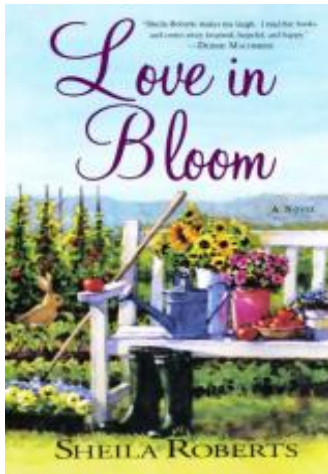


Love in Bloom

by Sheila Roberts



About the Book

Hope Walker survived early breast cancer at just thirty years old, but a mastectomy left her with a lot of scarring --- and some serious fears about dating. Hope owns Changing Seasons Floral, Heart Lake's most popular flower shop. When it comes to love and relationships, she's able to work magic through her expert flower arranging...for everyone but herself. Then one day a handsome contractor starts coming into her shop, but Hope knows he'd rather have a whole woman than someone like her.

When Hope stakes out a plot of ground at Heart Lake's community garden, she finds that a woman can grow all sorts of things there: flowers, herbs, vegetables, and even friendship. As she gets to know the two women who share neighboring plots, they discover that they can learn a lot from one another --- not just about gardening but about life. And Hope realizes that in order to live life to the fullest, sometimes you have to take a chance on love.

Discussion Guide

1. The women in **Love in Bloom** meet at a community garden. Where have you met your best friends?
2. With which of the women's journeys did you most identify? Why?
3. Do you think Hope's body image issues made her shallow?
4. Have you gone through breast cancer yourself or with a friend or relative? What were some of your fears and frustrations?
5. When it comes to your gardening skills, do you think of yourself as a Millie or an Amber?

6. Gardening is the number one hobby in America. Are you surprised to hear that?
7. In your opinion, should Millie have lived or died? Why do you think the author made the choice she made regarding Millie's fate?
8. Jason Wells fell hard for Hope's pretty sister Bobbi before realizing the woman he really wanted was Hope. Do you think his behavior was typical of most men?
9. What do you think is the underlying message of this book?

Author Bio

USA Today and *Publishers Weekly* bestselling author and fan favorite Sheila Roberts has almost 50 books to her credit. Under different names she's written Regency romance novels, as well as devotionals and personal development books. She did lots of things before settling in to her writing career, including owning a singing telegram company and playing in a band. Her band days are over, but she still enjoys writing songs. Her novel *ON STRIKE FOR CHRISTMAS* was a Lifetime Network movie, and her novel *THE NINE LIVES OF CHRISTMAS* was made into a movie for the Hallmark Channel. When she's not speaking to women's groups or hanging out with her husband or her girlfriends, she can be found writing about those things near and dear to women's hearts: family, friends and chocolate. Sheila divides her time between Washington State and California.

Critical Praise

"Sheila Roberts makes me laugh. I read her books and come away inspired, hopeful, and happy."

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