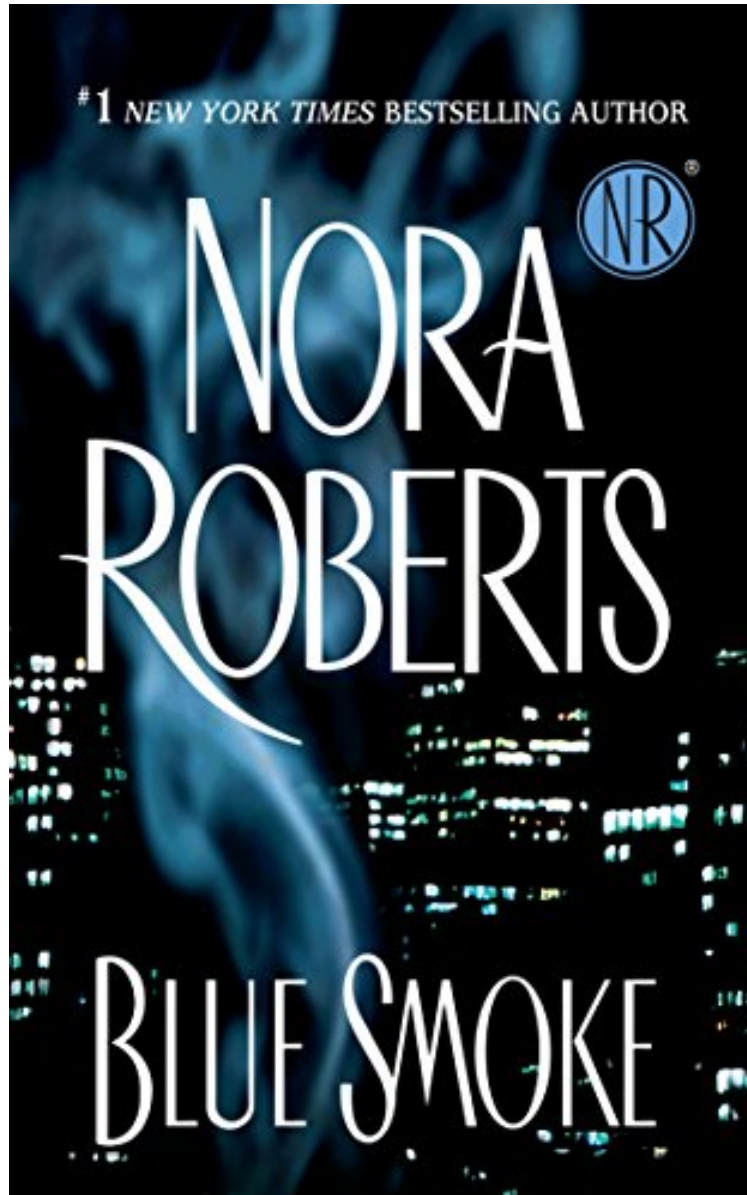


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## Blue Smoke

Von Nora Roberts

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**Von Nora Roberts : Blue Smoke** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blue Smoke:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fateful Encounters Von Donald Mitchell If you are a long-time Nora Roberts fan, please be aware that this book is quite

different from her usual fare. If you don't like violence and cruelty mixed in with your romances, this book isn't for you. On the other hand, if you don't know her work and are interested in a novel that evokes the Greek tragedies, give *Blue Smoke* a try. The ancient Greeks believed that the Fates determined what happened to us and that the gods were romping like spoiled children interfering in the lives of humans for their own pleasure. The modern version of that belief is that our environments, our families and our experiences shape us almost totally. Scientists would disagree, pointing out that many traits are inherited. The truth is somewhere in between. *Blue Smoke* takes that idea of circumstances and inheritance, and develops how two people might turn out to be quite opposite. As the novel opens, the key incident is already in the background. Joey Pastorelli has assaulted Reena Hale in the school yard, and she would have suffered worse if her younger brother hadn't intervened. Her angry father confronted Joey's father, and that meeting touched off fiery tinder in all of their lives. Awakened by her first period, she looks down the street to see in her horror that the family's restaurant, Sirico's, in Baltimore's little Italy, is in flames. She sounds the alarm, and lives are saved. Fascinated by the fire and the investigation into what turns out to be arson, she determines to become an arson investigator. When the miscreant behind the fire turns out to be Joey's father, the whole family is relieved when he's carted off to jail. But the episode isn't over yet . . . although the Hale family doesn't realize it. In the rest of the book, we see the effects of those events from the perspective of three narrators, Reena, Joey and Reena's future fiancé, Bo. As you can see from this set-up, the book delves into more serious subject matter than most novels do. I found the work was quite impressive. I only graded the book down because the violence was too much for me. There's one scene in particular near the book's end that seemed particularly gratuitous. I think this story could have been written effectively without being so focused on criminal psychology. Yes, there are a few monsters out there. But, no, I don't expect to find them in suspense stories without more warning than this book provides to potential readers. If you dislike violence more than I do, you'll grade the book down even more. A particular strength of the book is the way that the tensions among the characters are developed. You can see where the story is probably going, and you'll find yourself carried along by the story telling into wanting to know the details.

7 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Having read and loved all of Nora Roberts books Von Marilyn Jovovich. This one was no exception. Although the subject matter was more violent and brutal than most of Nora's books, it was handled in a way that caught me up and drew me in so that I couldn't wait for the next chapter. Even though I had a suspicion as to who was the fire-starter, I still thought it might be others. I could feel my pulse quicken with each incident about to take place. The storyline was so intense, yet there are still moments of great love and joy with this incredibly large Italian-American family. You can't help but fall in love with each of them. The detail that goes into a crime scene investigation is fascinating and I loved every minute of this book. I highly recommend it and am astonished that more people did not find this to be one of Miss Roberts best books. You'll also enjoy 'Quest' by Giorgio Kostantinos-another suspense/romance/mystery novel.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. *Fateful Encounters* Von Donald Mitchell If you are a long-time Nora Roberts fan, please be aware that this book is quite different from her usual fare. If you don't like violence and cruelty mixed in with your romances, this book isn't for you. On the other hand, if you don't know her work and are interested in a novel that evokes the Greek tragedies, give *Blue Smoke* a try. The ancient Greeks believed that the Fates determined what happened to us and that the gods were romping like spoiled children interfering in the lives of humans for their own pleasure. The modern version of that belief is that our environments, our families and our experiences shape us almost totally. Scientists would disagree, pointing out that many traits are inherited. The truth is somewhere in between. *Blue Smoke* takes that idea of circumstances and inheritance, and develops how two people might turn out to be quite opposite. As the novel opens, the key incident is already in the background. Joey Pastorelli has assaulted Reena Hale in the school yard, and she would have suffered worse if her younger brother hadn't intervened. Her angry father confronted Joey's father, and that meeting touched off fiery tinder in all of their lives. Awakened by her first period, she looks down the street to see in her horror that the family's restaurant, Sirico's, in Baltimore's little Italy, is in flames. She sounds the alarm, and lives are saved. Fascinated by the fire and the investigation into what turns out to be arson, she determines to become an arson investigator. When the miscreant behind the fire turns out to be Joey's father, the whole family is relieved when he's carted off to jail. But the episode isn't over yet . . . although the Hale family doesn't realize it. In the rest of the book, we see the effects of those events from the perspective of three narrators, Reena, Joey and Reena's future fiancé, Bo. As you can see from this set-up, the book delves into more serious subject matter than most novels do. I found the work was quite impressive. I only graded the book down because the violence was too much for me. There's one scene in particular near the book's end that seemed particularly gratuitous. I think this story could have been written effectively without being so focused on criminal psychology. Yes, there are a few monsters out there. But, no, I don't expect to find them in suspense stories without more warning than this book provides to potential readers. If you dislike violence more than I do, you'll grade the book down even more. A particular strength of the book is the way that the tensions among the characters are developed. You can see where the story is probably going, and you'll find yourself carried along by the story telling into wanting to know the details.

Kurzbeschreibung Incomparable #1 New York Times bestselling author Nora Roberts delivers a tale of gut-level fear, human triumph, and the bonds that carry us through our darkest times. Reena Hale's destiny was shaped in the destructive yet fascinatingly beautiful fire that leveled her family's pizzeria when she was young. Now an arson investigator, she finds her strength and wits constantly tested, although sometimes the job seems like a snap compared to her love life. But she can't always blame the men. After all, a soot-caked woman barking orders and smelling of smoke isn't the biggest turn-on in the world. Then she meets Bo Goodnight, who seems different. He's been trying to find Reena for years, and now that she's close enough to touch, he has no intention of letting go. Nor does the man who has begun to haunt Reena's life with taunting phone calls and a string of horrifying crimes. And as Reena tries desperately to trace the origins of the calls, the fires, the hatred aimed in her direction, she will step into the worst inferno she has ever faced... From the Trade Paperback edition. From Publishers Weekly Romantic suspense queen Roberts (Blue Dahlia, etc.) lights up Baltimore's Little Italy with this appealing story of love, family, food and arson. Eleven-year-old Reena Hale, watching her family's restaurant go up in flames, decides to become an arson investigator. The fire shapes another child's destiny, too, as Joey Pastorelli sees his father go to prison for setting the blaze. Reena's close-knit Italian family rebuilds; Reena grows up and completes police and firefighter training. Despite inheriting her mother's good looks, Reena proves unlucky in love, mainly because her beaux tend to die in fires, but her fortunes look up after she meets hunky carpenter Bo Goodnight. Bo gets along with Reena's family, friends and co-workers, and handles the demands of her career with patient humor, so nothing stands in their way except an obsessed, pyromaniac stalker determined to kill any man Reena loves. Although it does take Reena an inordinately long time to identify her nemesis, Roberts portrays investigative procedure more accurately than her many imitators. Well-sketches supporting characters with potential subplots of their own suggest that the prolific Roberts will put her feet to the fire again. Main selection, the Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist A lot of hard work is involved in becoming an arson investigator for the Baltimore Police Department, but Catarina "Reena" Hale believes it's worth it. There is nothing she enjoys more than the unique challenges involved in discovering the reasons someone would commit arson. The only thing that Reena doesn't like is that it is extremely tough to find a man willing to accept her crazy schedule and - danger-filled job. Now, just when it seems that she has met a man--her new next-door neighbor, carpenter Bowen Goodnight--willing to accept her for who she is and what she does, Reena begins receiving anonymous calls from someone threatening to use fire to destroy everyone Reena holds dear. Roberts effectively opens the mind of her twisted villain to readers to create suspense, but she balances these violent scenes with equally powerful scenes of love and family as Reena gets the support she needs to defeat a sociopath, whose capacity for evil knows no bounds. Blue Smoke is another of Roberts' riveting combinations of danger and romance. John Charles Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved