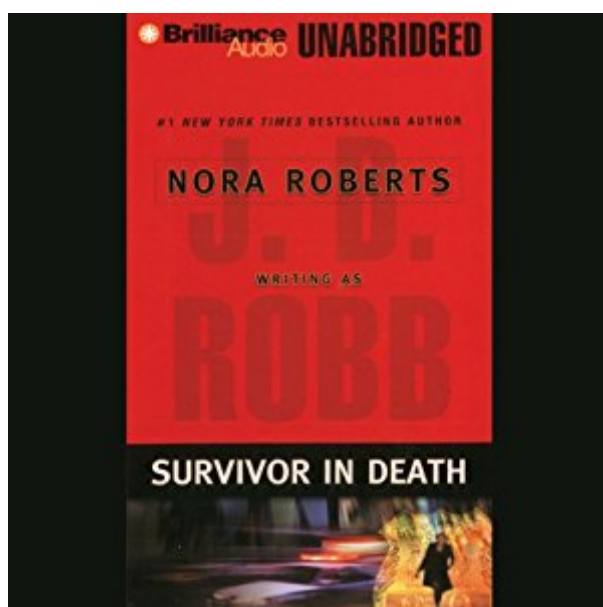


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Survivor In Death: In Death, Book 20



Synopsis

No affairs. No criminal connections. No DNA. No clues. Eve Dallas may be the best cop in the city - not to mention having the lavish resources of her husband Roarke at her disposal - but the Swisher case has her baffled. The family members were murdered in their beds with brutal, military precision. The state-of-the-art security was breached, and the killers used night vision to find their way through the cozy middle-class house. Clearly, Dallas is dealing with pros. The only mistake they made was to overlook the nine-year-old girl cowering in the dark in the kitchen. . . Now Nixie Swisher is an orphan - and the sole eyewitness to a seemingly inexplicable crime. Kids are not Dallas's strong suit. But Nixie needs a safe place to stay, and Dallas needs to solve this case. Not only because of the promise she made to Nixie. Not only for the cause of justice. But also to put to rest some of her own darkest memories - and deepest fears. With her partner Peabody on the job, and watching her back - and with Roarke providing the kind of help only he can give - Lieutenant Eve Dallas is running after shadows, and dead-set on finding out who's behind them. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Police Procedurals

Customer Reviews

Before I read this book, I read the reviews here on and was thoroughly confused about what to expect. Some saw it as a complex police procedural with maturing relationships and a lessening of the explicit rehash of Eve's & Roarke's traumatic childhoods. Others thought the details of the crimesolving were neglected and cast Eve as increasingly and somewhat randomly witchy. Well, I'm going to vote with the former group: * Eve and Roarke retain their passion, yet are depicted with an

increasing amount of trust and a decreasing need for conflict which often was simply a painful stage set for a lusty truce. The characters are shown giving each other a growing amount of credit and respect; still, acerbic and affectionately humorous debates abound.* Plot and police work were good enough for me. I mostly read murder mysteries, when I'm not reading technical manuals, but I'm not in law enforcement, so I'm a connoisseur without having insider knowledge. The books wouldn't work without some semblance of police methodology, but really, we all read these for the characters, and especially for the witty dialogue between and among these interesting characters, don't we? :)* Contrary to the comments of some, Eve actually seemed more mellow in Survivor, as did Roarke, both without losing their edge. For those who find Eve's conversations mean, cold, etc., I recommend listening to the conversation between good friends who are also smart, articulate, and in the habit of entertaining themselves and others with verbal play. Yes, she seems like a serious witch to Summerset, who, in return, chides her annoyingly. Their relationship is a bit of a caricature (for *our* entertainment) and that's how *they* play.

The first thing that's important to know about this book is that it is best read as part of the on-going "In Death" series. If you do choose to read it out of order, you'll likely not enjoy it very much. If, on the other hand, you're someone who has read all the other books in the series, I think you'll enjoy Survivor. It's definitely one of the more intense and emotional installments, although not as good as Divided in Death or Portrait in Death. The case is riveting from the start, but as in all the other books, the murder mystery pales in comparison to the emotional interaction between Eve and Roarke. This particular mystery starts very strong, but by the end, it's a bit of a mess and you'll probably be scratching your head in confusion. The first chapter hooks the reader, though, and you might find yourself in tears when you read about little Nixie's plight. The one thing preventing me from giving this book 5 stars is the characterization of Eve. Now, I do think Eve reacts in-character to Nixie: she's brash, emotionally distant, and difficult. She also feels that she could best serve the child by finding out who killed her parents. I didn't expect or want Eve to be cuddly with Nixie or cooing over her. That wouldn't have been the Eve I know. But sometimes I think Roberts goes a bit too far with Eve's grouchy, foul moods. In several places in this novel, Eve is downright unlikeable, even cruel. She's obnoxious with Summerset in one scene where he humbles himself enough to apologize and even as Nixie clearly grows to love Eve, Eve can only express her fondness by noting that Nixie did a "dumbass" thing in risking her life. Roberts repeatedly balances Eve's rough edges with reminders of her terrible childhood.

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