



Shelter in Place

Nora Roberts

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Sometimes, there is nowhere safe to hide.

It was a typical evening at a mall outside Portland, Maine. Three teenage friends waited for the movie to start. A boy flirted with the girl selling sunglasses. Mothers and children shopped together, and the manager at the video-game store tended to customers. Then the shooters arrived.

The chaos and carnage lasted only eight minutes before the killers were taken down. But for those who lived through it, the effects would last forever. In the years that followed, one would dedicate himself to a law enforcement career. Another would close herself off, trying to bury the memory of huddling in a ladies' room, hopelessly clutching her cell phone--until she finally found a way to pour her emotions into her art.

But one person wasn't satisfied with the shockingly high death toll at the DownEast Mall. And as the survivors slowly heal, find shelter, and rebuild, they will discover that another conspirator is lying in wait--and this time, there might be nowhere safe to hide.

Shelter in Place Details

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Author : Nora Roberts

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From Reader Review Shelter in Place for online ebook

Teri Parks says

Nora Roberts is BOLD! I don't know of many authors who could get away with what Nora accomplished in Shelter In Place without losing some fans.

In her newest book, set to come out in the summer of 2018, Nora tackles a topic that has become all too common in society today - a mass shooting. When I read the synopsis, I wasn't sure what my feelings were. I had just come off of reading the ARC for Year One - a masterful new direction for Nora due out December 5th - and I was apprehensive that Shelter in Place would fall flat in it's heels, or worse, having Nora losing some fans.

By page 25, Shelter in Place already met one of my criteria for a ??????????rating, but I was still concerned over the subject matter. What I read was a fast-flowing, grab your attention story that flowed so well you were quickly thirteen years removed from the tragedy and into a typical Nora Roberts romantic suspense novel that reminded you it is just a story. I was impressed most with the way she blended all the characters in their own way of dealing with the tragedy and their healing.

While we all pray that we are protected from such a horrific event in real life, it may just help open eyes of those who have never been touched by such an event what those who have or will experience it in the future to be more sympathetic and understanding.

I will say it again. Nora Roberts is BOLD. This is the second story in a row that she has taken a new approach. The story could have had fans alienating her because of the subject matter. But I sincerely believe anyone who reads it will have a fascinating summer read, with a little bit of human awareness thrown in. It just proves that Nora continues to be a master of her craft and isn't afraid take new directions or play it safe to keep her readers entertained.

A solid ?????????? rating from me! THANK YOU, again, to Marissa at St. Martin's Press for the honor of being one chosen to review this Advanced Reader Copy!

katwiththehat says

This was an intense, emotional book detailing the aftermath of a fictional mass shooting in Maine. As a warning, with all the mass shootings that have been occurring recently in the US, the first part of the book can be pretty intense to read. I found it quite triggering. Much of the narrative jumps forward in time after that and looks at the after-effect on the survivors, and the investigation as police try to determine if the shooters acted alone. One of my favorite Nora Roberts books to date! 5/5 stars.

Trigger Warnings: (view spoiler)

Please excuse typos/name misspellings. Entered on screen reader.

Jonetta says

In the space of a few minutes, the lives of those visiting or working at the DownEast Mall and adjacent theater in Rockpoint, Maine were permanently altered. Three shooters decided that whatever was wrong in their lives warranted the selfish actions they took in those moments. Survivors Reed Quartermaine and Simone Knox followed paths that weren't part of their original destinies until that event in the mall. Reed went into law enforcement and Simone expressed her feelings through art.

I first thought this was going to be a story about a mass shooting and the immediate aftermath, more about the pursuit of the attackers and those involved in the investigation. This couldn't be further from the reality as that event just serves as the context for those that survived the massacre. Reed and Simone may be the central characters to anchor the story but there's a richness to the breadth and angles of the lives of those that surround them and others. Their relationship develops slowly and fairly organically, a quick ignition but then a slow burn. I adored CiCi Lennon, Simone's grandmother and admired Essie McVee, the police detective who plays such a strong role in Reed's life and decisions.

All of this is in the midst of a really diabolical character connected to the mall shooting. This person was chilling, a true psychopath hiding in plain sight. You're just not going to breathe easily until the creep is stopped. The tension is constant but it doesn't detract from some truly lovely moments throughout the book.

I loved and inhaled this book, as I knew I would, especially when I learned January LaVoy was narrating the story. She delivered her typically outstanding performance, which made this one of my more favorite reading experiences.

(I received an advance copy from the publisher in exchange for an unbiased review)

jv poore says

Just when I think I know exactly what I'm getting into, Ms. Roberts regales with something entirely unexpected and creepy-current.

Brenda says

Simone, Mi and Tish – best friends, with Mi and Tish there for Simone after a nasty breakup with a boyfriend – sixteen years of age and waiting for the movie to start. The theatre in the DownEast Mall was busy, as was the mall outside the doors. Families shopping, video games pumping, people laughing and having a good time. Until the shots started, and the screaming began...

Portland, Maine made headlines from the carnage that night – the three teenage shooters didn't live to tell the tale; neither did a lot of other innocent people. But those who did made their way into the future, never forgetting – some made a success of their lives; some lived with bitterness and hate. One who went forward was Reed Quartermaine who became a policeman, determined to protect the innocent. Another, Simone Knox, lost herself for awhile until she found therapy in her art. But behind the scenes, as the survivors rebuilt their lives, was an angry psychopath, committed to finishing what was started in that shopping mall...

Shelter in Place by the inimitable Nora Roberts is another outstanding and spectacular psychological thriller which kept me glued to the pages. I don't know how she does it, but I haven't read anything by this author that I haven't thoroughly enjoyed. Gripping, intense, heartbreaking and emotional, the suspense kept my heart racing - *Shelter in Place* is one I highly recommend.

With thanks to Hachette AU for my ARC to read and review.

Amanda - Mrs B's Book Reviews says

*<https://mrsbbookreviews.wordpress.com>

3.5 stars

My book club read this month is *Shelter in Place*, the latest standalone novel by Norah Roberts, an author that does not need any introduction. Her worldwide appeal and long list of popular book series, mostly of the romance fare, has secured her a permanent place on the bestsellers list. I feel that the release of this title is incredibly timely, offering up plenty of discussion for book groups and the like. Gun violence and mass shootings in the US seem to be hot topics. These tragic events are a sad fixture on our television screens, beaming out across the globe revealing the sadness and regret of these common incidents. *Shelter in Place* begins with a mass shooting in a shopping mall in a town in Maine, in the US. It examines the time of the shooting (trigger warning), the time immediately after and it explores ten years down the track. It follows the survivors, as well as those authorities/media first on the scene. *Shelter in Place* focuses on the emotional character dramas of two survivors, Simone and Reed, their polarising experiences and eventual fateful romance. Long standing fans of Robert's work may be a little dissatisfied by the lack of high romance, but this is offset by the strong psychological study on the after effects of such a life changing event. Roberts captures the horror, grief, loss, guilt, and revenge aspect of this situation. The suspense is high, especially when the villain of the story is clearly hell bent on revenge. This adds to the intrigue of the book. *Shelter in Place* travels to a heady climax and asserts Roberts place as an auto buy author.

b.andherbooks says

Trigger warning: mass shooting

Nora Roberts has been traveling some dark roads lately and I for one am not finding myself loving the results.

I adore Roberts romances, but alas I wouldn't hardly classify this as one (yes there is a HEA so technically it fits the bill). There is a romance, eventually, between two survivors of a mass shooting but the road to get there makes the overall romance arc a bit of a throwaway.

About 40% of the novel is a very detailed account of the mass shooting from various character perspectives, the immediate aftermath, and years of separate character development for the main male and female characters who eventually meet up and fall into destined love. There is really no tension between the characters as they are 'fated' so it wasn't really interesting.

The book is supposed to be suspenseful because there is a nefarious person out there killing survivors of the

shooting, but I found myself skimming those parts. You know what is going to happen in the end, so meh.

I believe many Roberts fans will love this book. It is well written, it is a page-turner, it has the Nora Roberts flair. For me who checks in to her for an escape, this was more a "let's get this over with." I'd much rather read about best friends running their successful wedding planning company.

Plus, the hero tells his lady love about fifteen times that he would leave her in a heartbeat for her grandma (view spoiler)! Yes, grandma is awesome. Maybe he should have been with her. Now THAT would be interesting!

Thank you to Edelweiss and the publisher for the ARC.

Wendy says

Shelter In Place has to be one of my favourite novels by Nora Roberts.

The story begins with a mass shooting at a mall in the U.S. followed by a related killer out to murder the survivors.

However, the subsequent events in the lives of the victims are portrayed as happy and positive moments as the years go by.

It's a story of tragedy, love, family and friendship but most of all a story about survival.

Loved it!

Celeste says

Full review now posted!

In my opinion, Nora Roberts is one of the most underrated authors ever. Yes, she's incredibly popular, but her work is relegated in people's minds to chick-lit and breezy, mindless beach reads. There's so much more to her work than that, especially her more recent novels. There's a depth to her prose and characterizations and descriptions that is overlooked by those who belittle her work and believe that she just writes fluff. I've never come across another author who can make me care as deeply about her characters or make me feel their joys and sorrows more profoundly.

With this novel, Nora broaches a topic that is unfortunately all too common in our modern world: mass shootings. Shelter in Place begins with such a shooting, and follows the lives of survivors as they try to put their lives back together. You can never move on from such a travesty, but you can move forward, and that's what one of our main characters does. After the DownEast Mall shooting that rips his life apart, this character decides to become a cop in hopes of helping prevent other such happenings in the future. Another character dedicates her life to art as a way to block out the past, to try to forget. When someone starts picking off survivors of the shooting, these two come together. And in the midst of this reopened wound, there is healing. And love, because this is still a romance, after all!

Within the first ten percent of the book, Nora had me in tears. Her descriptions of the shooting and the victims and survivors were so realistic that I could hear the pop of bullets and the terrified screams of mall shoppers and movie goers. I felt like I was there. While I've been heartsick every time I've heard about a

shooting in the news, no news coverage has ever sucked me into the midst of death and pain and fear like Nora did through her writing. I was in awe of her skill even as I read on in horror. But what was hardest to read was the stories of survivors trying to figure out how to go on living their lives. Thankfully, our main characters had family and friends who pulled them up and helped them rebuild.

My favorite character hands down was CiCi, a free-spirited artist who is a little bit psychic. She's also a loving grandmother, and is there for the granddaughter who needs her so much. She opens her heart and home and life to so many people, and I love her for it. There's no one else quite like her, and she felt incredibly real to me.

I don't want to name any other characters or go into much more detail, because I don't want to spoil anything for those who decide to pick up this book. But I will say that I absolutely love when Nora adds art into her stories, because she does such an amazing job describing both the process and the final result. In no other books can I *see* art so clearly as I can through Nora's writing. Whether it's a painting or a sculpture, Nora has such an amazing way of describing art where I can almost look up at my wall and expect to see the piece.

If you can't tell, I have this deep and abiding love for Nora Roberts. There is no other author who I've read more, or reread more. And I have such deep respect for her choice in recent years to start incorporating hard topics that have touched her heart into her work. If I had to choose a favorite author, it would honestly be her.

For more of my reviews, as well as my own fiction and thoughts on life, check out my blog, Celestial Musings.

Corina **BookTwinsReviews** says

4.5 stars

Shelter in Place by Nora Roberts was so much more than I expected. I must admit I don't read her blurbs anymore. She is a MUST READ author for me and her standalone signature novels are highly anticipated and always, always immediately devoured. Shelter in Place was a touching and emotionally raw story that was as timely as it was chilling. The author delivered a tale that kept me glued to the pages, as well as utterly captivated.

Nora Roberts chose a topic that gives me goose bumps every single time I hear of it in the news. Mass shootings. She took this topic and spun a story that was utterly fascinating and captivating from beginning to end. Her impeccable storytelling and incredible skill to spin an enthralling tale produced again an UNPUTDOWNABLE novel for me.

Although Shelter in Place is a slow burn, the journey that both main characters took was fascinating, and appropriate for each character. Both hero and heroine were genuine and likable characters. Reed Quartermaine and Simone Knox were mature and level-headed, something Nora Roberts excels at. Both were survivors of the DownEast Mall shooting and teenagers at the time of the event. Naturally they were molted by the horrific incident and coped with it in different ways. Years later their life intersected again.

As life happens, someone was trying to finish what was interrupted so many years ago. Both, Reed and Simone, were again trying to stay alive as well as putting an end to what once almost destroyed their lives.

Reed and Simone were a couple that just clicked.

They made it look easy. For them, meeting each other was like finding a piece that had been missing. They connected on a level that felt right and their relationship and interactions literally felt like the calm before the storm. Reed was a darling. His dry humor, and his never-ending appreciation for his colleagues and friends warmed my heart. His genuine and reciprocal connection with Simone's grandmother was a highlight of this book. Additionally, Simone's journey was as interesting as her personality - colorful, and deeply layered. There were so many parts in this book that made me smile and happy - and then there was the suspense.

I honestly couldn't put the book down. This story gave me chills. I think the reason why I was so invested in this story was because of its topic. At the end Shelter in Place was a piece of fiction, but it was based on events that unfortunately happen all over America, in schools, malls, and outdoor functions. That most of all, the realism and horror that the author masterfully built her story on, kept me from putting it down.

So, if you love reading romantic suspense, an utterly suspenseful story that had such an authentic feel that will chill you to the bone, especially the opening scene, this is a **MUST READ** in my opinion. It's one of her best books so far. **BONUS** it had an adorable puppy as sidekick.



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CD {Boulder Blvd} says

I'm so torn on how to rate this one. There were quite a few positive points but there were also quite a few negative points. There were several times while reading where I just put the book down as it wasn't pulling me in and I was either bored, irritated or doing an eye roll.

The book started off great with the shooting in the shopping mall and I really thought I was going to love it, but...

The ability of the person behind a stream of murders after the shooting became too much. The FBI became the cliché of incompetence which gets old. Reed always saying he would run off with Simone's grandmother got old fast (cliché as well) and sometimes just was ick. And Simone's family issues felt more contrived than real. The ending felt like a let down.

So much potential but...

Deanna says

My reviews can also be seen at: [https://deesradreadsandreviews.wordpr...](https://deesradreadsandreviews.wordpress.com/)

4.5 Stars!!

“Sometimes, there is nowhere safe to hide.”

It's been a while since I've read a book from Nora Roberts. When I came across this novel, I read the description and immediately added it to the top of my list.

In my opinion, **“Shelter in Place”** was another great read from Nora Roberts!!

Friday, July 22, 2005

Simone Knox and her two best friends, Tish and Mi are at the DownEast mall to see a movie. Simone orders what she normally does at the movies; a large Fanta drink and Swedish Fish.

She has no idea that these choices will likely save her life...

Halfway through her large Fanta, Simone has to run to the ladies room. Just as she's heading back towards the theatre, she hears loud popping noises. It sounds like firecrackers. All of a sudden, the theatre door slams open and a man covered in blood comes stumbling out...

“Blasts and blasts, screams. And people, shadows and silhouettes, falling, running, falling. And the figure, dark in the dark, walking methodically up the rows.”

She doesn't want to believe what she's seeing. Her instincts kick in and she runs back to the bathroom and calls 911...

Reed Quartermaine waits tables at a restaurant in the DownEast mall. He's just finishing up his break when he hears popping noises...then screaming. People are running towards him, falling, almost crushing each other. A man says there's someone shooting. Then he sees a little boy all on his own. Reed doesn't think, he just picks up the boy and runs for cover.

“The gunfire-and he would never, never forget the sound of it-came closer. Front and back. Everywhere”.

Officer Essie McVee is in the parking lot of DownEast Mall dealing with a minor car accident when her police radio squawks. *Active shooter*. She knows what she's supposed to do, she had the training. Back-up is coming but they can't wait....

“Locate, detain, distract, neutralize”

The shooting finally stops.

IN JUST EIGHT MINUTES – SO MANY LIVES DESTROYED

After the tragic events of July 22, 2005, the book follows the lives of many of the survivors and family members, Some can't get far enough away, some are stuck and angry, while others used that day to find purpose in their lives.

BUT UNBELIEVABLY IT'S NOT OVER YET....

Someone doesn't like how it all went down and wants revenge on those they feel screwed up their big plan. They want PAYBACK.

The opening of “**Shelter in Place**” was shocking and pulled me in immediately. Witness to a horrifying scene. Even though I had an idea of what was coming, I was still anxious and on edge. Nora Roberts sure knows how to write a gripping plot along with fantastic characters including diabolical villains. I know I've said this before but with fiction (especially thrillers) there will be times where we may need to suspend disbelief. However, I was so intrigued by the story, it wasn't really an issue for me.

With its great cast of characters and a gripping and dramatic plot. "**Shelter in Place**" kept me engaged from start to finish. I definitely won't be waiting long to read another book from Nora Roberts.

I'd like to thank St. Martin's Press for giving me an advance copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Suzanne says

Absolutely incredible! I ate this book up in a short time because it was so intriguing with amazing characters. This is my favorite Nora Roberts book to date that I have read so far (have not read all her books though). The angst, perseverance, and growth of these characters is so detailed and effective to getting the reader pulled in and invested into the story. I cannot say more than these characters take a devastating tragedy and veer into different directions for their lives, but unfortunately most come face to face with a huge aspect of the original tragedy years later. I really do not want to give too much away and spoil the book, but this book deserves a spot on the reading list for most!

My quick and simple overall: Incredible book that draws the readers in quickly.

Jilly says

Well, I can't be a smartass for this review. It was just too close to home to joke about. This story is really timely because it is about a mass shooting. It really gets in-depth with what happens with those who survived and how their lives were changed.

So, the book is divided into sections.

The first part is the shooting itself. How it went down, how different people reacted, what the survivors experienced. It was sad and horrible.

The second part of the book goes through a lot of years telling us about several different characters and their lives after the shootings. That part was my least favorite because it really jumped around for a long period of time. But, I know it was important to bring us to the third part of the story.

The third section of the book is a romance that develops between two of the characters, along with a murder-mystery of sorts. We know who did it the whole time, and we see that person's viewpoint too, it was just a matter of them being caught. This final part read more like Nora's regular romance-mystery type of stories. The female is artsy and a commitment-phobic girl. The male is a great guy who is trying to win her over.

Overall, it was a great book, but there were tough moments. I think Nora did a good job imagining how living through an experience like that would affect the rest of the person's life. I hate knowing that we have all of these teens and others who are growing up with this reality. But, honestly? I don't think we have seen the last of these events. Unfortunately, we are just getting used to it.

Ira says

4.5 stars.

I love this one, the story pull me in, the romance part is rather thin though but is sweet ? also too many pages given to the villain ?.

This book feels like a feminist story to me, perhaps that #metoo movement give Ms. Roberts few ideas, many characters involved, except our hero and few supporting characters, are women! That's for both side, the good guys and the bad guys, er why do they use guns when they are not? ?

Also, this book show how Ms. Roberts stands regarding the horrific guns crimes who is keep happening in the US and slaughter the children month after month after month after month!

You see, the good guys with the guns who stopped the bad guys with the guns in this story?

They are ALL, law enforcement officers, just like the rest of the world, they allows to carry guns! Not just a mere civilian who can pop to a gun store and get himself that nasty stuff whenever and wherever he fancy them!!! For that alone, I will be Ms. Roberts's fan for life ♥?.

It made me realise, I don't think Roarke ever take his guns outside his home at all, correcting me if I'm wrong, will you? ??.

Okay, this is out of the book review already, but yeah from what I write here, you can see I'm one of those befuddled foreign mum who is never ever understand how children keep slaughtering by guns in schools and the most powerful government in the world couldn't do anything to prevent it!

That's it, read this book, the scars from shooting spree continues long after the victims buried ?.
It's a heartbreaking story really...?
