



The Search For Love

Nora Roberts

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When she arrives at her long lost relative's French estate, Serenity Smith is greeted with cold politeness by the Comtesse de Kergallen and her darkly handsome grandson, Christophe. Refusing to believe their scandalous stories about her late parents, Serenity sets out to prove they were false. But getting the enigmatic and demanding Christophe to change his mind about her will prove an equally worthy challenge.

Includes a preview of *Whiskey Beach*, published in April 2013

The Search For Love Details

Date : Published March 14th 2013 by Piatkus (first published 1982)

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Author : Nora Roberts

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Search For Love for online ebook

Mary says

Hay que tener en cuenta que la historia fue publicada originalmente en 1982, la novela romántica en ese entonces no era lo que es hoy, ni siquiera las de Nora Roberts, es sumamente light, tan light que casi flota de lo irreal que la situación puede llegar a ser. Serenity Smith, luego de la muerte repentina de sus padres, viaja a Francia a conocer a una abuela que no sabía que existía. Allí conoce secretos familiares, hermosos paisajes, majestuosos castillos y al salvaje, recto y exasperante Christophe, Count de Kergallen.

Si es insta-love, siendo 10 capítulos no hay mucho lugar para una gran novela épica pero es buena para pasar el rato, es corta, nos da una muestra de como eran las novelas de antes (y si digo antes porque yo todavía no nacía cuando se publicó esta novela) y además apreciar la evolución de una autora que adoro.

Katherine ??? says

Serenity mengunjungi chateau nenek dari pihak ibunya, yg tidak pernah dia dengar ataupun diketahui. Sesampainya disana, Serenity menghadapi sarkasme dan sindiran dari neneknya mengenai orangtuanya. Serenity defensif dan mengancam akan segera henggang dari chateau tsb.

Ternyata neneknya punya rencana menjodohkan dirinya pada Christophe, sang Comte. Mulailah mereka saling jual mahal dan jinak2 merpati. Main tarik ulur, lain di bibir lain di hati. Mulut bilang benci tapi bahasa tubuh bilang ya ya ya.

Diwarnai dgn kesalahpahaman dan kecemburuan dgn masing2 pihak dgn orang ketiga, mengakibatkan eksekusi cerita terlihat sangat dipaksakan. Semua pihak dan salah paham langsung otomatis selesai dan jadi bersih tidak ternoda. Sangat khas HQ jadul. Yasudahlah. Paling tidak gambaran pedesaan Perancis cukup memikat dari si author.

Jolayne says

“This was published in 1982... This was published in 1982... This was published in 1982...”

I have to keep reminding myself of this. And let me tell you, *this book was published in 1982*. And I mean that in every sense. After just getting off of Roberts 2017 “Come Sundown” this book is **just a titch** (A WHOLE LOT) different. This book offers what all of N.R.’s books offer; compelling characters, painted scenery, and an intriguing plot. What this book didn’t offer that most of her works do was **likable** characters. ***This was published in 1982... *** Let me tell you- Christophe is NOT likeable. Serenity is pleasant enough (though smart is not a word I would use to describe her), thank heavens, but Christophe...well honestly I hated him. He was **everything** Serenity described him as throughout, basically, the entire book. Cold. Demeaning. Volatile. Arrogant. Domineering. Brash. Controlling. Pompous. There was no character devolvment, which wouldn’t have been a problem for a shorter novel except for the fact that Christophe **GREATLY NEEDED** development **AND** multiple crash courses on consent. ***This was published in 1982... ***

Truthfully I should be giving this book 2 stars...but I just can’t. I’ve got too much appreciation for Roberts as an author, and the book really did suck me into its vacuum cleaner of “**what did he just say????**” and

“he can’t just do that to her!!!!”. Even if I despised him...

Tony’s character was Meh, which was probably the point. The grandmother was enough to add an element of interest to the book, but was neither likeable or dislikable enough to really make an impression, and the backstory involving Serenity’s parents and the fake/stolen painting rang in my ears like unmemorable background noise.

I have no regrets reading this book. However, unlike literally every other book of hers I’ve read, I can’t see myself reading this one again.

I still have unending faith in you, Nora Roberts. It’ll take a lot more than this one book to change that.

Laura says

Loved it, an easy read on a nice Summer day,

Lisbeth Zabihí says

Jeg har et svagt punkt for Nora Roberts. Jeg har inden for det sidste år eller to, læst 12-13 af hendes bøger. Og jeg er blot starter! Det er lidt som med Danielle Steel, der også fanger mig. Ind imellem bliver man begejstret, af og til tænker man ok - den var da okay, men ikke noget særligt og af og til bliver man skuffet. Heldigvis levere både Roberts og Steel oftere bøger der begejstre end det modsatte. Med denne bog fra Nora Roberts er jeg ok tilfreds. Kærligheden blomstre og blomsterhaven dufter skønt. Ja, så er scenen sat!

Kari says

When I read books like this early one from Ms. Roberts, I have to remind myself how far this author has come from the early years. I love her writing, but this book was just awful. I wasn't the writing, it was the story. Serenity travels to Brittany to connect with her long lost family. Her cousin by marriage does nothing but be a jerk to her, yet she falls in love with him. How and why? Because he is a good kisser? I didn't buy the love story at all. Honestly, be cause there is no love story. The mystery of the missing painting wasn't even exciting enough to save the book

I listened to the audio and the narrator didn't do that great of a job. The french accents were bad and I couldn't distinguish between the male and female voices. I don't think that would have made much of a difference, but I thought I would mention it anyway. I'd say skip this one. Nora has lots of other, much better earlier works.

Laura San Martín says

Excelente. Me gustó.

Comencé a leerla y no la solté hasta que la terminé, me pasó la noche en vela. La joven protagonista llega

desde Estados Unidos de América a Bretaña para conocer a su abuela, por parte materna, de la que ignoraba hasta su existencia quien había roto con sus padres desde antes de que ella naciera, la anciana es Condesa y vive en un hermoso castillo, con su nieto el conde, que es quien la va a buscar a la estación cuando llega a Bretaña. Tienen que leerla es muy buena. Totalmente recomendable.

Sara ♥ says

Oh wow. This book was published before I was born!!!! We'll see just how dated it feels.....

December 28-29, 2016

Well, this book is VERY OBVIOUSLY an 80s book. And it wasn't because no one had cell phones and people were WRITING ACTUAL HANDWRITTEN LETTERS(!!!!), but rather... the style.

I liked Serenity... to a point. She was feisty and stood up for herself. She wasn't the typical TSTL heroine of the 80s.... but then, she also seemed to cry... all the time. I liked that she's a virgin. There's not enough of that in contemporary romance these days.

But then, Christophe... He was TOO broody and TOO virile. And I mean that in an UMMMMM-you-need-a-lesson-about-consent sort of way. Because he would just grab her and kiss her all the time to "punish" her.... and at one point, grabbed her and laid on top of her and had his hands and mouth all over her... and she refused to kiss him back, so CLEARLY WAS NOT CONSENTING to the very sexual encounter. That really rubbed me the wrong way. There's alpha, and then there's borderline rapist. Call me a prude, but I prefer my books to stay on the consensual side of that line.

Anyway, it's somewhere in this section of the book (I think in the midst of the riding lessons Christophe insists on giving Serenity against her will) that she "falls in love" with him. Yeah. Uh huh. *exasperated sigh* Just one question, Serenity: WHY??????? Because he's hot and a great kisser? *eye roll*

Now I will say that Christophe did seem to experience some character growth during the (SHORT) book. He started out as an I-can-have-anything-and-anyone-I-want aristocrat (aka entitled near-rapist) and, by the end, was actually kinda sweet... Like maybe he actually listened to Serenity when she told him about how her father loved her mother and treated her like an equal in life and in their marriage. [Aside: This book is only 34 years old (published 1982). Were things so different back then that this was a new concept to Christophe? SRSLY? I'm so glad I live now.] BUT, Serenity doesn't fall in love with him at THIS point during the book. Nope. It was back near the beginning. When he's a horrible person. Yeah.

Anyway, also this book was just too.... oh, what's that book I hate called? The Bronte one? Jane Eyre? No, though I hate that one, too. Ah, Wuthering Heights. It was too Wuthering Heights-y. BLEGH. Like they spend the whole book sniping at each other. And not in a nice way. Not in a way that makes you think, "I SPY SEXUAL TENSION!!!" No, it was just MEAN. And then they'd randomly kiss out of nowhere, and I was like, "UHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH... I'm not buying this." Then some friends came to visit and Christophe is COMPLETELY JEALOUS of the guy. And not, "Awww! He's jealous! How sweet!" No, it was jealous in a you're-my-object-and-no-one-else-can-touch-or-look-at-you sort of way. And Serenity is jealous of the girl, but handles it a HELL of a lot better than Christophe does. Welllllll... she went beyond selfless and straight into the martyr zone, but it was still better than being overly-possessive.

And then, because **that wasn't enough**, her ex comes over from America. And Christophe is actually LESS jealous of that guy, who is clearly a doof. (Also, they dated for a year, but she's still a virgin, remember?

Thus Christophe has a low opinion of the dude's uhhhh... virility.) But they (Serenity and her ex), who, I guess have been on a break (WE WERE ON A BREAK!) call it quits for good, and she runs to her room to cry hysterically over this moron who she literally hasn't thought about since she left America. And, of course, she runs into Christophe on the way up, so he sees her crying over the doof. *eye roll*

And then... uhhhh... random declaration of love from Christophe, complete with marriage proposal (Ummm... she's only been there like a couple weeks, right? Maybe not, but that's what it seemed like)... and she cries some more... this time out of supposed happiness. And they figure out about the stolen painting, which I completely thought was a statue for the whole book, for some reason. But apparently not.

So yeah. #notimpressed

I'm going to stick to Nora Roberts's new stuff from now on. The 1994 book was lovely, so clearly in the 12 years between this one and that one, she improved drastically.

2 stars because it turned out alright in the end, and I don't feel like Serenity is going to be in an abusive marriage. So that's good.

Kaitlin says

So obviously an early NR, where she's just testing her abilities. A cliché romance, with a Harlequin feel. Still not bad. No NR can ever really be bad. But in comparison to her other books, it could have been written by an entirely different author as it's nowhere near the caliber of her later books.

Cruth says

Author: Nora Roberts

First published: 1991

Length: 140 pages

Setting: Contemporary. Brittany, France.

Sex: Third base but no home run.

Hero: Distant cousin by marriage, French Duke with large estate.

Heroine: Artist.

Very much a category romance with all that implies.

~ Unlucky in love, Naive, Virginal heroine.

~ Stoic, Rich, Lusty Hero.

~ Love at First Sight. He fights it, she embraces it.

~ Heavy petting culminating in an *almost* rape. She is so enticing he can hardly control himself!

~ Mis-communication, possible alternative paramours, jealousy, anger, hurt.

~ HEA.

It works fine but is eminently forgettable. A book for the plane where you'll enjoy it while it lasts but happily leave it in the seat pocket for the next traveller.

References:

Author's website: noraroberts.com

(Read in *Claiming Love* ISBN 9781743564516)

-CR-

Gramedia Pustaka Utama says

Bukan salah satu buku favorit saya, Dan saya cenderung melupakan apa yg sudah saya baca dalam buku ini karena memang ceritanya kurang menggigit dan terlalu simple, walaupun seperti biasa NR selalu menggambarkan situasi dan lokasi dengan sangat cermat. Hanya sayang, konflik yang terjadi diselesaikan dengan sangat mudah.

Jika anda bukan penggemar romance yg muluk2, buku ini lumayan juga, tapi jika anda mencari sebuah cerita dengan sisi romantis yg banyak, anda akan kecewa.

Alexis Villery says

On the story...

Serenity has lost her parents and has traveled to France after receiving a letter from the grandmother she didn't even know she had. Hurting and lonely, she rushes to France to find her long lost family but she doesn't get the welcome that she expects. Christophe is cold and uncaring, thinking Serenity has returned in hopes of gaining some of the family wealth. This is a nice sweet romance that captures the attention and brings a smile to the face. While the characters don't blow you away, they aren't boring or tepid. Everything seems to flow quite well. This isn't Ms. Nora Robert's best by any means; in fact, it is unlike her typical writing style. Maybe this is due to the fact that this 1992 story is pretty early in her career.

On the narrator...

I really enjoyed Ms. Hendrix and I think she added to the story rather than taking anything away. I found the voices used for each character to be distinctive.

Overall...

I found the whole cousins but not cousins thing to be kind of weird. I couldn't figure out the relationship. I loved that the romance wasn't sudden and while the reader/listener could see it coming, it was understandable that the characters didn't. I enjoyed this audio and found it to be quite enjoyable and short :) Christophe isn't my favorite leading man by any means but he successfully made me smile at times. Overall this is a nice read.

Lulu Fairhazel says

This is my first Nora Roberts book, and now I'm wondering what took me so long!!

The story is really well plotted, there are lots of twists and turns that are unexpected which is hard to do in romance. I love how everything works out at the end, very neat and still believable. The blossoming relationship between Serenity and Christophe is hot, and both characters learn about themselves and overcome difficulties together. It's funny and realistic, especially the dialogue between the two protagonists,

and the Comtesse de Kergallen. The French included in the text is very impressive! You don't need to be fluent to understand what's happening, and it really added a sense of location and culture. It made me miss France!

Julija says

Uhhhh. What? Was this seriously a Nora Roberts novel? Because it has zero elements I love Nora Roberts for. What it does have is cringe-worthy romance novel prose, too many "punishing kisses", no development of any kind, falling in love in a few days, too many third parties creating too many misunderstandings, and a hot-and-cold routine that will probably give you a whiplash.

(I'm gonna blame it all on romance fiction trends of times long gone and possibly pretend it didn't happen. Because Nora Roberts is still queen.)

Andrea O'Brien says

Okay so here is what I have learned so far on this chronological adventure through the works of Nora Roberts:

1. She likes horses.
2. All heroines are delicate with feisty tempers that everyone regards first as annoying, then as endearing and finally strong.
3. All heroines fall in love suddenly and reject it(usually because the object of their affections is a dominating ass).
4. All good heroes are dominating asses with striking looks.
5. Kisses start as rough claims without exception (so far).
6. There is always a set of intervening "love interests" to insight jealousy and bring the characters closer together.
7. The heroine always has a best friend who states that she is in love and gives her a pep talk.

All this being said, Search for Love is my favourite so far on this weird excursion into Nora Roberts. It was set in Brittany which was beautifully and enchantingly described. I half fell in love with it myself. The addition of the missing painting and the mending of an estranged family relationship were nice touches that gave the story a little more depth ("little" is key) but I appreciated those touches.

I also liked the little bits of French thrown in. It made me happy because I like the language.

Anyway Serenity Smith was likable she seemed more centered and confident than the previous characters and that appealed to me. Christophe was cut from the same "manly man" clothe but was more suave than previous heroes, plus Roberts described more of his outward reactions which allowed more insight into him (much appreciated).

Definitely best so far.
