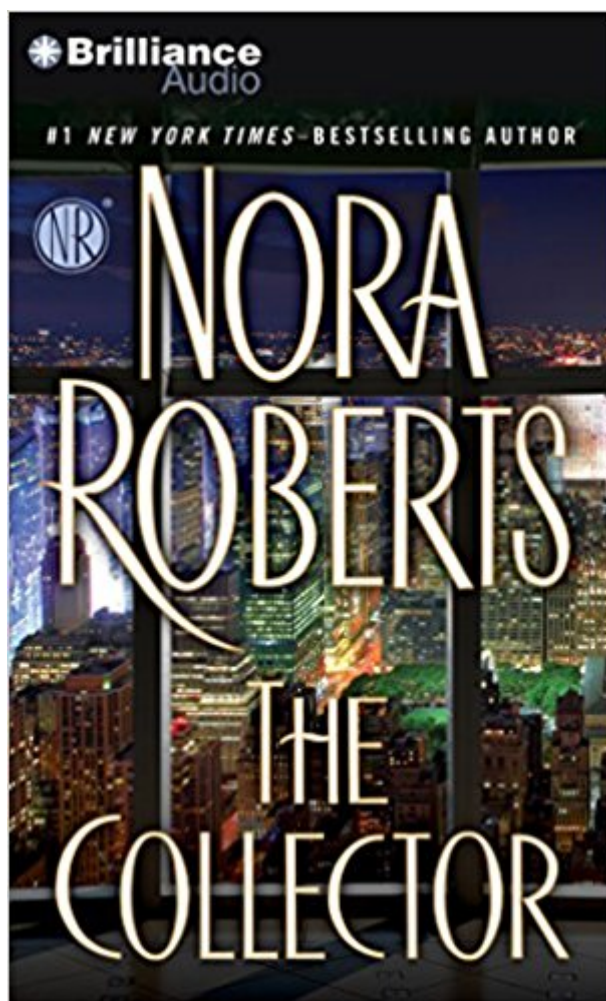


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The Collector



Synopsis

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Nora Roberts comes a novel of a woman who needs nothing, a man who sees everything, and the web of deceit, greed, and danger that brings them together—and that could tear them apart. As a professional house-sitter and freelance writer, nothing ties Lila Emerson down—not her work, not a home, and definitely not a relationship. She spends her life moving from one job to the next, sometimes crashing at a friend's Manhattan apartment. And though she can appreciate her clients' extraordinary homes, their expensive collections, and their adorable pets, Lila has never longed for possessions of her own. Everything she has, including her heart, is portable. But when she witnesses a possible murder-suicide from her current apartment-sitting job, life as Lila knows it takes a dramatic turn. Artist Ashton Archer knows his charming, clever, and impulsive brother couldn't have killed his girlfriend—or taken his own life. His hope of unraveling what happened lies with Lila, the only eyewitness. And even buried in grief, Ash longs to paint the woman whose deep, dark eyes seem to hold endless reserves of strength and a fiery passion. Chalking up their intense attraction to the heat of the moment, Lila agrees to help Ash in trying to find out who murdered his brother and why. From the penthouses of Manhattan to grand Italian villas, their investigation draws them into a rarefied circle where priceless antiques are bought, sold, gambled away, and stolen, where what you possess is who you are, and where what you desire becomes a deadly obsession.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Abridged edition (March 3, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1480570109

ISBN-13: 978-1480570108

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.1 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 3,889 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #457,409 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (R) > Roberts, Nora #204 in Books > Books on CD > Romance #522

in Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

Starred Review As a writer, Lila Emerson is fascinated by people. So when her latest house-sitting job provides the opportunity to observe the neighbors in the building across the street, Lila can't resist. It is all innocent fun until late one night when she happens to glance across the street and sees one of the couples she has been watching involved in a violent fight. Before Lila can reach the phone to call for help, the woman falls to her death. The police initially rule the case to be a murder/suicide, but when Lila later crosses paths at the police station with artist Ashton Archer, the brother of the alleged murderer, he tries to convince her that his brother would never kill anyone, much less commit suicide. Much to her surprise, Lila finds Ash makes a good case for his brother's innocence, and that case only becomes stronger once the two find themselves targeted by a ruthless killer determined to tie up any loose ends. Roberts is performing at the top of her literary game, and the novel's opening nod toward *Rear Window* should clue readers in to the fact they are in for an addictive blend of sleek suspense and sophisticated romance that would make Hitchcock proud. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** With over 200 books that have sold more than 400 million copies around the globe, it's easy to do the math: Roberts has another best-seller on her hands. --John Charles --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"Roberts is performing at the top of her literary game" An addictive blend of sleek suspense and sophisticated romance that would make Hitchcock proud. **Booklist** (starred review) "An engrossing tale of love, family, and the lengths some will go to possess that which they desire the most." **Wit and Sin** "A pair of strong, commitment-averse protagonists, vividly drawn villains" a classy, stunningly beautiful, sociopathic assassin and a soulless recluse, in particular an abundance of Fabergé egg history and a plot that keeps readers on edge add up to another classic for Roberts. **Library Journal** "Sizzling suspense" Will keep readers riveted. **Publishers Weekly** "A juicy, suspenseful tale to snuggle in with and savor." **BookPage.com** "You won't want to stop until you're finished." **Fresh Fiction** --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I was apprehensive about this book, I wasn't a fan of her last *In Death* book or her new Irish trilogy but this was really good! I won't go into plot, this isn't a spoiler review. Suffice to say the are twists I didn't see coming, nothing major but enough to keep it interesting. The main characters are engaging and, my favorite part, strong. I hate weak characters, male or female. The secondary characters are also good, likeable without being cloying. It isn't overly descriptive or sparse on the

art and antiques or the romance and heat. I was starting to lose Roberts as a favorite author but this puts her back on my list.

This is one of my favorites! It's got characters you'll fall in love with & a fun, suspenseful plot. I so enjoy how Nora Roberts pulls characters together & makes them feel like a family so the romance is not just two people totally unrelated to life---the way those old Harlequin novels used to be way back when I was young :) Plus, I've been listening to Nora's stories on Audible & this one has a fab narrator: Julia Whelan! Wish Nora would use her again in the future.

Nora Roberts writes good books with great stories and I've probably read a huge portion of her stories. Once in a while she writes outstanding books. This is the first one since Northern Lights that I put in that category. The last of her books I read were the Boonesboro trilogy. I still have Book 3 on my new purchases list on my kindle and have no desire to open it. She and I had reached the end of the road in terms of favorite author. Fortunately, the title of this one intrigued me. I read the first half of the book wondering who this author was. The beauty of the writing was in a class by itself, and far superior to Nora Roberts as I remembered her. Ms. Roberts or someone got her magic back. "I say 'someone' because the quality was so lyrical, could hardly believe this was Nora Roberts writing." Just goes to show that this author still has it. I had one problem with the plot, but I won't discuss it so as to avoid a spoiler. Do read this book.

I agree with most of the reviews in saying that Nora has definitely come back from her slump. Her last standalone wasn't great, her Irish trilogy has been a bore so far, and JD Robb lost her touch with the last few books. The Collector was extremely enjoyable and that is saying a lot with the books she's brought out in a past year or so. She made me fall in love in Lila and I do love and appreciate Nora's ability to create strong female protagonists. Lila and Ash were definitely believable as a couple and add in the drama and plot, it made for a good story. At times, it seems too unbelievable with the coincidences, but I did appreciate how the characters were linked together in some way shape or form. I also loved the secondary love story between Luke and Julie. It was very sweet and I was definitely rooting for them. Without giving away the plot, the villains definitely tested the characters as a group. I liked that Nora did not have to create conflict amongst the "good" guys to move the plot and the climax. Overall, I give it a 4.5. I hope she gets back to her stride, because when Nora Roberts/JD Robb is good, her books are phenomenal.

1st Nora Roberts book that I can't finish! Cardboard characters and absurd dialogue. Lila: "That was hard. You had someone with you. It's better to have someone with you when it's hard." Who says stuff like that??? Also too many characters-macho Ash says he needed a spreadsheet to keep track of all his family. So did the readers, Ms Roberts! Sorry I wasted my time and money. Wondering what book all those 5 star reviewers read, it couldn't have been this 1!

I always loved NR's once-a-year releases. The Collector, in the end, failed to meet those expectations. The plot itself was interesting, but for the first time it was hard to connect with the characters. Both Lila and Ash fell flat in the story to me - Ash was too "in charge" and basically refused to adjust his mentality to Lila's independence, while Lila basically rolled over in the end to everything he wanted, ruining her "take charge" personality she was suppose to have. While this is actually a normal personality clash in most of NR's work, Ash doesn't have the humor that her previous male leads have to get away with being domineering. I was more interested in the side romance than the main characters. In the end, if you're interested, rent, don't buy. I don't think I'll ever re-read story.

The Collector was very different. As the main character, a woman, sat for houses or condos while the owners were away. At this particular condo it was right in town and had condo buildings across the street that she could look into all the windows! And she did with her binoculars. Because of her nosiness she witnessed a spectacular murder. And from there the story really kicks into gear.....J70

I have been a faithful reader of Nora Roberts for years. I started reading her books when I was about 13 and I'm 29 now. I've read almost every single book she has written and my shelves are full of her books.. So believe me when I say this book fell flat. I've been working on reading this book for more than a month now and I am struggling to finish it. It is just so...boring and unimaginative. Usually I read through her books in a couple of days. But not this time. It is missing that Nora Roberts' magic. That greatness of her writing that pulls you in and keeps you there til the end is gone. The characters aren't particularly humorous, the plot is weak, and the book just doesn't move at the pace of her other books. I wasn't thrilled with the series she did about the brothers and the inn, but I thought perhaps it was just a fluke. After reading The Collector, I am not sure if I will read any more books from Nora Roberts. She is going to have to do much better in the future to win back this reader.

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