



THORNE: Rose's Dark Contract

R.B. O'Brien

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Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven...the primrose path—Shakespeare

William Thorne is a powerful man with dark needs and a troubled past who doesn't have the time nor the desire for romantic relationships or notions.

Through meticulous planning and iron-clad contracts, Thorne has managed to maintain a modicum of balance, control, and happiness by employing personal assistants to aid him in all aspects of his professional and personal life.

Sex with no strings attached. Obedience without questions. An arrangement of mutual benefit. No mess. No love. No expectations. Nothing beyond a signed contract.

But when Thorne meets recent music grad, Victoria Rose, the shy and beautiful down-on-her-luck waitress, obsession replaces his carefully constructed thinking. He becomes so fixated on having her, without a full understanding of who she is, that he rushes her contract, making mistake after mistake before the ink even dries. His once neat and controlled existence becomes blurred and smudged.

Can the mistakes he makes be erased from Rose's dark contract? Or will the damage leave an indelible mark that nobody could have seen coming?

THORNE: Rose's Dark Contract Details

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From Reader Review THORNE: Rose's Dark Contract for online ebook

Lilah says

Ever since I started having erotic fantasies most of them included some form of sexual corruption and unraveling. These are also some of my favorite pieces of writing but it is difficult to find a dark story that doesn't involve non-consent, kidnapping and extreme conditioning/brainwashing. R.B. O'Brien definitely knows how to write a romantic story of a taboo relationship involving the corruption of innocence, domination, submission, kink and unexpected love. Her characters are usually damaged in one way or another, which is pretty typical for the dark romance subgenre, but they are also well-rounded, likeable and easy to identify with. The author had a fantastic start with Natalie Smith and Michael Black from the Natalie's Edge series. In the first part of Thorne she continues developing her skills as a writer and takes us on an unforgettable ride with an unexpected twist. The journey of William Thorne and Victoria Rose to one another and to themselves is like a long, dark road and any hint of happy ending is beyond our line of sight... at least at the first book.

William does everything he can to persuade you that you should hate, despise and condemn him as a monster. And make no mistake, like another reviewer pointed out he is not a nice guy. I must say I liked his character for being so contradictory. He was arrogant yet he frequently showed how insecure he was, cruel and ashamed of his ability to show tenderness. I also loved his totally unapologetic my-way-or-the-highway attitude. We are given small clues of the secrets from his past, from that fatal event, which changed his life but the author does a great job of keeping us guessing.

It is always a pleasure when such a character who has arranged the walls around him so well gets defeated by the last person they'd expect. Victoria Rose, Thorne's latest "personal assistant/concubine", seems like the typical ingénue, young, easily impressionable and very weak at first sight. She may appear like your typical Mary Sue-ish, bland female who gets swept off her feet by the douche rich guy and who has no strength to stop him from abusing her. But over the story I think she frequently showed subtle, feminine strength and intelligence. Victoria was a sympathetic character down on her luck who tried to make the best of the bad circumstances. Nothing could prepare a girl like her, virginal and unaware of her own submissive tendencies, for Thorne's sadistic games.

I don't want to give too much of the plot away but none of the characters are what they appear to be, especially Victoria. The story has great pacing, interesting secondary characters, truly suspenseful atmosphere, an implied mystery and some truly off the charts kinky sex. All I'm going to say is that you should prepare for some steamy episodes in which pain and pleasure turn in two parts of the same experience, so tightly woven in one another it is impossible to distinguish them. Thorne really knows how to manipulate a woman's body and mind till she is begging and crying for more.

Just like the author. At the unexpected end of the novel you'd be begging her to write Part 2 as soon as possible. I can't wait for the next installment!

EroticaAfterDark (Lilith) says

#Erotica #bargain #99ct #dark #bdsm

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Melody says

This is a fabulous book heart pounding adrenaline candy melts and sizzling scenes

J. Kahale says

Thorne is a man who gets what he wants, when he wants and whenever he wants. When he puts his sights on a waitress named Victoria, there is nothing going to stop him from making her his personal assistant. The requirement to be his personal assistant, however, is not just book work or making appointments, it is to submit to him sexually and completely. Victoria is not aware of what lies in the sadistic mind of Thorne and when he offers her the position she takes, not even knowing that she ready to dive into a dark world, a world she may never survive.

Thorne was a very well-written book, the characters were realistic and I absolutely love R.B. O'Brien's stories. So why the four stars instead of five? Because I absolutely despised the hero, William. He was a despicable, piece of shit without any redeemable qualities. I understand the whole BDSM world and the need for control. But the way William treated Victoria was not about control, it was emotional torture and it pissed me off.

B.E.L.L.A.Mc says

I didn't enjoy this and gave up at 15%. It was cliched: old and tired. Wooden characters; 1D - flat. William; totally moronic. Nothing original; everything predictable. I wouldn't recommend it if you like dark and delicious. :(

R.B. O'Brien says

Rose's Dark Contract is the first in the series THORNE and follows the inner thoughts and feelings of the main character, William Thorne. He has a dark past and has built his life without personal attachment. He is a troubled character who has been through an event that is hinted at and he believes he is a monster as a result of it. But as you read, you will see that the vision he holds of himself is not entirely true and it takes an innocent, Victoria Rose, to pull it out of him, but not before he puts her through the paces. THAT I can assure you.

I love dark, alpha males who are controlling and dominating but who also have that chance to be kind and sweet when love presents itself. This tale is no different. After all, though it is darker than some of my other work, it is a romance. The difference with this series is that there is a twist that will come out of nowhere. It just may leave you breathless. If the ending doesn't, the intense sex scenes will.

This may have elements that can be deemed dubious consent, and if that excites you, you won't be disappointed. It also is not all it seems, so I encourage you to read every last word. Rose's Dark Secret, the second installment in the series, will be out this spring.

Zak Hardacre says

Wow!!! Never having read any literature of this nature. I was surprised in how the main character Thorne drew me in. The main female character Victoria is shy and a 'true' innocent, the perfect new assistant for the sadistic Thorne.

I found it compelling how the author who is female, was speaking in the first person of Thorne. This is not an easy thing to do in my humble opinion, and one that she carries off with great ease.

The story itself is dark in nature, but strangely compelling. The insecurities of the young Victoria Rose, in opposition to the sadistic needs of William Thorne, are like light and shade.

The vulnerabilities of the Victoria are slowly peeled away, as she is 'deflowered', so it leaves her begging for more.

As the story unravels, Victoria becomes the submissive that Thorne knew her to be the first time he saw her in the coffee shop.

Although Thorne is a dominant strong character, he is inside insecure and unwilling to admit his true feelings. The author hides something lurking in his past, keeping the reader guessing.

For my first journey into this dark world of submission, sadism, vulnerability and emotional turmoil, I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed the ride. I am sure I will read other works of this author and can definitely recommend her.

Carol Delmornay says

Viewing an email that offered books for free, I read the blurb of Thorne: Rose's Dark Contract - it intrigued me so much, I downloaded it, curious to read it.

It was certainly not a disappointment.

William Thorne describes himself as a sadistic monster. He throws his normal vetting process to procure a 'Personal Assistant' out the window – chasing after waitress, Victoria, for months, determined to entrap her into signing a contract to completely submit to him – to be his, lock, stock and barrel for 3 months. He is not a sadist in the way I automatically thought prior to reading this book. He prefers to mess with his 'Personal Assistant's' mind; to torment her body to bend to his tune until they think they are going to lose it – with a little pain from a smack of a hand, or the sting of the flogger thrown in. Not at all what I think when I see the word "sadist", and I know this genre very well.

But, in saying that, I couldn't read this book fast enough. I found I wanted to turn to the next page, over and

over, until my eyes couldn't focus and my body begged for sleep. And the twist at the end ... omg – I rushed straight to Amazon and one-clicked books 2 & 3 immediately.

Low-La says

I received the book in exchange for a review from BDSM Goodreads TPE BAR Program. I will also be reviewing Book 2 - THORNE: Rose's Dark Secret

3.5 stars

I enjoyed this intro into William Thorne's and Victoria Rose's dark contract. William is rich, dominating, organized and likes to have his kinky ways with his women and Victoria is a waitress, struggling and innocently alluring but as the story unfolds her petals start to fall. When William meets his rose Victoria waitressing at her workplace, he is drawn to her which is not like him but there is something about her that he just cannot stop himself. There is such irony to the names - (William) Thorne - prickly, stiff and ready to hurt you when you least expect it and (Victoria) Rose - sweet, pristine and beautiful to look at. Yet both are on the same stem.

IMO, this book started a bit slow for me, with a few 'OMG not another weak & whiny chick' moments but the last part of the book got better and now I am looking forward to Book 2.

Jonmontanavega says

Well, the author wasn't sure I would like her book so I did an end-run and bought it. I'm very glad I did; let me see if I can explain why without spoilers.

This is yet another 'rich guy purchases (or finds some other way to acquire) the services of a young woman because he can't be bothered to find a woman the old fashioned way who likes / is willing to tolerate his sexual preferences and needs without a quid pro quo (such as marriage) he finds odious' novel. Of course, we all know where this plot will go, don't we? And yet it (view spoiler) doesn't.

Most books with this plot require the rich man to use significant corporal means to get what he wants / needs, or to satisfy the heroine. Not so here. His punishments are more creative and not awful, such as (view spoiler)

There are couple of smaller plot twists along the way, and one major one that leaps the bounds of this trope. Perhaps the author is right; if I'd known this was a rich man story, I might not have bothered. That would have been my loss.

Thorne is erotic, with elements that some romance readers might find dark. The ending wraps up the story ... so far, but does leave room for a follow up. I don't know if there is or will be one.

My disclaimer: I don't know the author, I didn't read it under a read-to-review agreement although it started out that way, and I purchased the book.

PS The rich guy has a crusade I agree with; always a added fillip.

Sarah Stein says

I love a dark suspenseful romance and that's what this is. Thorne is a captivating character. He has dreams and works hard to halt the tobacco industry yet there's a huge secret he's kept and only his best friend is privy of it. His and Rose's relationship starts out rocky because she isn't the normal PA he hires but he doesn't let her leave because of how much he wants her. The attraction between them is hot. Such a great story.

Expresso-Girls Just Wanna Have Books ; A Mafia Romance says

Decent sex scenes. Thorne was whipped from the beginning! Guessed 20% in he didn't have the will to be a sadistic jerk. Dark romance? Ummmm no. Victoria cried every other sentence. She's 25 years old and the story continually harped on her nativity and her big natural tits! Jennifer, the doctor, is funny!

Please consider other reviews if deciding to purchase. I've read many dark romance novels so my expectations may be a tad darker than what the author was aiming for in this story. I will try again with this author because everyone deserves a second chance and just maybe this book isn't "it" for me. .

3.5 stars.

Michael Dalton says

If you read the author's "Natalie's Edge" series, which I enjoyed immensely, you may be expecting another tormented romance between two deeply flawed and confused people. That's what we get here, but with some new twists.

Thorne is not the Michael of Natalie's Edge. He's darker, more cryptic, with more secrets. He's spent his life using women and throwing them away, and not in a figurative sense—his preferred relationship is what he calls his "personal assistant," a woman who agrees to serve him under the terms of the titular dark contract. Thorne is not a nice guy. He doesn't want anyone close to him, and he thinks nothing of cruelly pushing away anyone who tries. He's hiding something that needs to be hidden, and though we get hints of this secret throughout, it doesn't come until a delicious twist at the end.

Victoria Rose is a lost, desperate young woman who falls under Thorne's spell. But she's not like his other assistants. She's too young, too inexperienced, too trusting. She wants to be with him but has no idea what she's getting into even when he tries to make her understand.

But Victoria gets under Thorne's skin in a way no other woman has. He doesn't know why, and he doesn't like it. As their relationship grows more dysfunctional, both of them are forced to face up to what is bringing them together, and what is driving them apart.

A great start to a series I'm ready to see more of.

I was a beta reader for this book

C.P. Mandara says

"I don't want you to understand me." William Thorne

Oh, this is the perfect from rags to riches story - with benefits! Okay, so William Thorne isn't a particularly likeable character to begin with. I guess I'd call him an anti-hero - but dayum is the guy sexy. When he drops into Victoria's coffee shop, she's immediately flustered. When he continues to visit her, things go from hot and steamy to molten very quickly. He whisks her away from her dreary life of drudgery and deposits her in his apartment as his 'personal assistant' although his designs aren't office-based, that's for sure!

He expects to be finished with her in three months. That's how long his conquests usually last - but Victoria is about to throw a curve ball into the equation. She's an innocent.

What happens when a self-confessed sadist clashes with an innocent? Read on to find out!

Heat rating: OFF THE SCALE. Loved it.

100sweet says

DNF @ 27%.

This book was awful. The h is a complete doormat that lets the H treat her like dirt. He appears obsessed with the h and gives her a job working for him. He takes her virginity and the next day sleeps with another woman to show the h that she means nothing to him. Really disgusting.
