



Under the Rose

Diana Peterfreund

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Now a senior at Eli University, Amy is looking her future squarely in the eye—until someone starts selling society secrets. When a female member mysteriously disappears and a series of bizarre messages suggests conspiracy within the ranks, no member of Rose & Grave is safe . . . or above suspicion.

On Amy's side, the other women in Rose & Grave remain loyal. Against her? A group of Rose & Grave's überpowerful patriarchs who want their old boys' club back. As new developments in her love life threaten to explode, and the search for the missing girl takes a disturbing turn, Amy will need to use every society maneuver she's ever learned in order to stay one step ahead. Even if it means turning to old adversaries for help—or looking for her real enemies closer than she'd thought.

Under the Rose Details

Date : Published June 26th 2007 by Delta (first published January 1st 2007)

ISBN : 9780385340038

Author : Diana Peterfreund

Format : Paperback 354 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Young Adult, Fiction, New Adult, Contemporary, Romance, Academic, College

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From Reader Review Under the Rose for online ebook

Lulufrances says

Actual rating 4.5

I immensely enjoy reading this series and it's the type where I can't wait to dig (oh pun right there - you'll understand when you read these, as you should) into the next book.

Good thing my dearest aunt has already ordered the remaining two! - and let's just ignore my pile of unread books, okay.

Amy Haskell is one of my fav contemporary characters, and establishing her throne the more I get to know her, aww girl! You go!

This is a very sorry excuse for a review, but I don't want to spoil anything, and if you want further thoughts on this series (and Diana Peterfreund's fabulous writing) head over to my review of book I - Secret Society Girl here .

I have a lot to say there.

Or just trust me right here and simply start reading these babes.

Angie says

Reading Secret Society Girl put me in righteously indignant mode for two days straight. Now, admittedly, it doesn't always take much to send me there but, since my indignation was on behalf of fictional characters and couldn't hurt anyone, well, *real*, I figured it was okay to let the wrath reign. Besides, some of those dudes really deserved it. My wrath, that is. Reading *Under the Rose* was an entirely different experience. I spent the majority of the time grinning madly, silently egging certain characters on while berating others for their a) lack of the barest trappings of a conscience or b) inability to just come out and say what's really bothering them.

And boy was there a lot of bothering going on. At the start of the book, it quickly becomes apparent someone within the secret society is leaking information to outsiders intent on destroying them. Amy, known within the Rose & Grave annals as *Bugaboo*, is dismayed to find out she's lived up to her society nickname when none of the other Diggers will listen to her pleas for help investigating the leak. Caught up in their own lives and dramas, her fellow Diggers leave Amy alone to fret and fester over the fraying society she's been so loyal to (and so instrumental in saving in the last book). And Amy has her own heady distractions in the form of her senior thesis, her roommate Lydia's love life woes, and the persistence of one George Harrison Prescott.

I thought *Under the Rose* was an even stronger story than its predecessor. The pace never flagged, the dialogue was sharp, and the characters became more interesting and more dear, as evidenced by the fact that my heart went out to two of them who'd done nothing but irritate me in the first book. I love it when that happens! I was particularly enamored by the unwilling alliance Amy forms with a certain caustic law student and the verbal sparring that ensues. Ah, the things she gets roped into doing in the name of the greater good.

This book was a smooth, delicious treat and when I closed it I felt like we'd all of us had a good time. And now was a darn good time to discover this series as it's just a week and a half till Rites of Spring (Break) comes out. I'm all jumpy.

Steph Su says

It's just so hard to find an intelligent, funny, and suspenseful series, which is why I adore Diana Peterfreund's IVY LEAGUE novels. They contain everything I want in a series about college students: secrets, romantic entanglements, and pages and pages of side-splitting collegiate conversation.

Amy is engaging, wry, and endearingly stumbling through life as a secret society member at an elite university. She is dynamic and can hold her own in any situation. But the brilliant characterization doesn't stop there. Every character, no matter how much or how little time he/she gets on the page, has his or her own personality. It's not so hard for us to keep track of all dozen or so of the members of Rose & Grave, which is a remarkable accomplishment, and a sign of a high-caliber author.

Likewise, the plot is intricate and clearly shows the amount of time that went into planning and writing Amy's world. The story weaves around the society comings and goings, delves deliciously into Amy's "relationship" with George, takes readers on far flung adventures...and that's in between helping us remember who's who! The story is a complex, satisfying, and delightful concept that only an author with more than enough brains to spare can concoct.

UNDER THE ROSE is a thriller/mystery story for the estrogen-prone, chick lit for the brainy. And that's why I love it. This book doesn't dumb itself down for readers; instead, we're left feeling impressed at Diana Peterfreund's writing ability, even if the scenarios and dialogue only exist in a world where the perfect quip comes out of your mouth instantly, every time. I'd like to live there.

Keris says

I loved dipping into a world of Ivy League life and secret society rituals; this book really made a change from my usual reading. I felt exhilarated by Amy's schedule of papers, meetings and romantic liaisons with the delicious George 'Puck' Harrison. In truth, I was compelled to snatch moments with this book until I had devoured the entire thing.

The third book in the series, The Rites of Spring (Break), is scheduled for

For the full review, visit

<http://www.trashionista.com/2007/12/b...>

Carol Andrade | sky in winter says

Re-read in 30th november 2016

I ran out of blue post-its, I have no chill.

Original review from april 2015:

This series! Why it took me so long to read it? I wasn't even at college when I saw this book cover and wanted it read.

Amy is such a funny narrator. It's impossible not to like her and she does some Lizzie Bennet comments here and there. Plus this whole secret society reminds me of Gilmore Girls <3

Also, I SO SHIPPED JAMIE AND AMY! Yeah, there's nothing really there, but he's such a good character!hahaha

Katie says

Re-read September 2015

Yes, still good.

Original Review

A really great sequel! Amy continues to learn and grow. And there are some fun relationship developments.

JoLee says

So reading these books kind of made me feel like I was watching a show on the CW. Especially the first book--Amy goes to a Eli (which is basically Yale), she is an editor for one of the school's literary publications, and she gets involved in a Secret Society. It was very Rory Gilmore (even though Amy and Rory do not have similar personalities). But, I have to say that I was very entertained. A little intrigue, some good-looking guys, trying to change the status-quo, it was all in there. And, on top of all that, Amy is a really likeable character. So, I'm going to read the next book in the series.

Natalie says

To be fair, I should probably give this book 4 stars, but there's just something about this series that, when reading this book and the prior Secret Society Girl, I can't put them down. I will say this, I guess. Peterfreund's strong point isn't "really great at wrapping things up." Not to say there are loose ends or something similar, but rather that the book ends and you go, "Well, that was sudden!"

But still, the second installment of the series is every bit as good as the first one, deliciously witty and current, the mix between random literary and pop culture between secret society meetings, make outs, and the inevitable drama that results...! Yes. Good stuff. If you liked the first book, I'm sure you'll continue by loving this one.

Tiff at Mostly YA Lit says

Reread. Spoilers abound.

Under the Rose has always been my least favourite of the Secret Society Girl books, mostly because it takes a very long time to get into the mystery, but I liked it more this time than the first, mostly for how much more we get to know about the characters. This time around, I was just as impressed by how much I liked Brandon, Mara, Harun, and even Ben. And like Amy, I came out of SSG feeling like I didn't like Poe at all - and after this book, I really started to like him. They totally have a Veronica-Logan vibe to them.

Looking forward to re-reading the last two, which are counted among my favourite books ever. Let's see how they compare on the reread.

Brittany says

***This review only contains spoilers if you haven't read the first book in the series.

How I Came To Read This Book: On Black Friday 2007 I was determined to take advantage of cheap US book prices and bought the first book in the series - Secret Society Girl - and this one on a random whim.

The Plot: It's Amy Haskell's senior year at Eli and she is officially a member of The Diggers and ready to enjoy Secret Society life, despite last year's drama. Things get off to a rocky start however when the Diggirls get a threatening email message and certain society secrets are leaked to an expose website. Amy is soon in detective mode as she tries to figure out who the rat is in her society - or worse, outside of it.

The Good & The Bad; Like many of the other reviewers of the Ivy League series, the main complaint I have about the books is the main character - Amy. While I think she is an accurate representation of the pretentious BS-spewing academic you're likely to find during the college years, it doesn't necessarily make for a lovable main character! Still, this book was a slight step up from the previous book, in that 'Secret Society Girl' was essentially ruined by the fact you knew another book was coming out in the series. I sort of felt like the plot of this book could almost have served as Book #1, but alas, here we are. I still enjoyed reading about secret society life, moreso than worrying about the society drama that takes place, and I thought Peterfreund did a solid job of making this a real guessing game from the very first chapter...but of the three books in the series, I still find she struggles with balancing the three elements at play in this series - What it means to be in a secret society, The society drama / mysteries that make up the plot of each book, and developing interesting, dynamic, relatable characters (which is best achieved in the third book at the expense of the first two items).

The Bottom Line: A book I enjoyed more than I probably should have.

Anything Memorable?: Nope

50-Book Challenge?: Book #5 in 2008

Colette says

I really love this series! The one thing that kept this from being a 4 Star read for me was that I found it a bit predictable. That being said, I still really loved Amy & I love how these books are a mix of genres & have just a hint of romance.

Amanda says

This is the second book in the Society Girl series. The first started with main character Amy Haskell being tapped for one of the more elite secret societies at Eli University, Rose and Grave.

In this sequel, the problems that started with the formerly all male society tapping girls for the new year are still haunting Rose and Grave. This time, someone has posted a website that threatens to reveal all of the Rose and Grave secrets. One of her "brothers," Jenny, is not only determined to ignore the rest of the society in public, but has also hooked up with a cultist boyfriend. And on top of everything, Amy, even though engaging in a new "relationship" is contending with the fact that her ex has a new girlfriend.

While it sounds like your typical teenage novel, this book is really fun and enjoyable, even for someone who's past the college years. Be warned, however...this one is quite a bit spicier than the first one.

stephanie says

so this is the sequel to Secret Society Girl and i'm a little sad because i think this is the end of amy haskell, since she's graduating. however, i think she can come back . . . plus there's a role for the alums . . .

anyway, it's surprisingly fast-paced and exciting. it's the great blend of chick-lit and mystery, which i had forgotten. amy's both strong and weak like a real college kid, you think you know the twist but you totally don't (i was blind-sighted by the reveal, actually). i really, really like these books. they are quick and easy and great and fun. i want another one now!

Norah Una Sumner says

I hereby confess: I'm freaking obsessed with this series.

Okay,so our Amy is a senior now and officially a member of Rose&Grave.I mean,what can go wrong now? Um,pretty much everything.But,you'll have the time of your life reading about Amy's problems and adventures.We finally get to know what's happening with Jenny and Lydia(boy,I laughed like crazy because of this one.).Amy gets laid...a lot.Brandon gets all creepy with the whole "I hope we can be friends someday but you know I have a really hot girlfriend and stuff" thing and George is,um,a douche most of the time.Like,dude:

I missed Malcom and Clarissa (she wasn't even a supporting character in this part.) a lot. We also get to know Poe a little bit better in this one. Um, Poe:

Favourite quotes:

"There was Malcolm in the front row, his hand resting on the shoulder of the knight I knew as Poe. I looked at the list of names beneath the photo.

James Orcutt.

What a ridiculously normal name. **I'd half been expecting Darth Vader."**

"Around this time, I decided to go back to the bathroom and, oh, I don't know, wash my hands, brush my hair, maybe pluck my eyebrows.

Stuff."

"Soze shook his head. "If someone checks our Internet search records, don't you think it will look suspicious that before we called the police, we checked up on the evidence?"

Poe laughed mirthlessly. **"We're Rose & Grave, junior. Everything we do looks suspicious."**

"My best friend, a liar. My society brothers, my lover, and now my best friend. Any second now, my parents would call and tell me they were actually space aliens. Or European royalty. **Or Republicans."**

"Maybe she's helping him because his hands are full," Lydia suggested.

The girl kissed a trace of chocolate from the corner of his mouth.

"Or not."

Laurel Osterkamp says

Amy Haskell attends the fictional, yet highly prestigious (think Harvard and Yale) Eli university. In *Secret Society Girl* Amy is a junior, and is surprised one day to be tapped as a pledge for the enigmatic Rose and Grave society. Having matriculated from a state university myself, I don't know much about the Ivy League or the secret societies that form within them, but after doing a quick Google search, I'm guessing Rose and Grave is supposed to be comparable to *Skull and Bones*, which both President Bush and John Kerry joined while attending Yale.

Anyway, once she joins, Amy finds that power and connections have its advantages, but also drawbacks. Soon, she is embroiled in a scandal over the society's recent decision to allow women to join, and she's faced with a dilemma whose outcome could destroy her closest friendship, ruin her love life, and seriously hinder her post-graduation career.

Yet she pursues on, and in *Under the Rose*, Amy is a senior, facing another scandal that could not only bring down the Rose and Grave society as a whole, but may also jeopardize Amy's very well-being. Meanwhile, Amy needs to figure out who she ought to be dating: George, the shallow but gorgeous society brother, Brandon, her sweet and vulnerable ex, or Jamie (although she claims to despise him, I can tell there's some romantic tension a-brewing.)

I read these books back-to-back, which for me, is very high praise. I usually like to mix things up a bit, and space out my chick-lit reads with more weighty or serious-minded material in between. But after finishing *Secret Society Girl*, I thought "What the hell?" and dove right into *Under the Rose* without a second thought.

They're perfect autumn reads – I've always enjoyed stories with academic settings at this time of year, and the descriptions of college campus are exactly what I was hoping for (lots of old architecture, grand libraries and concert halls, etc). In addition, both books have a creepy element to the plot, which is great for the Halloween season.

Best of all, Diana Peterfreund (who attended Yale herself) manages to create a believably intelligent and capable heroine without making her needlessly pretentious. After reading Megan McCafferty's Jessica Darling series, where the heroine attends Columbia and cannot resist reminding the reader of how smart she is every 10 or so pages, I appreciated the understated smarts of Amy Haskel.

Secret Society Girl and Under the Rose are super-fun and well written. Peterfreund is coming out with a third installment this summer, and I for one can't wait. Keep them coming!

Maria Angelica says

Adorei o segundo livro também. Ele é mais focado nas lealdades à sociedade secreta que sororidade e feminismo, mas mesmo assim foi muito legal. Tivemos um mistério a ser solucionado que foi interessante o suficiente para me manter presa até a sua resolução.

Gostei que a Amy está ganhando cada vez mais auto-confiança entre seus colegas e começando a entender seu valor. Adoro histórias desse tipo.

Não há muito mais que eu possa falar sem soltar spoilers. Só posso dizer que essa série está saindo melhor que a encomenda e é super rápida de ler e descompromissada.

Se você quer ler uma série NA diferente, que é mais focado no crescimento pessoal da personagem principal que no romance e de quebra tem muita temática feminista. Pode pegar esses livros. São muito divertidos!

Maggie says

It's official. I'm ADDICTED. It's like if Lorelai went to Yale instead of Rory. And Logan Huntzberger? AS IF.

Quick notes:

- Someone asks Amy if she has read The Scarlet Pimpernel. Did Diana Peterfreund know back then that she wanted to write a Pimpernel retelling??
- Voldemort!
- "That's the best part of being loved. Someone attributes to you all kinds of abilities they're fooled into thinking you possess."
- "My name is Jamie." HELL YEAH, JAMIE LANNISTER. Except it's from THIS book, and seriously, SWOON.

Love love love.

Susan says

Under the Rose picks up where Peterfreund left off with *Secret Society Girl*. Secrets and lies threaten to tear apart the oldest and most revered secret society at Eli University - the Order of the Rose and Grave - as the new class discovers a traitor in their midst.

Even as a member, our heroine Amy Haskell seems to be out of the loop. After enduring a difficult initiation, the top class of D177 realized that the powerful patriarchs of the society never intended to allow women to join their order. In standing up to the powerful men, Amy and the other "Diggirls" hope that the worst is behind them. But the drama is non-stop, and within the tomb of the Order of the Rose and Grave, warring factions begin to endanger the future of the club.

Under the Rose was if possible, even better than its predecessor. Peterfreund's dialogue was sharp and witty as ever, with lots of verbal sparring between Amy and caustic patriarch "Poe". The plot was full of twists and turns that kept me guessing the entire time - some of the things that Peterfreund comes up with are just completely out of left field! The author does an amazing job of lining up several suspects and subplots, making for a fun mystery. Even after discovering the identity of the member betraying the society, we suddenly learn that the conspiracy goes much deeper than anyone realized.

Under the Rose was a fast-paced, gripping, page turner. I am thoroughly enthralled by this series and I can't wait to pick up book 3, *Rites of Spring (Break)*.

cloudyskye says

I couldn't put this down, especially the second half kept me glued to the pages. Things are developing nicely, we have adventure, mystery, betrayals, friendship, and above all a very slowly emerging potential romance, oh that lovely tension when they don't know themselves quite what they feel and sort of struggle against it - just the way I like it.

Two more to go, both on their way to my letter box ...

Rachna R says

a) This series reminds me of the TV show *Greek* a lot, and for a while I thought it was because of the obvious - societies, club bonds, etc. - but really I think it's because of how flexible the friendships here are. A lot of books give me one-on-one friendships, a One True Confidante and Friend, but it's kind of delightful to me that so many of these people talk to each other, talk about one another, talk about one another *behind each other's backs*, and then come back into frame and say "hey, you, we've been talking about you and we're concerned". Not a friendship, but a network of friends. Feels lived in to me.

b) I'm kind of impressed how into the plot of this I get because WHY SHOULD I CARE! I mean, logically. but Peterfreund is really engaging? Amy is super engaging? And she's really good at ramping up the real-world stakes and tensions of something that can come across as really insular and silly, which I love - and she follows through on that well in the third book, I think.

c) That said, things definitely got more intense than I expected it to but didn't really follow through on resolution. They settled it too quickly for me. If you're gonna be that big, and if you're going to do it in a way that justifies the whole thing, then at least carry that through.

d) These characters feel well-defined to me, even when they go on without really being in Amy's day-to-day all the time. I particularly liked one of the reveals around three-quarters into this book - because despite the sting of betrayal and real irritation, what comes through is that this dude couldn't give a fuck. Amy figures that out, I think, I love it.

e) Amy is definitely prone to dumb ideas, it's pretty great. She also comes across as smart and quick without the author having to preen about it or come off as arrogant, I think - I'm definitely more impressed by her than she herself ever acknowledges, and I liked that a lot.

f) My one complaint: The book is a little weird about how it treats the sub-group created against women in the society? Elysion now is a revival of a sub-group created and used in the past by people who didn't want non-white or non-straight dudes in the club before, and it felt a little bit like a "women have it worse than people of colour" thing - or at the very least, drawing a comparison which didn't seem necessary. At the same time I want to excuse it because Peterfreund never actually says it - I'm probably reading a little too much into it, myself - and this society does actually feel a little past racial issues? Like I mentioned in my review of book #1, this series is really cool about how it fills in its world, and it feels significant to me where I'm usually found getting into the same old minority characters doing the same old stereotypical nonsense. So whatever, I don't know what e) is. There's a character who's black, gay, and a girl, and only the 'girl' part of that is objected to by the sexist dudes in the society. Just wish I didn't get the vibes I did.

g) Boy did I enjoy this book. It cost me sleep and I'm totally cool with it.
