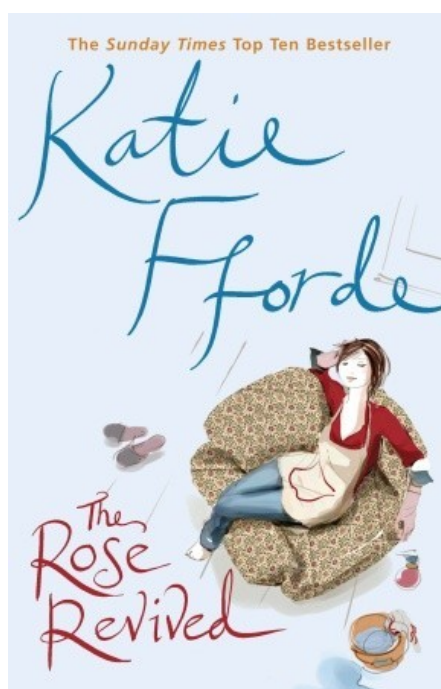




The Rose Revived

Katie Fforde

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The Rose Revived Katie Fforde

Love is in the air. A wonderfully romantic novel from the No. 1 *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Recipe for Love*, *A French Affair* and *The Perfect Match*.

If May, Sally and Harriet didn't need the money so badly, they definitely wouldn't be working for Slimeball Slater at Quality Cleaners. So when they discover it's Slimeball taking *them* to the cleaners, they decide to set up their own business - and that's when things really start to take off.

Working for themselves gives them the freedom and independence they've been longing for. May can afford the mooring fees for her beloved narrowboat; Harriet discovers a true gift for painting and Sally's dream of a place of her own is fast becoming reality. But is it too much, having made such a success of their working lives, to expect similar success in their romantic ones?

The Rose Revived Details

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Author : Katie Fforde

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From Reader Review The Rose Revived for online ebook

Joyce (Bookish Belle) says

Katie Fforde's books are darling - not quite as good as Jill Mansell's, but still very, very enjoyable. The reason I took two stars off of the rating of this book is mainly that I felt the ending was very rushed. The three storylines took forever and each was lovely to read but then the endings were no more than two pages each. Honestly, I hated that. Even Sally's romance, that had the longest and best ending, made NO sense at all.

Another reason to dock a star is the fact that Katie Fforde wrote a scene that was supposed to be romantic but would have legally been assault. I'm all for dominant males in books, but forcing a woman TO ANGER HER is NOT romantic at all. That scene gave me a bad taste in my mouth. Did not expect that from one of my favourite writers.

Sue Gerhardt Griffiths says

3.5 stars

A comedy was the required November reading challenge I have going with a friend of mine. I'm not sure if The Rose Revived can be classed as a comedy as there were no laugh-out-loud funny bits however it was still entertaining and contained a tiny dash of wit to make one smile.

This is the first book I've read by this author, possibly in the future I might try another of Katie Fforde's books.

Mulva? says

I laugh when I write reviews on Katie's books, cause there's just so many new ways of describing how this book is different then the other 12 books. Let's see... there's a girl with a boat who likes to argue a lot with the hot man and won't let him help her in anyway. Yet, when he leaves for a short time she gets all depressed. Good thing she's got her boat, her best gal pals, projects that are so impossible and a "cuppa" to get her through until he returns. Once he's back, some more arguing occurs, hot steamy sex in the grass, then him deciding that they're getting married.

How many of Katie's books did I just describe?

Yet, I always want more.

Tali says

This book was pretty standard Katie Fforde fare. There's a happy, if somewhat rushed, ending which I'm always pleased about and the pace of the story trundles along quite happily so that you don't get so bored. A couple of issues niggled at me slightly when reading it though. No matter how quirky or scatterbrained you are, you don't randomly decide when in a stranger's house that you're going to use their shower. It's weird and quite frankly you'd be lucky if they didn't toss you out on the street naked while calling the police if you did. That was a moment in the story where I almost stopped reading just because I couldn't believe some of

the main character's behaviour. Other things included forcibly inviting yourself to stay at someone's house for the weekend and not calling the police when you've been threatened and your property vandalised by thugs. Incidents like these actually made me care about characters less, so while I was happy that everything turned out right for them, I wasn't as invested in them as I have been with other novels Fforde has written. A good book to read, but don't expect much intelligence from the leading heroines.

Alison says

Three and a half stars.

Three young women apply for a job with a new cleaning company, to their surprise the three of them are employed rather than the clearly more qualified older women who were also in the running, the shifty looking boss of the cleaning company says he is looking for quality, classy women to clean for his classy clientele.

May is desperate for money after her boyfriend left her owing thousands of pounds for the mooring fees on her barge, if she can't pay them quickly the site manager will seize her barge and sell it to recoup his fees.

Harriet has run away from her overbearing grandparents who have treated her like a servant, she is actually very good at cleaning and cooking, having done both to her grandmother's exacting standards. She has come to London because she is an artist and she is desperate for an opportunity to learn how to paint. She is also a single mother to a nine year old boy who her grandparents have sent to boarding school.

Sally is a resting actress, since her acting jobs have dried up her journalist boyfriend has become a lot less loving and a lot more critical, she needs money so that she can leave him.

After working for the cleaning company for several weeks the women discover that they have been conned by the owner and decide to go into business for themselves, stealing their best clients as they go. Each of the women meets a man through their cleaning work, but the path to true love is never smooth and each of them has to go on some journey of self-discovery.

I enjoyed this book, however because it was effectively three love stories in one I felt that the ending was a bit rushed.

Kate says

This is the book equivalent of jam roly-poly: it's not going to change the way you think about the human condition but it's warm and sweet and comfortingly British.*

*I will note that even in Britain, I'm fairly certain people in the 90's weren't all going around a) saying "Golly" and b) turning out to have close relations in the peerage.**

**Although golly, wouldn't it be nice.

Margaret says

Really, really bad. Some pretty dodgy sexism peppered throughout the entire book, a messy plot with lots of loose ends and lines that fizzled out, and an uneven treatment of the three character threads. Also, what normal human being, in 1995, when this book was written, thought 'sodding' was a swear word? So much so they would feel the need to apologise for saying it, as does a character in the book? Honestly. I've read and mostly enjoyed a good amount of Katie Fforde books, but this was truly awful.

Perhaps I'm just sick of her standard template of 1950s throwback females always winning some bossy/angry/sullen man over with their cooking/cleaning/child-rearing skills, then being thrilled to be proposed to before they've even been on a date, rather than thinking 'hold on a bit mate, tone down the psycho'.

Plum-crazy says

In brief, May, Sally & Harriet meet while applying for a cleaning job. When they find they're being ripped off by their new boss they take matters into their own hands & set up on their own.

I don't have much to say about it, it's a nice read about nice characters. In fact nice seems to pretty much sum it up - there's nothing really nasty here.

Overall it's a likeable, inoffensive read albeit very predictable with everyone neatly matched up well before the end...oops - hope that doesn't spoil it for anyone! - although not very memorable. Should appeal to fans of Jill Mansell & the like.

Jeanne says

It's déjà vu all over again. No, wait, it's just another formulaic novel from Katie Fforde.

Three women meet at an interview for a cleaning job. All three women, who are as different as different can be, are hired by Quality Cleaners. They are:

- May, the boat dweller in need of some fast cash;
- Sally, the out of work actress; and
- Harriet, the aspiring artist.

They become fast friends and soon discover that Quality Cleaners is not a quality operation. They decide to quit and form their own cleaning company.

And, yes, along the way, each woman meets a man and falls in love, etc. Same darn structure as the last Fforde novel I read. Exactly.

Rosemary Morris says

In *The Rose Revived*, talented author, Katie Fforde took three hard-up young women, three men they fancy and a narrowboat called *The Rose* then mixed them together with many other memorable characters to make a magic brew.

May is desperate to earn the money to pay *The Rose's* mooring fees which she unwittingly inherited.

Talented artist, Harriet, escapes from drudgery in her grandparents' house to pursue her dream of becoming an artist.

Out of work, Sally, an actress is trying to find the courage to leave Victor, who has not only become a petty-minded tyrant but also saps her self-esteem.

May, Harriet and Sally fail to read the contracts they sign with 'Slimeball' Slater, who offered substantial wages for those working for his company Quality Cleaners. Cheated by him, the three young women set up their own cleaning business despite Slimeball's threats.

Katie Fforde made me care about her large cast of characters. She also grabbed my interest in the advantages and disadvantages of life on a narrowboat.

Jan Duthie says

If you're feeling a bit down or just need a break this is the book for you. Excellent characters and storyline with the KF signature women who have a brain and can be independent! One friend to whom I had recommended this book said it had her making a large pot of tea and reaching for the ginger biscuits. So enjoyable.

Susan in Perthshire says

I have been rather disappointed by some of Katie's more recent books, but this one written a few years ago, is vintage Katie - full of likeable characters, realistic settings, happy endings and good humour. It is exactly what you need for a short escape into a world where problems are resolved and the journey is pleasurable and entertaining. She is a master of this romance genre and I was pleased to discover one of her books that I had not already read.

Sometime, I just want a truly relaxing and entertaining escape - and this hits the spot for providing a short, sweet shot of glorious romance. It is of course unrealistic and predictable - but I don't care!

Isabelle Andover says

This was the first Katie Fforde book I ever read, and since then I've read them all. She is one of my favourite authors. Her books tend to follow the same plot, so you always know who will end up with who. Nonetheless,

Katie Fforde is a fantastic story teller, and I often reread her books.

Beverly says

Although all Katie Fforde's books follow the same formula I continue to read and enjoy them. Girl has a problem, encounters a man she cannot stand, he helps her, they fight have misunderstandings and eventually fall in love. She even solves her problem. A totally enjoyable reading experience. This time May needs money to save her boat, Harriet needs to make a place for her son and be able to study art, and Sally the aspiring actress wants to feel secure. They sign up to work for Quality Cleaners without reading the contract and of course, they are being taken to the cleaners. They decide to set up their own cleaning business. It turns into a small success but along the way the girls get side tracked.

Sue says

Light easy read. Three young women meet up at an interview and the story follows the three of them as they meet 'their men'. Quite predictable, but funny, with good characters and quite a different storyline. Very different from my normal crime novels but I enjoyed it. I have read a few of Katie Fforde's novels and all are completely different with very different settings.
