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A Red, Red *Rose*

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HUONG FRALIN

Numerous readers emailed to share how much they enjoyed “A Red, Red Rose,” the newest book by lake resident Susan Coryell. Published in 2012 by L&L Dreamspell, it was recently nominated in the fiction category for a literary award by the Library of Virginia.

The book begins when 20-year-old aspiring romance novelist Ashby Overton is invited by her aunt and uncle to spend the summer as a companion to her young cousin at historic Overhome Estate, situated high above Virginia’s Moore Mountain Lake. Ashby accepts, hoping to unearth her ancestral roots and the cause of a mysterious family rift surrounding the horseback-riding death of her grandmother many years ago.

As the summer unfolds, so does the shroud of silence surrounding Overhome. Ever present is a force Ashby never sees, only feels. Candles light themselves, notes from an old lullaby fall from the ceiling, the radio tunes itself each day. And roses,

always meant for Ashby, appear in the unlikeliest places. Are they a symbol of love, or do they represent something dark and evil?

Ashby is led on a suspenseful, sometimes terrifying, journey as she navigates centuries of family strife alongside the puzzling parameters of the spirit world. Ultimately, she discovers that some secrets, even the most fiercely guarded, are destined to be revealed.

“[‘A Red, Red Rose’] has a great local flavor,” said Marilyn Amerson, former Westlake librarian. “The book is a delicious page-turner that will appeal to all readers, especially those familiar with the area surrounding Smith Mountain Lake.”

“A Red, Red Rose” is available through the Bedford and Franklin county library systems, and for sale locally at Gifts Ahoy (\$13.95). It also can be purchased in print or as an ebook (\$4.99) online through Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

– Andie Gibson, Editor