away and I didn't have the greatest relationship with her either. The book didn't make me have any regrets but it did create alot of emotions that were good to work out. Even if you didn't have a relationship like the one in this book with your grandmother, I think it is a worthwhile read and would recommend it to anyone looking for another good read.

Susan Peterson says

There is so much to love about this book! Tending Roses is a story about family and forgiveness, a heartfelt tale about finding happiness and contentment. There is so much wisdom and love within its pages. Grandma Rose is such a wonderful, memorable character, sometimes cranky, but always loving and wise. I became emotionally invested in all of the characters; a family torn apart by secrets, jealousy, and hurt feelings; a family who needs to find a way to come back together for all of their sakes.

Joleen says

Wow!

Seldom do I start a review with *wow* when it's not a 5-star review. This is most definitely worth 5 stars, and more if I could give it more. Also, I seldom re-read books, but I have no doubt I will go back to this book several times... and perhaps someday, God willing, sit down with my granddaughter when she's old enough and read it to her. Such a beautiful work this book is. I really love all of Ms. Wingate's novels, but I think this is my favorite.

As I was reading I kept wondering if Ms. Wingate is a teacher at her church or in home studies. Her ability to teach in stories is breathtaking, truly. And I don't mean stating facts we all need to learn, but writing stories within a book from which we find gold. Oh, and golden it all is! Such lessons all parents should be blessed by. Such riches families can hold dear to their hearts.

Okay, enough blathering. Story:

Nearly ninety, Grandma Rose is hoping her whole family will come back to the farm for Christmas. What she doesn't know is their reason for assembling this year will be to have her sent to a "home" and sell her farm. After suffering a stroke and unintentionally starting a small fire, they think this will be the best and safest plan for her, thinking she just can't take care of herself anymore.

Kate, Ben and baby Josh are the first to arrive, her being on maternity leave and Ben able to do his work from the internet and on a computer. She is supposed to assess Grandma's condition and ease her into this new idea for the rest of her life. While there Kate finds a book with pressed flowers on the cover. Time and time again Kate finds this book when she's alone and reads a new story in it, each time the one before had been removed. Each story is eloquently written; stories about events in Grandma's past. Each one is moving in some way, either cheerful or painful, but all have a powerful effect on Kate, and each one is relevant to her life at that moment.

(view spoiler)

The rest of the book is just as engaging. There are family differences stemming from her mother's sudden death 6 years before... differences straining family relations tighter than comfortable. But two voices of wisdom in the family seem to have a calming effect and, of course, focus on a baby soothes many of the ruffles.

I feel like I can't give an adequate review without giving too much away, but how I feel about the beauty of this book is enough, I think.

Recommend? Oh yes. In fact, I'd go so far as to say almost everyone should read it. From grandparents, to young working parents, to older parents who wonder where they may have gone wrong. This story sheds light on what's important, truly important.

Cathy Daniel says

Love, love, LOVE Lisa Wingate's books but this one isn't drawing me in like her books usually do. It's definitely me but I just find the idea of this grandma with dementia to be a little too sad. It's making me miss

mine!

Theresa says

This is a book I like to read every few years. So far I have read it three times and I still am not tired of it!

I especially enjoy Grandma Rose's character. She is real; down-to-earth, not merely a 'fluffy do-gooder Grandma' type, but also able to offer stability and advice to her granddaughter, Kate.

The author does not gloss over Grandma Rose's faults but because they are so realistic (for example, the piles of clutter in her home that she defensively pretends to be 'normal' and does not want her family to notice), endear her to the reader all the more.

In a society that more and more devalues the elderly and commitment within marriage, this book has been a refreshing read.

A book that emphasizes the importance of family, relationships, and working through differences, presented in a good story setting.

Becca says

I love this book! This is the first book in a series of 3 (At least I think it's the first...). They are connected in an interesting way. The characters waltz in and out of each story, but each book has a different main character. The other books are Language of the Sycamore and Drenched in Light. I read them in the order listed. Lisa Wingate also wrote Good Hope Road which has some of the same characters, but I don't know if it was meant to be part of the series.

Rissa says

She is not close with her family but when they need her she will come.

Its just an average family with real life problems and a bit of extra drama for good measure.

Grandma Rose left these journals, letters, her life on paper and these stories turn to life lessons and allows her to see a different side of her parents then before.

It was beautiful, not as good as Before we were yours but still a beautiful story.

Crystal says

As a stay-at-home mom, I LOVED this book! It helps you put things in perspective, remember what's most important, and more fully enjoy every minute of everyday...especially with your children. I will caution you on a bit of swearing in the first few chapters, although it doesn't continue through the book.

Debra Hutchison says

this book is about a young couple with a child that goes a spends some time with her grandmother. They want to put the grandmother in a nursery home and this mother is on maternity leave and so she goes and stays with her grandmother until the family can decide what to do. The family hasn't been really close since their mother died 6 years ago. The grandmother leaves a journal in places that her granddaughter can see. At first she thinks that she is snooping and reading the journal but then she looks forward to the times that her grandmother leaves it for her to read. There is so much wisdom that comes from the grandmother. I enjoyed reading it and have done so several times. I have given out to many people and everyone loves it. There are other books that follows in this series that were good and continues the story. Lisa Wingate has another series that I have heard is superb as well. I will get to them soon

Lori says

Bleh. Sappy, heavy-handed and obvious. A woman stressed out by her job, her role as a new parent, and her desires for more house, more money, more everything goes to take care of her grandmother with Alzheimers and learns lots of important lessons about what is important. I hate this sort of "message" book where the outcome is obvious from page one and cliches masquerade as challenges.

Jeanne Adamek says

I realize that I do not really write reviews, I only write the impressions and the feelings that I get from a book. I read a lot of really awe-inspiring books this year but this book "Tending Roses" will stay with me.

Lisa Wingate has written perfectly (at least for me) a book about family relationships, the wonderful and also the not so great. She created a grandmother that was wise but also contrary and sometimes down right mean. A real person...

I read this with the eyes of a grandmother, but a grandmother that also (with my husband) worries about mother-in-law who has health problems, who is wise and also sometimes contrary and down right mean. I also see my children and their families...

A book that can make the reader think and contemplate as well as entertain and leave the reader feeling good is extraordinary and this story did that for me.

Jen says

I needed to hear the message of this book. As a homemaker and a full-time mom it really inspired me to slow down and really savor the fleeting precious moments of motherhood. I am normally very passionate about learning new things and can easily get caught up in my own interests. This book helped me to remember that I'll have my whole life to devote full-time attention to them. While I do take time for myself, I take great

satisfaction in nurturing the passion for life and learning in my children. Their accomplishments are a wonder to behold.

Apryl Rickert says

A lesson in gratitude and what is really important in life when we truly take time to connect with our purpose. Beautifully written book ! This author shared many important lessons that everyone can take something away from and use in their own life.

Loraine says

SUMMARY: The lessons that most enrich our lives often come unexpectedly. That's what Kate Bowman learns when she moves temporarily—with her husband and baby son—to her grandmother's Missouri farm. The family has given Kate the job of convincing Grandma Rose, who's become increasingly stubborn and forgetful, to move off her beloved land and into a nursing home. But Kate knows such a change would break her grandmother's heart.

Just when Kate despairs of finding answers, she discovers her grandma's journal. A beautiful handmade notebook, it is full of stories that celebrate the importance of family, friendship, and faith. Stories that make Kate see her life—and her grandmother—in a completely new way...

REVIEW: This book definitely made on to my list of 2015 favorites. I loved how Grandma Rose's journal magically appeared and had the perfect entry to address Kate's problems at exactly the right time. The entire story line was so beautiful and full of love and faith. The emphasis on the importance of placing focus on family rather than on bigger, better and more materialism resonates in today's world. This book was so filled with gems of wisdom from Grandma Rose that I will let these nuggets of favorite quotes show you how amazing this book is. I look forward to reading the other 2 books in this series.

FAVORITE QUOTES: (I actually had 19 but will post about half of them!)

"Grown up life has a way of doing that to you--taking up a little more and a little more of your time until you're never together, and when you are together you're exhausted."

"My father used to say: 'The man who buys what he does not need will often need what he cannot buy.'"

"But is life a success when it doesn't include time for after-school talks, and curling up to read books on winter nights, and weaving daisy chains in the summer? Is it a success when you have all the big things but none of the small ones? Is it as it should be when everybody grows up and moves to opposite coasts and doesn't care if they ever see each other?"

"Raising children is an occupation of self-sacrifice, but these days young people don't want to give anything up."

"You must remember that when people are unkind to you and try to make you feel as if you are less than they are. Your Father in heaven made every strand of hair on your head and every ounce of flesh on your bones. You are perfect, and beautify, and just the way you are intended to be."

"I wished it were that simple for Ben and me--just read a map and suddenly we would know where we were meant to end up and how to get there. But growing up is never that easy, no matter what age you are."

"Young parents, hold your children a liottle longer today. Kiss them when you put them into bed tonight, say their prayers with them,sit by them while they fall asleep. Your children are the greatest gift God will give to you, and their souls the heaviest responsibility He will place in your hands. Take time with them, teach them to have faith in God. Be a person in whom they can have faith. When you are old, nothing else you've done will have mattered as much."

"Sometimes when you're doing good for other people, good things happen to you too."

"Sometimes it's easier to have sympathy for strangers than it is to have sympathy for your own family."

"When you feel burdened, listen to the laughter of your children. Take delight in them. They will make your load seem light."

"The secret to a happy life is not in getting what you want. It is learning to want what you get. Don't waste your time crying over what you're not given. When you have tears in your eyes, you can't see all the beautiful things around you."
