

# A SPELL OF ROWANS

BY BYRD NASH, AUTHOR

Twisted by a traumatic past, the Rowan siblings must use their talents to deal with blackmail, murder, and magic in this emotional page-turner.

## ABOUT

Magic comes in threes. Victoria, whose empathic talent reads hidden feelings. Phillipa, with a glamour that bewitches. Liam, who can touch an object to reveal its past.

Old sins cast long shadows in a small town where everyone holds a secret.

Their narcissistic mother, Rachel Rowan, sniffed out secrets. Her antique shop, Rosemary Thyme, was a front to torment the residents of Grimsby. With her death, the murder of her assistant, and a missing blackmail book, Vic must discover the truth before the past destroys her.

And that hometown boy Vic dumped way back? He's in Grimsby and knows the truth about her.

"Swathed in small-town gossip and values, the fantastical novel – combines murder mystery, magic, and mayhem for an exciting tour of a family's history and trauma." – 5 stars, Clarion review

A story of trauma and healing by gaining power over a haunted past.

Fans of Alix E. Harrow, Alice Hoffman, Paula Brackston, Sarah Addison Allen, and Kate Morton will enjoy the Magical Realism and complex family dynamics in this small town mystery.

NOTE: Trigger warnings for child abuse and past trauma, with one assault scene, and some cursing.

Genre: Contemporary, Magical Realism, Women's literature, Contemporary Literature, Contemporary Fantasy,

*Between blackmail, murder, and magic, someone wants a Rowan dead.*

## AWARDS

- 2021 Foreword INDIES Gold Winner in Fantasy
- Gold Winner, Literary Titan
- 2022 indieBRAG
- Silver Winner, Readers Favorite

## REVIEWS

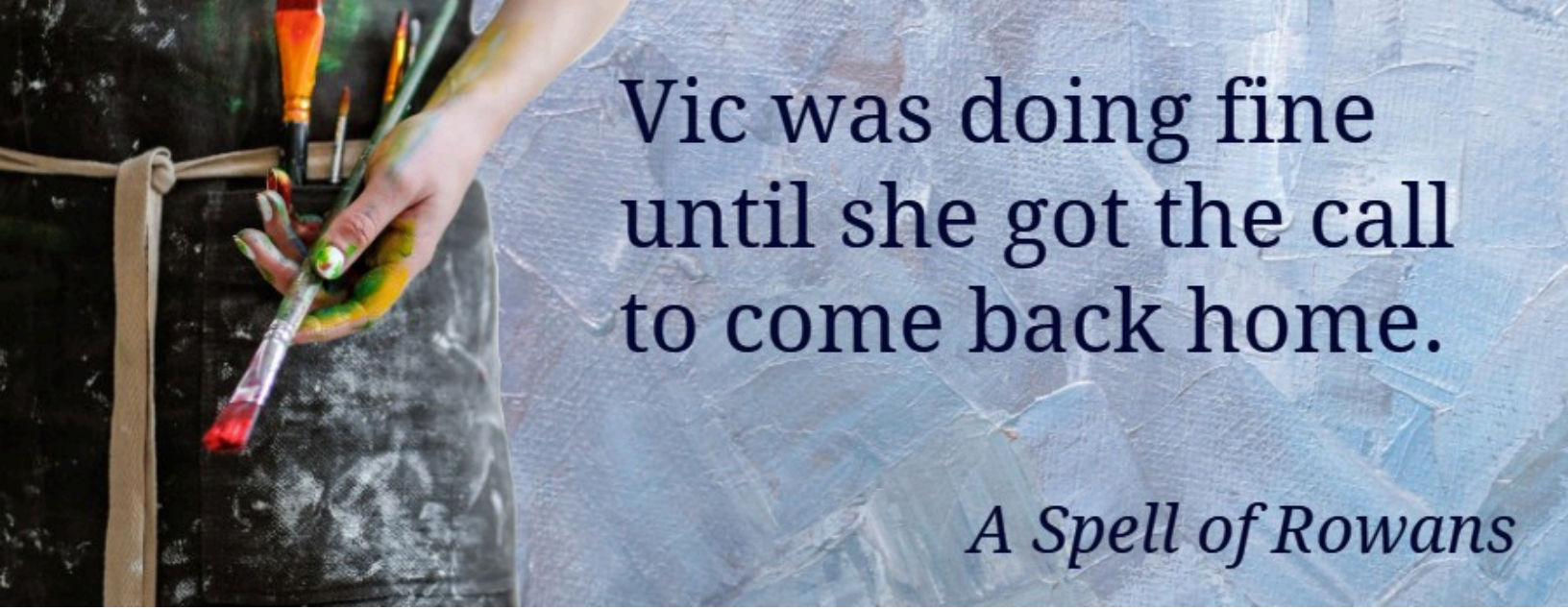
"I could not stop reading if I wanted to, and I don't want to stop. This book is gripping, a real page turner."

"Wow! I had tears. This is one amazing, magical book - The ending was absolutely perfect. This is truly a special book."

"This book is one of those special ones that don't fall into just one category. There's magic, and mystery and family drama. Can the siblings come out of their protective shells to help each other, or will their mother's death make them retreat even further."

## CONTACT

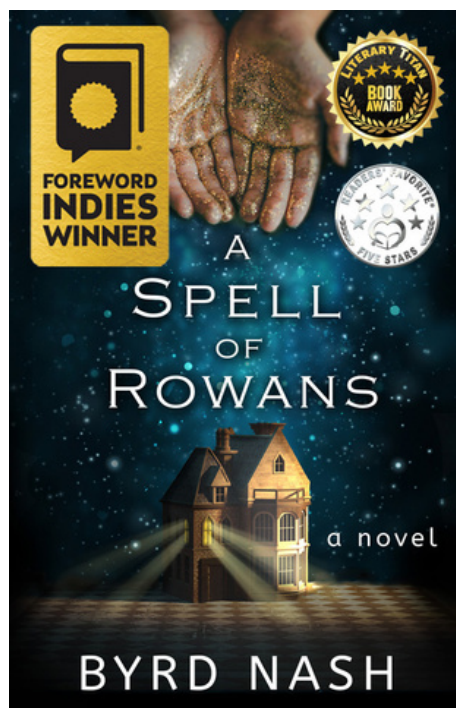
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Vic was doing fine  
until she got the call  
to come back home.

*A Spell of Rowans*

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Spell of Rowans is in the WorldCat, SkyRiver catalog

Format: Paperback, Hardback, Digital  
Publisher: Rook and Castle Press (2021)  
Language: English  
Pages: 306  
Paperback Dimensions: 5.25 x 8 inches  
ISBN 978-1-954811-03-4  
Hardback dimensions: 5.5 x 8.5 inches  
Hardback ISBN: 978-1-954811-61-4

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Ingram Book Company

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Print wholesale discount: 55%

For wholesale ebook inquires:

ISBN 978-1-954811-00-3

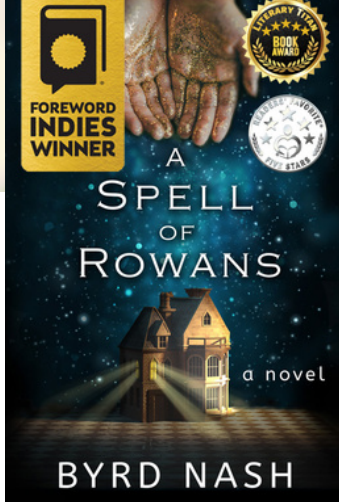
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Overdrive and Baker & Taylor.

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## Clarion Editorial Review

**A SPELL OF ROWANS BY BYRD NASH**

2021 INDIES Winner

Gold, Fantasy (Adult Fiction)

Clarion Rating: 5 out of 5

The fantastical novel *A Spell of Rowans* combines murder mystery, magic, and mayhem for an exciting tour of a family's history and trauma.

Byrd Nash's novel *A Spell of Rowans* revolves around a family with esoteric gifts and dark secrets that transcend death.

Vic Rowan, a successful artist who restores old paintings, leaves her city life to return home to small-town Grimsby to help settle affairs after her mother's death. Her two Rowan siblings, Phillipa and Liam, share with Vic an uncanny set of gifts: charm and empathy, and in Liam's case even the ability to touch objects and learn their past. Vic's former boyfriend-turned-FBI-agent, Reed, also descends on the town as its death toll rises; there are mysteries that demand explanations.

Among other revelations, it appears that the Rowan siblings' mother did not die of old age, but was murdered, along with her antique shop assistant. The Grimsby police regard this case suspiciously, along with the unsolved case of the Rowan siblings' father's death over a decade ago. Dodging the doubts of Grimsby residents who view them with distrust, Vic and her siblings scramble to decide which secrets to disclose and which to unearth.

Forced into solitary habits by her intense powers as an empath, powerful, complex Vic finds herself relying on others for more and more support. She relives past traumas and struggles with the guilt of abandoning her little brother for college. Facing escalating violence as their investigation in Grimsby continues, Vic confronts the need to trust and grow in order to avoid becoming the same unfeeling monster her mother was. It is a compelling struggle.

From arson and blackmail to a spell to raise the dead, challenges and attacks dot Vic's path, making the story spiral out in a series of complex fractals. This fast-paced plot builds, just as the mysteries and secrets within Grimsby build, until the final confrontation with at least one of the killers.

Wry and prickly, Vic dodges danger to make peace with her past. Her ability to send and even influence the emotions of others is described in colorful, vivid ways, with feelings having flavors such as fresh-baked bread and bitter molasses. The language that captures Vic's magical world, which is populated by both sweet and bitter people, is tangible and evocative. And as Vic gets closer to her mother's killer, using her power becomes a double-edged sword: the whirlwind of truths and lies threatens to entrap and drown her, even as her special abilities help her get to the bottom of the various unsolved mysteries.

Swathed in small-town gossip and values, the fantastical novel *A Spell of Rowans* combines murder mystery, magic, and mayhem for an exciting tour of a family's history and trauma.

Reviewed by Jeana Jorgensen, October 7, 2021

Clarion Review (<https://www.forewordreviews.com/reviews/a-spell-of-rowans/>)

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## Booklife Editorial Review

**A SPELL OF ROWANS BY BYRD NASH**

**Production grades**

**Cover: B+**

**Design and typography: A**

**Illustrations: N/A**

**Editing: A**

**Marketing copy: A**

This light fantasy from Nash (author of the College Fae series and more) follows the three Rowan siblings—Victoria, Phillipa, and Liam—as they face the aftermath of their mother’s death and the fact that all three may be targets of a potential murderer. Rachel, their mother, was an abusive parent and all-around bad person.

The siblings realize that, prior to her death, she had been blackmailing residents of the town, leading to a long list of suspects for her murder. Led by Victoria, the Rowan siblings are forced to confront the traumatic past that splintered them from one another and try to save themselves and their town of Grimsby from their mother’s legacy.

The characters and their evolving relationships are one of this engaging story’s strongest elements. Victoria, who hasn’t been home in fifteen years, has a particularly tender connection with her younger brother Liam, who may be on the autism spectrum. She also rekindles a potential romance with Reed, her old high school boyfriend, that proves sweet and satisfying. Nash also remains adept at pacing.

The story moves quickly, never getting bogged down in unnecessary exposition even as it addresses themes of recovery, family, and forgiveness. Chapters end on strong hooks, and the twists and turns are well-planned, exciting, and emotionally satisfying.

While the sparse prose moves the story along quickly, occasionally the reader may appreciate more detail, such as more specifics regarding the family home and the town itself to more securely anchor the story time and space. While the story is told from Victoria’s first-person perspective, Nash limits reader access to her inner world beyond the immediate moment being narrated.

Still, while it at times favors momentum over depth, *A Spell of Rowans* is an entertaining, moving story that readers of family sagas, sibling dynamics, and fantasy set in our contemporary world will enjoy.

**Takeaway:** Family drama meets magic with a touch of romance in this fast-paced fantasy.

**Great for fans of:** Julia Rochester’s *The House at the Edge of the World*, Tara Conklin’s *The Last Romantics*.

<https://booklife.com/project/a-spell-of-rowans-59048>

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