[All reviewersAll starsAll formatsText, image, video](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_dp_d_show_all_top?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews)

[5.0 out of 5 starsReview of Gathering Roses](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R2N9TI8JQIA6R/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[Renee D. Wright](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AHDCWKZJQBG5TRO6EOW2GKXGPF7A/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on June 1, 2007

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&formatType=current_format)*|*[Verified Purchase](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_rvwer?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=avp_only_reviews)

Lori Solomon, a New England college co-ed tackling a dual education in science and communications (broadcasting) is an attractive, shy, woman who, until entering this current period of her life, had always thought of herself as one who is remembered by friends for her brilliant mind not her physical attractiveness or appeal. Not until she meets Nick, a morning DJ at the radio station site of her communications internship, did something awaken inside of Lori which she had never experienced before in her life and which changed a part of her forever.

Gathering Roses is the 21st century coming of age story written as a semi-autobiographical work by a writer with a gift for language and observation. In this work, Lori Solomon, along with her friends Angela and Rutherford, faces many experiences which, although fictionalized, are primary examples of what the modern, career-minded, attractive, independent woman does experience in the modern-world; where women are objectified and alienated or isolated from the cooperative experiences that the women's liberation movement of the 1970's would hope to bring to a woman in the 21st century.

Lori's life-long companion, Rutherford, provides a philosophical backdrop for discussing modern-morality and the male-female conflict as the story unfolds. The presence of Angela, her talented, beautifully-buxom but self-conscious friend exemplifies the struggle of women with self-image when not meeting the physical expectations imposed upon modern-society by popular culture. An even larger presence of character which appears in this novel is technology - the use of network & internet technology by all characters in their communications if not in their daily, activities. From these characters, the author demonstrates the difficulty of communication between people regardless of the gender combination; be it male-to-female communication, or female-to-female communication. The media of internet technology in which these communications are based, demonstrates the phenomenon suggested by Howard Besser in The Information Superhighway: social and cultural impact (in Brook & Boal's Resisting the Virtual Life: The Culture and Politics of Information, 1995). That despite the closeness of these people to Lori, one can't help but feel the isolation that she experiences during her inner struggle and conflict about life and her relationship with Nick.

However, it is the presence of the character Paul, a supportive and strong, positive constant for Lori, who serves as a lifeboat of reality to the outside world, which provides a more stable relationship in the novel. Because of Paul's presence, Lori's fate is less ambiguous and less tragic than some of literature's most historic heroines - there is more hope for Lori as she embarks on her adult life and all the promise that the world holds for her.

In my opinion, Gathering Roses is an excellent read because I feel it touches upon themes which young adult women do face in the modern world but may not openly discuss with others, due to the sensitivity and nature of these situations. The author has a great sense for description and propriety in defining the situations that the main character has faced in the context of this work, while being true to their nature and not robbing us of the narrative by leaving too much to the imagination.

The relationships of the characters with Lori and the journey she takes in this novel is serendipitous; in that by experiencing and then reflecting on these experiences, the character has evolved to a higher plane of thinking which was not the original design for her reflection. The messages that I have learned from this character and her experiences are these: that life is a very fragile and precious thing and that we should not be afraid to go out and experience what life has to offer; that it is our connection to each other and our ability to share (emotions, experiences, contact) which enriches our experiences and that we all really do need each other ...and that a significant, positive relationship in our lives, be it male or female, can greatly contribute to our involvement in life experiences.

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[5.0 out of 5 starsHard to put down...](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R2PCXYGUCC914B/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[CShaw](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AEVT7JX5TQSDJZQS5YLCRRCEDVOQ/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on March 28, 2007

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&formatType=current_format)*|*[Verified Purchase](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_rvwer?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=avp_only_reviews)

this book! Funny, but gut wrenching in it's ability to capture those hard-to-describe feelings we all get when dealing in both romantic and non-romantic relationships, this book is absolutely worth every penny.

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[5.0 out of 5 starsI could see her growing and maturing](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R2WBACPOW9CE5W/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[Reader Views](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AH6G4K4CWM54IYQ23ZCY2V6ZUP5A/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on August 31, 2007

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&formatType=current_format)

Reviewed by Debra Gaynor for Reader Views (8/07)

Lori met Nick during her college internship at a radio station; she worked closely with Nick, the morning DJ. He was an enigma, a challenge, something to acquire. His demeanor was cold and unemotional. Lori always pushed herself to extreme limits, always wanted to attain the unattainable. After she got it, she usually found she no longer wanted it, feeling that if she could achieve it, then it must not be good enough. His aloofness was what made Nick attractive to her; he was the unattainable. Lori saw Nick as a challenge and she would go to any length to acquire him. Nick has health problems which influence his dark outlook on life.

"Gathering Roses," by Ellen Weisberg, is a story for young adults. She successfully describes the lives of young professionals and the struggle they face in today's world. Women face struggles with self-image and isolation. These are situations young women endure, but keep hidden, preferring not to talk about them. Ms. Weisberg demonstrates how technology, the internet and email have an impact on the daily life of the characters. There are email messages throughout the book from Lori and her friends. They add humor and insight to the storyline. While email may be quick and easy, it has its own set of communication problems, it does not allow you to hear a person's voice or see their face so that you can judge their emotions. This is a very contemporary, coming-of-age story. Lori is coming to accept who she is. I could see her growing and maturing throughout the book. This is a book of relationships; it steps beyond the issue of gender and reaches to the heart of interaction. Ms. Weisberg is a very talented author. I recommend "Gathering Roses" to young adults.

Received book free of charge.

One person found this helpful

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[4.0 out of 5 starsRead this book if you've ever found yourself in a bad spot that you just couldn't seem to move past.](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R1SQV8O6IKPQ71/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[M. Small](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AGV5V5Y5RAFDR2LXXDFRTKJI6NUQ/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on March 15, 2007

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&formatType=current_format)

Lori Solomon is a mess. Self-loathing, driven to overachieve, unsure of what she wants in life, even the things she achieves are tainted--if she can acquire them, then they must not be worth having. Then Nick walks into her life, bringing an irresistible combination of unattainability and danger. His emotional coldness becomes a challenge; if she can make him love her, then it will make up for all the people who made her early life a misery. This book chronicles Lori's increasingly desperate attempts to win him--but also her growing awareness and acceptance of who she is and what she wants out of life.

This book is edgier than the books I usually read. But it wasn't long before I was hooked: I finished it in one sitting. The characters are well-drawn, the writing is excellent, and the e-mail exchanges between Lori and her friends are hilarious. Lori's emotional growth was slow enough with enough missteps to be believable. I recognized myself in her several times, and found myself nodding at some of her hard-earned wisdom. Read this book if you've ever found yourself in a bad spot that you just couldn't seem to move past.

5 people found this helpful

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[4.0 out of 5 starsEllen Weisberg's Gathering Roses Rocks!](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R1NU6S4RT88TW7/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[Debra A. Daigle](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AETRC63ULWOWS7MSHVVAAZVSSUYA/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on October 12, 2008

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&formatType=current_format)

Lori Solomon lives in an "e-world," where her day to day existance seems to be driven by technology - the Internet and e-mail, primarily. Yet, there is abundant angst and emotion packed into the pages of "Gathering Roses," a novel that chronicles the life of a young, troubled woman who can't seem to get what she wants or needs, yet at the same time, doesn't seem to know what she wants or needs. In other words, a depiction of what millions of young intelligent, creative, talented and yet completely neurotic women go through as they struggle to find themselves in an often cold and unfeeling world.
Lori is a brilliant New England college co-ed, double majoring in the diverse subjects of science and broadcasting - the former to challenge her intellectual mind, the latter, to stimulate her creative side. She meets Nick Warren at a radio station internship, where he is the morning D.J. Nick is the commensurate "bad boy" and Lori is almost immediately drawn to and attracted to him. Nick awakens something in Lori that she has never before experienced - not even with her current boyfriend, Paul, the "rock" of support in her life. Lori deeply loves Paul, but their physical relationship seems to be, well, less than fulfilling.
And so...a tumultuous involvement begins between Lori and Nick, where Lori's emotions are pulled up and down and all around. Although Nick is emotional unavailable as well as downright dangerous, Lori cannot resist his wicked charms...and she is propelled on a powerful roller-coaster ride for the next few years. But she is not alone in her travels. Author Weisberg has provided her main character with an array of eccentric friends whose various neuroses and idiosyncracies seem to reflect Lori's own. There's Angela Allen, the beautiful and talented, though tremendously self-conscious and insecure young woman who suffers from Borderline Personality Disorder and whose life is one continuous drama. And Lori's lifelong friend - classic underachiever, Rutherford Gimby, who is hopelessly addicted to alcohol and marijuana, yet has an IQ of around 160, and is an astoundingly talented writer with an intensely comical wit. Both Angela and Rutherford use their addictions to sheild against splintered souls. Indeed, Lori has her own "addictions" that don't involve substance abuse or drama, but workaholism and over-achievement. She is obssessed with trying to outdo herself in school and work.
The relationships between all of these characters play out to a large degree via e-mail and instant messaging. Much of the novel is comprised of endless e-mail trains. Yet this does not make the book any less compelling than if it were constructed with face-to-face or telephone communication. Rather, the written words expressed by Lori, Nick, Angela and Rutherford are filled with depth and description that the reader might not be privy to in any other context. People often use written communication to avoid verbal conversation; however, throughout the course of "Gathering Roses" the e-mails actually provide a vehicle through which true, raw feelings, confessions, and unrestrained painful emotions are expressed. As a reader, I was often shaken by the stark, unbridled honesty that that emerged from the characters' e-communications. I found myself wondering how the author could have known what I had been feeling at that stage of my life! I am much older than Lori & friends...but I can remember as though it were yesterday falling for my own share of "bad boys" while rejecting the "nice guys." I can also recall vividly being as much of a drama queen as Angela Allen...and as much of an arrogant, alcohol-addicted know-it-all as Rutherford Gimby.
For her first time out of the gate, Author Ellen Weisberg has hit a home run with her first novel; she has brilliantly brought the age-old themes of love, self-image, career confusion - and interplay of all these things - into the 21st Century in ways that are relatable to anyone who happens to be a member of the human race. Her character development is masterful; I really felt like I'd gotten to know these characters intimately, and was sad when I had to bid them farewell at the end of the novel.
The only ways in which I feel the novel could have been improved was if Weisberg had given poor Paul a bigger part in the saga. The reader doesn't get to know much about him at all, nor Lori's relationship with him and what makes that relationship so unfulfilling for Lori. I also wish there could have been a few more scenes with personal interactions between all the characters. I would like to have known more about their "physical" beings - their unique mannerisms, quirks, facial expressions, etc. Weisberg has managed to pack a lot of information into her characters' e-mail exchanges...but many things really do get "lost in translation."
Overall, I give "Gathering Roses" an A- and would highly recommend it for any and all young women on the brink of flying the coop of college for the "real world." In fact, I think a lot of young men would enjoy the book too! I hope Weisberg is planning a sequel - perhaps with Angela and Rutherford as the main characters? Just a thought...lol!

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[5.0 out of 5 starsExplore a wide range of emotions with a turbulent journey through the human heart](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R72HPVXEO4TFR/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[L. Catley](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AE6Q6WBYE57YNCAZHEUMESJDWEJA/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on July 21, 2007

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&formatType=current_format)

Gathering Roses merges the timeless concepts of love, self-image, the need for security, to belong and feel loved, while also looking for adventure, something that lifts us beyond the mundane. These basic and timeless themes are woven into the recent and perhaps fleeting superficial elements of modern society, comprising shift work, career flexibility, mobility, and the wide cross section of people we inevitably meet along the way. Making full use of modern communication media, the increasing use of emails to maintain and drive relationships is explored effectively to illustrate the deeper feelings of the characters involved by creating opportunities for people to communicate in a time frame that allows rapid responses, but with more time to articulate responses than face to face conversation allow, and with less of the etiquette restraints of social gatherings. The opportunity to fully articulate ones darkest and most intimate feelings are thus allowed to fully expand. I found the emotional confessions astonishingly vivid and empathetic. The author displays an exemplary depth in understanding human feelings. At times the story goes very close to the bone and is therefore a welcome addition to modern literature for readers looking for a sign that they are not alone in this chaotic modern world. I found myself caught up in the development of the relationships, and really wanting to know how on earth the heroine would escape the trap(s) she found herself in. The development and resolution of these problems are managed in a masterfully subtle fashion, in a way that reflects the outcome of so many relationships and segments of our lives.

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[5.0 out of 5 starsFive Stars](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/REGIH1HVHZPS8/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[Amazon Customer](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AGMR7I5Z63IXFQITSSIH7O4AW4MA/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on November 3, 2017

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Very good read enjoying it

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[4.0 out of 5 starsDo all roses have thorns?](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R3CV2ARE6VIS1H/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[Robert E. Keesey](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AHR4FGECYQ3TVMVTGN6SV2UTUDRQ/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on July 30, 2007

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&formatType=current_format)

Lori Soloman is a college student and she is interning at a local radio station as she searches for her career goal and learns about life.

Ellen Weisberg uses emails and conversations to introduce us to Lori's many friends and lets us see their quirks and needs.

Lori struggles with the overwhelming advice from her friends. She learns about deceit, lies, tricks, and hidden meanings, and she learns about affection, caring, commitment, grief and loss. A sobering story.

Review by Wanda C. Keesey

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[4.0 out of 5 starsVery current](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R3I1RHVINEGN3H/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[Kewpie](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AF2RC7LPLZP3SXDQXWRWEYE3VHOA/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on September 21, 2008

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&formatType=current_format)

I loved Gathering Roses because it is very current. With e-mailing and texting, more and more people are having dysfunctional relationships. It is easier to 'cross the line' when using a computer screen to communicate instead of looking real people in the face. Gathering Roses was also very raw and I could feel the protagonist's pain. The story was completely different than anything else I have ever read, and it is nice to have something new instead of a canned formula.

One person found this helpful

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[5.0 out of 5 starsLOVED this book!1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R34EB87B4XU7BK/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[LisaKal](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AEESZ36JAX5Z3HLF2BED7KZGESKQ/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on April 4, 2007

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&formatType=current_format)

This book is GREAT! I loved reading the IMs between Lori and Nick and I could just feel her pain and can relate to the push-pull dynamic of their relationship. I also enjoyed Rutherford's dark and bleak emails. I was sad to have finished it so quickly as I felt like I really knew the characters. I highly recommend this book to all!

One person found this helpful

[All reviewersAll starsAll formatsText, image, video](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_paging_btm_2?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&pageNumber=2)

[5.0 out of 5 starsA real page turner](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R3CQIYA3AX56K3/ref%3Dcm_cr_othr_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1847471188)

By[Suzanne deB](https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/amzn1.account.AEJKWX3JCXU4QOKJPBW6CXY6JRFQ/ref%3Dcm_cr_othr_d_pdp?ie=UTF8)on April 7, 2007

[Format: Paperback](https://www.amazon.com/Gathering-Roses-Weisberg/product-reviews/1847471188/ref%3Dcm_cr_othr_d_rvw_fmt?ie=UTF8&reviewerType=all_reviews&pageSize=10&formatType=current_format)

This is an entrancing book. I usually read for 30 minutes before bed, but found myself unable to stop with Gathering Roses. I read the whole book in two nights. The main character, Lori goes through many conflicting feelings but throughout remains true to herself. The ending is heartwrenching. A must read!!!

2 people found this helpful