



Superstition

Karen Robards

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Sparks fly when a brutal killer comes out of hiding...

Fifteen years ago idyllic Pawley's Island, South Carolina, was rocked by the unsolved, grisly murder of teenager Tara Mitchell and the subsequent disappearance of her two friends.

Since then, all who have lived in the mansion where it happened have fled, claiming that the dead girls haunt the house.

Sensing her big break, reporter Nicky Sullivan attempts a live television seance to contact the girls. But during the broadcast a woman is murdered - in exactly the same way as Tara was all those years ago.

As an attraction grows between Nicky and enigmatic police chief, Joe Franconi, another identical murder occurs. Only, this time there's a note...

Is the original killer back to claim three more lives? If so, could Nicky be the next victim?

Superstition Details

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Nicole says

This book would have been about half as long if all the excessively long descriptions had been cut. And since Liv was constantly described as hugely pregnant, why the hell couldn't Joe tell the difference between her and her sister who was always described as being so thin??

Vettech says

Another great suspense read by Robards. Loved all the characters....Nicky (the reporter), Joe (hunky police chief), Leonora (Nicky's psychic mother)who spent much of the story in a psychic block mode, Olivia (Nicky's crazy pregnant older sister), Brian (the ghost),and don't want to forget "Cleo" the pot belly pig, who turns out to be a hero of sorts.

I totally floored by who the killer turned out to be at the end. Even though it's fun to guess who the bad guy is, it's the sign of a great writer who can fool everyone.

I highly recommend this one to those of you into the serial killers and ghosts.

Sarah-Jayne Briggs says

(This review may contain spoilers).

I have to say, this book wasn't exactly a miss, but it wasn't a hit, either. Nicky's family seemed more like caricatures than real people, at least at first. They got better as the book went on, but I came close to giving up on the book almost straight away when they came across as being so one-dimensional and almost irritating, in many ways.

I'd probably say that the character of Joe was what saved the book for me. He had more of a depth to him, but I really couldn't understand why he was with Nicky. I was half-expecting her idiocy to get her killed. (Seriously. You're a reporter whose life is in danger and you're receiving threatening e-mails. What's the first thing you do? Read out said threatening e-mails live on television. For all of her claims to be an investigative reporter, Nicky clearly didn't understand the danger in revealing that kind of information. I don't think that was handled well at all).

There was a scene close to the beginning of the book, when Nicky leaves the house and heads off into the darkness. That scene was particularly well-written and left me feeling incredibly creeped out, particularly since it was late evening and I was on my own in the house. Unfortunately, that was the only scene that was that well-done. All of the others kind of failed to make me feel that kind of suspense, quite possibly because I didn't form any emotional attachments to the characters.

I didn't see the killer's identity coming, but that wasn't so much of a good thing. When it was finally revealed, it didn't make sense. The loose ends weren't tied up in a satisfactory way. And then the part afterwards was even more of a let-down. (I did see that part coming, at least with the character).

Lastly... the supernatural elements wouldn't have been needed, in my opinion. Almost everything could have been explained away better. The ghosts added very little to the actual storyline and the tape - for example - could have easily been found through other means. Even figuring out the tape's connection came far too late for someone who was supposed to be intelligent enough to have her own television show.

All in all, I found this book to be quite disappointing. I'm not sure I'd go out of my way to buy any more books by this author.

Sandy says

Ugh. That about sums up this book for me. I read about 2/3 of the book and then said, "Forget it!" Jumped to the last chapter or so to confirm who I thought did it. Guess what, I was right, on both counts. If you're looking for a good mystery, unfortunately this isn't it. The premise was good, but the execution was NOT.

Mary Taitt says

I liked this book a lot. I kept thinking Nora Roberts wrote it, with the red-haired feisty protagonist. It was pretty much formula mystery/crime, but well done. The story was exciting and a nice balance of tension and fast pace with occasional deliciously slow moments. I had predicted the killer fairly early on, but loved seeing how she/they got there. Nice job tying up ALL the loose ends in the final climax. Didn't like the narrator saying things like "Media-types," "Official-types," "Publicity types." It wore on me. It would be okay in conversation, but not from the narrator. Otherwise, excellent light reading. Satisfying ending.

Jacqueline says

This started out great but lost steam in the middle. I had a hard time plugging on after the heroine did something really TSTL that drove the second half of the book. I thought the end was a bit muddle since too many crimes were all mixed up together and solved a bit too neatly. The writing as always from Ms. Robards was good. The characterizations were very well done. Loved the psychic mother. The bad guy was a little too all knowing though .

Barbara ★ says

I really liked Joe Franconi but the heroine, Nicky Sullivan got on my nerves with her TSTL moments. Yes I get she's a reporter but even so, purposely putting yourself and your family in danger and advertising every single piece of evidence on air was just plain stupid. How do you expect to catch the bad guy if you give him every single clue you have. And putting the emails on air word for word was beyond stupid. This book seemed like it followed a formula including "put TSTL moment here" followed by "allow hero to save

heroine here". The only suspense was the killer's identity and that was a surprise until a revealing moment at the end. I thought the whole mafia connection to be unnecessary and the "ending" to pat.

All in all not bad but not great either.

Barbara Brown says

"Leonora protested, even as Uncle Ham and Karen and Mario fell back out of their way. The hall was long and narrow, white-painted beadboard with a hardwood floor. Nicky, with Leonora in tow and John following, charged up it like the little engine that could. The others had to practically run to stay ahead of them, and as a result, they all popped out in to the kitchen like spray shooting out of a shaken-up soda bottle."

I love this image.

L8blmr says

I see that people's ratings of this book are all over the place and I can understand that. I did enjoy it; the mystery had me guessing almost until the answers were revealed, and then there was an additional revelation, but I found that almost too pat, too contrived. The leading man and woman were interesting, but some of the peripheral characters were played up in one portion of the story, only to be virtually ignored for the remainder of the book. Some descriptions were repeated in part or in whole that I grew tired of, particularly the constant reminders that the hero smoked. Overall, I did enjoy it more than I didn't so I bumped it from the 3.5 I'd give it if we could award half-stars.

Barbara says

I had high hopes for this book but I never really felt a connection with the main characters; Joe or Nicky. I've read a couple other books by Robards and liked them; "Obsession" and "Guilty". Maybe it's the mood I was in, but I didn't enjoy this one.

Cheri says

A good murder mystery with a touch of paranormal

Jo says

#romanticsuspense
#sassy/fun/dialogues

Bea Charmed says

Over the top, and dated despite being only 9 years old but a decent story. I correctly guessed one of the villains but not why and I didn't figure out the others. I liked the psychic aspect, the length of time in which events happened (more believable than most books), and the romance was decent.

Wench says

I slogged through about 8% of this, and all that had happened was DESCRIPTION. SO MUCH DESCRIPTION.

Authors, going in to detail about the hair and clothes of background characters, naming all the streets, telling us that might be a possum or maybe a raccoon over there, whatever, is not generally necessary. That level of detail in a book rarely of ever adds anything of value to the story. It just gets the hell in the way.

Becky says

I stopped reading this book because I just couldn't get into it. I was very disappointed because I've really loved the couple of Karen Robards books I've read previously, but this was a dud. I'm surprised her publisher was willing to put this out.
