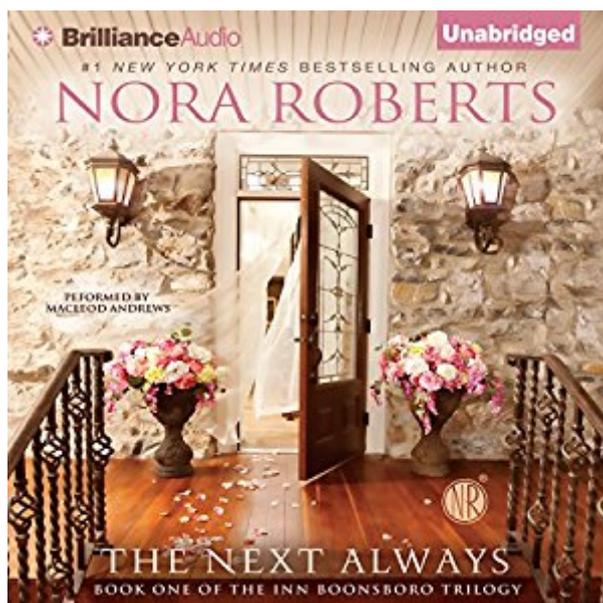


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The Next Always: Inn BoonsBoro Trilogy, Book 1



Synopsis

The historic hotel in Boonsboro has endured war and peace, the changing of hands, and even rumored hauntings. Now it's getting a major face-lift from the Montgomery brothers and their eccentric mother. As the architect in the family, Beckett's social life consists mostly of talking shop over pizza and beer. But there's another project he's got his eye on: the girl he's been waiting to kiss since he was sixteen. After losing her husband and returning to her hometown, Clare Brewster soon settles into her life as the mother of three young sons while running the town's bookstore. Though busy and with little time for romance, Clare is drawn across the street by Beckett's transformation of the old inn, wanting to take a closer look... at both the building and the man behind it. With the grand opening inching closer, Beckett is happy to give Clare a private tour - one room at a time, in between blueprint meetings and kindergarten pickups. It's no first date, but these stolen moments are the beginning of something that could arouse the secret yearning that resides in Clare's independent heart - and open the door to the extraordinary adventure of what comes next....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nora Roberts knows how to deliver an entertaining story with likable characters, well-developed plot elements in a polished presentation. The Next Always, one of her latest installments, hits the mark on all of these points. The first book in the trilogy, The Next Always begins with the three Montgomery brothers and their mother renovating the Inn BoonsBoro. The youngest, architect Beckett, lives above a pizza parlor and spends most of his days fine tuning his family's vision. He

also pines for Clare Brewster, the girl he has loved since high school, but who married another man and moved away. Years later, she is widowed, raising three sons and running Turn the Page, her bookstore. After sparks fly between the two, Beckett finally makes a move. Together, they work through the real issue of how Beckett can fit into Clare and her sons' lives. They deal with their businesses, family and friend interference -- not to mention a stalker. They also have to face the ghosts of their pasts, and one who is known to them -- a woman who haunts the inn. Set in Nora's hometown Boonsboro, Md., the inn, bookstore and pizza shop detailed and in the book are real (and owned by Nora or her family members). While some might see this as shameless publicity, I see this as awesome publicity. If I were ever in the area, I would totally want to check out all three. While we have seen some of these plot elements before -- like the inn and ghosts from the Mackade brothers quartet and the ghost from the In the Garden trilogy -- I still enjoyed the book. While I enjoyed reading those other two series, this one reached me a little more because it's told about people within my age range at the time I am that age. That might seem like a silly argument for why I liked it, but it still fits. Though her stories are to a degree timeless, it's nice to see characters who talk the way I talk and deal with things I deal with. I guess you can call it a modernization. What I like best about this book, and any of Nora's books, is that you can consistently count on it having likable characters, a quality story and excellent execution. That never seems old or recycled.

Beckett Montgomery leads a pretty happy and satisfied life. He enjoys his job as an architect and loves that he, his brothers Ryder & Owen and their mom run a successful construction firm. There's one thing that's missing from his life and that's a chance to get to know Clare Brewster closer. He has had a crush on her since high school but never acted on his feelings. Clare came back to Boonsboro after her husband was killed and runs her own bookstore in town. Her three sons and she are happy with the life they built and Clare doesn't have the time to date. And she never realized that Beckett is interested in her. But suddenly things change and the two are no longer just good friends. Will they be able to get their own happy ever after? Like always I was super excited to read the new books by Nora Roberts and like (nearly) always I loved my reading experience. I enjoyed the relaxed pace, the cozy and lovely setting and the lovely characters. The pace and how the book is built was similar to the books in the bride quartet series which I adore. The pace might be a bit too slow for readers that enjoy fast-paced books, but for me it was just perfect. Boonsboro is a great place to set the book and thanks to all the little details Nora Roberts added to the story I was able to imagine the town and its buildings very easily. And of course it's pretty cool that Boonsboro

and the buildings described in the book really exist. Hopefully I will one day get the chance to visit the town. The love story was very sweet and I loved the way it progressed. Especially the way Beckett handled Clare's boys was amazing and so sweet. Both main characters were strong and I'm excited to see more of them in the next two books of the trilogy. There are two more plot elements in the story and both made it even more interesting. I want to tell you a bit about one of them, but will let you get surprised by the other one. One of them is a ghost, but don't worry, you don't have to be a big fan of paranormal stories to enjoy the ghost. The ghost lives in the Inn and I think her presence fits to the old building and its history. The ghost is only a small part of the story so don't worry, the book is still a contemporary romance. I loved reading about the relationships between Beckett, his brothers and his mom. Their scenes together made me laugh and smile a lot. I liked all three brothers and I'm excited to read Owen and Ryder's story. Owen's will be next and it's already clear with whom he will get together. I definitely can't wait to go on with the series and read more of the three brothers, the women they love and Boonsboro. Beautiful final appraisal. Loved the book! The cozy, relaxed pace, the lovely setting and the sweet romance worked perfectly for me and made me excited for more books in the series. I would recommend this book to all fans of cozy and romantic books. Inn Boonsboro series 1. The next always 2. The last boyfriend (May 2012) 3. The perfect hope (November 2012)

I fell in love with Beckett and Clare and all the characters in this book, except Sam! The characters came alive and I laughed and cried at times. Remodeling the old inn into a B&B with all the modern fixtures will make it into quite a show place. The chemistry between Clare and Beckett is very strong. I loved reading about Lizzie and can't wait to read the next book in this series!!

While the writing is excellent, (as always), the characters are well fleshed out, and the dialog flows smoothly, this storyline feels like a remix of several of her other stories. I'm hoping there will be some original plot twists and developments in the next two books. I have to say that she is a delight to read, in spite of the less than fresh, (so far), storyline. I have been a longtime fan, and always enjoy her books. A little less detailed account of almost every step of the construction, and every piece of furniture for the inn would have made room for some development of the relationships between the other main characters. Hopefully, the second book will be more character driven. I don't consider a building a character, no matter how old or interesting it might be. I enjoyed the story, I just wasn't able to lose myself in it as I usually do with a Nora Roberts novel. I had to give it a 3 1/2 stars.

My absolute favorite series by Roberts is the Bride Quartet. But this rates a close second. The characters (all of hers, regardless of the series) are so real. The kind you know and are friends with. I've read this story several times because of this. It's one of my go-to books when I want something fun and familiar. The best part? Beckett and Clare don't just fade into the background. They are an integral part of the rest of the stories. You can't miss with this one.

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