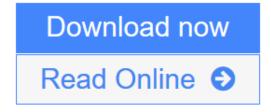


# Blush

Cherry Adair



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In the same pulse-pounding style as Maya Banks and Kresley Cole, New York Times bestselling author Cherry Adair delivers a sizzling erotic romance about a sexy billionaire who's on the run—and the hit-manturned-handyman who's supposed to kill her.

Sex with a stranger. Learn to drive. Learn to cook. Learn to pole dance. Sex under the stars. Buy a truck. These are just a few of the things on Amelia Wentworth's bucket list, but as the CEO and face of a multibillion-dollar cosmetic empire, she's never quite found the time to do them.

Until, after a series of accidents, Amelia discovers that someone wants her dead. But who? And why? She has no time for questions as she changes her name to Mia, buys a secluded fixer-upper near the Louisiana bayou where no one will recognize her, and starts checking things off her bucket list like there's no tomorrow—which there might not be.

Meanwhile, Cruz Barcelona is a hit man who's promised himself this will be his last job. Then he'll take the money and move to a warm, sunny place where he doesn't have to hide anymore. But when Cruz goes undercover to Mia's ramshackle house, he starts to realize there's far more to this poor-little-rich-girl than he thought—and he starts to fall for her. Which is going to make his job a whole lot harder...

# **Blush Details**

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- Author : Cherry Adair
- Format : Paperback 387 pages
- Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Suspense

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# From Reader Review Blush for online ebook

# Mandy says

4.5 stars for this sexy and suspenseful romance. Cruz is a hitman with a conscience. He only does hits on people who deserve it. When someone takes out a hit on cosmetic CEO Amelia, Cruz is given information on what an awful person she is. The only problem is, when he shows up to her hiding spot in Louisiana, he gets the feeling he wasn't given accurate information on Amelia. This book starts out HOT and just gets better from there. I loved Amelia and Cruz. This was very sexy and also really suspenseful - a very enjoyable story.

\*\*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review\*\*

#### **Sunny says**

ARC Review, 4.5 stars.

Originally posted at: Love Affair with an E-Reader

What an unexpected surprise! I've liked Cherry Adair's books in the past, but this one surpassed my expectations. I really enjoyed these characters. They made me laugh and they made me pant. I especially like Cruz Barcelona. He's a premier assassin hired to kill heiress and CEO Amelia Wentworth. After an almost comical, yet off-the-charts steamy first encounter, he decides to investigate her further before completing his assignment. He is dark, dangerous, possessive, protective with a sense of humor. And major bonus: he's a first rate HANDYMAN! Something about a man and his tools.... (In my head I'm visualizing the Diet Coke commercial with the hunky construction guy taking a Diet Coke break.)

The sexual tension between the two characters is not only taut, but also rich. The pheromones virtually ooze off the pages. From the circumstances surrounding their first encounter to the last, this story is exciting and feels almost experiential.

The story is erotica with a strong, suspenseful storyline. Who is behind the assassination attempts on Amelia? What will Cruz ultimately do with Amelia? Will he kill her? Will he let her live? Will he let her go? I also appreciated the side storyline involving a domestic violence victim and her son. It added a great dimension to the larger storyline.

My one small critique is that the mystery seems to resolve itself too quickly and off the pages. Neither Amelia nor Cruz had much to do with the actual investigation and the resolution felt just a little anti-climatic.

Having said that, I loved the ending. Just right with a cherry on top.

#### IN A NUTSHELL:

I could read this book again and probably will. Yes! I highly recommend this book for fun and sexual frolicking.

Thank you to the author, publisher, and Netgalley for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

#### Cee (The Mistress Case) says

DNF @ 26%

No. No. No.

1) The insta-lust. Oh here we go again.

2) I don't care for these characters because I know that no woman with survival instincts would let a stranger into her house and finger-fuck her no matter how hot he is. Did your mama not warn you about serial killers? I half-wished he would kill her already so she could go to heaven and ponder over her idiocy.

3) The mystery of why someone wants the MC dead is boring and I couldn't keep myself interested when all she thought about was sex. "Oh, whatever-the-hell-his-name-is is eye-fucking me. Let me forget about my haters— I mean— my death attempts. He obviously isn't out to kill me."

4) If you can't keep me engrossed in the beginning, I can't bother to give you any more of my time. I just can't.

I don't apologize for the recent use of LOTR gifs because how can I not.

ARC was given via Netgalley an exchange for a review.

#### Sher♥ The Fabulous BookLover says

#### **3** Stars

I liked the premise of the story. Amelia Wentworth owns a multimillion dollar cosmetics company named

Blush, but she goes into hiding because someone is trying to kill her.

Cruz Barcelona is a hitman with a "good heart", meaning he'll only kill the person if they deserve to die. After spending time with Amelia undercover, Cruz starts to fall in love with her and each day goes by it becomes harder to do the job.

This book started off really good, but I pretty much skimmed the last half of it. There is a lot of inner dialogue and many of the same things were repeated constantly. The way the couple is brought together is definitely a fantasy. No woman running from a killer will invite a stranger into her home, but if you're willing to overlook that and the long inner dialogue then you may enjoy this book.

\*ARC graciously provided for an honest review\*

#### **Duchess Nicole says**

Almost a DNF...ended up being a skimmer. The premise was strong, but I felt like the characters had the potential to be so much more than they ended up being. The heroine is a powerful woman, rich and confident and beautiful. The hero a badass hit man with the libido of a fifteen year old boy. Great couple for a romance. But I ended up feeling like the author just tried to write something that she though readers would want, not what she wanted to write. And it ended up feeling kind of forced and faked, and in turn, this romance was hard to believe and kind of boring.

Advance copy provided by Edelweisss for review

# Holly says

This book started off with a bang and overall I enjoyed it. The story was different (hitman falls for hit) and I loved that most of it took place on the bayou in Louisiana. Mia was a great character- strong and determined but balanced well with feminine and adventurous. Cruz started off very manly but that dwindled a little bit for me by the end.

My biggest problem with the book was the balance between action/dialogue/inner dialogue. There was way too much inner dialogue for my tastes. Both Mia and Cruz would spend pages in their heads questioning each others motivations. I caught myself skipping A LOT to get back to something that interested me and helped move along the storyline.

Overall it was a good book.

#### Sarah says

12/11 - Nenia Campbell was right, this is preposterous. This is her review https://www.goodreads.com/review/show..., which most likely is better able to explain the ridiculousness of this book than I ever could. I've already got a number of pages marked as worth discussing in this review, and that's not counting the ones from the first 40 pages that I didn't bother to mark because they were just small things and didn't seem worth the effort.

#### On page 51

'An easel held a blank canvas, and beside it all a tall table covered with a dish towel and a pretty blue glass vase held an assortment of high-pigment Lukas paint tubes and dozens of Kolinsky sable brushes in various sizes. None of them used. All of them, as he well knew, top-of-the-line.'

Umm, how does he 'well know'? Was there an explanation about his painting prowess that I missed? Or does he simply 'know' they're 'top-of-the-line' because she's rich and would, of course, buy the best?

#### On page 53

'She should be 'barricade' in a safe room, not attempting to fix him the most important meal of the day, 'dressed', with deceptive innocence.'

A couple of queries regarding that sentence. First, 'barricaded' instead of 'barricade'. Second, I'm confused by the word 'dressed' in this context. Is Adair saying Mia's dressed in a 'deceptively innocent' way? Or would Cruz rather she wasn't dressed at all? I have no idea.

#### On page 65

'Mia put her hands behind her, then realised it was the gesture of a three-year-old...'

Why is putting your hands behind your back the gesture of a three-year-old? I think it's a perfect way of making sure you don't get in the way of someone else's cooking (I sure it also works when you need to keep your hands off the hot guy doing the cooking). To be continued...

Later - This is **so** not the book to use words like 'verisimilitude' and 'propinquity'. I even had to look 'propinquity' up. I guess that's a plus because I learnt a new word, but using such extraordinarily complex (and hard to pronounce) words when it would have been far easier to simply write 'truth' and 'proximity', smacks of an author forcing a reader to admit to their large vocabulary and high intelligence. I'm not impressed by Adair's vocabulary, I'm just irritated by what I see as her shoving it down my throat. To be continued...

Later - So much bad! I think this might actually be getting worse.

On page 97

'Her choppy hair tumbled around her head, parting erotically on her neck.'

What the hell does an erotic hair parting look like?! What a stupid description!

On page 98

'He smelled of fresh air, virile male, and soap.'

God! How does a virile male's smell differ from a non-virile male? Now I can't decide which description is more ridiculous.

#### On page 101

'The negligee she'd bought from a racy online catalogue was an absolutely plain tube. No ruffles, no embellishments. Just a simple, stretchy, sheer black sleeveless column clinging to every curve and valley, from throat to ankle.'

I don't get the logistics of this negligee. A page and a half after this description Cruz 'moves between her legs', if the negligee is a tube that clings to every curve and valley from throat to ankle I can't see how he can do that while she's still wearing it. It would be too tight (it would probably also be too tight for walking, but she's not actually described as attempting to do that so I won't mention that impossibility) for her to successfully separate her legs without the negligee having been raised above her waist, which clearly hadn't happened as Cruz is described as kissing her through the material. It actually sounds like good exercise for your thighs, like a reverse Thighmaster - wrap your legs in a giant elastic band and then try to open them against the resistance of the material.

On page 106

'Fully clothed, he knelt in the V of her legs.'

That's funny since on page 101 we've already read

'Smile wicked, he straightened and pulled his T-shirt over his head.'

It's the amazing reappearing t-shirt!

On page 109 I decided it was time to start skimming after I read that he'd choked her out while they were having sex, but it was okay because

...he'd known exactly how much pressure to exert on her carotid. More would've killed her. He'd pressed...less. Last-moment decision. She hadn't been hurt.'

Really? It's well documented that a lack of oxygen to the brain is likely to cause, at the very least, a severe headache when she wakes up. That's if she wakes up, because only a few extra seconds could make the difference between knocking her out and causing permanent damage.

Amazingly I might be finding Cruz's internal monologue more annoying than Ana's. All he seems to say/think is "Can't have more sex with the mark. Have to kill her, in a few days if not sooner. Ooh, I could have killed her just then, but I didn't because I'm so attracted to her, but I can't have sex with her again because I have to kill her. Oopsy daisy, had sex with her again. No more sex frommm.....now!", and repeat that over and **OVER** again. Sooo irritating. The only reason I'm even bothering to keep skimming is that I want to know how he got her profile so wrong and who hired him. To be continued...

15/11 - I've just realised how much I've written on this book, it's not worth a review this long, so this final update will be as short as I can make it while still making my opinion clear. I'm giving this 1.5 stars, rounded down for GR. This wasn't as bad as some of the rubbish Kindle freebies I've gotten from Amazon, that's why it gets an extra half star. There are so many problems with this book, compounded by the fact that it was

written by what I consider a pretty popular and well-known romance author who has been writing for many years now. These mistakes were newbie mistakes, but Adair is not a newbie. The plot was not believable, the editing was half a step above 'woeful', both characters were annoying in their own way, and the end was very rushed and tied up way too easily. I can't believe this has such a high rating on GR. Is it just because of all the sex? Yes, it was frequent and creative, but that's not enough to keep a story going. Romance as a genre could be considered a type of fantasy, but there has to be some realism, some believability that these two people would behave the way they do. This book could have an associated drinking game that involves drinking every time she should be dead, the winner would be the one who makes it to the end of the book without losing consciousness.

#### Siya says

Amelia Wentworth, realizing her life was threatened after numerous "accidents", procures a fake identity as Mia Hayward. She hides away in Luosianan as she awaits the issue to be resolved. Mia opens the door to a stranger who she assumes is the man she hired only to be corrected much later of the misunderstanding. Cruz is the man, actually hired to help her renovate her house which is in a deplorable state. She and Cruz acquaint the self with one another and soon Mia begins to really trust him,

#### "Things are seldom as they appear."

Cruz Barcelona is a contracted killer hired to kill Amelia. He doles out justice to those who he deems worthy and Amelia, he had decided, deserved to be executed. Alas, this changes after he catches glimpse of her and grows dubious of her involvement in wrongdoing. He decides to re-assure himself by carrying out an investigation. The times spent with Amelia makes it even more difficult to do the job he was contracted to do.

Mia is a sweet, charming lady while Cruz is definitely a *hot* alpha. Their banter is fun to read and I loved the way their relationship developed. It was a bit slow paced but there were definite moments I did **NOT** expect. it was great.

#### Paige says

This was a difficult book for me. The premise was really promising as were the characters; it just didn't come together. It took me a while to read this since I stopped and started a lot. It just didn't grab my attention until almost 60% so it was hard to stay invested in the story. Even then the storyline had me scratching my head a little.

Mia is the CEO of Blush, a cosmetic company and Cruz is the the hired killer sent to get rid of her. Mia is in hiding since there have been several attempts made on her life. Instead of killing her though, Cruz begins an odd sexual/almost dating relationship. He quickly realizes that not everything is as it seems in his contract to kill her. You see, he only kills bad people. \*shrugs\* Together they start fixing up Mia's house and grow closer until all the secrets start coming out.

Many parts of the plot just weren't realistic and several were kind of silly. This may have been better for me

if it picked one main direction and stuck with it but it was going so many places at once it was hard to keep up without wanting to eyeroll at all of the crazy turns the characters took. For example Mia has a bucket list of sorts (which could have been a really good plot device if it wasn't overshadowed by so many other plot devices) and with all she has going on (ya know being hunted and on the run and all) she is focusing on putting a stripper pole in her bedroom. \*riiiight\* It got more interesting when she outed herself to Cruz because things started picking up but the ending was rushed and Cruz and Mia seemingly switched personalities.

The final nail in the coffin was how these people worked together to set her up and the kill her. That again could have been really interesting but was just so out-there that it bordered on stupid. Admittedly though I would use this book as an example of how to write erotica. Those scenes were really well done and very steamy. The stranger element and the lack of emotions involved heightened the intensity and made them dirtier and more taboo. They could easily be added to a "just the good part" anthology or something.

Arc provided by publisher via Netgalley for honest review.

#### christine danielle (Bibliophilic Madness) says

#### FOR MORE REVIEWS AND GIVEAWAYS, DO CHECK OUT MY BLOG:

#### **Blush by Cherry Adair**

PLOT: 4 CHARACTERS: 5 COVER: 4

#### **OVERALL RATING: 4**

Blush by Cherry Adair is fast-paced, full of passion and was really an overall amazing book.

The book centers around Amelia Wentworth a CEO of her own company and just the overall woman I would love to emulate. She's fierce inside and outside her business and she has a caring nature that does not necessarily go with someone who's business-minded but she still made it work. After a series of accidents, she learned that someone was trying to kill her so changed her name to Mia and bought a fixer-upper in Louisiana to hide from whoever wants her dead.

That didn't exactly turn out according to her plan because Cruz Barcelona, a professional hit man has found her after a day of her hiding in Louisiana. But she doesn't know that Cruz is hired to kill her.

So when I first read the synopsis of this book on Netgalley I was a little bit hesitant on reading this because I thought that I knew what would happen already and this is just something that I would never like. I took the plunge and decided to request this book and I was not disappointed.

Amelia was a really great character because she was hilarious and her innocence with the normal things in life was really endearing. I loved how she was very sweet but when it comes to her business, she never lets anyone push her around. Cruz was a hitman that has a heart.

He only kills people who he feels really deserved to die. So when his gut told him that something was wrong with her new target, he decided to look at the situation more "thoroughly" before he decides if he should kill Amelia or not. But what he wasn't expecting was to have feelings for her.

The story was amazing and I love how the relationship between Mia/Amelia and Cruz was not always full of sex. The love they had for each other was shown more through the little things that they do which was very endearing. Overall Blush was really a book that made me laugh and cry and all the other emotions in between.

received digital edition from publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

## Julie says

Blush by Cherry Adair is a 2015 Gallery books publication. I was provided a copy of this book as an X0Xpert - the official Street Team of XOXO After Dark, in exchange for an honest review.

One thing about Cherry Adair, she really has a fantastic imagination. This book was full of surprises and is a little bit outside the box. I really like stories that have dark humor and wit, so this one grabbed my attention right away. This book is filled with twist and turns that had me shaking my head and laughing at the same time.

Amelia Wentworth, aka Mia Hayward, is the CEO of Blush Cosmetics. She has moved away from San Francisco to Podunk, Louisiana, to hide out after it became abundantly clear someone desperately wants her dead. This turn of events has Mia working through a rather amusing bucket list which includes learning how to drive, pole dancing, and maybe the most dangerous of all, SWAS – Sex with a stranger.

So, when Cruz Barcelona shows up at her rundown plantation home she invites him in for some hot sex on the kitchen counter. What she doesn't know is Cruz is actually a trained assassin hired to kill her. But, something feels off to Cruz, so he doesn't kill her right away even though she is responsible for the deaths of innocent children, her money sponsoring an illegal sex ring, and cruel work conditions in Chinese sweatshops. In his mind someone like Mia deserves to die, and Cruz considers himself an avenging angel of sorts.

But before he can figure out what is really going on with Mia, Cruz is in neck deep with Mia and the situation with her hired help. The longer he waits the harder it is to do the job he was hired to do. Of course, if isn't getting the job done, someone else will be happy to step up. So now instead of trying to kill Mia, Cruz is trying to save her life.

Cruz has a pretty big heart for a hardened killer and Mia's character is delightful. She lives life large, really cares about other people, is smart, business savvy, but is also a lot of fun. She and Cruz make a pretty good team, even if they are little bit of an oddball couple.

I wasn't sure about someone falling in love with a hired hit man, and centering a story around their romance, but while this story is dark in a way, it's presented with a lighter tone, making it ,more comical than anything. Sometimes it was even close to being a screwball comedy because the bad guys just can't seem to hit their intended target.

For those of you who have read this author's work previously, you know she writes steamy romantic suspense and paranormal romance. This one is maybe just a little hotter than what you are used to, bordering of erotic. I thought the added heat worked in this situation because Mia was trying to break out of her 'plain vanilla' routine and try new things, plus she kept Cruz so preoccupied he couldn't go his job.

I have to say I really enjoyed this book. It was thrilling, action packed, super sexy, witty, and romantic, but also quirky and unpredictable which is something I always welcome. 4.5 rounded to 5

## Wendy'sThoughts says

More Than 3 Stars \* \* \*

This was a curious look and see read.

It mentioned Hitman...love them...

Mentioned High Powered Woman hiding from attempts on her life...

And the Bucket list... mundane... and sexual...so I clicked to see what it was all about.

It started off strong with the mistaken identity of the Hitman for a paid hook up for our gal. She is so use to being in control, she refuses to allow the guy to even talk to her and just "do" her. This, of course, leaves our man to make a choice...play the game or knock her off. He is not sure if this wack-a-doo really deserves offing...because he does have standards... he will only kill the most vile... so he decides to put off the hit and take over the seduction.

The best part of this tale was all of the seduction, banter and chemistry between them. It delivered when those things were happening. Big Time.

This was a very promising start and the characters each had distinctive personalities which for the most part worked. The first half was engrossing and kept me very interested. The second part kind of slowed up and took awhile to get where it needed to be.

Over all I liked it and was glad I fed my curiosity.

A gifted copy was provided by NetGalley for an honest review.

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### Anita says

ARC provided by the Publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

This is an interesting combination of genre. It is definitely romantic-suspense, my preferred genre, bit it is also definitely of the erotic romance genre also. Cherry Adair writes a good romantic-suspense and has written many of them I have greatly enjoyed. She can write a hot love scene. In Blush she literally makes the pages steam. The suspense element is just great. You do not have a clue as to who or even why the heroine is in danger. It is a great plot. I guess we have a new genre, erotic-suspense. I kinda like this genre.

Amelia Wellington-Wentworth, the CEO of Blush, a cosmetics company, has been forced to run for her life after several attempts to kill her failed. She has landed is a small bayou town in Louisiana in a run down mansion she bought for cash over the internet and a new name. Mia has had a lot of time to reflect on everything she hasn't done in her life and has a list. SWAS is on the list and a stranger appears at her door and fulfills that fantasy, quite well.

Cruz Barcelona is her stranger, he is also a hit man sent to kill her. Cruz is the best and he always completes his assignments. He is also a man with a strong moral code. He only accepts those assignments where the target is pure evil and deserves to die. He does research to insure that this is the case. From his first encounter with Mia he suspects that everything is not as he was told.

# **Talk Supe says**

If you want lots and lots of sex with your romance and can ignore a plot that doesn't make much sense, go for Blush.

The heroine is in hiding because someone is trying to kill her and yet he has no bodyguards, have employed people without doing background checks, and fucked a man (who turned out to be the hired assassin) whom she's mistaken for the escort she hired via the internet. Btw, the real escort never turned up and no follow through as to his whereabouts. That was the first plot hole amongst many.

Naturally they fell in love. She got pissed off but not bad enough because once he saved her life, all is well and the slate is clean. So I guess it doesn't bother her that her dude was plotting to kill her at one point and got 7.5M for it? Or how about the fact that he assassinated several "bad" people in the past? Wouldn't that be bad for her stocks? Supposedly our heroine is a smart business woman but none of these convenient devices makes sense to me.

I don't mind smut, but at least make it smart. I nitpick because I'm under the impression that Blush is romantic suspense therefore the conflict & resolution should be believable. This is too fanciful to be realistic for me I'm afraid. I think I have better luck with Adair's PNR romances.

# Anne OK says

Oh my, it hurts to say that this time around Cherry Adair just didn't live up to expectations. Still a good read but disappointing. She has given me some of the best romantic suspense reads ever in the past.

Here, I just didn't feel the power of her previous books. Repetition seemed to run wild in this book. I felt the number of sex scenes were over the top and just filler. It was lacking in the solid detailed storytelling. No doubt that Adair can definitely write the heat well, and she always has a solid suspense-packed story to tell. I found the same to be true here -- it just was too much of one and not enough of the other. Sometimes less is more and this was the case. I thought the characters deserved much more solid material than they got.

There is one thing that commanded my respect though, and that is Adair's first-rate vocabulary. She uses such a range of different words and phrases that send me running for the dictionary with each new release. *Blush* was an exceptional example.

I wish I could say that I loved this book. I hate that it was a disappointment. But I'm still glad I read this latest from a long-time favorite author.