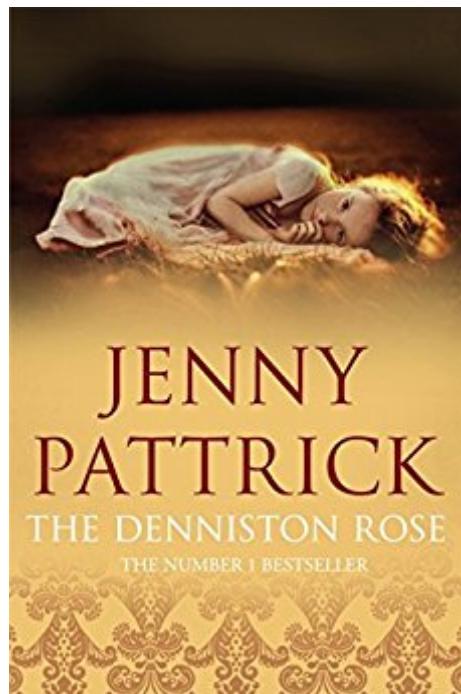


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# The Denniston Rose



## **Synopsis**

A number one bestseller, this favourite New Zealand novel captures a real 19th century community. The bleak coal-mining settlement of Denniston, isolated high on a plateau above New Zealand's West Coast, is a place that makes or breaks those who live there. At the time of this novel - the 1880s - the only way to reach the makeshift collection of huts, tents and saloons is to climb aboard an empty coal-wagon to be hauled 2000 feet up the terrifyingly steep Incline - the cable-haulage system that brings the coal down to the railway line. All sorts arrive here to work the mines and bring down the coal: ex-goldminers down on their luck; others running from the law or from a woman or worse. They work alongside recruited English miners, solid and skilled, who scorn these disorganised misfits and want them off the Hill. Into this chaotic community come five-year-old Rose and her mother, riding up the Incline, at night, during a storm. No one knows what has driven them there, but most agree the mother must be desperate to choose Denniston; worse, to choose that drunkard, Jimmy Cork, as bedfellow. The mother has her reasons and her plans, which she tells no one. The indomitable Rose is left to fend for herself, struggling to secure a place in this tough and often aggressive community. The Denniston Rose is about isolation and survival. It is the story of a spirited child, who, in appalling conditions, remains a survivor.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 1672 KB

Print Length: 368 pages

Publisher: RHNZ Adult ebooks (May 1, 2010)

Publication Date: May 1, 2010

Sold by: Random House NZ

Language: English

ASIN: B004R1R560

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #85,736 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Earth Sciences > Prospecting & Mining #4

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## **Customer Reviews**

A wonderful book to read. The way the chapters followed each other was a different take on the usual way of storytelling. Each new chapter the author gave a character the opportunity to tell the story from their point of view. In the end, the whole story interweaves with the different ideas of each character. The historical background makes it feel for real. I am looking forward to reading the follow-up.

This books plot takes place in a small mining community on the Westcoast of the South Island in the 1800s. This is a community of hardworking raw miners and there families struggling to put food on there tables let alone clothes on there backs. Rose is the bright precocious little girl who arrives on the Denniston hill with her mother one stormy rainy night. It is a story of how we human beings can look the other way when we know something is wrong but do nothing. Roses mother first takes up with a drunkard and then with a vicious man who at this stage of the book the reader guesses Rose is being sexually abused by the man who her mother has taken up with. It's a story of how a mother turns her back on what she knows to be true and so does a whole community. Rose despite it all comes through. This is a heartbreakng story but also a story of how a child survives horrific sexual abuse. If you read this story you have to read the sequel "Heart of Coal" to see how Rose gets on with her life and her triumphs and tragedys.

Really enjoyed this book. I rarely read fiction books (much prefer bios and other non-fiction reads) but I loved this book so much that I just ordered the sequel, Heart of Coal. I wasn't ready to say goodbye to the wonderful characters in this book just yet!

Recently visited the Denniston Mine and took the tour, which inspired me to read the book. It was misty and rainy the day we were there and the book captured this perfectly - the isolation must have been terrible. The story is captivating, found it hard to put down although the ending left me wanting more.... so now Im reading Heart of Coal which is a sequel to The Denniston Rose. Im hooked again.

A fascinating historical account of the struggle that the miners and families went through in the early days of Denniston.

Loved it lots of Historical references of New Zealand where I reside. A very good yarn.

Really enjoyed this story as have many times over the years been to Denniston!

loved this book its all history about a town in NZ which is of great interest to me like all these books based on facts

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