



Dance Upon The Air

Nora Roberts

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#1 New York Times bestselling author Nora Roberts, hailed by Publishers Weekly as "a storyteller of immeasurable diversity and talent" presents the first book in her mesmerizing new Three Sisters Island trilogy. Set on a remote, rocky island off the coast of Massachusetts, steeped in history, romance, and legend, Dance Upon the Air is an unforgettable tale of friendship, fate, and the mysterious ways of the heart.

When Nell Channing arrives on charming Three Sisters Island, she believes that she's finally found refuge from her abusive husband and from the terrifying life she fled so desperately eight months ago. But even in this quiet, peaceful place, Nell never feels entirely at ease. Careful to conceal her true identity, she takes a job as a cook at the local bookstore cafe and begins to explore her feelings for the island sheriff, Zack Todd. But there is a part of herself she can never reveal to him, for she must continue to guard her secrets if she wants to keep the past at bay. One careless word, one misplaced confidence, and the new life she's created so carefully could shatter completely.

Just as Nell starts to wonder if she'll ever be able to break free of her fear, she realizes that the island suffers under a terrible curse, one that can only be broken by the descendants of the Three Sisters, the witches who settled the island back in 1692. And now, with the help of two other strong, gifted women, and with the nightmares of the past haunting her every step, she must find the power to save her home, her love, and herself.

Dance Upon The Air Details

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From Reader Review Dance Upon The Air for online ebook

jenjn79 says

I love this book. It was the first Nora Roberts novel I read and it got me hooked on her stuff.

I enjoyed every aspect of the book. One of my favorite parts is the simple, sort of true-blue romance between Nell and Zach. So often in romance novels these days the hero is a super-alpha, or a dark and brooding alpha or a tragic alpha - which there's nothing wrong with, I love a good alpha male; it's just nice to get some variety once in a while. And that's what Zach is. He's just your normal, nice guy. Sure he's got a bit of alpha in him, but he's not dripping with testosterone. I like that. It's great to read about an everyday-type hero for a change. And I love the romance between him and Nell. It's sweet and tender and something you can honestly picture in your head. Their story is one that makes me smile while reading it.

I also love Nell's overall story in this book. How she's managed to escape a terrible life and find a home for herself; somewhere where she belongs. Her transformation throughout the book is heartwarming to read. I'm a sucker for plucky heroines who turn their lives around against the odds.

And my other favorite part of the book is the lore and magic. White witchcraft is fascinating to me. So it's fun to read it in a book. Roberts weaves an excellent tale for Three Sisters Island, all the more enhanced by a great cast of characters. The story may not be fraught with suspense, but it draws you in with its earthiness.

All around, it's just a fun read; one of my favorites by Roberts and one that I like to reread from time to time.

Marniy says

About half way through this book. It's a fantasy romance about a woman who escapes an abusive marriage and starts a new life across the country.

She is very nervous, distrustful, and not interested in another relationship.

The thing that is disturbing me is that the romantic interest seems to be following in the same steps as a typical abuser; he doesn't listen to her when she says she doesn't want to be touched, he violates her personal space even though it scares her, and other dick moves.

Her husband started out nice, too, but slowly eroded her confidence and sense of self. The husband is a controlling jerk; with the hero- he's doing it for her own good. *Swoon*?

The hero would probably work better in a story with out domestic violence as a central theme- as it is, I'm still not entirely sure he's not there to serve as an example for her to reject to show that she's grown and gained confidence enough not to be taken in again.

(Unfortunately, other reviews of the book show that he is, indeed, supposed to be 'the one'.)

It turned out ok, but not really interested in the two companion books in the series. It just didn't move me.

Maria Clara says

Leer a Nora Roberts siempre es un acierto. Y, como no, en esta ocasión también lo ha sido. Me ha encantado leer de su pluma a las brujas modernas, con sus escobas y filtros y, también, el tema tan duro como es el maltrato.

Μαρ?α Γεωργοπο?λον says

I read it for a second time while I was waiting for a book order to come and I have to say that I enjoyed it again so very much! Nora Roberts knows how to write a good book! The following review is from the first time I read it and I am not going to change anything!

That was a very nice story! And, really, what's not to love? It has romance, witches and a beautiful scenery! I enjoyed every page of this book! Nora Roberts is a very talented author. I have to admit that while I was reading this book I had the feeling that I was a part of the town because of the amazing writing style!

This is the story of Nell. She run away from her abusive husband and she's trying to live her life in secret in an island that is more mysterious than what it looks like. There she meets the handsome policeman Zack and for the first time she understands what love is. There are also two women and with them she has a different connection, more... magical!

I liked Nell a lot because she's a survivor. She did everything in her power to leave her husband and make a new life of her own. Also, she embraced the new part of herself pretty quickly and with success.

Zack is a very nice guy. Although, I didn't agree with his actions when he learned the truth about Nell, I forgave him because at the end he did everything he could. He's not the larger-than-life kind of guy but he's the one who you can count one in times of need!

So, as you can see I enjoyed this story very much and I recommend it to all the fans of this genre!

Shawna says

5 stars - Contemporary/Paranormal Romance

Loved this one! A wonderful, feel-good romance and Zack was such a swoony hero!

Dee says

This was an enjoyable read, a bit fluffy and very predictable.....It is the same story as the movie 'Sleeping With The Enemy' mixed with the TV series 'Charmed' as these 3 sisters definitely have 'The Power of Three'

Jay says

Okay so this rant review is a little long because I had to copy large chunks of text from the book to prove the hero is actually a colossal dickhead (as well as the real villain).

I read Dance Upon the Air last August. It was at the beginning of my gigantic romance phase and since I was naive and innocent back then, I gave it 3 stars thinking it was a bit boring but "not too bad".

Now I know better than to give this anything more than 1 star and aggressively tap my Kindle until it is deleted.

Our heroine, Nell, faked her death to get away from her abusive husband. After being on the run for awhile, she feels drawn to Three Sisters Island so she settles down to start her new life. Blah blah, as a regular Mary Sue she is loved by all after just 1 day blah blah - the usual.

Then she meets Sheriff Zack Todd who's sweet and kind and sexy and who's supposed to heal her with the **Power of Love™**.

But wait!

Magic mirror, on the wall - who is the biggest dick of them all?

GASP

It's Zack!!!!

Congratulations Sheriff, please come collect your award while we look back on your lowest fucking moments!

(For context: so far Nell's been nervous and on edge every time they talked, she flinched when he touched her, had a panic attack when she thought people would be angry with her for forgetting to make a **salad**. Zack already put two and two together about her being abused.)

Page 90:

Nell: "...I don't want you to get the wrong impression about dinner, and... things. I'm very attracted to you, but **I'm not in a place where I can act on my feelings. It's only fair to tell you that up front. There are good reasons for it, but I'm not willing to get into them.** So, if you'd rather just go, no hard feelings."

Page 93:

Zach: "I should tell you something else. I plan on touching you. A lot. **Maybe you could work on getting used to it.**"

"I don't like being handled."

"I didn't plan to start out that way. Though handling, on both sides, can have some satisfying results. I don't put marks on women, Nell. I don't use my hands that way."

"I'm not going to talk about that," she answered curtly.

"I'm not asking you to. I'm talking about me, and you, and the way things are now."

"Things aren't any way now—like that."

"They're going to be."

Page 95 (on the beach):

He scooped her up so fast her heart stuck between her chest and her throat. She could barely manage to breathe, much less scream. Before full panic had a chance to bloom, she was in the water. **Zack was laughing**, spinning her away from an oncoming wave to take the brunt of it himself. She was sliding, rolling, fighting to gain her feet when he simply nipped her at the waist and righted her.

"It's freezing."

"Balmy," he corrected. "Your blood's just thin yet. Here comes a good-size one. You'd better hold on to me."

"I don't want to—" Whatever she did or didn't want, the sea had its own ideas. The wave hit, knocked her off her feet, and had her legs tangling with his.

Page 131:

"I'm not the mess I used to be," she said. "But I still have moments. Until I don't, **I'm not prepared to complicate my life, or anyone else's.**"

"That's sensible."

"I'm going to concentrate on my work."

"A person's got to have priorities."

"There are things I want to do, things I need to learn. For myself."

"....Uh-huh. In a minute." **He yanked her against him, jerked her up to her toes**, covered her mouth with his in a hot, possessive kiss.

Page 151:

"What're you doing?" She jumped like a rabbit at the sleep-roughened sound of his voice, and the coffee slopped over onto the paper.

"Did I wake you? I'm sorry. I tried to be quiet."

He held up a hand. "Nell, don't do that. **It pisses me off.**" His voice was thick with sleep, and despite herself **dread curled in her stomach as he stepped toward her.**

"There's one thing I'm going to ask you." He picked up her mug, drank to clear his mind and voice. "Don't ever mix me up with him. If you'd waked me up and it annoyed me, I would say so. But the fact is I woke up because you weren't there and I missed you."

"Some habits are hard to break, no matter how much you try."

"Well, keep trying." He said it lightly, moved over to the stove to pour a full mug for himself.

Page 211:

"I'm sorry. Zack, I'm so sorry. I can't marry you."

....

"I can't marry you, Zack, because I'm already married."

Nothing she could have said would have stunned him more.

"Married? You're married! For God's sake, Nell, we've been together for months."

"I know." It wasn't just shock she saw now. It wasn't just anger. He stared at her as if she were a stranger. "I left him, you see. More than a year ago."

He struggled over the first hurdle. The fact that she'd been married and hadn't told him. But he couldn't make it over the second. That she was married still. "Left him, but didn't divorce him."

"No, I couldn't. I—"

"And you let me touch you, you slept with me, let me fall in love with you, knowing you weren't free."

(NOTE: she's been saying "no/let's slow down/I have reasons why a relationship is a bad idea for the past 200 pages)

...

As his anger grew, hardened his face, she felt the strength she'd rebuilt draining away like the color in her cheeks.

"You think that makes up for it?" he shot back, as temper and misery careened inside him. "You think taking the blame for it cleans the fucking slate on this? Goddamn it." He spun away from her and caught the way she flinched at the move.

"I'll yell when I need to yell. You're only making me madder standing there like you're waiting for a punch. I'm not going to hit you. Not now, not ever. And it's insulting for you to stand there wondering if I will."

"You don't know what it's like."

Page 217:

(Zack being a fucking hypocrite) "I'm not going to make her do anything, not only because I don't work that way but because I have a feeling the man she's married to did plenty of making her."

Page 222 (last one, I promise):

(After emotionally blackmailing Nell into telling him about her abuse)

"When he hit me... the first time it was a shock. No one had ever hit me before. I should've left, right that minute. Or tried. He would never have let me, but I should've tried. But I'd only been married a few months, and somehow he made me feel I'd deserved it. **For being stupid.** Or clumsy. Or forgetful. For all manner of things. He trained me like a dog. I'm not proud of that."

(And then immediately he goes:)

"I had a right to know, when things changed between us. I had a right to know."

"I didn't expect things to change between us."

"But they damn well did. And if you didn't know where we were heading, **then you are stupid.**"

(Nell tells him not to call her stupid and continues with:)

"I'm telling you how it is. I did a lot of thinking since you walked out of the house yesterday. I'm not going to whimper and slide into the corner just because you're annoyed with me. That insults both of us."

"Well, three cheers."

"Oh, go to hell."

He turned completely around and stepped toward her. The dread curled in her stomach, her palms went clammy, but she stood her ground.

"It's a hell of a time to pick a fight with me, especially when you're wrong."

And this book actually has a 4.2 rating??? I genuinely cannot understand how people could overlook Zack's behaviour.

Fucking scary.

Cathy says

Enjoyable, but nothing more. It started off quite promising, because the basic premise of this is a *Sleeping with the Enemy*-type situation, which I'm kind of partial to.

I liked Nell and Zack, but it never went beyond liking; partly because I had trouble believing how easy it all seemed. I didn't buy the fact that she practically set up her own catering business in a matter of a week, previous experience or not. Catering a party with 100+ guests all by yourself while still working full-time elsewhere seems like it would be near impossible, yet it was described as being a piece of cake.

I would also like to actually see Nell attempt baking 10 different kinds of pastries every day in a small kitchen that is not well-equipped (her words) and a newly acquired kitten running around. Pretty sure most kittens would turn that process into somewhat of a nightmare for a baker, just saying.

It was a just a little too happy-go-lucky for me, with everything perfectly falling into place, but I did enjoy it enough to be intrigued by the other two books. I'm looking forward to the other two, particularly Mia's book.

Ally says

I've just finished re-reading (for at least the fifth time) one of my favourite Nora Roberts books. *Dance Upon The Air*. Although I love this book for many different reasons, witches, love, century old curse, new friends etc etc.

The main female character Nell Channing is running away from her past. She's left her abusive husband tricking him and everyone else she knew into thinking she's dead.

She was known as Helen Remington. And as the story evolves so does the character. You see in a way as the character grows stronger and more confident in who she is she also grows into her changed name.

There's a few rather nice pieces about why she chose her name, and that "her name was Nell Channing now and always."

I also fell in love with Zack Todd who Nell falls in love with. As always Ms Roberts has written a beautiful timeless classic for her fans. And oh did I mention it's part of the three sisters island trilogy so you get more

on Ripley and Mia! What more could you want.

29/12/08

Cyndi says

Took me awhile to like Zack. A few of his comments hit me wrong, especially when he asked her why she didn't just leave her abusive husband. Then her character went off track for me, too. She says she won't sleep with him because she is still legally married, then a few chapters later she jumping on him in the doorway. But the story is wonderful! Full of magic and love. Also the two main characters become more likable in the end. ?

BTW the audio is not great. She gives Nell a little girl voice that grates. ??

The Tick says

For the most part, I found this book very readable. I like the premise of the series, and I think she did a nice job with the setting. I also liked the overall writing style--it flowed very well.

However, I had a lot of problems with Zach, the "hero." When he first touches heroine Nell (on the hand or wrist, I don't remember) and she tenses up and becomes very uncomfortable, his reaction (instead of "Gee, maybe this woman doesn't want to be touched") is to tell her that he's going to make her like his touch. On its own, that would be off-putting, but not excessively so. It gets worse, though--later on, her picks her up to "baptize" her by throwing her in the ocean. By this point they're better acquainted, but Roberts shows Nell almost having a panic attack over it. Again, off-putting. But the real kicker for me was when he found out that Nell was still married (to her abuser). His first reaction is "Oh my gosh, I can't believe I've been sleeping with another man's wife!" Even if they were still legally married, I think the fact that she faked her own death to get away from her abuser makes them no longer husband and wife, at least in spirit. But no, the law is the law, apparently. What an asshat.

I am going to give Roberts another shot because this was the first book of hers I read, but...well, she's got some ground to make up here.

Cristina Leitón says

Si leer Romántica es ese pueblecito acogedor al que me escapo siempre que necesito confort, Nora Roberts es la casita con chimenea y una manta esperándome en ese pueblo. Sé que lea lo que lea suyo, sea mejor o peor, me va a gustar, entretenér y llenar ese huequecito de mi parte lectora que disfruta como una niña con zapatos nuevos y brillantes. Y además, si la historia contiene magia ya me ha ganado para siempre.

Baile en el aire me ganó desde el principio. La idea de que tres brujas poderosas hicieron un conjuro hace siglos para escapar de la caza de brujas de Salem me gustó desde el primer momento. Las tres mujeres, desesperadas, consiguieron juntar su magia y separar un trocito de tierra del resto del continente y crearon la isla de Tres Hermanas, donde pudieron vivir sus vidas tranquilas... Hasta que algo ocurrió, y la maldición

cayó sobre la isla y sus descendientes.

La historia empieza cuando Nell, una mujer asustada y valiente escapa de su marido, un maltratador que ha hundido su autoestima y su vida, para poder empezar de cero con una nueva identidad. Tras haber soñado durante años con un faro y una costa, no se piensa dos veces el mudarse a Tres Hermanas cuando ve un cuadro de su costa y del faro que preside la isla. Allí se encontrará en casa nada más llegar, y con su maestría y cariño en la cocina conseguirá un trabajo casi inmediatamente en el café de la librería loca.

Nell ha sido, para mí, lo mejor de la novela. Bueno, en realidad lo mejor ha sido el mundo en sí de la novela (la isla, su gente, la vida allí, los personajes secundarios, la ambientación...), pero Nell se lleva la palma, porque la novela *es* ella. Valiente y más fuerte de lo que se cree, pero asustada y perseguida por su vida anterior, de la que no quiere hablar. Entonces conoce a Mia, la dueña de la librería de la isla, y todo cambia. Poco a poco se va adaptando a la vida en la isla, aunque nunca baja la guardia, ya que sabe que en cualquier momento podrían encontrarla.

Su historia con Zack, el sheriff de la isla, me ha parecido preciosa. Sienten una atracción inmediata en cuanto se conocen —algunos dirían que es casi *mágica*—, pero su relación crece poco a poco, mientras la confianza entre ambos crece y Zack se abre paso a través del miedo y los secretos que Nell, que son más de los que ella misma sospecha.

Además, al tratarse de una trilogía en la que cada una de las mujeres principales —Nell, Ripley y Mia— es protagonista de una de las novelas, la primera parte cumple su función de introducir todos los elementos necesarios para que la historia general —la de la isla, la maldición, la magia y el destino— se vaya desarrollando poco a poco a lo largo de las tres novelas.

Sí, es Romántica. Y sí, me encanta. Pero es Nora Roberts, y eso siempre lo hace todo mejor.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

This book is absolutely wonderful <3

Beautiful romance, the whole mood of the book is swoony and feel-good (well, except for the abusive husband thing), but it made me happy from page one to last.

Marta Marlau says

4,5 estrellas para esta historia tan preciosa. Amor y magia, la mezcla perfecta. Contado de una manera sencilla y perfecta. Me han encantado los protagonistas y cómo se desarrolla todo. Estoy deseando leer la segunda parte.

♥Rachel♥ says

4.5 Stars

This had a Sleeping With the Enemy vibe, you know that Julia Roberts' film from the 90's? I think this had a more lighthearted feel to it overall, but a similar concept. Loved everything from the setting of an East Coast island complete with lighthouse and witch-lore, to the food. Of course our lively heroine, who emerges from an abusive relationship, gets her confidence back, and falls in love was my favorite part. Zack, the irresistible Sheriff, came in at a close second.

Looking forward to Mia's story the most, but Ripley, Zack's sister, is next.
