



The Black Moon: A Novel of Cornwall, 1794-1795

Winston Graham

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When Ross Poldark's former beloved gives birth to a son—with his enemy George Warleggan—Ross must face the pain of losing her all over again.

But soon they discover her cousin has fallen in love with Ross's brother-in-law, and the two families become entangled in surprising new ways. As the rivalry between Ross and George reaches new heights, the families must face an uncertain future.

Filled with intrigue and secrets, and set against the romantic Cornwall backdrop, Winston Graham's *The Black Moon* will pull you in to the lives of these two very memorable families.

The Black Moon: A Novel of Cornwall, 1794-1795 Details

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Author : Winston Graham

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From Reader Review **The Black Moon: A Novel of Cornwall, 1794-1795** for online ebook

Cassandra Dexter Colby says

Winston Graham sabe enganchar. Ahora aparecen nuevos personajes que enriquecen la trama, tanto para amar como para odiar.

Manisha says

Actual review: 4.5

“We can’t alter the world, we can only adapt ourselves to it.”

I have quite a soft spot for the Poldarks and their extended family. The characters, the storylines and the drama is subtly interwoven in such a way that keeps me invested. Although not as good as the previous book, I was glad to see the characters move forward from the mess that had previously occurred.

I did miss a few characters in this installment, and I was pleasantly surprised by how much I liked the additional characters introduced to us. I am not yet that invested in their stories, but the way it’s going, I’m sure that I will want them to be as happy as possible, too.

I must also tip my (imaginary) hat to Mr. Winston Graham, for his understanding of the female species, the complexity of relationships, and the ridiculous expectations about marriage. Demelza said it best:

“You see, Ross, in every right marriage, in every good marriage a woman has to be three things, don't she? She's got to be a wife and look after a man's comforts in the way a man should be looked after. Then she's got to bear his children and get all swelled up like a summer pumpkin and then often-times feed them after and smell of babies and have them crawling all about her... But then, third, she has also to try and be his mistress at the same time; someone he is still interested in; someone he wants, not just the person who happens to be there and convenient; someone a bit mysterious... Someone whose knee or -- or shoulder he wouldn't instantly recognize if he saw it beside him in bed. It's -- it's impossible.”

This series is just such a pleasure to read. The philosophies and discussions, especially, are those I find fascinating.

"Underneath the religious vision there is the harsh fundamental reality of all our lives, because we know we must live and die as the animals we are. But sometimes I suspect that under that harsh reality there is a further vision, still deeper based, that comes nearer to true reality than the reality we know."

I look forward to the next book. There is such warmth in the writing, and I really enjoy that.

I’m also glad our favourite couple is working through what happened in Warleggan.

QNPoohBear says

Ross Poldark prospers at last! He is content at Nampara with his wife, whom he has tried steadfastly to prove his devotion, his son and a good mine. He attempts to ignore George Warleggan sitting in the Poldark family home at Trenwith. George, delighted with his new son, tries to arrange his family life to his satisfaction. Trying to extricate Geoffrey Charles from his mother, hires Elizabeth's cousin Morwenna Chynoweth to be the boy's governess. Dwight Enys has gone to see and taken prisoner by the French. Caroline is determined to get him back. Demelza's two younger brothers come to Nampara with their Methodist principles and stirring up trouble. Times are tough in Cornwall but Agatha Poldark has seen 99 years of turmoil and triumph. At last she will be 100 and has outlived them all. She makes plans for the grandest birthday celebration of them all.

Woosh. I finally finished though I have yet to see the Season 3 finale. It became fairly obvious that the timeline of the show is moving faster than the book and there are certain events in the show that are not from this book. This book is a lot darker in tone than the earlier books and though it was written many years after Warleggan it picks up right where Winston Graham left off. His descriptive writing is still amazing and his knowledge of Cornish history and the way society worked in the 18th century is nearly equal to Georgette Heyer's knowledge. The story is told mostly from Ross's point-of-view so that limits the storytelling quite a lot. Where the screenwriter is able to shift to different characters, the reader must wait to be told what is happening or has happened with the other characters. The plot moves very slowly but is worth reading to the dramatic conclusion. I would most definitely recommend reading along with the show. There are some changes but only one major change that doesn't seem to affect the plot.

Ross is a little older and wiser here. He's settled into middle aged comfort without causing anymore trouble. He thinks more before he acts and he knows what Demelza is thinking. He worries what she'll think about his desire for more adventure and knows she would not approve. He goes and does it anyway. He seems a little more aware of things happening around him than show Ross. He just chooses not to talk about unpleasant suspicions or situations for Demelza's sake and the sake of their marriage. He knows he screwed up -big time! Show Ross is oblivious. Show Demelza is a little more appealing than book Demelza. I really like her character but she's a bit more demure in the book "Yes Ross" and a bit more socially conscious. She's aware that she's now living in a higher station than her brothers and having them around might be embarrassing. Demelza loves Ross passionately and is a good wife and mother. I think the screenwriters made her more spirited to appeal to modern audiences.

Over at Trenwith we have our villains-George and Elizabeth and their sons. Valentine, born on St. Valentine's Day under a black moon after Elizabeth fell down the stairs. It seems as if her fall was an accident and she went into labor early and had a premature baby. Whether she did or didn't is still ambiguous. Geoffrey Charles is now 10-11 and annoyingly precocious. He gets a little less stuffy once he becomes friends with Drake and more like a normal 10-year-old boy. I don't love him but I like him well enough. George is not so nasty in this book. He is happy with everything he's ever wanted. Even his dealings with Morwenna are not as fraught with tension and there is a big difference between page vs. screen towards the end of the novel. George is still oblivious to the concerns of the little people. He still doesn't get the concept of *noblesse oblige* and doesn't seem to understand what the French Revolution is all about! Elizabeth is still a cold fish and largely vapid. She suits George very well. She seems content with her life with him.

Caroline is one of my favorite characters. I like how she uses humor to dispel tension and get through

difficult situations. Her love for Dwight is admirable and the lengths she goes to get him back unrealistic at best but determined! Dwight also has a sarcastic sense of humor. He's such a great doctor and an honorable man. He has come a long way since he first came to the neighborhood.

The new characters here are Demelza's younger brothers Sam and Drake Carne. Sam is a serious young man of an evangelical bent. I didn't understand what the big deal over the Methodists was in the show. The book makes this FAR more clear. The Methodists believe all men are equal in the eyes of the Lord. They don't recognize the hierarchy of the established church or the nobility. They seek to proselytize, which Ross doesn't like but the real problem is with their beliefs is that they go against the establishment. In England, the head of the church is also the head of state. In not recognizing the authority and hierarchy of the established church, the Methodists are one step away from the Revolutionaries in France! Sam is a little too earnest for me. He lives his life very piously in preparation for the next life. He's cautious and gloomy. Drake is more like his sister. He is spirited, mischievous, warm, loving and passionate. This may also be his downfall. He goes along with his brother because that's all he knows but as he gets older, I think he will develop more into his own person with his own views on things. I quite liked him!

Another new character is Tholly Tegirls. He's the next best thing to a pirate and an old friend of Ross's father and of Ross. Tholly is as shady as the night and as roguish as any pirate. He is a dangerous opponent with a hook for a hand and I really didn't like him. He is a man without principles. His purpose is to advance the action of the plot.

Then at Trenwith we have Morwenna Chynoweth, a young cousin of Elizabeth's. She naively enters Trenwith as a governess for Geoffrey Charles, unaware that she will become a bargaining chip for George's social climbing aspirations. Morwenna is very young and sweet. It's easy to see why she feels the way she does. Fans of the show are shocked by her storyline. In the book it's not that simple. She does what she does out of her own free will. Then Winston Graham makes no bones about what happens to Morwenna. This time he does use the word "rape." That scene broke my heart. I felt so awful for Morwenna and can't even imagine what it must have been like. I am impressed that a male author can enter the head of a young girl and know how she must feel. Trying not to spoil the plot, I'll say that there's no indication in that book that that other person is anything but lustful, stupid and lazy. None of the scenes in the show are in this particular book.

I can't say much more without spoiling the plot but this book is a tense and stressful read. It's well worth it though for fans of the series! I must get my hands on the next book soon.

Piper says

The tears are falling from my eyes, the fury is boiling over within me, and the joy.... there is joy. Oh what a story this author doest weave.

Pilar says

3,5

Sarah says

No Ross and Elizabeth scenes! About time! Lol. So this book had it's slow moments and there was a lot at the end with the French that I didn't always follow, but it was a great book all in all. I LOVED the drake and morwenna storyline and I can't wait to see where it leads. Also, seeing Ross and demelza in domestic bliss is always a plus and I think despite certain events, they've somehow grown closer. Can't wait to continue!

Candi says

"Blemishes on the beauty of a person one loves are like grace notes adding something to a piece of music."

Have I mentioned before that I am completely wild about the Poldark series?! Well, I am! I am much like that slightly annoying, lovesick friend that won't stop raving about her latest crush. In my case, the love affair is with a bunch of books written by the gifted author, Winston Graham. I know, embarrassing, right? A woman of my age carrying on in such an unseemly manner... Fortunately, dear Goodreads friend, you don't have to live with me and put up with this on a daily basis! You can scroll right past my review if you like and I'll never be the wiser ;)

Anyway, back to the book itself. This one is the fifth in the Poldark series, and it does not disappointment. I will say from the outset, it was just a wee bit slower in the first portion of the book than perhaps the previous installments – but that's ok! They can't all be 5-star reads, or you might start to question my ability to fairly assess their worth. In **The Black Moon**, we are introduced to some new and vibrant characters as well as another odious villain to loathe. It would be difficult to brand a bigger creep than George Warleggan, however. He continues down the path towards hell in this book as well. A sweet romance leads to a messy entanglement between two battling families. The war in Europe continues to seethe, while French émigrés concoct a plan to make a landing on their home soil with an attempt to end the revolution. A baby is born under the black moon and a chilling prophecy is uttered: *"Good seldom comes to a child born under a black moon. I only know two and they both came to bad ends!"* It remains to be seen whether said prophecy will be fulfilled.

The characterizations are impeccable, as I've come to expect from Mr. Graham. As noted above, the pace is a tad slower (but not dragging) in the first part of the book; but once the story ignites, the pace is swift and exciting. Yes, a tissue may be required in at least one scene. I love my favorites and I love to hate the scoundrels. These books are a pure joy to read. I can't recommend them more highly to anyone that appreciates excellent and entertaining historical fiction.

"How I love a strong man!"

Michele says

Watching Ross and Demelza's love grow and develop is what makes these books worth reading.

I thought Demelza said something insightful on page 246:

You see, Ross, in every right marriage, in every good marriage a woman has to be three things, don't she? She's got to be wife and look after a man's comforts in the way a man should be looked after. Then she's got to bear his children and get all swelled up like a summer pumpkin and then often-times feed them after and smell of babies and have them crawling all about her... But then, third, she has also to try and be his mistress at the same time; someone he is still 'interested' in; someone he wants, not just the person who happens to be there and convenient; someone a bit mysterious like that woman he saw riding to hounds yesterday, someone whose knee or shoulder he wouldn't instantly recognize if he saw it beside him in bed. It's -it's impossible."

Loved this line from Drake on page 342:

I d'believe two people- a man and a woman- in perfect harmony can give more to the world and to God than either of 'em can do separate."

I've always had my doubts about Elizabeth and you finally get to see her true nature in the book. She is controlling and evil. Pay attention or you might miss it. I'm so glad Ross saw the light and went for Demelza. He did right.

``Laurie Henderson says

New characters are introduced in "The Black Moon" and with them comes a Romeo and Juliet scenario where Demelza's handsome brother Drake falls in love with Morwenna, a cousin of Elizabeth's who is now Jeffrey Charles's governess

George Warleggan and his bride Elizabeth are now living in the Poldark family home and his arrogance knows no bounds as he manages to make enemies of all his neighbors, rich or poor, with his high handed ways.

Ross's mine continues to bring forth riches and Ross has decided to build a 2nd floor to the Nampara manor house.

I'm continuing to enjoy the Poldark series and I'm on to the next book The Four Swans.

Sara says

Winston Graham took a 20 year writing break between the fourth book of this series, Warleggan, and this fifth one, The Black Moon. At the beginning, I thought he might have lost his way during that hiatus, but boy was I wrong. He picked his story up and his characters led him into the heart of the battle. I wonder if there ever was a more believable and despicable villain than George Warleggan.

I had initially intended to stop reading this series at book four so that I would not infringe on the new season of the series which will begin later on this year. However, unlike Mr. Graham, I was not able to leave these characters celebrating their Christmas in 1793. I wanted to know what happened to them in 1794.

I haven't been this in love with a male character since I fell for Rhett Butler when I was sixteen. It doesn't hurt to have Aiden Turner's face in my head when Ross Poldark is speaking to me (uh, I mean speaking to Demelza). I am so glad I decided to dive into this series of books. Graham is a marvelous writer, with style,

finesse and a great ability to develop characters you can love or hate, want to shake, slap or kiss. I'm anxious to get on to book six.

Diane Lynn says

Set in Cornwall and a little bit in France 1794-95.

Excellent writing and a plot that continues to pull me in. The historical detail is top-notch. There is still daily life in the tin and copper mining areas of Cornwall but in this volume we also see the invasion of France in 1795 at Quiberon. There is new love that holds so much promise, as well as old hostilities and resentments. This short excerpt won't spoil but will give an idea of the emotion Graham writes with:

He had killed his viper. He had given it, he knew, a mortal wound. But as he took his foot from its neck it had turned on him and bitten him in the heel. And the venom it had left behind was working...For once in his life he felt ill and unsure of himself. The spread of the poison was slow but steady. He did not know if he could shake it off. It might be that he would die of it. It might be that others would die of it. He did not know and only time would reveal the extent of the poison...

Diane Barnes says

Winston Graham has done it again. Managed to pull me back into this time and place, among people that I love and hate, give me high adventure and simple pleasures, and continue the saga that just gets better and better. I will admit that this one started out rather slowly, possibly because the author took a 20 year hiatus between the last book and this one. He explained in a forward that he had grown tired of the novels and wanted to explore different styles of writing, but the characters kept whispering in his ear, and he decided to bring them back. He did so without missing a beat, or a detail, and introduced new characters for us to follow as well. (I'm looking at you, Drake and Morwenna.)

George Warleggan seemed to be mellowing until the very end, when his evilness returned in full force. But Aunt Agatha gave him as good as she got, and maybe a little more besides. Life Lesson: keeping a piece of knowledge to yourself until the perfect time to release it is every bit as good as a dagger or a poison pill.

Thank goodness Mr. Graham decided to continue with The Poldarks.

Samantha says

Alright, after months of reading, and it being a little slow I had some trouble getting into it. But, overall, I enjoyed it none the less. Here's the gist: this book had everything I've come to expect (and still love!) of the Poldark saga; love triangles, backstabbing, family feuds, broken hearts, and plenty of drama. In this installment, though, there was something new: prison escapes and (spoiler) murder.

Karen says

[image error]

Kimberly Carrington-Fox says

Este libro es algo más calmado que el anterior pero pasa de todo, hay mucha emoción, aventura, amor, desamor... Este hombre es un maestro a la hora de escribir, me encanta cómo transmite lo que piensan y sienten los personajes. Presiento que los demás libros van a estar marcados por la manifiesta enemistad entre los dos rivales de toda la saga.

Y me he reconciliado (un poquito) con Ross.

Cada vez estoy más contenta de haberme puesto a leer esta saga :)
