



Black Swan Rising

Lee Carroll , Carol Goodman

Download now

Read Online ➔

Black Swan Rising

Lee Carroll , Carol Goodman

Black Swan Rising Lee Carroll , Carol Goodman

When New York City jewelry designer Gareth James stumbles into a strange antiques shop in her neighborhood, her life is about to be turned upside down. John Dee, the enigmatic shopkeeper, commissions her to open a vintage silver box for a generous sum of money. Oddly, the symbol of a swan on the box exactly matches the ring given to her by her deceased mother. Gareth can't believe her luck and this eerie coincidence until she opens the box and otherworldly things start happening. . . .

That evening, the precious silver box is stolen. When Gareth begins to investigate, she learns that she has been pulled into a prophecy that is hundreds of years old, and opening the box has unleashed an evil force onto the streets of Manhattan and the world at large. Gradually, Gareth pieces together her true identity--one that her deceased mother desperately tried to protect her from. Generations of women in Gareth's family, including her beloved mother, suffered and died at the hands of this prevailing evil. Does Gareth possess the power to reclaim the box and defeat this devastating force?

On her journey, she will meet the fey folk who walk unnoticed among humans and a sexy vampire who also happens to be a hedge fund manager that she can't stop thinking about. But the fairies reveal a desire to overpower mere humans and the seductive vampire has the power to steal the life from her body. Whom can Gareth trust to guide her? Using her newfound powers and sharp wit, Gareth will muster everything she's got to shut down the evil taking over her friends, family, New York City, and the world.

Black Swan Rising Details

Date : Published August 3rd 2010 by Tor Books (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9780765325976

Author : Lee Carroll , Carol Goodman

Format : Paperback 396 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Fiction, Magic, Young Adult

 [Download Black Swan Rising ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Black Swan Rising ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Black Swan Rising Lee Carroll , Carol Goodman

From Reader Review Black Swan Rising for online ebook

Carolyn Storer says

'Black Swan Rising' is a little different to other urban fantasy novels I've read, in that it is quite a gentle read. Gareth James is not the typical kick-arse chick - she's a fairly normal, down-to-earth woman struggling to make ends meet. She knows nothing of the supernatural world which surrounds her and so when she finds out that the world is not as it seems we see her trying to come to terms with the revelation that there are faeries, vampires and demons to contend with.

The beginning of the book is great and very atmospheric. I liked Gareth straight away as I did her father and her two friends, Becky and Jay. Gareth and her dad have lived together since her mother was killed in a car accident, but Gareth's memories are tested when she finds out that her mother wasn't who she thought she was and Gareth has a role to play in the newly discovered supernatural world.

One cold, foggy night Gareth finds herself taking refuge in an antique shop, where she is asked by the antique dealer to use her jewelry making skills to open an ancient silver box. Gareth agrees and this is when strange things begin to happen. I loved this part of the book, it was intriguing and it was fun to discover that the antique dealer was a demon called Dee who has been in and out of Gareth's life for sometime without her knowledge.

Unfortunately, even with Gareth and the other characters, 'Black Swan Rising' started to lose some of its charm for me half way through when Gareth is taken on a journey by the Faery King to learn magical skills from different elementals. One of these elementals is Melusine. She is a water elemental. It is from this particular moment in the book that I lost virtually all interest and struggled to finish the book, as it just didn't make any sense.

Gareth and Melusine are torn apart into atoms and then form molecules to travel through water. Then they evaporate to come back down as rain. While this is happening their molecules intertwine and they can "see" each others memories and "feel" each others emotions...also, Melusine "sniffs to find Dee's presence"...really? sniffs? While they are molecules? Don't you need a nose and some lungs to sniff?

I know I should suspend my disbelief further, as this book is about vampires, demon's and other supernatural creatures, but I just couldn't and as this went on for the rest of the book, I was unfortunately lost to this part of story.

Also, for some reason the author thought it a good idea for this particular elemental to spit at people:

As if to remind me of that greeting she [Melusine] cleared her throat and hawked up a great gob of spit that landed six inches from the polished loafers of a lunching businessman."

The honking and spitting went on for some pages and I found myself wanting to gag. This just wasn't necessary and I can't for the life of me think why this was thought to be a good personality trait.

There is a love interest for Gareth too in the form of yummy vampire, Will Hughes. I liked Will very much but the romance between them is slightly tainted by the fact that you don't know whether he is falling in love with Gareth or because she resembles a woman he used to love called Marguerite, who is part of Gareth's lineage. I'm hoping it's the former.

VERDICT:

'Black Swan Rising' has a great first half and a poor second half. It's the first that has the potential to be a really interesting, albeit a slightly gentler, urban fantasy. Sadly there are a few additions in this instalment I could definitely have done without, but they won't stop me from picking up the next book in the series, 'The Watchtower', as I really liked the characters, especially Gareth and I would like to continue her story.

Kirsty (Amethyst Bookwurm) says

This and my other reviews can be found at <http://amethystbookwurm.blogspot.co.uk/>

Thanks to Netgalley and Bantam for giving me this book to review.

After the bad day of finding out that she is neck deep in debt, jewellery designer Gareth James stumbles into an unusual antiques store. The shop keeper commissions her to use her jewellery making skills to open a silver box which has the same swan symbol that is on the deceased mother's ring. After managing to open the silver box Gareth discovers that the world is full of Fey, Vampires and fairy-tale creatures and that she is a Watchtower, a person whose job it is to keep the balance between the humans and magical creatures. Now with the help of a vampire called Will and Oberon, King of the Faeries, Gareth must stop the alchemist John Dee from summoning the demons of Despair and Discord, and destroying New York and the world.

Black Swan Rising is an ok urban fantasy book with faeries and vampires, but I found it really to get into, even though there seemed to be lot of elements in it that I should have liked. That pacing of this book is really slow especially the middle as it seemed not much was happening.

I could not get on with any of the characters, even Gareth, and I could not really care what happened to them or what happened next. Black Swan Rising is an ok paranormal novel but I wouldn't recommend it as it was not as good as it could have been.

Sarah Mac says

DNF.

I just don't care about these people. Stuff is happening, but it's a blur of flat characters & disjointed action scenes. Bottom line: *the writing is unbelievably bland*. There are nice details that you don't see in other PNR, such as the heroine being a jewelry designer & her family operating an art gallery (with plenty of references to modern & classical art); I also like the ties to Elizabethan fae.

...But those tiny positives aren't enough to hold my interest.

Normal 20-something girl is thrust into paranormal world she doesn't understand & burdened with powers she doesn't know how to use! Paranormal critters exist just beneath the respectable veneer of normality! Girl has pivotal role in saving both worlds from doom & destruction! Big Bad Villain is trying to kill her! Smooth-talking millionaire vampire love interest! Missing and/or dead mother who didn't have time to explain her pivotal world-saving role! Quirky friends who want to help the girl, but they don't understand that her problems are more than what they seem! Girl meets *other* paranormal critters in the quest to master her newfound powers!

Maybe I've just outgrown PNR/UF as a rule. ./ There are exceptions, of course. But that list grows smaller every time I pick up something like this & fall asleep while reading.

Douglas Meeks says

While I thoroughly enjoyed Black Swan Rising, it dragged in a couple of places and I found myself scanning. Usually, this means it was a boring book but in this one it was more of a "I got to get to what happens next" like I can get any little hints later. I loved the story, I love the characters, although a couple of them could have used a bit more development but then again this is book 1 of a trilogy so i hope for better in the future. The way I rate books is how I feel when I finish them and this one was high end stuff and I would have moved directly to book #2 but since the reviews I read indicated it might end on a bit of a cliffhanger I decided to wait about a month so that book # 3 (the final book) would be out, fortunately this book ends on a good note and you can leave it to your imagination how some things play out or go on to read the trilogy. All said, this was a 4.5 reading experience and I can't wait to get the last 2 books and read them.

Dana Al-Basha ????? ?????? says

Remember the book I raved about a lot? Incubus or The Demon Lover (according to your edition)? Carol Goodman co wrote this book with her husband Lee Slonimsky under the name Lee Carroll, how cute is that and how talented are they?

Let me start by saying, this book is phenomenal so far, I really want to know what Gareth is (I don't like her name but oh well...) and what is the black swan!?

Wicked Lil Pixie (Natasha) says

When I first started reading Black Swan Rising, I didn't think I would love it as much as I did. By the middle of the book I didn't answer my phone and I didn't want to go out on a Saturday night. I had to finish this book!

Garet fast became one of my favorite fiction characters, she's snarky and she keeps going when any other person would just lay down and call it quits. The ending damn near killed me but I am so happy this is a series and not a one off, it was just that good!

I can't wait to find out what happens between Will and Gareth, and what Gareth's next adventure will be. Is the bad guy gone for good? Hell with this book anyone can turn good or bad within a chapter, which totally keeps you on your toes.

If I wasn't laughing at some of the characters comments:

"He chuckled. "Snoop Dogg's twitters really crack me up." He typed something using two claws and

chuckled again. Then he whisked his tail across the screen and growled."

I was falling in love with some of them:

"One of my favorite Latin mottoes – which I'd found on an old signet ring I'd used to make one of my medallions – ran through my head. Dum spiro, spero – As long as I have breath, I have hope. I'd find a way out of our problems and I'd do what I could to stop...."

Black Swan Rising is full of so many awesome characters (fey, alchemists, vampires, dragons) and the story line is centred around an ancient family "curse". It was a wonderful mix of Urban Fantasy and Fantasy, all rolled into an awesome action filled adventure.

I am not one to re-read a book, but I can tell you now I already want to re-read Black Swan Rising.

Michelle, the Bookshelf Stalker Queen of the Undead says

Garet James is a down on her luck jewelry designer trying to make a living in the heart of New York City. Garet, on the edge of despair because of her father's recent bad decisions, finds herself in the heart of what she thought was a normal antique store. Little did Garet know, walking into that store, would transform her life in more ways than she could ever imagine.

This book is about a woman's transformation from "plain jane" to a strong warrior. Garet has to figure out whom to trust, and if she should follow her heart or her brain. She makes many mistakes along the way and that is what I loved. She is definitely the imperfect warrior. She didn't want the job but she knows that she is the only one that can do it. Not only is it Garet's job to be a guardian between the mortal and otherworld but it was Garet's destiny. The job is also, what killed Garet's mother and because of her mother's death, Garet does not want to make the same mistake of running from her destiny as her mother did.

This book is slow moving but absolutely necessary. It is a telling of Garet's transformation and not an action packed adventure. There is action and there is romance, but the meat of the story is Garet learning her powers.

I really loved the book. No parts of the book bored me and I thought the author did a wonderful job of telling Garet's story.

harlequin {Stephanie} says

When reading the back cover is the most excitement you pull from a book you know it's just not meant to be.

This novel is a perfect example of what to avoid when writing a story.

The characters came out so flat as to not even be there. It feels like the author added herself & husband into

the roles and glossed over any character development that would breath life into this book.

From the start it was the writing style that most ruined it for me. For such imaginative elements, fae, the writing was flat. Maybe she needed a ghost writer? I couldn't say. Just didn't work at all for me.

lina says

actual rating: 1.5

??? ?? ?? ?????, ????? ?????????????? ?? ??????????????, ?????????????? ??? ??????????

??? ?????? ? ??????? ??? ?????? ?? ??????? ?????, ??? ??????-?? ??? ????? ??????????????. ????????? ???????, ?????????????????? ??????????. ?? ??? ??????? ??? ?????? ?????? ? ????? ?? ?????, ??? ?????? ? ??????, ??? ?????????????? ? ????. ??? ? ?????????? ?? ?????? ????

???????? ??????? ????? - ?????????????????????? ?????? ??????. ?? ?????-????? ?????????? ??? ?????????????-????????????, ? ?????????? ??????. ?? ??? ? ???, ??? ?????????? ?? ?? ?????????, ?????????, ??? ??????? ?? ?????? ??? ? ??????????

? ?????????????? ??? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ???, ?? ?????????? ?? ? ?????????? ?????????????????? ?????????? ??????????. ??? ?? ?????????, ??? ?? ?????? ??? - ??? ? ??? ??????. ? ?????, ?????? ??????????????????

? ?? ?????????? ?????, ?????? ???, ??? ??? ??????? ? ?????????????? ??????? ? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ???????

??? ?????????? ?????????????? ?????????, ?? ??????? ??????. ??? ?????? ??????????????, ?????? ??????, ??? ?? ?????????? ?????????? ? ?????????? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ????. ?? ? ??? ?????????????????? ?????????? ?? ? ?????????? ???

????? ? ??????. ??? ?????????? ? ?????????-????????? ??????, ?????? ?????? ? ?? ?????? ??????? ?????????????? ?????? ?????????????? ????. ??, ??? ??? ?????????????? ? ??????????????. ?? ??? ?????????? ??? ?????????, ?????? ??? ?????????, ??? ??? ?????? ??????????. ?????? ?????? ??? : ??? ?????? ???, ??? ? ?????????? ?? ???

????? ??? ?????? ? ??????. ?????? ?????? ? ?????? ??????. ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ?? ??????

???????? : ???, ???, ?????? ? ??????. ??? ??? ??? ?????? ?????? - ?????? ??, ?????? ?????????? ???

????? ?????? ???, ??? ??? ?????? ?????????. ?????? ?????? ?? ?????????, ?????????????, ??? ?????? ?????????????? ? ?????????? ??? ?????? ?????? ?? ? ?? ??????????

Catherine says

3.5 Stars

What an interesting story! It was fantastical and descriptive and just all around interesting. I loved that so much about the arts and various artists were included. The explanation for their bursts of talent and their eventual sudden loss of talent was a very fascinating take. I like that the author included so many well known things, like Van Gogh's painting, Starry Night, to illustrate exactly what she meant. I read that line and knew *exactly* what image she was trying to portray! It's so much better for me when fantastical details are broken down simplistically so that I can really get a feel for it. So kudos to the author, I appreciated it!

When I first started reading I had a hard time sinking into the story. Not because of the plot or the characters, it was because of the way it was written. It seemed like the narrator, Garet, was *telling* me her story instead of letting me experience it through her eyes. It just felt sort of distancing and is not the normal style I read. I did eventually adjust to it, so if you're having trouble in the beginning, I recommend giving yourself a while to adjust.

I loved the fact that I didn't know what was going on until Gareth did. At times it was frustrating, but I also kind of liked it. We, the reader, don't know who is a bad guy or a good guy until Gareth does. I found myself changing my mind about characters, especially Will, constantly. I'd make up my mind, but then the character would behave in a way that made me question him or her right along with Gareth.

I liked that Gareth made a lot of mistakes along the way. I *didn't* like how easily she trusted certain people to have her best interest at heart, and I was irritated by how often her loyalties seemed to flip depending on who she was hanging out with at the moment. I also really liked the feel the book had. Like there was a completely secret world waiting for someone to take the time to notice it. It was interesting to see people know who she was while she remained oblivious.

Even though this has a romance in it (sort of), it is very firmly not a romance. The love interest is seen frequently, but he is not the focus of the story and their relationship, or lack thereof, is not either. The focus is very firmly on Gareth and her discovery of this secret world and her connection to it. The actual relationship is very thinly drawn and kind of baffling. I get what the author was trying to do with it, but because the love interest had no depth it was hard to feel any intensity or longing between them. So I remained cold to that whole star crossed lover aspect.

This is not an action filled book at all. When we finally do get to some action, it's more of a whimper than a bang. It's a slow stroll observing Gareth discovering her legacy. At times it was much too slow, but it just seems like the author's style.

My biggest problem, and what knocked the grade down, is the lack of depth. Even a slow novel can rivet me if it has intensity. Unfortunately, I really felt a lack in the character development and the world building. What I did see of the world was very interesting, but I felt like I got a snapshot of it instead of a full film. I just wanted a more well-rounded look at the history of it all.

I felt that Gareth was very isolated in this book. She'd stop and check in with her life and her friends and family, and she was anxious about their welfare, but she sure did forget about them quite easily. It was just a little odd for me. I also didn't like how easy it all was. It seemed like there was no real challenge for Gareth in learning the things her guides wanted to pass on. There were also a lot of info dumps from the guides, but that could have also seemed exaggerated because of the style the book was written in.

This wasn't a favorite for me, but if the author comes out with a second book to pick up where the story left off I would probably pick it up.

AH says

I was excited to get a copy of **Black Swan Rising** by Lee Carroll – the husband and wife writing team of Carol Goodman and Lee Slonimsky. I enjoyed the Carol Goodman's **The Demon Lover** and **The Water Witch** and as I settled down to read **Black Swan Rising**, I knew I was in for a treat.

Black Swan Rising is a beautifully written gothic style tale. The world is richly described, a modern day New York City layered with the magical world of the fae and an assortment of many different paranormal creatures. I loved how the authors were able to weave all sorts of fae lore with Jewish folklore and even Shakespearean references. Even the characters' names become a play on words. Genius!

Garit James accepts an innocuous silver box. She is tasked with finding a way of opening the box to retrieve the papers from within. This sets up a series of events that change Garit's life. The gallery where she lives

and works with her father is robbed, her father is injured and hospitalized, and the gallery is losing money rapidly.

Soon we find that Garit is not an ordinary woman. She sees things and is able to access some hidden abilities. Meanwhile, the city is slipping into chaos. Monsters appear. The people around her are not human. Her father's dread-locked nurse is Oberon, King of the Fairies.

I enjoyed this book. Everything in it was so unexpected. Each little detail had meaning and I fell in love with the characters. I loved how the story was layered with a criminal investigation in the human world and a hunt for a demon in the fae realm. The combination of the fae lore and the paranormal felt fresh and new. I can't wait to read more books by this writing team.

Series Reading Order:

1. Black Swan Rising
2. The Watchtower
3. The Shape Stealer

Thank you to NetGalley and Transworld for a review copy of this book.

Review posted on Badass Book Reviews.

Rane says

As I started this book, I was at odds with a almost syrup slowness that starts to build into something that totally held my attention and made me end up loving a book I was going to dismiss and perhaps put on the DNF shelf!

With the economy at it's worse New York jeweller Gareth James and her father try to hold up their art gallery by threads, when things can't get any worse, Gareth comes across an old antiques shop where she's given a silver box that she's asked to open. Only it's a trick, and when she opens the box she lets loose demons on the city and given a rise to the evil John Dee whose returned with evil plans. It's up to Gareth to stop him from taking over the city and learning about her past as Watchtower to protect stand guard over the human and the world of fae. A past and present that also leads to Will Hughes that may break or heal her heart....

I really loved the character Gareth, she grows from someone still dealing with the past and the sudden death of her mother, to trying to along with helping her father keep afloat. She has major growth through the book, as she not only comes into her powers, but as she starts to learn about her past and those of the Watchtowers of the past.

This path to to Will, who I can't say I liked or didn't as it was very much as a secondary character and while his past intertwines deeply with Gareth's past and present, you never given a true grasp of "Who" he truly was. This perhaps is leading up to the sequel.

This book took on a slow place even with action and drama going on in the first half of the book, this worked well for the book later on giving the story a sort of dreamy feel to it, much like the dark fog that covers Dee's

summoned demons that start to haunt New York. The story truly starts to break out of the slow mold as Gareth starts to learn about the magic and the teachers who help her. Carroll shows old magic trying to survive in the human world and how the fae live among us as everyday people or hidden away right under our feet.

The showdown between Dee and Gareth is one the first scrimmage with things are left far from done, leaving Gareth to take up the mantle of Watchtower and her job is only getting started as her search Will begins with a simple clue and run ins with Dee is only a matter of time.

Even with it's slow start and a few bumps in the road, Black Swan Rising turned out to be a very enjoyable and satisfying read, far from ending up on the DNF shelf and ending up a keeper.

Austin says

I read this in April, but I am just getting around to reviewing it. After watching the film, Black Swan, I loved the movie so much that I looked everywhere to see if it was based on a book. Unfortunately, it wasn't. But instead, I found this book. And it was awesome!

So this book opens up with our main character, Gareth James entering a strange antique store. In the antique store, Gareth is persuaded into opening a silver box with a swan symbol on it by the store owner, John Dee. Strangely enough, the swan symbol on the box looks identical to the one on her ring that she wears. What Gareth doesn't know is that opening the box has unleashed an evil force that will cause massive destruction. This book does have a slow pace, but it is kind of necessary. It's not an action packed thrilling adventure filled with excitement, but it's about Gareth's transformation from an ordinary woman, to a fierce evil huntress.

The characters in this book had a great balanced development. I found myself shocked whenever a new character was introduced, because some of the characters' backstories are very shocking and interesting. Going into the writing, I was pleasantly surprised to find it detailed. Well, most parts were detailed, but some weren't. That made it very infesting to read.

Plot points in this book were very creative and captivating. There were a few refreshing twists and turns that kept me turning the pages. I found myself sometimes aggravated though with the slow pacing.

Now, the ending was really unexpected. I really wanted to find out what was going to happen to Gareth and her friends. But what made me mad was Will. He was slightly acting like an idiot. I am still very excited to read the second book, though!

Elemental Breakdown:

Story: 8/10

Writing: 9/10

Plot: 8/10

Characters: 8/10

Ending: 9/10

Score: 42/50

Grade: B

Rating: 4 Stars

Jessie (Ageless Pages Reviews) says

3.5

Not bad, not great. Interesting characters, but the plot feels so "been there, read that already". I had hoped for more originality, but still, this wasn't bad. It just could have been so much better.

Review to come.

Marleen says

This book was a very pleasant surprise for at least two reasons.

I had not realised this, but Lee Carroll is a pseudonym for Carol Goodman and her husband, Lee Slonimsky. I have been a fan of Goodman's books for years, ever since I read *The Lake of Dead Languages* in 2002 and was delighted to discover that she has (co-) written books I never knew existed.

The second surprise was that this book was more literary than most urban fantasies/vampire novels I've read so far. I guess that is probably because Goodman is the author she is and can't help herself but write beautiful and well worded descriptions that somehow float off the page and become visible to me.

She has, with *Black Swan Rising*, written a book that has far more supernatural elements than the previous books I've read by her, but her characters are as real and well-rounded as I would expect from her and her story has several levels and few, if any, simple black and white contrasts.

This story is about Gareth James, a fairly successful jeweller, who is worrying about the financial difficulties she and her father find themselves in when she stumbles upon an antiques store she didn't know existed.

When she enters she meets the old shopkeeper who asks her to use her soldering knowledge to open a silver box for him, which she does the same evening.

Although Gareth doesn't realise it opening that box has set in motion a chain of events that will change her life and the world around her forever. She will meet creatures she thought only existed in fairy-tales, fall in love with a creature she should fear, learns secrets about her heritage and be burdened with the task of saving New York from a horrible fate.

Gareth and the reader are about to start a rollercoaster ride through emotions and action that will push both of them forward through the pages of this book.
