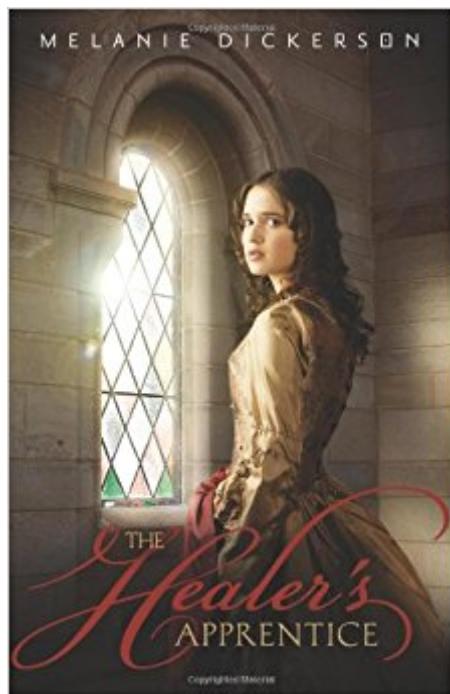


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The Healers Apprentice



Synopsis

Two Hearts. One Hope. Rose has been appointed as a healer's apprentice at Hagenheim Castle, a rare opportunity for a woodcutter's daughter like her. While she often feels uneasy at the sight of blood, Rose is determined to prove herself capable. Failure will mean returning home to marry the aging bachelor her mother has chosen for her—a bloated, disgusting merchant who makes Rose feel ill. When Lord Hamlin, the future duke, is injured, it is Rose who must tend to him. As she works to heal his wound, she begins to understand emotions she's never felt before and wonders if he feels the same. But falling in love is forbidden, as Lord Hamlin is betrothed to a mysterious young woman in hiding. As Rose's life spins toward confusion, she must take the first steps on a journey to discover her own destiny.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rose, a healer's apprentice in the town of Hagenheim, feels drawn to the duke's older son, Wilhelm, but he is betrothed to a young noblewoman who has been hidden away for years, ever since she was threatened by an evil conjurer. Though her attachment to Wilhelm grows, Rose encourages the suit of his younger brother, Rupert, who begins to amend his rakish ways under her virtuous influence. The story's outcome is never in doubt, but the lovers endure many setbacks before a fortunate circumstance paves the way for the happy ending. Dickerson creates a sympathetic character in Rose, who has her weaknesses as well as considerable strength of will, morality, and faith. Though references to Christianity are woven

through the book, many readers will be surprised by the climactic scene, in which Wilhelm heals Rose by casting out demons in the name of Jesus. Young people looking for Christian fiction as well as a historical romance may enjoy this medieval love story. Grades 7-10. --Carolyn Phelan

In this debut romance set in Hagenheim, Lower Saxony, in 1382 and loosely based on 'Sleeping Beauty,' a lowly woodcutter's daughter apprenticed to the town healer falls in love with a handsome nobleman who's betrothed to a mysterious woman. Although she's grateful to the healer for teaching her to read and write and freeing her from the need to marry, 17-year-old Rose quickly loses her heart when she meets Wilhelm, Lord Hamlin. Wilhelm is equally smitten, but he's promised to a woman he's never met and can't wed until he captures the evil conjurer whose threats forced her parents to hide her 17 years ago. When Wilhelm's carousing younger brother insistently woos Rose, she feels flattered but conflicted. Should she forget both brothers and remain single, or could there be a fairy-tale finale? The medieval German setting and fastidious details of period clothing, food, music and dance provide an ideal context for this courtly romance between two young lovers who choose duty, virtue and honor above self-interest. Female readers should savor this romantic fare. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 12 and up) (Kirkus Review) Gr 7-10
Set in 1386, this historical romance has a fairy-tale structure and a Christian emphasis. Rose serves as the apprentice to Frau Geruscha, the court healer. She is not very good at her chosen profession, yet she sees this as her only hope to escape the prospect of an arranged marriage. Enter Lord Hamlin, to whom Rose must minister after he is injured. She falls hard for him, and he for her, but neither can admit their feelings due to her social status and his betrothal to Lady Salomea. Rose soon catches the eye of the philandering Lord Rupert, Lord Hamlin's brother, and a romance ensues. But alas, Rupert breaks her heart with a proposal she is unwilling to accept, which makes her realize that she never loved him in the first place. Lurking in the shadows is the evil Moncore, who has driven Lady Salomea into hiding because he threatened her life. The identity of Lord Hamlin's betrothed is transparent from the start, so anticipation is built around how the two lovers will get to the "happily ever after." Rose is beautifully boring, and not very well developed, but is believable as the young maiden longing for a prince to rescue her. She and Hamlin rely on their faith to make their dreams come true. Fans of fairy tales will enjoy this story. --Wendy Scalfaro, G. Ray Bodley High School, Fulton, NY (School Library Journal)

Wow! I could not believe this was Melanie Dickerson's debut

novel. Within a few minutes, I was lost in an enchanted world with castles and cobblestones until the very end. I loved how Lord Hamlin noticed Rose right from the start! Even though he visited her and and danced with her he always remained chivalrous, even though he wanted to be with her. But honestly, I wanted to smack Rose when she let herself be deceived by someone she had been warned was not honorable but handsome young men can be very persuasive and young, innocent girls are easy prey. Rose may have enjoyed his supposed affection for her, especially after feeling unloved by her mother, but thankfully she never allowed herself to go too far with him. This story reminds me that evil exists and it's not always ugly, but sometimes can be wrapped up in a pretty package. The right path is not always the easy path, but it's the right choice. Melanie did a wonderful job showing how difficult it can be to make the right choice, especially when others are urging you to take the other path. Melanie Dickerson's characters are perfect well written, entertaining and represent the same values and flaws of the heroes and villains that inspired them. Melanie is such an awesome writer! It is amazing how she weaves stories from classic fairy tales, creating her own stories and uses them to tell a story of hope, love and faith. If you enjoy reading exciting, medieval fiction with a happily ever after, don't miss this wonderful series!

Welcome to fourteenth century Germany, where a girl named Rose has captured the hearts of two brothers. As an apprentice to the local healer, Rose lives inside the castle walls and is receiving an education far beyond what most women are given at that time. She was chosen to be placed under Frau Geruscha's tutelage and wants to learn the healing arts, even if it's not something she is naturally drawn towards. Lord Hamlin and Lord Rupert, sons of the duke of Hagenheim, come home after being away for some years and both fall in love with Rose. As the eldest, Lord Hamlin has been betrothed to the daughter of a neighboring ruler since he was very young. Lord Rupert will inherit very little and would be prudent to find a wife with a rich dowry. As Rose becomes friends with both young men, she is aware that anything more than friendship is not likely, even as Rupert begins making strides towards a courtship. Having never met his betrothed, Lord Hamlin works hard to curb his attraction to Rose and stay faithful to the unknown Lady Salomea, whom he will finally meet in a few months. Lady Salomea has been in hiding many years, as her life has been threatened by the evil Moncore. Deciding to try to catch Moncore so his betrothed will be safe at

last, Lord Hamlin encourages Rose to marry Rupert and leaves on his quest. But when Lord Rupert's motives become suspect and a strange man begins shadowing Rose, it soon becomes clear that all is not as it seems. Loosely based on "Sleeping Beauty," this tale brings us mystery, danger, hope, and a reminder that though God's plans often take us by surprise, they are always exactly right. How good to remember our trustworthy God during the sometimes dark and uncertain days we all go through! I'm so glad I have been able to read a couple of Melanie Dickerson's fairy tale retellings, and I can't wait to read more. Stay tuned for future reviews.

Brilliance! You love the characters at the beginning, and adore them until the end. Rose in particular is a wonderful blend of thoughtful, sweet, smart and fiery, not in anyone's face but still speaking her mind, and still very real in the mistakes she makes. Wilhelm is just as lovable, and you're rooting for them both before you know you are. You'll hate the villains just as much! The plot clips at an even pace, twisting just when you have it by the tail. Just enough calm and tension throughout, and a truly wonderful ending to top it all off. All the while Dickerson maintains the classic fairy tale, interwoven with bits of Scripture that will touch your heart. Overall, just a timeless story for all ages.

Melanie Dickerson has a way of bringing her novels to life. She draws her readers in and almost holds them captive until the very end. *Healer's Apprentice* is her version of *Sleeping Beauty* and it is a beautiful story. I love how she focuses on the romance and displays what a relationship should be like as opposed to instant live and sexual intimacy. She displays real intimacy. I enjoyed the minor Christian elements as well such as the characters praying or quoting the Bible. It added a special quality to the book. This is the second of her books that I have read (first being *Merchant's Daughter*) and I cannot wait to read another. Highly recommend.

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