



Homeport

Nora Roberts

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An art expert and a thief get caught in a dangerous game in this novel of daring deception and desire from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Nora Roberts.

After an assault at her family home in Maine, Dr. Miranda Jones is determined to put the experience behind her. Distraction comes when she is summoned to Italy—to verify the authenticity of a Renaissance bronze of a Medici courtesan known as The Dark Lady.

But instead of cementing Miranda's reputation as the leading expert in the field, the job nearly destroys it when her professional judgment is called into question. Emotionally estranged from her mother, with a brother immersed in his own troubles, Miranda has no one to turn to...except Ryan Boldari, a seductive art thief whose own agenda forces them into a reluctant alliance.

Now it becomes clear that the incident in Maine was not a simple mugging—and that The Dark Lady may possess as many secrets as its beautiful namesake once did. For Miranda, forced to rely on herself—and a partner who offers her both unnerving suspicion and intoxicating passion—the only way home is filled with deception, treachery, and a danger that threatens them all.

From the Paperback edition.

Homeport Details

Date : Published May 1st 1999 by Berkley (first published 1998)

ISBN :

Author : Nora Roberts

Format : Kindle Edition 482 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Fiction, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Mystery

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From Reader Review **Homeport** for online ebook

C. says

I am not a romance fan but loved my first **Nora Roberts** novel that delved into the mystical. Although “**Homeport**” turned out to be a crime mystery, it kept planted in romance and, like “*The Reef*”; demonstrates why I would rather stick to her ethereal fare. You would also think a romance-authoress would weave inspiring liaisons. I was disgusted in both these 1998 novels, that anyone would depict a woman accepting physical or verbal aggression. Both of the male characters for whom she hoped readers would cheer, had moments of unacceptable temper: grasping angrily and threatening violence if the woman didn't comply. Neither apologized or improved their character. They predictably declared being in love with each story's heroine and she was pleased.

Accepting flack from relatives was weak too. Well before thirty, most youths confront cold-hearted “Bs”. You don't loyally work with parents if you have no bond. Loving your dependent has nothing to do with blood. Ask adopters if they have trouble loving their children. I could not respect or buy a parent being unable to love them, especially kids who took after their interests and surpassed their expertise professionally and I cannot believe in a thirty year-old allowing anyone to order her about. It was an interesting touch that a thief introduced a fun, gregarious family but being an open thief was silly.

Secrets connected to the Grandfather could be fantastic, if only **Nora** had made a lovely revelation and reunion of it, instead of the weak, villainous motive it attempted. The same goes with diminishing the exultant discovery of a new Michelangelo creation. This in itself would be fascinating. The forgery chase should have played second fiddle, just as the protagonist's brother shouldn't have had a sex scene. Most books should have one narrative, for the protagonist.

Vi~Inkvotary says

Style and Language

Nora Roberts wrote with **Homeport** an enthralling and very absorbing novel, that I count to one of her best works ever.

Miranda is an expert of art and has the once in a lifetime opportunity to examine a bronze nobody thought would really exist. The family's institute is famous and her mother very demanding when it comes to the institutes reputation. Mother feelings aren't on her list and so Miranda has to do her job with a more than 1000% profession and leaving her feelings aside.

But she knows that her mother needs the best to do the job and Miranda is the best. But her results don't play along with the plans others have with her family or the institute and soon Miranda finds herself of her mother's trust bereft 'cause another institute declared the bronze to be a fraud. Something Miranda can't believe. Together with the thief Ryan she starts to search for answers and finds herself right in the middle of a deadly intrigue and a hunt and she has to discover, that passion isn't so bad after all.

Characters

Parents without any loving feelings for their children, a mother who hates her daughter more than anything

else and a long kept family secret turn the characters in this novel into figures that are eager to discover the truth. Even when they have to change allegiance and one in particular has to see things from a different perspective.

All her life Miranda was taught, that feelings aren't necessary. She never felt awkward that her mother wasn't the caring and loving mother other children had. She wondered sometimes, yes, but it was nothing out of the ordinary. The reputation and heritage of the family was everything, and had to be as clean as an operation room. So as grownups Miranda and her brother believe their neither worth being loved nor that they'll ever find the real love – the one and only.

The author created characters with style, sensibility and a sense of humor. Miranda does everything with dignity, a clear view and has a lucid mind. Work and feelings don't go well together. But when Ryan shows up at her office and turns her routine upside down, she soon discovers that not everything is black and white - and that's when the real fun comes in.

Result

A beautiful novel with a fantastic story and some outstanding characters – you'll be surprised. A must read for every Nora Roberts fan and those who want to become one.

Rosie says

De um início pouco auspicioso passei a entusiasmada. O que era expectável redundou em algo diferente e a surpresa acutilou a minha curiosidade.

Quando me deparo com escritores que escrevem dúzias e dúzias de livros sinto-me como um cliente nas grandes superfícies, ou seja, com expectativas medianas. Considero difícil não caírem no erro, de a dada altura, banalizarem a escrita. Quase sem tempo para qualquer aprofundamento, receio que instigados a produzirem mais e mais, acabem talvez por pecar pela superficialidade. A verdade é que há quem aprecie o género e casos há que serão leituras bem vindas para descomplicar os nós das nossas próprias vidas e a aligeirar...

Tendo em conta as opiniões do Goodreads decidi aproveitar uma promoção e adquirir o livro.

Ryan é uma personagem peculiar, cativante, com um ótimo sentido de humor. A sua família de origem italiana está muito bem conseguida, retratada com os apontamentos certos e/ou desconcertantes. A verdade é que fazem sentir ainda mais as diferenças relativamente à família de Miranda. Gostei das personagens no seu cômputo geral, vi bem explorado as suas qualidades e fraquezas, a ambição do querer/poder, das complicações de uma vida somadas a um mistério que se vai avolumando até se tornar sangrento. Apesar de ter desconfiado desde cedo do vilão, tive dúvidas até ao fim, onde são revelados aspectos dos quais não estávamos à espera.

Leitura agradável. Vale a pena!

Arttemizza says

Não sou muito fã de Nora Roberts mas este é sem dúvida um dos melhores romances dela, tem tudo o que um bom leitor aprecia, romance, acção, mistério, crime, traição... É só escolher!

Bü?ra Bal says

Klasik Nora kitab?,gene polisiyeyle a?k? çok güzel harmanlam??.Ama bu seferkinde polisiye cidden yo?un,özellikle kitab?n ba?? Ryan gelene kadar s?k?c?yd?.

Miranda annesi taraf?ndan bronz bir heykelin dönemini,özelliklerini ö?renmesi için ?talyaya ça?r?l?yor,alan?nda en iyilerden biri k?z?m?z ve heykeli inceleyip bir rapor halinde sunuyor,ancak çok geçmeden heykelin sahte oldu?u ortaya ç?k?nca k?z?m?z?n kariyeri tehlikeye giriyor.Bu arada kendisine ortakl?k teklif eden Ryan boldariyle tan???p,ondan ho?lanmaya ba?l?yor.

Miranda ayn? zamanda bir sanat enstitüsü i?letiyor,bir enstitüye h?rs?z giriyor ve bir heykel çal?n?yor, daha sonra k?z?m?z?n yatak odas?na adam?n biri giriyor ve sahte heykeli çalmas?na neden oldu?u için

Miranda'ya k?z?yor :D Tabiki h?rs?z?m?z Ryan boldari :D

O sahneye bay?ld?m,adam hem suçlu hem güçlü :D

O zaman her ?ey Miranda'n?n kafas?na dank ediyor,heykellerin de?i?tirildi?ini hata yapmad???n? söylüyor ve Ryan'la birlikte as?l heykelleri bulmak,sicilini temizlemek için ?talya'ya gidiyor :D

Miranda s?k?c?,so?uk bir karakter bunda ailesiyle ili?kisinin de pay? var,o anas? olacak zilliyi öldürebilirim yani.Ama Ryan ?ahane bir adam,komik,zeki,haz?rcevap :D Zaten söz konusu Nora ise,gerisi teferruat :D

Laura V. says

Miranda Jones se me hacía caladita a esta mujer de *White Collar*...

Bien, ¿qué tenemos aquí? No tiene sentido contar el argumento con o sin spoilers, porque la contratapa de este libro se encarga perfectamente de contar toda la historia. Así que ¿qué pienso de ello? Entretiene pero me deja fría. Miranda es linda y todo, vemos que en realidad es más compleja de lo que aparenta ya que la indiferencia de sus padres y la relación con su hermano la tienen marcada. Se complica al querer relacionarse y confiar en otras personas. Se entiende. Por otro lado está Ryan y no me gustó demasiado. No me siento muy fan de esas personas que engañan mienten, roban deliberadamente. No sentí nada entre ellos, porque él tiene una posición muy dominante en la relación y Miranda es un segundo plano (apenas se entera de nada). En sí, no entra en mi "zona segura" en relación al romance.

Con respecto a Nora Roberts no pude evitar notar que este es el tercer libro que trata sobre ladrones de guantes blanco (Magos, Amantes Y Ladrones, Deseo y Venganza)

Bark says

I haven't read a Nora Roberts book that I've disliked as much as Homeport. Okay, that's not true. Daring to Dream was awful too. Well, as awful as a book by Nora Roberts can be. Readers with better taste than me love it but I thought Josh was spoiled and Margo was whiny *and* spoiled. Together they were insufferable. But this sort of thing is atypical of a Nora Roberts book. She almost always excels at creating likable characters and I usually love them but not-so-much this time around. Actually, not at all this time around.

I listened to this as an unabridged audiobook on 16 discs and I rarely stop an audio unfinished. It's just a thing with me. Trap me in a car and I will listen to anything even if it's boring and annoying. I guess this book is proof of that.

Homeport starts out well enough. Miranda is accosted by a knife wielding cretin wearing a mask. She can only see his scary brown eyes. He bangs her around, stabs her tires and steals her briefcase and pocketbook. She dies but returns as a vengeful spirit bent on ridding the world of gorgeous, lying thieves; after she seduces them, of course.

If only.

Sadly she lives, the thief escapes and the tedium begins. Her mother demands she fly to Italy to verify the authenticity of a newly discovered artifact. It's real, she gleefully declares! It's the find of a lifetime and will make her career. But alas, bad things happen, the brass is declared a fake and she is ruined. Whoops. Her own mother (who owns the company) sends her home to Maine with her tail between her legs. Miranda is determined to ferret out the truth because she suspects something fishy is going on. She knows she did not make a mistake. She is too awesome for that and she will be avenged! Unfortunately she meets a cute but bossy as hell thief named Ryan and her brains fly out of her head. She allows him to call her an idiot (it's true, but still . . .) and tell her what to do and when to do it and somewhere along the line they fall into bed and discover the truth behind the "mystery". But only after many innocent people die because of their ineptitude.

I'll just come out and say it. I did not like Ryan or Miranda. Miranda is a doormat of a woman who holds a doctorate in something fancy but has absolutely no mind or spine of her own when it comes to real life matters. She has spent her life trying to please a mother who seems to despise her. She doesn't stand up to her parents because "*it hurts me*" and "*I do what I'm told.*" Yes, this really is what the dolt says. I rewound to be certain because I thought my ears might've been fooling me.

Though Miranda's ego is enormous when it comes to her career; her common sense is non-existent. She is being stalked and sent threatening faxes but doesn't think to tell anyone. People attached to her are dropping dead and she doesn't stop to consider that she might be a target? WTH? She allows slimy Ryan who fully intends to steal from her after they've gotten all lovey-dovey, to boss her around and take charge and she just follows his lead. She and everyone else in the story find him charming but he doesn't fool me. He is a shifty, selfish and often rude scoundrel who gets by on his good looks and is only out for himself. If he falls in love (I still don't believe he does) it's totally by accident and I had zero faith he wouldn't stray as soon as something pretty caught his eye.

This story was a dismal failure for me. The mystery was "meh" and the romance was not believable. The only things going for it were Miranda's brother Andrew (messed up but sympathetic) and Ryan's interactions with his large family. Those were bright spots but they were far from the focus of the book, which is a

shame.

The narration was decent, if a little remote at times, with the exception of any characters with an accent. Ryan's mom sounds like a silly Italian stereotype and the Maine characters were voiced strangely. Did this narrator never hear a Maine accent before attempting one? She gives them a weird almost Irish brogue. This makes Annie, a secondary character in her early 30's, sound like a matronly Irishwoman transplanted to Maine. It was disconcerting.

In the end, a feeling of ennui has washed over me and I'm dreading the start of another audiobook. Is it me, is it the book?

Jacob Proffitt says

[Particu

Nath says

This was one of my first Nora Roberts and I loved it the first time I read it... and I still love it now, perhaps even more now that I've read it in English LOL :) I have to admit that I have a fondness for cat burglar/art thief plot :)

So what do I love about this book? Basically everything :) I love Miranda and Ryan's chemistry and relationship :) They are so different and Ryan definitively makes Miranda happier. Miranda is a great heroine... strong, but at the same time, vulnerable. Ms Roberts did a great job at writing the different layers of Miranda. I also love her relationship with her older brother, Andrew. It's cute and touching, these two siblings clinging to each other while growing up in a cold and sterile environment, always seeking for love and acceptance from their parents.

Ryan is slick and smooth... and a real good guy :) I liked how he drew out a different side of Miranda and made her stronger and able to face her fears. He had great insight and a quick mind. I especially like his love for his family :)

Speaking of family, I have to say, family dynamics - whether they are happy or dysfunctional - are really one of Ms Roberts writing strengths. She is able to portray relationships in such a believable way, even though they are complex. This book is no exception. I liked the contrast shown between Ryan and Miranda's families.

In addition to love the characters, I enjoyed the plot as well. I thought the pacing was really interesting. Ms Roberts took her time setting up the story and didn't rush through thing... There are a lot of things going on, but it's well handled and everything ties in well. The whole story was interesting and got me hooked :)

If I have any complaint, it would be that I wished Andrew's story would be a bit more developed. However, it was still well written and handled :) I just like his character and wished to read more :)

I also have to admit though that knowing the ending - who the real culprit was, it did take away a bit of the

excitement and punch at the end. In most books/romantic suspenses, this is not a problem for me... because the villain is just a villain to be caught... but in Homeport, the whole conspiracy is an attack at Miranda... it's all very personal and the ending was quite a surprise. So of course, knowing who did it, well you take away this surprise. Aside from this, my feelings towards Homeport didn't change. Homeport is definitively a great book and a winner. Rarely will a Nora Roberts' stand-alone book disappoint... and Homeport, to me, is a fine example of why Nora Roberts is the queen of romance :D

Filipa says

O melhor livro alguma vez escrito por NR.

Anali says

Me encanto!!! *-* Al inicio pense en que seria aburrido y no me gustaría pero me gusto muchisimo. Es una novela con un trama llena de intriga, suspenso y romance. Además te mantiene interesado con situaciones que no esperabas como los asesinatos y los robos. También esta muy documentada y los protagonistas son increíbles.

Ryan y Miranda han sido perfectos. La forma en que se conocieron, el desenvolvimiento de su relación es adecuado. Son tan diferentes pero aun asi se aman tanto. Los he encontrado divertidos y agradables. Como siempre el es hombre perfecto (a pesar de ser ladron jajaja) y ella es inteligente y una mujer decidida. A pesar de sus conflictos ella se pudo reponer y finalmente aceptar el amor en su vida.

En cuanto a la historia paralela y la relación de Andrew y Annie.. LOS ADOREEE *-* estaba desesperada por que el pudiera superar su adicción por el alcohol y asi pudieran estar juntos. Su historia de amor fue perfecta. Ella me encanto cuando fue a la fiesta, me emocione y supe que se quedarían juntos.

Los padres de Ryan, su familia, han sido perfectos, los ame mientras que los padres de Miranda y Andrew los odie. A la madre la deteste muchisimo que fue lo mismo que hice con los malos. A pesar de que ya tenia la idea de quien era aun asi la odie muchisimo. Se merecia el final que tuvo y me siento contenta que todos los demas tuvieran un final feliz :)

Alicia (is beyond tired of your *ish) says

I feel like I need to keep checking the book and the book page to make absolutely sure this was Nora Roberts. I've never disliked one of her books as much as I disliked this one.

The plot itself was intriguing and for the most part done well (outside of my major issue with the book). I liked the unusual view into the art world, and the build up of the central mystery. I mostly liked the reveal of who was behind everything. I thought I had the situation pegged after a somewhat out-of-left-field revelation, but there was yet another change-up that kept it somewhat surprising. However, there was a part of it that is so skeezy and the real weight of what it meant seemed to not register with the characters at all. (Really *no one* else had a reaction to that? What is going on? I was cringing and screeching a little and I'm seeing no mentions in other reviews. Really?).

In the end it was the execution of the characters that made this book painful for me and ultimately ruined the

story.

The worst of them was Ryan Boldari. I'm sure the "thief with a heart of gold" has been done and done well, but here it wasn't. He was insufferably arrogant, selfish, and mentally unbalanced. From thinking his profession was perfectly fine because it was a "god-given talent" (an insipid notion supported by his entire family who I think was actually a breeding ground for mental instability), to him truly believing what he stole belonged to him. He acted like there was a warranty of merchantability on the items he stole, and that Miranda "owed" him because he didn't take what he thought he did. If it weren't for his love of his family I would have thought he was a sociopath. I'm still not entirely convinced he knows how to love anything but himself. Then for the first time in any romance novel I've ever read he sleeps with her after she gets so plastered that nothing she said sounded like it was coming from her. And in the morning he lets her apologize and says he's glad she's not silly enough to blame him for taking advantage. Uh, excuse me, she was drunk, you were not, and you kept pointing that and the fact she wasn't acting anything like herself out. That would be taking advantage, man. And I'm supposed to buy this guy as a romantic Hero? Even when it came to him falling for Miranda – he continued to maintain he was going to steal from her, and that he'd rather steal from and betray her than love her. It ruins the effect. But he's supposed to be so charming that none of this matters. Yeah, that doesn't work for me.

Miranda Jones was an idiot. Her intelligence was pretty much limited to her doctorate field. She had to be lead by the hand the entire time and never put anything together herself. She was given countless information, clues and too many coincidences to be believed and not once did she put anything together herself. One of the men around her had to do it. She was getting threatening letters the entire book and never thought it was a relevant enough fact to mention to anyone. She had enough information on Ryan in the beginning to ruin him and yet she kept letting him outsmart her at every turn with no response. She went along with his insanity, and let him keep raving like a lunatic at her. One second she'd be ranting about getting justice for the murdered characters, then flipping out because someone would have to go to jail for it. For all her ethics and upstanding morals she still put aside what Ryan does (and did to her) when he was lavishing her with attention. Even though he was incredibly condescending, rude, dismissive, calculating, etc. while doing so. She would show flashes of backbone and then it'd be gone just as quickly and she'd fall all over him. While I wanted to feel bad for her due to her family, and I did understand why she was desperate for love, I just didn't care about them getting together or being together. I didn't like or respect what they thought they had.

Annie needed to get over it. It happened fifteen years ago – let it freaking go. I started skimming any scenes with her because it was the same thing over and over. What she did at seventeen doesn't relate to anything that's happening in the present yet she was always comparing. I just wanted her to shut up.

Andrew was the only character I liked. He was the most sympathetic of the bunch. He was the sweetest brother (I did like the brother/sister relationship he and Miranda had going), and didn't act like a complete moron (except when it came to his addiction). It's too bad he was stuck with a bunch of twitch-inducing women (his mother, his sister, his love interest, and his ex-wife). Though after what's revealed in the end I wanted to give him a bottle of Jack and tell him to have fun. Unfortunately, this wasn't really his story. So we didn't get a good deal of him, though more than could be expected.

The rest of the Jones family – their mother, Elizabeth, their father, and Andrew's ex-wife, Elise – rounded out the character face-palming. The rest of the secondary characters were too far in the background to make much of a difference.

It really is too bad that what could have been a great story was marred by such awful characters.

Mónica Silva says

Opinião no blog <http://howtoliveathousandlives.blogspot...>

Este é um romance misterioso e arrebatador, com uma abordagem ao mundo da arte fascinante, em que acompanhamos a vida dos artistas, agentes e galeristas, uma ode brilhante às obras de arte. A ação alterna entre o Maine e Florença, com descrições vívidas de ambos os locais.

A personagem principal, Miranda, é uma mulher de carácter forte e independente, fruto da negligência familiar e sentimental que sofreu. Quando se apaixona por Ryan, um ladrão de arte impulsivo e carismático, a sua vida nunca mais será a mesma. Adorei as técnicas de Ryan para roubar peças de arte nas circunstâncias mais incríveis e a maneira como seduz Miranda. Também foi muito interessante observar o contraste entre a família de Miranda, rica mas fria, sem emoção, e a família de Ryan, calorosa e com raízes italianas e irlandesas.

Os mistérios em redor do Bronze da Dama Negra são fantásticos e daí surgem momentos de adrenalina absolutamente viciantes. Mais um livro de Nora Roberts que se devora com avidez!

Cyndi says

A suspense by Nora. Gotta tell ya, not among my favs. Although, it's Nora so it's still great, I stumbled a few times over the characters. Miranda is a very complicated woman. To the world she is a brilliant ice queen. But, Ryan sees through her icy exterior to the troubled warm soul...when he robs her.

Yep, he's an art thief and a con man. His is the character I had problems with. He lies to her continuously. I hate that!! His inner dialogue shows he's playing her, so when their romance heats up I keep wanting her to get away from him.

Meanwhile, Miranda, who is dealing with a lot of crap professionally, personally and romantically has someone stalking her and killing people.

It's a good story, and Ryan does finally come around, but this is another example of how if I was a character in a romance book, I'd dump the guy long before we reached the end and I'd never get my HEA. ????

?lkim says

Çok be?endim, bu ara arad???m her ?ey vard? bu kitapta. Nora n?n daha eski kitaplar? bana her zaman ayr? bir tat veriyor. Gözümden kaçmas?na inanam?yorum ama ?imdi okumak baya iyi geldi.
