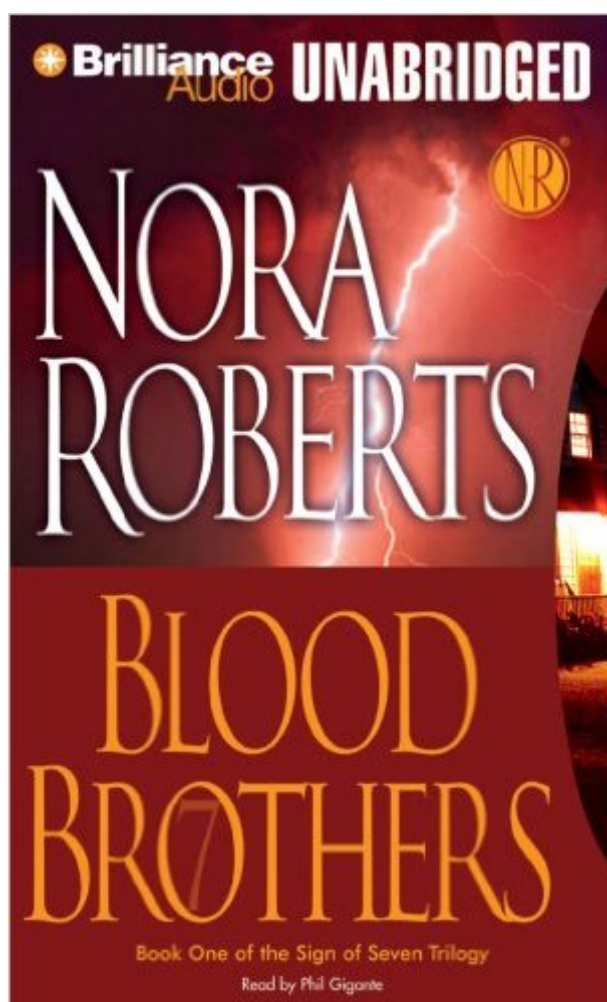


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Blood Brothers (Sign Of Seven Series)



Synopsis

Every seven years, on the seventh day of the seventh month, strange things happen. It began when three young boys - Caleb, Fox, and Gage - went on a camping trip to the Pagan Stone. And twenty-one years later, it will end in a showdown between evil and the boys who have become men - and the women who love themâ | This modern-day legend draws reporter and author Quinn Black to Hawkins Hollow with the hope of making the eerie happening the subject of her new book. It is only February, but Caleb Hawkins, descendent of the town founders, has already seen and felt the stirrings of evil. Though he can never forget the beginning of the terror in the woods twenty-one years ago, the signs have never been this strong before. Cal will need the help of his best friends, Fox and Gage, but surprisingly he must rely on Quinn as well. She, too, can see the evil that the locals cannot, somehow connecting her to the town â “ and to Cal. As winter turns to spring, Cal and Quinn will shed their inhibitions, surrendering to a growing desire. They will form the cornerstone of a group of men and women bound by fate, passion, and the fight against what is to come from out of the darknessâ |

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (314 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

In the town of Hawkins Hollow Maryland, three men have been best friends forever. They come from different families but were all born on 7/7/77. In 1987 on their 10th birthday Cal, Gage and Fox set out through the woods to camp at the mysterious location of Pagan Stone. They unleash an evil entity that dates back to 1652 and when they finally leave the woods the next morning, everything

has changed. Fast forward twenty years where Quinn, an author who specializes in things that go bump in the night, comes to the town to research what happened 20 years ago and what happens to the town and its inhabitants on 7/7. I am a little disappointed in this story. It's not bad; it's just not that great, either, I wasn't wowed. *Blood Brothers* is a little reminiscent of the *Three Sister Island Trilogy*. I like the story premise; I love paranormal fiction, but feel this book is missing something. It failed to hook me like all other Nora Roberts/J.D. Robb books normally do and I think it is because of the characters; I never got that attached to any of them. We have three men bonded by birthdays and deep friendship and then three women, Quinn, Layla and Cybil come along for various reasons. You know eventually they are all going to "couple up" and normally by book one in her trilogies while couple number one is steaming up the pages you can feel the chemistry brewing between couples two and three. It wasn't brewing at all for couple two and it's barely simmering for couple three. I just don't think she gave us a real strong sense of who everyone was and where they are all coming from. Part of the reason why I love Nora books is because of her ability to paint the characters so vividly; normally we know the characters physically, emotionally, personally.

This is the first book in the *Signs of Seven* trilogy by Nora Roberts. The storyline fills my love of horror: a trio of boys, all born on July 7, 1977, make a blood pact on their tenth birthday at the Pagan Stone, a creepy (okay, cursed) and desolate location in the middle of a forest. Every seven years after that, terrible things happen on and around July 7. With the help of a paranormal reporter who has come to town to investigate, the boys (who are now 30 years old) must figure out the mystery of the curse before it is no longer able to be contained. The story is written in third-person point of view, but it changes perspectives to match each character. This was one of my favorite qualities of the book. When telling the story through the perspective of the ten-year-old boys, Roberts uses language that ten-year-olds would use when not under the supervision of their parents. In the scenes when the boys are grown, Roberts seamlessly shifts perspectives to allow us into the heads of the various characters. She has obviously had a lot of practice writing ;-). It's a Nora Roberts book, so yes--there is romance. Over the course of the novel, the three guys each meet a girl who seems drawn, like them, to the mystery of the curse. It's only wintertime, but the creepy events don't seem to be waiting for July this time, and all six are now involved. At one point the six of them are even stuck in the same house together during a blizzard. And yet none of the situations ever seemed over-the-top. The only thing that bugged me about the book--and here I'm revealing to the world that I am the total opposite of a girly-girl--is all the flower-buying. Descriptions of flowers, guys buying flowers for girls, girls getting all goo-goo over flowers. It's a pet peeve of mine, I guess.

Blood Brothers. I got it from the library and am glad I didn't pay for it. I agree with the other reviewers who have said the characters are indistinguishable and will add the reason they are indistinguishable is because they ALL talk the same. Each character's dialog is written with the same cadence, rhythm, style and sentence structure. As I have written before in my reviews of NR books of the past few years, she has taken to writing in a very certain STYLE, which is very obvious and detracts from the story she is telling. (this is why it takes me awhile to read her books - I have to go back and reread sentences to get just what she is telling). Her STYLE is to LEAVE OUT PRONOUNS, ITS', and THE'S, etc. Her dialog is choppy and very STYLISTIC. But her characters all talk alike. In her previous books, at least a few of the characters talked normally, but in this one THEY ALL TALKED ALIKE!! I will say I liked the prologue and thought the book had promise. The boys had their own personalities and they were interesting. Then they grew up and became more alike and, of course, talked alike. Some of their individual personalities still came through some, but not enough. Cal's was the most changed from what I would expect from his boyhood. But the women were interchangeable, personality-wise. Again, they all talked alike. So, for characters I would give the book a C-The story itself has promise, except for the fact it is SO similar to last year's vampire trilogy. If it focused more on the history and less on the hokey demon, it would be a better read. The ending in book 1 was quite hokey. For story, I would give a B-The romance was rushed, as I felt the romance in book 1 of the vampire trilogy was also. It's a shame, as NR has written some excellent romances.

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