



## Blue Rose

*Sarah Daltry*

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“Four. My life has been shaped by four people. Four men, to be more specific. My father, my stepfather, my best friend, and my boyfriend. The first two shaped it in horrible ways, but what I am, who I am, is all because of four men.”

Alana Reardon has secrets. Some of them are too dark to tell, but everyone already thinks they know anyhow. At 20, she takes too many pills, hides the parts of her that she hates, and willingly becomes the person that they think she is. A slut. A whore. Trash.

There have only been two guys who ever saw Alana as more: Jack, the guy she can't get over, and Dave, the one who never got over her.

With the help of therapy, facing her past, and the inevitable ways that life changes without your permission, can Alana learn to stop blaming herself? Can she allow love into her life? Is she ready to move on?

Warning: This book deals with topics of abuse and may trigger reactions in people who have experienced those things in their own lives.

## **Blue Rose Details**

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Author : Sarah Daltry

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## From Reader Review Blue Rose for online ebook

### Danni says

I was so surprised this book had come out today and it was on my birthday so that had me even more excited. If you don't know I'm completely in love with this series. Can't remember what made me read the first book but I'm glad I did. Jack has had my heart and is defiantly one of my favorite book boyfriends.

Blue Rose was a chance for Alana to tell her story and why she is the way she is and how she got there. We get to see right from the beginning how she had dreams and wanted so much out of life. And sadly the one person in life that is supposed to protect her was the one who stole her innocence from her. Sadly she thinks if she would had come down that night it would have never happened but it would have he was a predator. We get to see the past and the present as the story is being told. I was never lost I always knew what I was reading and actually found the book to be going by super fast. I did wonder how the kids at school found about what her father did to her? And what was the out come of him and Jimmy?

The one relationship I was really hoping we would get to see is the one with her mother I think that is the one relationship that really needed the looked at. But I'm glad that her mother found Owen I think he will be very good dad for Alana he seems to have some of his pain that he has dealt with and would be able to understand her.

Even though some of the story has been retold again in this one it still doesn't feel like the same story over and over again. We get to see how she was feeling with her emotions over Jake and was it really "love" she was feeling or something else. The one thing I wasn't happy with is I felt like we didn't get enough of her and Dave together in the present. Just seemed like one moment she was talking/thinking about him and then there he was.

So unfortunately I didn't really fall in love with them as a couple like I wanted to. Now don't get me wrong I'm not saying that I won't I just going to need more couple time with them like we did with Lily/Jake. Their story was told but we still had lot if couple if time with them.

I will still recommend this book and the series they are all great and worth the time to give a chance. Now with that being said I need for these people to get a hea they need it and they deserve it. I'm excited about the next books in the series but I'm not ready for it to end just yet.

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### Kat says

There are a few books you will read in your life where they hook into your brain and you will be sat there not really thinking of much and all of a sudden you remember something from it and ponder on the book again... well this is one of those.

Alana was always a favorite character for me, she intrigued me from the first book...

In Lily of the Valley I felt Sarah had put her heart and soul into the writing, and it showed in all the characters, Alana included so when Blue Rose was released I was eager to read, Sarah doesn't disappoint.

At some points I wanted to shake her and say Think – don't do that, but in the end as Alana's motto says "Real life doesn't have a happily ever after and, like I said, this is no fairy tale. But it's a story and it's my

story..."

Sarah is among my Top Favorite authors as she writes from the soul, she writes about real life scenarios and she doesn't sugar coat it.

This story is about the Good and the Bad that life can throw at a person you will feel for Alana and the abuse that she went through but in the end you come away with the feeling that she is a fighter, a survivor who can love and care for a person even after the shitty start she had.

I can highly recommend this book and any of Sarah's other books to anyone, she really is a talented author.

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### ♥?Melanie says

\*\*\*I received a copy from Netgalley for my honest review\*\*\*

Dark, harsh, disturbing, heartbreakng and hard to digest. Those are a few words nice words to describe Alana's story. The abuse, bullying and torture that Alana lived through and put herself through was horrific. Though reading how she grew and sought help and eventually love was creatively written. This book may not be everyone's cup of tea but it is a great read.

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### Laura Greenwood says

Review forthcoming on <http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

Blue Rose is the most recent book in the Flowering series, and runs roughly parallel to both Forget Me Not and Lily of the Valley. (So before Star of Bethlehem.)

In book 1 Lily's story was told, and in book 2 we heard from Jack, but Blue Rose tells Alana's story, about her past, her present, and her dealing with it. Revisiting events from her past (since she was 11) with her new Councillor, Melinda, Alana faces up to some things that she has tried to repress, and recognises the need to come clean about certain things, even the things that she has hidden from Jack all these years. But dealing with the past isn't always an easy past to go down, particularly for Alana.

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I had to think about when I wanted to write this review, that may sound silly but it was whether or not to leave time between reading and writing the review. Normally I don't leave a gap at all, but reading Blue Rose has left me quite emotional. In the end, I've decided to write it straight away, still feeling all the emotions that the book made me feel, I thought it would reflect better.

Now, the reason it has left me feeling so worked up. I won't go into detail because I don't really want to, and

because this is a book blog and you don't read my reviews to find out about my personal issues, but some of the issues that Alana has had to face in her life are scarily similar to some of the issues I have experienced myself. And the accuracy with which Daltry described some of the feelings associated with those issues were so realistic that it couldn't help but make me cry.

As you can probably tell, Blue Rose is different from the other Flowering books so far, though Lily and Jack both had their issues, they only really scratch the surface in comparison to those of Alana, making this book far more emotional and maybe even darker, than any of the previous ones. That's not to say that there aren't moments of happiness and more importantly, hope, because there are, and the whole book is fantastically written (as were the others).

There was also a different set up to this book, there were some chapters that focused solely on events from Alana's past (clearly marked) and they weren't in chronological order. That may sound strange, but in the present Alana has started to see Melinda, and it is as she tells her about her experiences that the reader learns of them too. It was kind of like getting to know someone in real life, you had the surface Alana in the previous books, but then Blue Rose has peeled back the layers until you get the real Alana underneath.

I'm worried I'm coming across too negative, because I don't feel negative about this book at all, it has left me emotionally raw I will admit, but there is no part of me that regrets reading it. In fact it is that raw emotion that made this book so enjoyable (well not enjoyable exactly but I can't really think of the right word!)

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Finally, if you're still with me at this point, I think it should be mentioned that there are several issues dealt with in Blue Rose that some people may find particularly difficult to read about, including (but not just), depression, trust issues, abuse (both physical and sexual), and self harm.

### **books are love says**

In this book in the flowering series, alana is revealed to us. Such a tragic story but beautiful as well. We see her work hard to change her fate to become who she wants to be someone who she can live with. We also see jack as a sweet boy angry but sweet as Alana shows us the past and what has helped make her who she is. Jack and Dave are the sweetest guys the ones who make Alana hopeful.

As we delve into the past we see the events that harmed Alana and we see how her and Jack are always going to be intertwined and love one another. We also see where she wishes for more and where dave comes into play.

Dave the boy that almost got away. The boy who loved Alana and didn't care about anything else. The kind boy that no matter what life handed him was sweet and understanding. And when him and Alana get together and Alana sees she loves him it is a wondrous sight. He treats her with love and respect and helps build her self esteem. He supports her and makes her see that there is hope and love.

As Alana changes so do her relationships. They become more whole and more beautiful. A wonderful story that shows us we aren't what people think unless we let it become so. A story of love and friendship and how we lose hope when things are bleakest and how one thing can change that. I hope her and Dave work out they are meant to be. He is what helps her grow and become whole again.

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### **Samantha says**

This is a book that isn't for everyone. There are things that happen to us to make us who we are. Then there are things that break us and it's hard to recover. Sometimes recovery never happens. This book is a gritty story that does have happiness but honestly it's abuse, rape and a whole lot that some people just can't handle.

Alana was born with looks. The problem? People and jealousy. There are extremely nasty people in the world and sadly nothing can be done. This girl's world is ripped apart at age 11 and she never really recovers. She just is. Now at age 20 she's still broken and more than enough bad has happened that it's hard to grasp it. Hard to overcome.

It's a good story and honestly it's not going to be for everyone. Alana grows and changes and it's amazing to watch her blossom. I'm just sad it took me so long to finally read it.

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### **Karen Weiseman Muller says**

Blue Rose – This flower is not often found in nature and because of this it has come to symbolize mystery and longing to attain the impossible.

Alana the main character in this book is truly a mystery and striving to attain what she believes to be impossible. The journey you take with Alana through her life and her struggles will bring you to tears. This story takes you through Alana trying to break down the layers that make her up to find hope, happiness, and love.

The stories in this series have been said to be depressing, and yes they are sad, and heart breaking and emotional, but they are well written, and real. These characters could be anyone you pass on the street having these struggles in their lives. Daltry brings you a story that will make you break down, and then build you up with hope.

Blue Rose is the third full novel released in the Flowering Series, the first Forget Me Not takes you through Lily's story, Lily of the Valley, takes you from Jack's POV through his story, and Blue Rose takes you through Alana's story. Each story is different and adds an additional element to the growing story between the three main characters.

Part of the reason I love this book so much is because you meet Alana in present day, and then you learn more in-depth about the story it was trying to tell by flashing back for a chapter to explain the event in its entirety. It draws you, simply because it helps you to understand how our past can shape our future, and the way we see the world.

The power in Daltry's writing is amazing and I can only imagine those who read this book, who live real lives may gain something from the events that Alana has lived through.

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### **Phaedra Seabolt says**

Heed the warning in the description of this book. If you do not like to read about topics like rape, suicide, adultery, abuse, etc., this book is not for you. Alana has been through more than any girl should have in just shy of a decade. She developed faster than the other girls her age which caused her to be ridiculed for being more grown up than the others her age. Unfortunately, she caught the eyes of adult men as early as eleven

years old. None acted on their desires until her father took advantage of her. She was so young that she didn't know it was wrong. This became a trend in her life. She was called derogatory names that really don't apply to a rape victim, but the other kids in school didn't know the difference. How any other them learned the truth, we will never know.

Alana makes friends with Jack and Dave who have some serious problems of their own. They are the outcasts at school, but their misfortunes bring them together. Their closeness also causes them not to move forward with their lives. They latch onto each other in an unhealthy way where they dwell on their problems. Except for Dave really. He has found a way to move forward, but his love for Alana remains. It's just a question of whether that love is a healthy kind or not and whether Alana can learn to accept it for what it is. These are all issues that Alana must deal with in therapy. She finally has a therapist she likes and is making progress.

The book alternates each chapter between what happened in her past and what is currently happening. It is a book about healing and that it can be a long, miserable road. However, I found this book rather depressing. Of course it doesn't help that I was reading it when dealing with my husband's grandfather's death. Much like how Jack, Dave, and Alana being around each other causes them not to move past their problems, my depressing family death caused this book to be even more upsetting to me. This concept is why I am not crazy about things like group therapy. I think hearing about other people's problems can make you feel better if their problems are worse than yours, but it can have the opposite affect if yours are worse than theirs. I think this topic was covered in this story in a subliminal way. It's well written, but not my thing.

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### **Natalie Townson says**

I love this series, it's probably one of my favorites every time I read a flowering novel I want more, we always get glimpses of Alana in the other books but this is completely her story

Alana is messed up, after the one person she should rely on most does the unthinkable to her, her life is mapped out and it's not an easy life, from a young age she has to deal with abuse, bullying and manipulation.

When Alana meets jack he is her life saver, a kindred spirit that keeps her afloat in a dark world she is accustomed too, the life she lives is one she feels she deserves.

Alana loves jack, and although they are always there for each other the relationship is destructive and when jack meets lily, Alana feels like she has no one to cling too and finds herself even more desperate than before

Out of all the books this was the most difficult to read due to the content.

I love how Sarah grips you into her stories, how you feel like you heart breaks every time you read a little more. The reason for me that this one is not five stars is because I wanted more interaction with Dave, I wanted to see more from them as a couple

I still highly recommend this book and can't wait for orange blossom on 4th April

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## **Jenna says**

I can sum up this book for you in a couple words: Alana, abuse, rape, Jack, sex, sex, sex, slut, beautiful, threesomes, Dave, therapy and love.

Alana is a very difficult person to relate to, she has suffered some serious abuse in her young life.

I feel like the writer was generalized a lot of teens and man, she was being bullied by everyone except her bff Jack, all older guys were hot for her, everyone guy wanted to grab her boob or have sex.

Her mother's reaction was horrible and unrealistic because most mothers would cry and talk and not trust any man in the house anymore.

She toughed of herself as a slut and behaved as one therefore. I hate abuse against woman and even though there are pigs out there, not all man are bad. I didn't like that she started to use sex as a tool for herself.

The story was disturbed but not in a realistic way that made me feel for her. In the first half of the book the words, slut, sex, jack, pretty and beautiful are repeated so many times. Alana does make some stupid decisions in her life, she was kind of obsessed with Jack. I like strong females that fight for survival, that will not be victimized but Alana chose to stay a victim by selling out herself like a piece of meat.

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## **Merril Anil says**

### **One of the most disturbing and hardest books I have ever read**

The book is not something that you can expect to be read and dealt away easily as both the content and the narration is hard on your veins not that it is bad or something but the story and tragic events and the way the consequences affect one's life can be a bit hard one to read. But the way the author has managed to bring forward the pain and the realistic nature is appreciable and if not for nothing I will give credits to the author for being one of those rare authors whose work has left a huge impact on me. Even though the impact was hugely disturbing. Listening to somebody's pain is not easy and maybe that is why the book is also hard to read and cope.

I will give it to the author for having such a brilliant sense of narration that actually shakes up its readers and I don't think there will be single people who cannot stand not being affected by this book and its intense characters. The book is all about watching the horror of somebody's life and experiencing it first hand and it is not easy to do.

To read this book is not at all easy as the content is disturbing and affects one emotionally and deeply and I can only recommend it to somebody who can stand to read such hard and emotionally disturbing book.

**The language, narration and characters are all well defined but it's the nature of the story that is deeply disturbing and the book is definitely not for the weak hearts.**

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## Jen says

Publication Date: February 21, 2014

Warning: This book deals with topics of abuse and may trigger reactions in people who have experienced those things in their own lives. It remains a story about healing, but it's not always an easy journey.

"Four. My life has been shaped by four people. Four men, to be more specific. My father, my stepfather, my best friend, and my boyfriend. The first two shaped it in horrible ways, but what I am, who I am, is all because of four men."

Over the last twenty years, I've learned how to keep secrets. It doesn't really matter, since everyone already seems to think they know everything about me. So I hide. I avoid confrontation, I treat Xanax like a magic pill that will make it all go away, and I become everything they think I am. A slut. A whore. Nothing but trash.

I can only name two guys who have ever made me feel like I was more than that. Jack is my best friend and I've loved him since I met him. Now, though, he's in love... with someone else, and I guess I need to get over him. Somehow.

And then there's Dave. The guy I never gave a chance. The guy I used almost as much as people used me, because I wanted to pretend I was someone worth loving. Two years have passed since we last spoke, but I don't know how to stop thinking about him.

My new therapist is making me face my past, and she tells me that life inevitably changes without our permission. I believe it, but I know what I am. I hear what she's saying to me, and I want to try again with Dave, to help Jack find joy, to love myself, and to move on. I just wonder if anyone can do that, really.

I feel as if I need to preface this review with a disclaimer. I am a very fortunate woman. As a child I have both parents that loved me, spent quality time with me, came to my volleyball games, recitals, took me to church. I had the sibling, the dog, the 2 story house. Now the other side of that coin is that my life wasn't a fairy tale. I am red headed. At the age of 12, red hair was definitely NOT my favorite. I was teased, sometimes very cruelly. I, however, had the strength and love of my family and close friends to not take that bullying and cruelty to heart. After reading this story I realize that I am a VERY lucky girl. Yes, this is a fictional book, but it covers some very intense and emotional issues. I had a hard time processing some of it. I wanted to cry for Alana. I wanted to curse the horrible people that shaped her life. How could they? WHY would they?!

Wait...I'm getting ahead of myself. You know what makes me do that....get ahead of myself? A good story.

Alana is beautiful. VERY beautiful. So beautiful that she sees that as a curse. It has nothing but plagued her whole existence. Alana did not live through her childhood, she survived. Viciously abused by 2 separate men starting at the age 11, Alana wasn't given the opportunity to live. Now as an adult she looks back and relives her childhood and the mess she has made of it. She is now a hollow person, believing her purpose is to be the slut she has been labeled since before she knew what that term meant.

Alana depends on 3 things. Sex, Xanax and Jack....not the drink. Jack is her best friend, the only person she says she can "feel" with. The problem with Jack is that he is a problem and Alana can't take on more problems. But she does because she loves him. He was her first and her intermittent now. She needs him...or does she? Then there is Dave. He is also a friend from high school. She dated him after she and Jack broke up. Now he is off in the Army and she's lost touch.

She starts seeing a new therapist, who I want to KISS. ON. THE. LIPS! Alana begins to see this super chill therapist that talks with her, not just listen or pass judgment. She pushes Alana to accept her past as the past and look to change her future.

If you haven't gotten the gist yet, this is not the typical new age romance. This is a raw, gritty look at a young woman who had her world turned upside down and now she is trying to right it. This book grabs you. Your heart will ache, you will be disgusted at the absolute depravity of some, you will want to hug this little girl and you will want to grab her and shake her. Even with all of these emotions raging for supremacy you cannot put this book down.

Sarah Daltry, I don't know what to think. I want to hate this book for the mean and ungodly, horrific things in them, but I can't. I love this book. It is true discovery. You have made a fiction novel feel like it has happened to someone I know. I hurt for this girl. I feel her pain. I don't want to praise you for that, but I have to because that is your job as writer. Like Alana says at the end, "Real life doesn't have a happily ever after and, like I said, this is no fairy tale." You have shown us that life isn't all sunshine and roses. You have thrown us in with the wolves with Alana, made us feel her pain, made us grow with her. WOW! Just...wow.... Thank you, Ms. Daltry, for giving us Alana.

Recommend: To anyone that can handle it. THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR EVERYONE! See Warning label above!

Heat: 4.5/5

Re-Read: Jury is still out. I am still recuperating.

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### **C4ROL says**

Wow

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### **Jessica Figueroa says**

I've never read any of the Flowering series and with how this book turned out I'll be sure to put the rest of the books on my TBR list. This book was unexpected. Not at all how I thought it would be, it was actually better. I couldn't help but feel bad for Alana but then again I feel like there was so much she could do to help herself and change things to make how every thing turned out differently. But then again this book wouldn't have been great as it is without her troubles. I loved how this book was written. I loved that there was back flashes to what happened to make her the way she was and how she was able to get through it all.

My only thing to say is just read at your own risk. This book isn't for some.

4.5 of 5 stars!

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### **Yuri Bellamy says**

4.5/5 stars. This is a courageous, well-written novel about a young woman who must come to terms with an incredibly painful past in order to find love as well as self-respect. I rarely read NA contemporaries, but I'm glad this author was brought to my attention because I found Blue Rose and Lily of the Valley to be well worth reading. Alana is an interesting person with a heartbreakingly story and I was emotionally invested in seeing what happened to her.

Comments on the romance:

There is a romance, but it is not the main focus of the story. Instead, Blue Rose is about Alana's life as she sees it and her relationships with people, and in particular the four men who have impacted her the most. The romance happens only after Alana reaches a place in her emotional growth where it can happen, and readers who go into this novel expecting an immediate, clear-cut romance that is ever-present and predictable will not get that. Readers who want to know more about Alana and think the story sounds like a good one, on the other hand, may be well-rewarded.

Other comments:

The author pulls no punches here in how she deals with the subject of childhood sexual abuse (which comes up a lot in the story), and readers who would prefer not to read about that should know this book contains frank discussions of abuse and scenes which may be triggering to those who have experienced abuse of any kind. There were many scenes which made me mad, sad, uncomfortable, and a whole range of things.

Overall, I'd call Blue Rose an emotionally difficult but involving read. Once I picked it up, I couldn't stop reading for long and finished the novel quickly for its length.

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