

= Miss Rosa =

Rosa " Miss Rosa " Cisneros is a fictional character from the Netflix dramedy series Orange Is the New Black , played by Barbara Rosenblat . The character made her first screen appearance during the premiere episode titled " I Wasn 't Ready " , which aired on July 11 , 2013 . Stephanie Andujar portrayed " Young Rosa " in flashback sequences . Rosenblat originally auditioned for another character but producers asked her to portray Miss Rosa . The character is a cancer sufferer who is incarcerated in Litchfield federal prison because she committed armed bank robberies . Rosenblat did not want to shave her head for the role and a make @-@ up artist was hired to fit a prosthetic appliance to her head creating the character 's baldness . The application process took three hours , meaning that the actress had to arrive on set earlier than other cast members . Initially there was no character biography created for Miss Rosa and it was Rosenblat who implemented a Hispanic background and accent . The character is respected amongst fellow inmates and despite her criminal past she has a caring nature and good heart .

The show decided to increase Miss Rosa 's role during the second season ; creating a backstory episode in which she was revealed to be a daring bank robber surrounded by tragedy . Other storylines include forming friendships with Lorna Morello (Yael Stone) and Yusef (Ben Konigsberg) , growing animosity with the show 's villain Yvonne " Vee " Parker (Lorraine Toussaint) . The show remained focused on developing Miss Rosa 's cancer storyline and her illness progressed to terminal stages . She was used to close the second season finale where she is told she has weeks to live , escapes prison and murders Vee .

Critical reception of the character has generally been positive . Various critics praised the character for being the second season 's break out role . Jayme Deerwester from USA Today called for Rosenblat to be handed an Emmy Award , while Arielle Calderon of BuzzFeed and Elizabeth Freda from E ! Online labelled her as one of the show 's best characters . But Kate Zernike of The New York Times criticized the character 's fake accent and Vogue magazine 's John Powers thought that she had a " clumsy " backstory .

= = Development = =

= = = Creation and casting = = =

The character was created for the pilot episode of the show . At the time the character did not have a surname and there was no characterization . Barbara Rosenblat attended auditions for Orange Is the New Black in New York . She originally read for the part of Galina " Red " Reznikov which was later awarded to Kate Mulgrew . Later she was asked to play Miss Rosa after she impressed the casting director . Rosenblat asked her agent for more details about the character but the only information supplied was that Miss Rosa suffers from an unknown form of cancer . Little was known because only the first episode had been planned . Alongside dialogue acquired from the audition , the actress had the creative freedom to develop Miss Rosa 's image and persona .

= = = Characterization = = =

Miss Rosa has a unique Hispanic accent which Rosenblat created and puts on . She drew inspiration from her scripts and costume . When she first placed a wig cap and looked in the mirror she began to envision how her character should sound . Though it was not until she filmed later episodes that she made a decision . Rosenblat told Anna Silman from Vulture that it was a scene involving Miss Rosa and Piper Chapman (Taylor Schilling) , in which she states " I could have been the jefa " . Rosenblat said that the Spanish word made her realize that her character is Hispanic and her dialect is indicative of something Latin .

Miss Rosa is a complex character and as she is developed she became more humanized . Though suffering from cancer , she does not let this define her or limit what she can do . Rosenblat said that

she styled Miss Rosa to be a self @-@ absorbed woman who had spent a long time incarcerated in Litchfield prison . The character 's fellow inmates have much respect for her . While the actress also wanted to play her as " classy and centered " . She is an adrenaline junkie with attitude but also has a good heart .

= = = Cancer = = =

Miss Rosa suffers from cancer but refuses to let her illness define her . Rosenblat believed that her character 's attitude resonated with viewers and she received letters of thanks from the audience and later recalled that one such letter , from a sixteen @-@ year @-@ old viewer meant a lot to her . Her storyline helped him understand elements of his grandmother 's cancer he could not grasp . Rosenblat said that these such stories relating to Miss Rosa left her " touched and moved " .

Miss Rosa undertakes chemotherapy to treat her cancer which leaves her bald . Rosenblat did not shave her head for the role because she worried about other roles . She had to wear a silicone " appliance " on her head and neck . Each morning on set makeup artist Josh Turri made up the appliance onto her . The process would take approximately three hours and Turri added false beauty marks , eyebrows and small veins to complete Miss Rosa 's look . Rosenblat described him as " utterly brilliant and a perfectionist ... so you got this entirely organic sense that I was utterly bald and suffering [from] cancer . " While on set fellow actors and crew members incorrectly assumed she had shaved her head . The weather during filming also affected Miss Rosa 's costumer . During warm weather crew shielded Rosenblat from the sun with umbrellas because the heat would cause the make up to crack . Other breaches were caused by perspiration and Turri would drain water from underneath the prosthetics prior to repairing it . At the end of each shoot it took Rosenblat 45 minutes to remove the appliance .

Rosenblat also recalled (Vulture interview) that while filming an episode directed by Jodie Foster she plucked her nipple hair . Foster was on set to talk over the logistics of how she wanted it portrayed through Miss Rosa . During season two Miss Rosa needs life saving surgery . But Sam Healy (Michael J. Harney) informs her that the DOC are not willing to fund the operation . Instead she is forced to continue with chemotherapy meaning she will die .

= = = Character expansion = = =

Miss Rosa played a minor role throughout the first season . Rosenblat had admitted that she only appeared sporadically and did not get to portray much . But the actress was eager to return for the show 's second season . But during the second season the role was expanded which surprised Rosenblat . The actress told a reporter from Indiewire , " I learned where Miss Rosa is from I learned why she 's in prison . You 're going to learn a lot about her , a lot that I was desperate to know , and it helps . " In March 2014 , series creator Jenji Kohan told Jessie Katz (The Hollywood Reporter) that viewers would be introduced to Miss Rosa 's backstory . When the writers had planned a backstory episode for the character , Rosenblat was delighted . But the development left her unsure how Miss Rosa 's story would fit into main storyline of Orange Is the New Black .

The episode , titled " Appropriately Sized Pots " features a young Rosa portrayed with good looks , intelligence and lots of money . She is involved with a gang who commit bank robberies . It soon transpires that each time Rosa participates in a robbery someone close to her dies . During her first heist her boyfriend Marco (Alfredo De Quesada) is shot and killed by a security guard . In a later robbery her new lover Andy (Andhy Méndez) suffers a heart attack . Left with the only other gang member Don (Edwin Ortega) , Rosa continues her crime spree . But she becomes obsessed with the thrill of money and raids a bank she did not check out and is apprehended for her crimes . Actress Stephanie Andujar played the character during flashback scenes . She watched Rosenblat 's version of the character so that she could portray her similarly .

During the season Miss Rosa has several encounters with the show 's villain Yvonne " Vee " Parker (Lorraine Toussaint) . Rosenblat told Taylor Cole Miller of The Huffington Post that she recalled thinking that the storyline would not have a happy ending and felt that there was a bigger story to

come from it . Another storyline sees the character attending chemotherapy sessions at a hospital . Rosenblat told radio host Ira Wood that Miss Rosa meets a cancer stricken teenager Yusef (Ben Konigsberg) who thinks she is an " old git " . But when he learns that she is a bank robber he gains respect for her . The dialogue featured in the story was the actress ' favourite from the entire show .

Rosenblat was given the storyline that ties up the second season . The scenes feature Miss Rosa being told that she is going to die from her cancer . Fellow inmate and prison van driver Lorna Morello (Yael Stone) feels sorry for her and exits the van urging Miss Rosa to escape . The final scene features Miss Rosa driving away when she notices Vee also making an escape from prison . Recalling an earlier altercation with Vee , Miss Rosa careens the vehicle at Vee killing her instantly . Rosenblat told Silman that she joyfully screamed in the bathroom for five minutes when she learned of her character 's actions . She added " After all this effort to get rid of this woman , just evil incarnate , you know , and then I stroll along in my van . [In Miss Rosa voice] ' So rude , that one . ' Amazing . That final scene was really great . " During the scene Miss Rosa morphs into her younger incarnation as she becomes free once again . Rosenblat recalled the logistics of filming having to swap backwards and forth with Andujar to create the same position behind the wheel .

= = Storylines = =

Miss Rosa meets new prison inmate Piper and offers her some advice . She reveals that she is suffering from cancer and undergoing chemotherapy . Miss Rosa is told that she needs an operation to improve her chances of survival . However the DOC refuse to fund the operation and she is told that she needs to keep having chemotherapy . The outcome of which means she is likely to die . She then reminisces about her past as bank robber in which all the men she kissed during heists ended up dead . She details her life to a fellow cancer patient Yusef and they bond . He decides to help her regain the adrenaline rush felt from robbery and they steal a nurse 's purse . Miss Rosa is delighted to learn that Yusef has gone into remission but is sad to say goodbye . She returns to her cell and informs good friend Anita DeMarco (Lin Tucci) that she is dying before smelling the money she stole from the nurse .

Vee approaches Miss Rosa claiming to remember her and tries to recruit her . But she is not interested and tells Vee that she is a rude woman . Vee and Suzanne " Crazy Eyes " Warren (Uzo Aduba) later force Rosa to move out of the canteen and ruin her meal . Morello becomes concerned for Rosa during a hurricane which leaves Litchfield without power . Miss Rosa attends a hospital appointment and is told she only has weeks to live . The prison guard seems unfazed that she will die in prison . When a prison lockdown occurs Morello uses the opportunity to help Miss Rosa escape . She takes the offer and escapes from prison and on the way spots Vee . Recalling how Vee had treated her , Miss Rosa deliberately runs Vee down and kills her .

= = Reception = =

Anna Silman from Vulture described Miss Rosa as a " no @-@ nonsense bank robber evolved from being a bit player to becoming one of season two 's most fascinating breakout roles . " She also praised the role for being " rich and unusual " . Arielle Calderon of BuzzFeed named the character as " one of the Season 2 ? s new fan favorites " . Elizabeth Freda from E ! Online ranked Miss Rosa as the third best character from season two . The character 's backstory was her favourite . She said that a " cursed bank robber " sounded corny , but worked well . Hilary Busis of Entertainment Weekly described the character as a forgettable non @-@ entity during the first season . She also praised Stephanie Andujar 's performance as Young Rosa and called for her own spin @-@ off series to be created . Kimberley Potts of Yahoo ! TV voted Miss Rosa 's backstory as the second best one of the entire show . But Vogue magazine 's John Powers criticized it adding " bald Miss Rosa is never again as interesting after clumsy , overlong flashbacks to her criminal career . "

The Huffington Post 's Miller described Rosa as " the husky @-@ voiced , curmudgeonly , terminal cancer patient who comes up for air just long enough to pluck a " tit hair " or knock off a bank . " Jenee Osterheldt from The Kansas City Star said that " if there ? s one thing that sticks out about

her character , it ? s that husky and seductive voice that steals every conversation . You want to hear her speak , to cling to her words and let her paint the picture . " Anita Li writing for Mashable praised the character 's friendship with Yusef stating " despite the depressing circumstances of their meeting , the pair 's chemistry is entertaining for viewers to watch . "

ScreenCrush 's Britt Hayes said that Miss Rosa Vee 's stories dominated the second season . But was disappointed that the two stories collided to form the series finale . She felt that it was both comical and absurd . Kevin Fallon from The Daily Beast opined that the scene Miss Rosa learns she is dying was handled phenomenally . He also said that she deserved an award for killing Vee . Kate Zernike of The New York Times criticized the characters 's accent believing it sounded more Russian . She thought Miss Rosa 's last scene was both brilliant and exhilarating . But least expected her to kill Vee because fellow enemies sparred with Vee more . But Perri Nemiroff from Screen Rant praised the ending because it was emotional . She described Morello offering her freedom as an " especially moving season @-@ ending thrill " . She summed up Miss Rosa as being a kind person and branded it all more " gratifying " when she killed Vee . Entertainment Weekly readers voted Miss Rosa killing Vee as the " most shocking moment " of season two . Jayme Deerwester (USA Today) said that Miss Rosa provided the best moments of season two and deserved an Emmy Award . Dana Piccoli from AfterEllen.com said Miss Rosa was a character with the ability to " beguile me and break my heart " . She branded the scene with her sniffing the stolen money as " euphoric " . Lauren Hoffman of Cosmopolitan believed that her cancer struggle almost ignorable during the first season . But viewers later saw her true self and her branded her refusal to care as her strength .