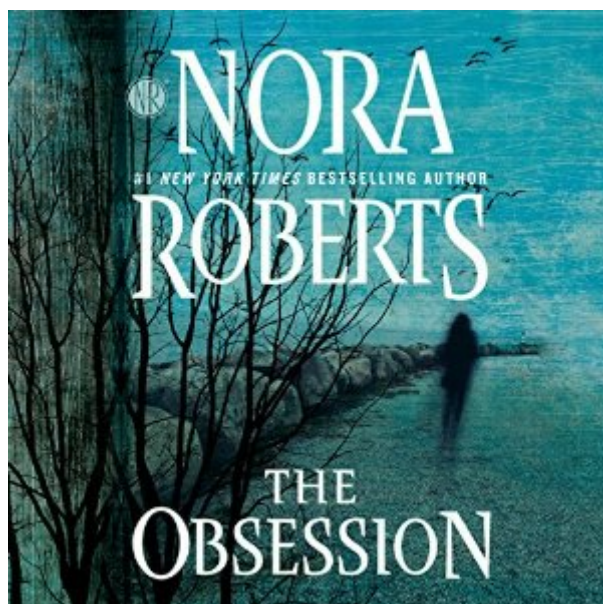


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The Obsession



Synopsis

The riveting new novel from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Liar*. Naomi Bowes lost her innocence the night she followed her father into the woods. In freeing the girl trapped in the root cellar, Naomi revealed the horrible extent of her father's crimes and made him infamous. Now a successful photographer living under the name Naomi Carson, she has found a place that calls to her, thousands of miles away from everything she's ever known. Naomi wants to embrace the solitude, but the residents of Sunrise Cove keep forcing her to open up - especially the determined Xander Keaton. Naomi can feel her defenses failing, and knows that the connection her new life offers is something she's always secretly craved. But as she's learned time and again, her past is never more than a nightmare away.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nobody mixes light and shadow quite like Nora Roberts. *The Obsession* is a compelling story of the terrifying evil humans are capable of and the incredible strength, courage, and heart it takes to survive and thrive even after facing that darkness. *The Obsession* is a story that's easy to fall into, thanks in no small part to its heroine. Naomi went through hell as a child, discovering that her father was a serial rapist and murderer. We spend a significant amount of page time with Naomi in the past, seeing how her life changed because of her father's crimes. This is important, because it sets the stage for who Naomi becomes as an adult. She's strong, so incredibly strong, but the past hurts her, causing her to throw up walls right and left. Naomi has never fully

healed from the traumas of her childhood because she tries to keep the past behind a firmly shut and locked door. What I loved about *The Obsession* was watching Naomi grow as a character. She comes alive over the course of the story and faces her demons to come out stronger. I also add that her love for photography is almost a story in itself, and watching Naomi work was one of my favorite things about this book. Her artist's eye is what makes Sunrise Cove irresistible to her, and that leads to Naomi putting down roots for the first time in her adult life. This move is the catalyst for her change, though the timely arrival of a lovable rescue dog and a handsome mechanic don't hurt. Xander is a classic Nora Roberts hero. He's a sexy, talented mechanic with a successful business, a good nature, a love of books, a protective instinct, and has good, solid roots in his hometown. In other words, he's irresistible. Somehow, even though Xander is pretty much the perfect guy, he never feels like a cardboard perfect hero. He takes one look at Naomi and is intrigued, and though she resists the idea of falling for him, it's pretty clear Naomi's fighting a losing battle. They fit one another like lock and key, and their smooth slide into love is by turns sweet and sensual. There's a solid thread of suspense that twines through *The Obsession*, rounding out the story well. The person obsessed with Naomi seemed obvious to me, but for me this doesn't significantly detract from the story because the heart and soul of the book is Naomi's personal journey. The romance and the danger were solid additions to this, as was the absolutely wonderful cast of supporting characters who charmed me from the very first page. Naomi's brother, her uncles, and the friends she makes keep this story light on its feet even when times are at their darkest. All in all, I found *The Obsession* to be an incredibly interesting read that I absolutely hated to put down.

Warning: *The Obsession* contains scenes of violence against women from the perpetrator's point of view.

Kimberly Review courtesy of Wit and Sin

How do you find peace when you have been running from a monster since childhood? Constantly on the move and not willing to take a chance. When you grow up with a killer hidden in plain sight it tends to have an effect on you. Never trusting and always with one foot out the door. Naomi Bowes, daughter to one of the most notorious serial killers, has changed her name and grown up with an education few can understand. With her camera and her online business she has been able to live a sort of vagabond lifestyle; that's until she sets eyes on one of the most beautiful landscapes she has ever seen. It settles her, gives her the sense of peace and tranquility that she has been searching for her entire life. It just happens to come in the form of a massive home in need of tremendous repair. A home on the outskirts of picturesque Sunrise Cove that was once a secluded

B&B will be her new reprieve. Along with her contractor, who shares the same vision, Naomi will begin the nightmare that is home repair, remodel and construction. Part of moving and living in a new place is getting to know the people around you. One very intriguing resident is Xander Keaton, mechanic, garage band lead singer, and life long resident of Sunrise Cove, is on the radar. He makes Naomi feel for the first time that happiness is not elusive and can possibly be attainable. It's a wonderful play of back and forth: a long and winding path to friendship, dog adoption, photo ops, and dinners getting to know each other. I loved the ebb and flow of it all. Meanwhile, a sinister thread has begun to wind its way around Sunrise Cove bringing back the past and threatening to destroy the fragile new life Naomi has created. The Obsession is a must read for the romantic suspense fan. 5 STAR READ

Once again..... Here we have a story with wonderfully complex and multi dimensional characters and great loyal long term friendships. There are cleverly written lines and laugh out-loud humor. There are great sexual love scenes, and the interpersonal relationships have very realistic ups and downs. Those parts are so good that reading a Nora Roberts book is similar to sugar. It's something I always want, often give into, and usually feel unsatisfied with when I finish. The structure of every book is pre-set. To that structure new characters, a new external threat, and a different location are plugged in. But all of the novels in recent memory have a super strong heroine with a heinous man stalking her as payback for some transgression in her past. It starts with some woman getting kidnapped, or beaten or raped, or all three. Then that character stalks the heroine. There is always a strong male character willing to break down the heroines trust issues, and save her from her stalker. The male/female descriptions of graphic violence keep getting more detailed and horrific with each novel. Usually, there are sections of each chapter detailing the mind-set of the stalker. I need to skip so many violent scenes that I feel like I should get a partial refund. Nora Roberts is an ultra famous, prolific, and extremely talented writer. She is usually classified as a romance writer. I know that some plot tension is needed to make a romance story more than just fluff. But surely there are enough problems and mysteries in every day life to use in writing excellent romantic fiction without having to resort to of sexual violence and terror time and time again.

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