



## Permanent Rose

*Hilary McKay*

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**Feisty Rose takes center stage as the highly original Casson family faces a long, hot summer.**

As usual, things are a bit chaotic. Eldest daughter Caddy is now engaged to darling Michael, and she's not altogether sure she likes it. Saffy and Sarah are on a mission to find Saffy's biological father (while cultivating hearts of stone). Indigo is cautiously beginning a friendship with a reformed bully, who desperately wants to feel like part of the Casson family. Rose, while missing Tom (who none of them have heard from) dreadfully, enters into a life of petty crime, shoplifting small items until her misadventures nearly bring disaster. An accidental trip to London and a visit with Rose's father lead to a startling revelation, but through it all Rose's single-minded determination to find Tom remains as fierce as it is hopeless. Or is it? Hilary McKay has painted the fond mayhem of this delightful family with such humor, warmth, and authenticity that readers will fall in love with them all over again. Once you've visited the Casson household, you may never want to leave.

## Permanent Rose Details

Date : Published June 1st 2005 by Margaret K. McElderry Books (first published January 1st 2005)

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Author : Hilary McKay

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## From Reader Review Permanent Rose for online ebook

### Katja says

Permanent Rose is not at all happy. Since Tom left for America, she patiently awaits his letter (every morning she waits for the postman to arrive and every morning she is left empty handed), a phone call (not a single one), a surprise visit (nope), anything at all from her beloved friend. Indigo in the meantime befriends his former enemy David, who isn't such a bad guy after all. He also reads from Morte D'Arthur which is the first book Rose also enjoys and she draws parallels between Lancelot and Tom. Saffy and Sarah are trying to find out more about Saffy's father (Sarah thinks he is a rich and handsome Italian) and dear Caddy is engaged to Michael though she doesn't seem all that happy about it. Eve is a bit upset because Bill lives with his girlfriend in London while she has to paint the walls of the local hospital. A lot is happening at the Casson's family home and new revelations are about to surprise them all.

The third book in the series reveals that Rose might actually be McKay's favourite character (or is that just my humble opinion?). She is certainly one of the best written characters I've come across. Though the other siblings don't play such a big part in this book I am happy to report that we finally get more of Caddy! Poor Caddy, she has to face the fact that love is far more complicated than she imagined it. And darling Bill, we finally get to see just who he really is! Eve is just as distracted and loving as always though she has a hard time remembering David's name. Poor old David, nobody really likes him, Saffy and Sarah think he's a weirdo and Rose resents him for bullying Indigo and trying to step into Tom's shoes.

This actually isn't my favourite book in the series despite being Rose's but I missed Tom too much to really fall in love with it. Sure, he is ever present, but he isn't really there and I missed him terribly! David was an interesting fellow and I loved his character development but Tom and Rose and Indigo, well, they are the loveliest. This book is so charming and full of warm sensations, it really pulls you in until you become addicted to the Cassons. Luckily there are three more books left to read!

This review was originally published on my blog: <https://murmuringletters.wordpress.com/>

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### Jacob Proffitt says

While an excellent read and a fun story, I have to admit that I didn't connect to this one as much as the previous books in the series. The family is as crazy as ever, and Saffy and Sarah beginning a quest for Saffy's father was very fun (with Sarah's dad stealing the occasional scene--he may be my favorite character). And who wouldn't be touched by Rose's yearning for her long-absent friend, Tom?

But the story rambled a bit. And the David and Indigo bit just wasn't terribly interesting (it doesn't help that David doesn't have much of a personality, really). And there wasn't really anything new or deep or meaningful at the heart of the story. Or, if there was, I missed it.

And I hated a couple of developments in the core family.(view spoiler) Somewhat mitigated by finally meeting Bill's Other Woman and liking her a great deal (at the expense of Bill, but that's hardly a surprise, really).

Which sounds like a lot I didn't like, and not at all what you'd expect for a review that accompanies a four-

star rating. All I can say in my defense is that it was still a great ride and I still love the Cassons and I laughed out loud too often to be able to say it wasn't fantastic. It was. Fantastic, I mean.

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### **Kimmae says**

I am so happy to have found this series. As usual it seems in young adult literature the parents are practically nonexistent when it comes to any kind of parenting. Yet there are other adult characters (the children's friend Sarah's mother and the school principal and the father's girlfriend) who show signs of attention to the children.

My favorites:

Rose thinks "in her opinion books were for those unable to entertain themselves in any other way . For those who could not draw, who had no ears, who had no one to whom they might speak, who could not switch on a television or walk out of a room .... Someone stuck in an empty concrete cell with nothing they could use to write on the walls might be grateful for a book, admitted Rose, although even then if they had any imagination, they would use the pages to manufacture paper boats and planes."

"The rain excited people. They talked about it to each other. They noticed that it had an incredible smell, a mixture of spice and trash cans. They saw how it left reddish marks on white surfaces. A gusty wind had come up from the South. Someone said, "That rain was full of dust from Africa" and this new unfounded story spread through the town by a network ..."

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### **Lorenjwm2 says**

It's so weird sometimes knowing a child is wiser than a fully grown adult.A child can give some message through their words and gestures that awakes sinful adults.This novel contains a more-than-you-can-expect wise remarks a child could say.Not only a good novel to read by depressed youngsters,but also a tired adult who is depressed with everyday's life.

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### **Jasmine says**

Hilary McKay is an absolute master of her craft. I keep wanting to share quotes from the book, but they're not that effective alone. They're just the reflection of a couple hundred pages of simple sentences, each building a link in the chain, until you get to that last simple sentence and put a hand over your mouth in shock and delight.

I love everybody here so much. So much.

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### **Brandy Painter says**

Wanting to hug Rose and throttle her parents seems to be the emotions these books are evoking of me the

most. Eve's obliviousness to her children irks me. I don't like to smother my kids, but I do not find remembering to feed them to be a particular challenge. I would like to think I would notice if my 8 year turned to a life of crime. And I **hated** Bill by the end. These kids are plucky though and they have each other. And they have Sarah. They also get another new addition in the form of David, recently reformed bully. Despite how I want to cringe at the lackadaisical parenting, I love that these books show how messy wonderful family is in all it's complexities.

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### **Molly says**

I would say that Permanent Rose is a sort of continuation of Indigo's star. Although, this time, the story revolves more around "Darling" Rose than before. Once again, the Cassons are up to their usual tricks and Rose is at the center of them all. Personally, I think that Rose is the funniest so it was great to read more about her. The third Casson book is definitely not disappointing!

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### **Beth says**

Entertaining in the moment, but not particularly memorable. And it's unique in terms of the rest of children's literature, but not in terms of Hilary McKay's novels; I'd have welcomed something a little less of a retread of her previous works.

This is probably the weakest book of the series.

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### **Heather says**

I finally got to read more about the Casson family; this book was a treat. Hilary McKay has a great talent with characterization and dialogue -- put to great use in creating this family as such a quirky, loveable mess.

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### **Bethany Miller says**

This is the third in the Casson family series. Though you don't necessarily need to have read the earlier books it probably wouldn't hurt to have some background in understanding the eccentric characters in this off beat family. Naked sunbathing, shoplifting, and cake baking disasters are just a few of the humorous hijinks that occur thanks to the limited adult supervision of Eve. The writing is good and the characters are fun. The plot moves at the languid pace of the summer break that the book describes, but readers who like novels with quirky characters that explore family dynamics will enjoy this book. I do have to agree with other reviewers that as an adult reading this book, you have to question lack of parental oversight. Luckily, the kids seem to do OK without it!

Rose Casson cannot believe that Tom, whom she refuses to admit she's in love with, has gone back to America and has made no effort to contact her or her brother Indigo. Did their friendship mean nothing to

him? Has he forgotten all about them? Rose waits every day at the mailbox hoping for a letter. Although no letters come from Tom, she does get a rose each day from Michael, her older sister Caddy's fiancé. Though Rose can't wait for Michael and Caddy to be married, Caddy's not so sure. Maybe that's the reason she can't keep track of her engagement ring? Meanwhile cousin Saffron, who has grown up like a sister to them, has decided she wants to track down her real father. With very little guidance from their parents – father Bill is in London with new girlfriend and mother Eve is just completely clueless – the Casson kids navigate their way through a summer of changes.

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### **Kaethe says**

13 October, 2013

Rose is the youngest member of the Casson family. That means that everyone leaving is an ongoing issue, whether it's Caddie and college, or Bill, the father, who doesn't make the trip up from London as often as he once did. Fortunately, Rose is resourceful, as well as being the most gifted artist in the family, and she always has ideas.

I think the reason these books are so appealing is a combination of rather old-school qualities: the "family of eccentrics" goes back at least to *Pride and Prejudice*, and then there is the "school friends have adventures" which is at least a hundred years old by now. McKay allows her characters a great deal of unsupervised, unstructured time in which to pursue their interests, and plot, and get into trouble.

Highly recommended series for fans of *The Penderwicks*.

Library copy

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### **Kristin says**

I think *Saffy's Angel* was much better, being the first book in the series about the unusual Casson family of artists. I do like Rose's fiesty personality in this story, and the different perspectives, but it wasn't nearly as magical as the first book, or *Indigo's Star*, the second one. I'll have to read *Caddy Ever After* and then I will have finished the series.

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### **Laura says**

I absolutely loved this book! The previous is still my favorite, however this one is so good. McKay really knows how to express emotions in a really subtle way. I wish all children's book would be as funny and deep as this one is.

Eu realmente amei esse livro! O anterior ainda é o meu favorito, mas esse ainda é bom. McKay realmente consegue expressar emoções de um modo muito sutil. Eu queria que todos os livros de criança fossem engraçados e profundos assim como esse.

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**Miriam says**

It is even clearer than in the last book that Rose is McKay's favorite character.

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**Mireille Duval says**

[the Saffron's father reveal. It was kind of stunning! I liked how Bill reacted, with the guilt and the gifts and the New York trip. And NEW YORK! I loved how Sarah and David joined forced to make sure

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