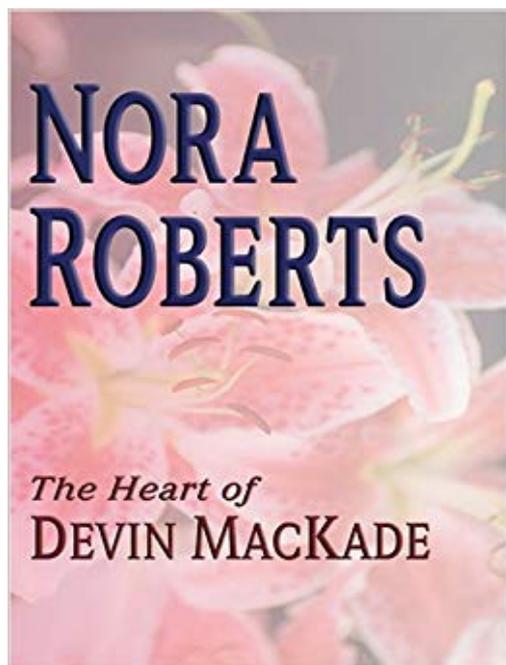


## The Heart of Devin Mackade: The Mackade Brothers *by* Nora Roberts



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### A New York Times Bestselling Author

Sheriff Devin MacKade watched - patiently, painfully - as the woman he secretly cherished suffered through a less-than-perfect marriage. Now pretty Cassie Connor was free . . . but vulnerable. Devin knew he'd have to tread slowly, all the while wondering if the heart of Devin MacKade would ever claim the woman he loved.



### Reviews of the **The Heart of Devin Mackade: The Mackade Brothers** *by* Nora Roberts

## **SmEsH**

Devin was #3 of 4 MacKade brothers. They were all wild in their youth. Always looking for a reason to pound on each other as brothers do. So when he grew up...he became sheriff. Devin loved the town, the people, and most of all he loved Cassie. He had loved her since she was 16. He had waited one day too late to let her know this and she had gotten engaged to Joe.

It was a mistake on her part, because Joe was abusive...physically and emotionally. The abuse had gone on for many years until he attacked her one too many times. He had tried to strangle her and she knew, next time, he would succeed. She had tried to make the marriage work, blaming herself when he got angry and abusive. She divorced him. A year after the divorce, Devin finally gets around to making his feelings known to her.

As their relationship develops, Devin realizes he loves her and wants the children, her, family...all of it. Cassie's daughter, Emma, loves him, but Conner is more cautious. He has only known Joe...and Joe has always been abusive. He doesn't want another father. He believes fathers and abuse go hand in hand. When Cassie finds out how Conner feels, she ends her relationship with Devin. She won't put her children through any more stress.

Joe escapes the prison work detail, and thanks to the help of his ex-mother in law, knows exactly where to find Cassie and those 'brats'....

I liked this book because it had 'meat' to it. It covered 'abusive relationships' which is an all too frequent occurrence. It's not just a romance story. To Devin...Cassie is his heart. His desire to love, protect and comfort her and her children is very heartwarming. With the help of family and friends, they just might become a family. Devin is a mans' man...but he also has the heart to be gentle and kind.

## **Kirinaya**

The Heart of Devin MacKade is part of a wonderful collection of stories, all linked by four brothers who share common characteristics and yet are quite different from each other. Each is, fundamentally a good, dependable, and inherently lovable and loving man. Yet each is also his own man, with a central strong core of compassion, pride, dependability, heritage, courage, yes, and machismo. Also linking the men is their family history of the Civil War battle fields and forests of 1862 Antietam and a great mansion, imbued with an ancient tragedy and ghosts! Four handsome, nurturing bachelors, each with an inherent streak of male testosterone-laden sexism (which all absolutely deny) meet four women, all of whom carry the scars, experiences, and lessons of their own pasts, and all of whom are determined to create a future for themselves as strong, independent, and fulfilled women, willing to share burdens and lives, but unwilling to be dominated in the process. There is, thus, a similarity among the MacKade novels, yet it is the genius of Nora Roberts which, I believe creates the subtle nuances which allow one to differentiate among the stories and their character while simultaneously connecting the dots that make this series a cohesive unit. You really need to read all four of them, and do please make sure that you read them in the order in which they were written. The cross-references and flashbacks will enhance your pleasure (instead of just confusing you) if you read them in this order: The Return of Rafe MacKade, The Pride of Jared MacKade, The Heart of Devin MacKade, The Fall of Shane MacKade.

## **Winawel**

This is the third book in Nora Roberts' quadrilogy about the four Mackade brothers following her successful family romance formula of wild brothers maturing and finding their life partners. None of the romances are straightforward as each partner faces up to a long term commitment greater than their physical attraction.

In the first two books Roberts gets Jarad and Rafe Mackade married off and they now have an

offspring each from their marriages. Regan, Savannah and her son Brian are now well and truly accepted into the fold of the Mackade family. It is now the turn of Devin, a tough guy who is Sheriff of the town but a real softie at heart.

From his high school years Devin has always held a flame for Cassie and was devastated when she married Joe Dolin. He was even more devastated when Dolin turned to domestic violence against his wife and son and in *The Pride of Jared MacKade* (MacKade Brothers) Devin was involved in Dolin's arrest and imprisonment. Cassie is now divorced and with the help of Rafe and Regan Mackade, she manages the Mackade Inn, an antebellum "haunted" mansion which is now a successful up-market bed and breakfast. She is starting to put together a life of her own after Joe but still has to heal properly.

Despite being Sheriff, Devin is at heart a gentle man. He always believes that Cassie will become his soulmate but knows that he must proceed cautiously because she has not recovered from her ordeal with Joe and believes that all men are similar. He also needs to proceed very cautiously with her son Connor who is also suffering the after effects of his father's violence. Roberts spins a very sensitive romance as Devin, Cassie and Connor work out their relationship.

The Nora Roberts' formula for this kind of series is one where four brothers find their life partners. In each one either the brother or the girl have something that prevents them from making a commitment. It was so successful that three years later Roberts wrote the equally successful *Chesapeake Bay Saga*, another quadrilogy about four brothers, using a similar formula.

I am reading this quadrilogy as interludes between my normal dose of heavy thrillers. At first I wondered if I would read all of them but there is a certain attraction with Roberts' writing and her romantic formulas. The fourth book concludes the saga with Shane, the farmer, who has played the field as an independent man for so long. What kind of woman will snare him? I have read book four which I think will surprise you.

#### **MegaStar**

Great read ,but all of Nora Roberts books that I have read have been good. Devin the 3rd MacKade brother has been in love with Cassie for twelve years ever since they were in school. She had loved him from afar because she thought someone like Devin would not want her. She married someone else at age 18. She had two children and he was abusive the whole 10 years they were married. She finally pressed charges and sends him to prison. Oh what a journey they take. Good read!

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