



WAIT, ROSE!

IT'S LATE, NOT SAFE FOR A WOMAN ALONE. LET ME SEE YOU HOME.

OH, YOU'LL WALK ME TO MY LONELY COTTAGE DOOR, JIM TANNER?

AND THEN I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANT TO COME IN, AS WELL!

Rose's Heart

by Colleen Coover



WHAT? N-NO...! I'D NEVER...!

NO, OF COURSE, I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T.

ROSE, YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU...FOR MONTHS! FROM THE DAY I MET YOU...!



I'M SORRY, JIM. I'LL WALK MYSELF HOME. TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT.

YOU HAVE A GOOD, HONEST SOUL, JIM TANNER. BUT I'VE NO USE FOR A MAN LIKE YOU.



NO USE...? WHAT THE DEVIL DOES SHE MEAN BY THAT?

IT MEANS SHE THINKS HERSELF TOO FINE A CATCH TO MARRY A POOR FARMER, JIM.

LET HER GO. DON'T WASTE YOUR HEART ON A WOMAN OF AMBITION.



IN SCARLET TOWN, WHERE I WAS BORN-- THERE WAS A FAIR MAID DWELLIN'...

MADE EV'RY MAN CRY "WELL-A-DAY!"-- AND HER NAME WAS BARBARA ALLEN.











OH!
WH-WHAT IS
ALL THIS?

DO YOU
LIKE IT? I *HOPE*
SO--I HAD IT
PREPARED JUST
FOR YOU.

AFTER ALL,
IT'S THE LAST
PLACE YOU'LL
EVER LOOK
UPON IN THIS
WORLD.



WHAT?
BUT...

LITTLE IDIOT.
I SUPPOSE YOU THOUGHT
I WAS *INFATUATED* WITH YOU!
AS THOUGH I'D DESIRE SUCH
COMMON BAGGAGE!

BUT I HAVE
NO DOUBT THAT
YOUR *INNOCENT*
BEAUTY WILL DELIGHT
MY LORD LUCIFER
WHEN I OFFER YOU
IN *SACRIFICE!*

NO!



DAMN YOU!
TAKE YOUR HANDS
OFF HER!

JIM!

THUD!

UH!



JIM,
HOW...?

I FOLLOWED
YOU TO MAKE
SURE YOU'D GET
HOME SAFE, BUT YOU
RAN FROM ME!

QUICK,
LOVE, WE
NEED TO GET
AWAY FROM
HERE!



CONK!

UGHH!



HA
HA HA
HAA!

GALLANT,
LOVESICK FOOL!
BUT NO MATTER...YOU
MAY JOIN THE GIRL
IN TRIBUTE TO MY
DARK MASTER!

UUHHN...



YEEAAAAGGH!



STUPID MAN,
PRETENDING TO KNOW
THE APPETITES OF THE
FALLEN ONE? WHAT
ARROGANCE.

BEAUTY
AND INNOCENCE,
GALLANTRY AND LOVE...
WHAT JOY WOULD SUCH
GIFTS BRING THE
LORD OF EVIL?

AAH...
HHCKK!

R-ROSE...!



IT IS DARKNESS
HE HUNGERS FOR--
HEARTS BLACK AS
A WINDOWLESS
CELL...

KKK-
KCCKK!



HEARTS
BLACK AS
YOURS.



ROSE...
OH LORD,
WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO YOU?

THERE IS
NO "ROSE".



I AM A HUNTER,
A SERVANT OF THE
DARK. ROSE WAS THE
FORM I TOOK WHILE
SEEKING MY PREY
IN THIS MORTAL
REALM.

NOW MY
HUNT IS OVER,
AND I RETURN
TO MY MASTER'S
SIDE. YOU WILL
NEVER MEET
ROSE AGAIN.



AHHH! HEAVEN
SAVE ME!

DO NOT
FEAR. DID I
NOT SAY?



YOU HAVE A
GOOD, HONEST
SOUL, JIM
TANNER.

I HAVE
NO USE FOR
A MAN LIKE
YOU.

End

CRUSH

Writing by JANET HETHERINGTON / Art by RONN SUTTON
Colour Art by BECKA KINZIE / Lettering by ZAKK SAAM

DUSK IS FALLING...BUT FOR CONSTANCE MAYHEW, IT'S NOT THE NIGHT AIR THAT MAKES HER SHIVER. IT'S THE THRILL OF HER NEW POSITION AS GOVERNESS.

HARCORTE HOUSE! I NEVER DREAMED IT WOULD BE SO GRAND.

SUDDENLY...



CONSTANCE MAYHEW'S LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

HIS EYES ARE AS WILD AS THE SEA.



CAPTAIN HARCORTE HAS SEVEN CHILDREN: CECILIA, LAURIE, EDWARD, WILLIAM, MAURICE, BURT AND MARGARET.



PAPA!
PAPA!

WHICH ONE OF YOU
LOT LET THE DOGS RUN
LOOSE? THEY DAMN NEAR
KILLED YOUR NEW
GOVERNESS.



HOW MANY
TIMES...



...DO I
HAVE TO
REMINDE YOU THAT
I RUN A TIGHT
SHIP?



CHILDREN, YOU
MUST MIND YOUR FATHER.
GO TO THE NURSERY
IMMEDIATELY.

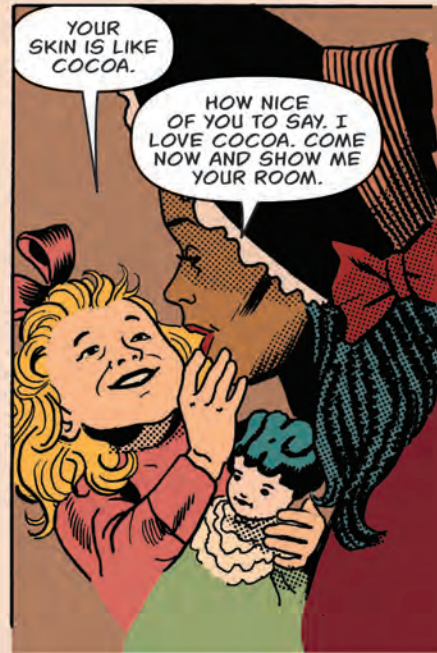


GOOD.
AND KEEP
THEM OUT OF
SIGHT. I'M EXPECT-
ING A DINNER
GUEST.



YOUR
SKIN IS LIKE
COCOA.

HOW NICE
OF YOU TO SAY. I
LOVE COCOA. COME
NOW AND SHOW ME
YOUR ROOM.





OVER THE NEXT MONTHS, CONSTANCE BECOMES AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

LISTEN, YOU WILL BE PAID ONLY WHEN YOU DELIVER EVERYTHING COOK ORDERED.

I THOUGHT THE CAPTAIN HAD GONE OFF HIS CHUMP WHEN HE BROUGHT IN HER KIND AS GOVERNESS, BUT THAT CONSTANCE PULLS HER WEIGHT.

CONSTANCE BONDS WITH THE SEVEN CHILDREN, GIVING THEM LESSONS AND THRILLING THEM WITH STORIES FROM HER HOME IN BERMUDA.

TELL US ABOUT THE PIRATES.

THEY WERE CALLED PRIVATEERS, AND THEY SAILED FAST VESSELS CALLED BERMUDA SLOOPS.



THEN ONE RAINY DAY...

FINALLY, THE ACCOUNTS ARE DONE. I BETTER CHECK ON THE CHILDREN.

WHERE ARE THEY? THEY CAN'T BE OUTSIDE. IT'S POURING RAIN.



THEY CAN'T JUST HAVE DISAPPEARED!



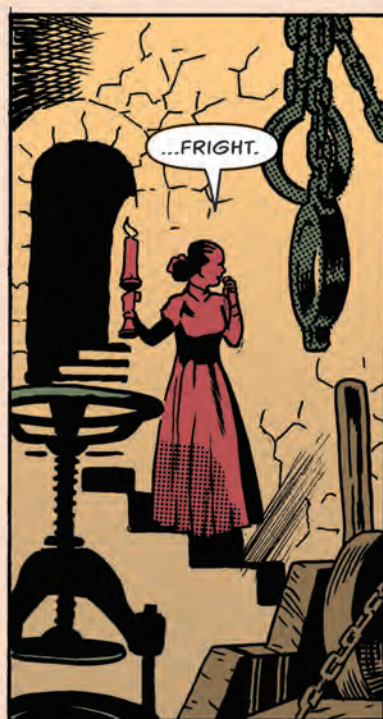
A CHILL RIPPLES
DOWN HER SPINE AS
CONSTANCE SEES...



...THE DUNGEON.

DEAR LORD,
WHAT IS THIS
PLACE?





CAPTAIN HARCORTE CONTINUES
HIS SEARCH FOR A NEW BRIDE...



...BUT ONE BY ONE, THE WOMEN
DISAPPEAR FROM HIS LIFE.







