

Nora Roberts

bestseller author



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After many years of talking about building up my own little library, people who know me might be surprised to hear that a major purchase of mine has been a series of books written by JD Robb. Is that not the pseudonym for Nora Roberts, best-selling romance/suspense/family saga author who has, (according to **Publishers Weekly**) written more best-sellers than anyone else in the world?

As JD Robb she has written the groundbreaking *Eve Dallas* series - a series of romantic crime novels set in the futuristic New York of the 2060s.

'A romance author - but we thought you only read fantasy and science fiction' has become a familiar phrase. Not even the lure of the series being set in the future got me to read this series. What fascinated, however, was when she published **Remember when**. Using both her pseudonym (JD Robb) and real name (Nora Roberts) to publish two novels as separate but connecting (over time) books caught my attention. I was interested to see if the styles really differed or if it was just a marketing tool to publicise

the *Eve and Rourke* books. After reading **Remember when** I forgot about comparing styles and went in search of the first book in the series. I was hooked.

Just say *Eve and Rourke* and the chances are someone, not necessarily a woman, will start engaging you in conversation. What have you read? Which book must you still read? What do you think about Rourke, isn't he just divine, he has magic fingers? Isn't Peabody the bomb? I just love Mavis, McNab, Feeney, Baxter, Summerset, Mira, Louise, my favourite is..!

This is not just another husband and wife detective/crime solving team. What we have here is a supremely independent police lieutenant in charge of the homicide division and one of the richest men on earth with

the resources and motivation to assist his wife in solving crimes. And do they solve some interesting crimes, some plausible only because of the futuristic setting, cars that can fly, droids (robots to the uninitiated), advanced medical science, new drugs, et cetera. This is a character-rich series with many occasionally just performing bit parts/ cameos, while other are regulars, though all play a role in forming the BIG picture of who does what and how they interact.

Crimes range from plain homicide, to terrorism, to murder via e-mail. Most of the time Rourke only becomes involved because of his skill at hacking, but sometimes he is motivated by a threat to his wife or their friends (family?), or by a personal attack on one of his many properties or employees.

People read the *Eve Dallas* series for various reasons: while the sci-fi buffs will read it for its futuristic setting; the bodice-ripper lovers for the intense sexual, physical, romantic and spiritual relationship between husband and wife; the psychologist and sociologists for the insight into what motivates people and society as a whole; the crime lovers for the interesting (futuristic), novel way crimes are solved; and pathology and forensics are still important tools to the detective, as result of the global presence of the Internet, e-mail, computer and droid security, the e-detective and associated e-division play an important part in solving crimes; the action fans will enjoy the fight scenes and the sometimes gory level of violence, I have another reason for reading these books.

I enjoy all of the above, but mostly I enjoy the character building that JD Robb portrays in her series. Each book reveals something new about the principal characters and the people whose lives intersect with theirs. The personality and characters of Eve and Rourke develop over time to give a

deeper understanding of what motivates them and how they and their relationships (with each other and other people) evolve. This makes each book easy to read while, over time, gives one an insight into the rich characters you would find in a more imposing tome. Some people might call this a character-driven series, I personally call it a relationship-driven series. With all the sociopaths, psychopaths and plain nutso's she deals with everyday you will never believe who Eve fears the most. Do not worry, I will let you find that out on your own, but I will give you a clue - Mavis loves her!

Her reaction to Rourke's billions is also refreshing. The weirdest relationship is the one between Eve and technology, she firmly believes that computers hate her, not to mention the technicians who are forever giving her malfunctioning police vehicles or the vending machines who refuse to take her orders or give her credits back.

Some people insist that the relationship between Eve and Summerset (Rourke's butler) is even more revealing in its insight into human relations, not to mention it is sometimes very funny. The way these two fight with each other hides an emotion they are not comfortable revealing to the world at large. The relationship that Eve and Rourke had with their fathers played a major role in who they became. What is even more interesting is how they relate to the father figures and mother figures in this series.

Another thing I will let you figure out for yourself. McNab is a colourful character given to piercings and bright colours (clothing and hairdos) who sweeps the almost puritanical earth child, Peabody off her feet. The relationship (sexual and otherwise) between Peabody and McNab is also quite interesting and some people will read the series just to see how and if it develops - not too mention how Eve reacts

to their relationship. Eve's relationship with Mavis is endearing, while Peabody tries to emulate Eve as much as possible. I can go on and on but will stop here to let you find out for yourself what happens next.

Below you will find a list of titles available in this series.

Eve Dallas series

- *Naked in death (1995)
- *Glory in death (1995)
- *Immortal in death (1996)
- *Rapture in death (1995)
- *Vengeance in death (1997)
- *Ceremony In death (1997)
- *Holiday in death (1998)
- Midnight in death (1998)
- *Conspiracy in death (1999)
- *Loyalty in death (1999)
- *Judgment in death (2000)
- *Witness in death (2000)
- *Betrayal in death (2001)
- *Seduction in death (2001)
- *Reunion In death (2002)
- *Purity in death (2002)
- *Portrait in death (2003)
- *Imitation in death (2003)
- *Divided in death (2004)
- *Visions in death (2004)
- *Survivor in death (2005)
- Origins in death (2005)
- Born in death (2006)
- Interlude in death (2006)
- Memory in death (2006)

*Titles available in CPLS or on order.

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