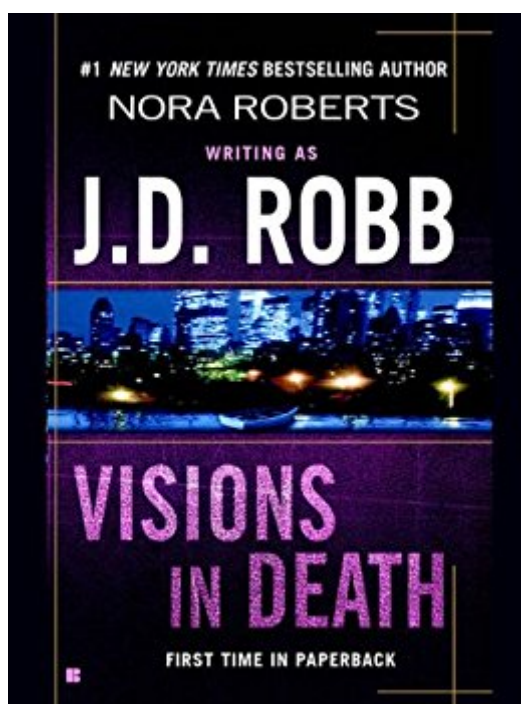


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Visions In Death (In Death, Book 19)



Synopsis

On one of the city's hottest nights, New York Police Lieutenant Eve Dallas is sent to Central Park-and into a hellish new investigation. The victim is found on the rocks, just above the still, dark water of the lake. Around her neck is a single red ribbon. Her hands are posed, as if in prayer. But it is the eyes-removed with such precision, as if done with the careful hands of a surgeon-that have Dallas most alarmed. As more bodies turn up, each with the same defining scars, Eve is frantic for answers. Against her instincts, she accepts help from a psychic who offers one vision after another-each with shockingly accurate details of the murders. And when partner and friend Peabody is badly injured after escaping an attack, the stakes are raised. Are the eyes a symbol? A twisted religious ritual? A souvenir? With help from her husband, Roarke, Dallas must uncover the killer's motivation before another vision becomes another nightmare...

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Customer Reviews

Nora Roberts, writing as J.D. Robb, has created a successful series based on a few basic principles. The first, and in my opinion, most important aspect is a fascinating heroine, who presents different layers that the author has been revealing in each installment and will certainly continue to

do so. Lieutenant Eve Dallas is a tough cop, who is relentless in her pursue of justice and feels as if the victims were hers to save. On the other hand, she is the wife of the billionaire Roarke, and has to deal with parties and charity events in which she is expected to mingle and maintain polite chit-chat with the guests. She has been adjusting slowly to this area of her life and even though she does not like it, she has learned to accept it. The fact that Eve was abused by her father when she was a child and had to kill him in order to escape also plays an important role in the development of the story and in almost every case Eve faces. Her husband also has a complex past, involving an abusing father who killed Roarke's mother and then lied to him about who his real mother was. Only recently did the billionaire learned the truth about this and reunited with what was left of his family. Besides the two main characters, Robb has created a supporting cast that adds appeal to the series and which I consider to be the second factor in its success. Peabody is Eve's former aide and current partner who has recently made detective and who usually adds a good part of humor to the narration with her witty comments. She is in love with McNabb, a policeman working in the Electronic Detectives Division, and they are in the process of moving together to a new apartment.

It's back to the future again and J.D. Robb, aka Nora Roberts, has put exactly the right mix of romance and mystery into her latest installment of the "Death" novels. Sometimes, a series can get stale after an author pumps out so many. Here, J.D. Robb proves that she is nowhere near her limit. In VISIONS IN DEATH, she ratchets up the tension with a death grip on her readers. Lt. Eve Dallas is still cracking wise as she deals with her subordinates in the New York Police and Security Department --- and the world in general. Her partner, Delia Peabody, has grown into a superb foil for Dallas, with witty comebacks that often earn her withering looks from the lieutenant. This time, however, they both need the levity their repartee creates, particularly with a brutal serial killer on the loose in their city. His profile depicts him as an especially vicious murderer, raping and mutilating his prey in an escalating rage. Each victim weighs personally on Dallas, leaving her with a load of guilt and dredging up nasty memories from her childhood. The sooner she captures this guy, the easier she will rest --- at least until the next big case. Along with Detective Peabody and the usual forensics team, Eve's multi-billionaire husband, Roarke, assists with the investigation whenever possible. He can do things best not talked about down at NYPSP. His invaluable help, though, is most welcome. And it sort of keeps the couple together --- and keeps readers loving them. Theirs is a relationship that just gets enviably steamier. One can't help but marvel at their love. Reading VISIONS IN DEATH is like visiting an old friend --- a surly, often testy old friend, but an old friend nonetheless.

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