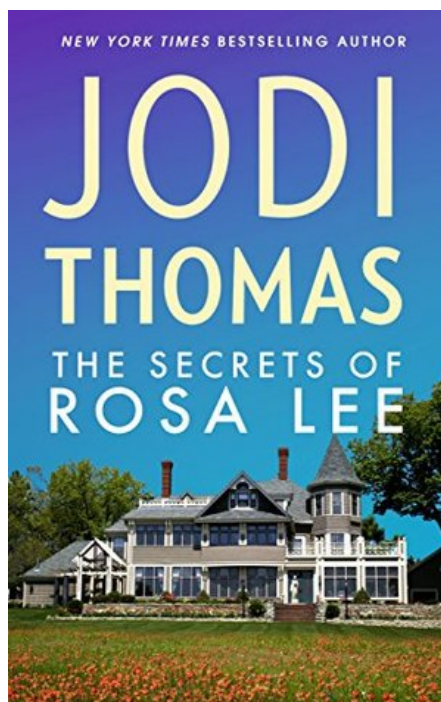




The Secrets of Rosa Lee

Jodi Thomas

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The Secrets of Rosa Lee Jodi Thomas

From New York Times bestselling author Jodi Thomas comes a reader-favorite story of a life, a legacy and a love that has the power to change a community.

Everyone assumes that Rosa Lee Altman lived a life without passion. Her once-beautiful home now sits silent and empty, its gardens overgrown and its windows boarded up, surrounded by what passes for progress in Clifton Creek, Texas. And if some of the townsfolk have their way, this idyllic reminder of times past will be sold off to the highest bidder, despite its rich history. When a group of community members with little in common is chosen to decide the fate of the old Altman place, they soon learn that this home is more than bricks and mortar. No one is prepared for what they discover beneath Rosa Lee's overgrown roses—or how her legacy will change not only their town, but their very lives.

The Secrets of Rosa Lee Details

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From Reader Review The Secrets of Rosa Lee for online ebook

Mary Beth says

The Secrets of Rosa Lee by Jodi Thomas is a story set in a small Texas town. Sidney Dickerson, a college professor, is asked to serve as chair on a board to decide the fate of the old Rosa Lee mansion. The place, in falling-down condition, has been left to the city. It does have historical value, but several oil companies are interested in drilling on the site and the revenue would mean a lot to the city. The story reveals some long hidden secrets about Rosa Lee and chronicles the lives of the unlikely members on the committee and the friendships they form as they go about the task of deciding the fate of the old house.

Karen Sheldon says

Disappointed

Having already read a few of Ms. Thomas' books and liking them tremendously, this book wasn't as fulfilling to me as others had been. Still is a good story, I just liked others much more.

Shirlene says

Rosa Lee Altman's house had been built almost a hundred years ago by the town's founding father Henry Altman. Rosa Lee had been dead for two years and had left her house to the town. A committee had been chosen to decide what was to become of the house. Would the house be sold to an oil company for drilling or would the house be restored?

The committee consisted of Professor Sidney Dickerson, retired school teachers, the Roger sisters, preacher Micah Parker, troublemaker Billy Hatcher, divorcee Lora Whitman.

Billy Hatcher was son to the town drunk. He was four years older than Lora. He assigned himself to protect Lora because someone was threatening the members of the committee. Someone wanted the house torn down and the property sold. Lora was talked to death by her mother and was being pushed into a relationship with the town's pretty, rich boy. He wasn't interested in her, he wanted to get close to her in order to secure the Altman property for his family's drilling company. Billy really wasn't that bad. He just took the rap for his father's mistakes and was labeled a troublemaker. The sheriff saw what was going on with Billy and offered him a job while he began taking college courses to become a deputy sheriff. He and Lora became involved after her resisting at first. They were together more and more while investigating the mystery surrounding the house. Billy got beat up pretty bad during the course of the story and Lora realized that she was more interested in him than she first thought.

The sisters were more of a nuisance during the story. They talked a lot and were a source of gossip. Micah had to go to the local bar one night and pick them up to take them home. While at the bar, he met the owner, Randi. He tried to fight his attraction for Randi, him being the preacher and her the local bar owner. It didn't work and he decided to pursue a relationship with her regardless of their differences.

Sidney had never married. Her mother and grandmother had died in a car accident. It turns out that her mother and grandmother were on their way to claim the Altman house when they were in that accident. Sidney ended up leading the group and on the first night of the committee meeting, a drill bit was thrown through a window and Sidney, although unhurt, ended up in the hospital. She was visited by Sloan McCormick, a representative of one of the oil companies interested in the Altman property. They grew closer throughout the story and Sloan helped unravel the mystery surrounding the property.

It turns out that Rosa Lee's father was involved in a religious group the persecuted others with different beliefs. Something went wrong with one of the groups disciplines and someone ended up dead. This ate at Henry until he lost his mind. Rather than face the humiliation, Rosa Lee reported her father dead and kept him locked up in the house. Rosa Lee had met a rodeo circuit rider and gotten pregnant. He had died before they could marry and she gave the baby to a friend to raise. That friend turned out to be Sidney's grandmother. These were the secrets of Rosa Lee, the baby and her father actually being alive and locked up in the house when everyone else thought he was dead.

The property went to the Howard Drilling Company. Sloan and Sidney ended up together at the end of the story.

Kathryn says

A great set of characters, a mystery to be solved and a disparate group of people come together in a spirit of adventure and community to see it through to the end.

Angelique Simonsen says

easy book to pick up and put down. light on detail but still tells the story well. I did get a little frustrated with the characters taking so long to work things out

Nancy says

I really enjoyed this book. A committee was formed to decide what to do with an old house. Oil companies wanted to buy the house and the land, to drill for oil. The money would help the town pay it's bills. The mayor didn't want to make the decision, and have all the blame placed on him. There are secrets in the house, and the committee works to learn those secrets. There are those who threaten the committee members, which brings the committee close, and makes them like family. Each member of the committee bring the reader closer to them, and to the story.

Laura Beasley says

Good book. First book by Jodi Thomas that I have read but I hope to read many more. Loved the characters, the plot, the romance and the mystery. Kept me interested and trying to figure out how the book would end. liked the way the story started with six people that were different being selected to serve on a committee concerning saving an old house. Then things begin to happen and he people become friends and protectors of each other. Some humor at the right times.

Becky says

Rosa Lee Altman's home is empty and dilapidated. Professor Sidney Dickerson and a group of community members have to make a decision for the Mayor of whether to sell the home and property to the highest oil company bidder or try to fix it up and keep it as a part of the communities history. They all learn that there are secrets regarding this old house. There is someone who wants this house torn down no matter what and is leaving frightening messages and some of the committee members are getting hurt. This is a great story of history, a ghostly love and passion for the house, mystery, suspense and romance. A fun, fun read.

Brenda Hervig says

Since I was a little girl, I have dreamed of a big old house with lots of rooms and secret places. This book was as if I had found the house. It is a wonderful read!! I read the whole book in 2 days. It is filled with loyalty, love, sacrifice, and sweet acts of kindness. It left me feeling as if I had been there in the old house.

Crystal says

Rarely anymore does a book entice me so much that I cannot wait to find out what happens next. Jodi Thomas has a wonderful way of making me care about and grow fond of the characters, pulling me into their story, and wondering what happens next. I loved the air of mystery and the little "treasure hunt," the love stories were nice too, but I could have done without so much emphasis. One thing I liked, was that the budding romances were done tastefully and did not turn into something Harlequin. I think the cover could be a little misleading, because this story is something I think anyone could enjoy, young or old. I specifically liked how the prejudice against the characters were presented, and the not too preachy lesson of how there is more to a book than the cover; I liked Billy's redemption particularly. I would like to add this to my personal book shelf and even read again.

Kristen says

What brought six people together? One house that's up for demolition with a vote on a special committee. In Clifton Creek, Texas, that's what Professor Sidney Dickerson was chairman of for a week. When six people come together, they all look for the secrets of Rosa Lee Altman and the history of the legacy she left behind in her house. While they look around her home, bad things have happened to six good people--threats, fights, warnings and plenty of trouble in one Texas winter. But for three people, in this journey, they brought friendship and find love along the way. Each one of them have emotional baggage they left behind in the past. For one week, they've gotten to know each other better and became a special friendly. And for Sidney Dickerson, she discovered the shocking secret of them all. What a lovely contemporary romance.

Meg Vernal says

When the Altman house's fate is given to a committee of townsfolk to decide it's fate, they have no idea of path that lies ahead. While they delve into the life of Rosa Lee each person has their own awakening. An awakening that arises in the process of reconnecting with community. A lovely read.

Twyla says

You won't be awed by the secret. It is a quiet secret, unimportant. There is no treasure to be found, no amassed riches. The couples pair off early to their mates in quiet subtle but understood ways. Everyone has a match, no one goes unhappily.

That said, I don't think the "secret" warranted the story. The secret is a secondary thing. But also so sad that someone gave up the future to protect the past; someone already invisible and nonexistent. What kind of sad is that, the word escapes me at the moment.

But hey on the upside, the author & me have the same eyebrows; how weird is that?

So what should I read next?

Gigi Ann says

I'm not sure if it was me or the book, but I struggled to get this book read. I even laid it aside and read another book. But today I was determined to get it read. I found it took half of the book before it became interesting and kept my attention. I enjoyed the last half much better than the first half. I don't know what the problem for me was. It seemed that each chapter covered a different character in the book. So when it started to get interesting, BANG!! A new chapter talking about another character. I just lost interest, but I realize it was introducing us to each character's background, and how they each fit into the story. So like I said the last half was much more interesting.

Jodi Thomas is one of my favorite authors, and I am so glad this is not the first book by her I have read. I have read quite a few books by her and really liked them. Therefore, I will continue to read her books.

Paula-O says

Jodi Thomas writes "The Secrets of Rosa Lee".

I loved reading this story, it is a mystery that hits you right from the start. There is an old house (mansion) sitting on Main street and is deteriorating fast. One of the founding fathers of the town lived there till his death and he had a daughter Rosa Lee that also lived there as a recluse.

There was a lot of talk about this woman -no one had been in the house except a nurse many years ago to help. Rosa Lee never went out except to tend her rose garden while she was able to.

The Mayor forms a committee to check out The Altman house, of a group with no connections to one another to decide the fate of the old house.

This story tells of interaction between this group and soon they are friends helping one another.

The mystery about secrets will pull you in and you won't want to quit reading page after page to the end. a great ending too will fill you with pleasure as you remember all the characters. Thanks Jodi.
