



Divine Evil

Nora Roberts

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A decade ago, sculptor Clare Kimball fled Emmitsboro, Maryland, to take the art world by storm. Now she's celebrated as the artist of her generation. But no amount of success can eclipse the nightmares that haunt her—or the memories of her father's suicide. Just as her star is shining brighter than ever, Clare leaves it all behind to face her demons.

Emmitsboro sheriff Cameron Rafferty loved Clare from afar all through high school. Now that she's back, they form a bond that grows stronger each day—fueled by an attraction that's been simmering for years. But Clare's past soon rises up with a vengeance, rocking the town with a sinister murder that is clearly linked to her return. As an investigation gets under way, Clare and Cameron will learn that evil can linger anywhere—even in those you love and trust the most. But it's a discovery that may come too late to save them....

Divine Evil Details

Date : Published July 22nd 2009 by Bantam (first published 1992)

ISBN :

Author : Nora Roberts

Format : Kindle Edition 577 pages

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

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From Reader Review Divine Evil for online ebook

Cyndi says

I usually adore the great NR, But, for this one, the heroine kept ticking me off. Seems Cam wanted a girl like his Mom, the ostrich type. Everyone knows about the cult thing, but Claire, who actually saw it, and has been having nightmares her whole life. She says "pfft" and hides her head. Nora usually writes great heroines, but this one jumped around so much in personality, I kept wanting to slap her on the back of the head and yell, "wake up, idiot!"

Kj says

2.5 stars. Claire is an absolute idiot. I couldn't stand her. In fact most of the women in this book are unbearably stupid and/or horrible people. The plot wasn't bad and I liked Cam but overall I have to give it a thumbs down

Dana Al-Basha ????? ?????? says

What a book! What a book! I can't sleep because all I'm thinking about is what happens next!

Clare is an artist living in New York, she is a successful sculptress, from a little town called Emmitsboro, 28 years old redhead and haunted by weird nightmares of her childhood, she is messy, smokes, lives in her own head and tries to move away from her past.

In Emmitsboro, a cult is murdering again and cop Cam is on it!

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

A sect of Satanic worshipers who rape and kill women in a small town in the middle of nowhere.

Not my thing. This book is too disturbed for me :(

But it is shockingly similar to the movie Hot Fuzz :DDDDD

Stephanie Tracy says

What a great (and seriously creepy) Nora Roberts book! Wow. Especially for being one of her older publications, I'm surprised to have loved this as much as I did. I usually don't like her 80s and 90s books as much - they feel too dated, and her heroes are typically too alpha for my liking. Not the case here! A perfect story to have finished on Halloween - with a really eerie/evil story line, and an open-ended, unsettling ending.

The romance played second fiddle in this novel about a quaint little Maryland town, harboring the evil secret of a Satanic cult that meets in the woods, sacrifices animals, and rapes and murders women. Many otherwise upstanding men in the town of Emmitsboro are part of this cult, and no one has any idea. (Sure, a little far-fetched, but an awesome idea nonetheless).

Our heroine, Clare Kimball's own father was one of those men, but she doesn't want to admit it to herself. She wakes during the night - even years later - because of the recurring nightmare, in which she sees her father among other men, chanting in the woods, wearing black robes and animal masks, and doing unspeakable things to a naked woman in the middle of the circle... But he's long-since been dead (having committed suicide when she was just a teenager). And the thought of him having had anything to do with the occult is simply out of the question.

Now, Clare is back in Emmitsboro, after years of being a successful artist in NYC. She is reconnected with Cam Rafferty (a fantastic hero), the town sheriff, just as things begin to go awry in the community. Girls go missing, bodies turn up in cow fields and woods. Cam's own stepfather is found brutally murdered. And to top off the creepiness, the teenage boy across the street from Clare won't stop stalking her - and people are suddenly very aware of the pentagram he wears around his neck.

This is, being a Nora book, a romance novel. But more than that, it's a delightfully creepy story of a small town with big secrets - a lot of murder, a lot of rape, a ton of danger. It's one of Nora's edgier, more graphic stories, and definitely not for the faint of heart, or anyone who's scared to read about a little devil worship. This is maybe the darkest novel of hers that I've read, but I loved it and couldn't put it down. The final pages (which some reviewers have disliked) left me with a chill up my spine -- a great ending!

If I had one complaint, it would be that the ending DID feel rushed. I have unanswered questions (Where's Clare going to live? Are she and Cam going to get married? What about Angie and Jean-Paul? Will she reconnect with her mother? Etc.). I can infer a lot of this, and I think I'm supposed to - but it's definitely not neatly wrapped up like most Nora Roberts books. The evil twist is how she chooses to finish it instead.

A fantastic October read, and a new one to be added to my "best of Nora" list. Highly recommend!

jenjn79 says

There are quite a few negative reviews for this book - which surprises me a little, but at the same time, I can also understand. *Divine Evil* is a rather atypical for Roberts as its much more descriptive and gruesome than her other books. The plot deals with a Satanic cult that abuses and tortures young women/girls and Roberts is surprising graphic in her detailing of those situations. It creeped me out a bit, but not nearly enough to stop reading the book or to refuse to read another Nora Roberts book (as some reviewers said they have done). Personally, I thought the descriptiveness added to the reality of the story and created a great dark and twisted nuance. But if you are one who is squeamish, then you probably should steer clear of this book.

As for the romance. I really enjoyed it quite a bit. I loved the first scene between Clare and Cam. It was rather amusing. On the whole, there's a great chemistry between the two and I liked reading about the progression of their relationship. (I'd say more, but it's been ages since I last read this book). Clare was an interesting heroine to read about - her repressed memories, how they've haunted her and affected her work as an artist. She's a heroine that you can really root for.

I think my only complaint overall about the book was the very end. There was just a not-so-little detail that really rather bugged me....but I won't say what so I don't give away anything. I would rather Roberts not have done what she did. It left me wondering too much. But I still loved the book. It's definitely one of my all-time keepers and Nora Roberts favorite.

Crystal Anne says

I am a huge NR fan, but I never did like this one. It's conclusion was very disturbing to me, and I actually had nightmares. I am very against disposing of books in general, but this one hit the trash bin with amazing speed. I'm just glad it didn't turn me off of her writing for good, and I still collect anything and everything else she's written, even when they aren't my favorites. I definitely would NOT recommend this book to others. In fact, I usually tell people to stay away from it.

Emily says

4.5 stars.

This is my mums book. I ran out of books to read so she lent it me.

I really enjoyed this book. I found it hard to put it down. The story was really interesting and mysterious. At first, I was a little shocked at how dark it was. The plot is a lot darker than the blurb lets you believe.

I liked the characters, including Clare and Cameron. I liked reading their relationship and liked how it progressed throughout the book. My favourite character has to be Annie though. She was so sweet and I couldn't help but smile at the parts she was in.

The reason I gave it 4.5 stars was because I wasn't keen on the ending. I still have questions that need to be answered. What happened to the men? What happened to Ernie? How did people react? What happened with Clare and Cameron? I felt that the book could have done with one last chapter, maybe about what had happened when it all came out, how people reacted etc.

It was a really good book with a lot of surprises. If you're interested in mystery books with romance, this would be a good book to read.

Obsidian says

This was so long and tedious. Also there's barely any romance and what there is you quickly forget about it when it comes to reading about the group sex, rapes, murders, and animals being killed. Heck we even get a scene of a man being beaten to death which actually turned my stomach. I don't think the main characters or

secondary characters were very developed. And there's a topic of racism introduced and dropped quickly which was odd. The ending was a total nonstarter. I can see if Roberts had wrote a sequel to this, but since she didn't, this book has an odd and menacing ending.

Clare Kimball is a sculptor living in New York. Even though she is on the cusp of making a name for herself she still feels unsettled by her father's death years earlier. Coming home she found him dead of what looked to be an apparent suicide. And a dream she had as a child which comes back to her now and again haunts her. When her mother remarries and goes on her honeymoon, Clare decides to return to her former home in Emmitsboro, Maryland. She thinks she can stay there and work on new pieces and maybe come to terms other her father's death and her anger towards her mother for moving on.

So Clare sucks. She has a best friend named Angie, who runs an art gallery with her husband Jean-Paul. Apparently she has no other friends though her twin brother Blair makes random appearances. She also is divorced though you don't hear much about her first marriage. You quickly find out that Clare is angry/upset about her mother and her moving on. She feels stuck and thinks returning to a town she hasn't lived in in about a decade is definitely the answer. When she returns she runs into Cameron (Cam) Rafferty. Can has also returned to the hometown after being a cop in DC. He's now the new sheriff and is dealing with a lot of bad memoires due to his mother and his stepfather.

Obviously theses two are romantically interested in each other. But Roberts breaks that up with allowing readers POV of a young woman being raped and murdered and then a young teen boy who is apparently into Satanism and is obsessed with Clare.

Clare hides what she starts to discover about her father's interest in the occult. And Cam gets into it with his stepfather and locks him up. When the man is found naked and beaten to death more things come to light in the supposed sleepy rural town.

I honestly felt like this was two stories meshed into one. Either Roberts should have had Clare investigating once she realized some truths about her father. Or Cam should have been the focus with him trying to reconcile with his mother. Instead neither characters center stage in this book. I felt more for Cam especially when there's a reveal about how his father died and I hated that I don't think he was told during the course of the story. I did want him and his mother reconciled but sadly that doesn't happen.

Either way Clare does her sculptures and then all of a sudden gets emeshed in a case when a young woman she accidentally hits with her car that was running from men in the woods. Though she still wants to hide any thoughts about her father. Her brother and then Angie and Jean-Paul are in Emmitsboro trying to keep and eye on Clare. It honestly doesn't make any sense why anyone is afraid of Clare's return. She doesn't go around asking questions or anything related to her father. Whatever.

Can I say that these Satanists are stupid? Who goes around abducting and murdering people thinking they will get away with it? And these seem like 80s TV movie versions of Satanists. I wish Roberts had introduced more information on how these dumb men were even lured to do things like this. Roberts tries to with the ending, but it was so out of left field I rolled my eyes.

The setting of this small town didn't feel like Maryland to me. It felt more Midwest to me. With the talk of the smallness of the town and barely any stores or shops and small farms I had a hard time with that.

As I said above, the ending left things open ended and was a weird note to end this book on. I don't recommend this.

Miss Kim says

Emittsboro, MD, is a small town where every body knows everybody and their business. But this town holds a dark secret.

Clare is now a successful artist that has been living in New York City. She has now come home to Emmitsboro to settle her past. She's been having recurrent nightmares about her father, and something she saw as a small child.

Cam is a former bad boy that left town to become a DC detective. He too has come home, but he is running from a horrible memory in DC. He's now the sheriff of Emmitsboro.

He had a crush on Clare when they were teens, but she never knew it. Cam never quite knew it either until he sees her again.

They are thrown together to solve what is happening in the town. Murders, disappearances, possible Satan worship. What is going on?

I liked the story, though it had a ton of characters to follow and keep straight.

I recommend for any romantic suspense fans. However, it contains rape scenes and satanic worship as well.

Chris Snider says

I have not read ONE Nora Roberts Crime Thriller that I didn't thoroughly enjoy. She always finds a way to give you a lovable heroine and a charming Male protagonist. This was a great story about how darkness can lie in any small town. By the end of it you knew pretty much everything going on, so there was no real "AH HA!" moment. However the closing scene did throw in a nice little twist. Highly recommended for Crime Thriller lovers.

Sarah (A Weebish Book Blog) says

This review was originally posted on One Curvy Blogger >It's not often when I come across a Nora Roberts novel that I haven't read. When I first discovered adult romance, Roberts was one of the first authors I ran across. I found out I loved her work, and basically read any and all of her books that I could get my hands on. I purchased Divine Evil in a used bookstore and thought I hadn't read it, so I snatched it up. About half way in, I realized I had read it before, but it didn't stop me from enjoying it! Especially since the book featured a ritualistic cult killing off members left and right. If you are a fan of Nora Roberts - especially her romantic suspense - and haven't read this one yet, you definitely should pick it up. It was so good, I read this 500+ page (568 pages to be exact) book in less than 20 hours!

Jonetta says

Clare Kimball is a sculptor whose work has gained notoriety and success in the art world. Just as she should

be basking in the acceptance of critics and buyers, Clare abruptly decides to leave New York and return to her Emmitsboro, Maryland, her hometown and site of so many painful memories. After having worked as a detective in Washington, DC, Cameron (Cam) Rafferty has also returned to Emmitsboro as the sheriff, escaping to a much quieter life on the streets and in his home. Neither Clare or Cam could have foreseen the evil that lived inside of the town, even though her nightmares were born there.

What a truly creepy story! At least 13 men in that town were practicing satanic rituals incognito but it seemed to me it was a cover for some kinky behavior, that is until it took a murderous turn. Before I reached the end, I'd guessed the identities of most of them but was stunned by the twist at the end. Very, very clever Ms. Roberts and message received. Evil doesn't necessarily show up in plain sight or stereotypically sinister. I enjoyed listening to the story as the narrator delivered an excellent performance. Even though this is an older book, it didn't have many dated moments, if you exclude the obvious absence of cell phones. Highly recommend this book and the audio format. 4.5 stars

Rebecca says

3.5 STARS

I found the audio version while cruising OverDrive and couldn't resist. This is by far the darkest book I've read from NR. It wasn't bad but definitely dated. I probably would have enjoyed it much more 15 years ago.

Audio - Katie Firth is an excellent narrator. I wouldn't hesitate to listen to her again.

Barbara says

B+

Forgettable? Probably. "Divine Evil" kept me entertained throughout and there was never really a dull moment.

I'm still not sure why this wasn't a 5 Star for me...it might have been the characters (or maybe just my personal lack of connection with them), or the fact that the "cult" killed and raped for more than 20 years and no one in this teeny/gossipy small town noticed. WTH?!

Even after my negatives this was still a great summer read and I really enjoyed it. Nora never lets you down (well until her recent works)...When you buy one of her books you always have the comfy cozy "never a waste of money" feeling b/c you know you're getting a good story, fast action, a real romance, and an ending that never leaves any questions unanswered (Ha! This one not included).
