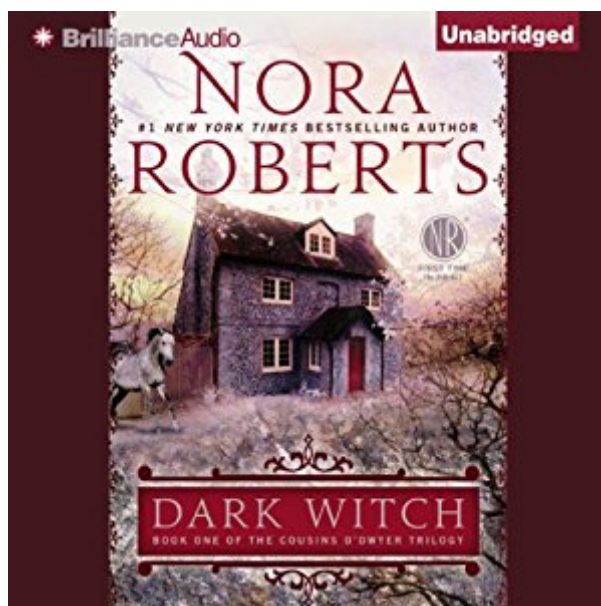


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Dark Witch: The Cousins O'Dwyer Trilogy, Book 1



Synopsis

From number-one New York Times best-selling author Nora Roberts comes a trilogy about the land we're drawn to, the family we learn to cherish, and the people we long to love.... With indifferent parents, Iona Sheehan grew up craving devotion and acceptance. From her maternal grandmother, she learned where to find both: a land of lush forests, dazzling lakes, and centuries-old legends. Ireland. County Mayo, to be exact. Where her ancestors' blood and magic have flowed through generations - and where her destiny awaits. Iona arrives in Ireland with nothing but her Nan's directions, an unfailingly optimistic attitude, and an innate talent with horses. Not far from the luxurious castle where she is spending a week, she finds her cousins, Branna and Connor O'Dwyer. And since family is family, they invite her into their home and their lives. When Iona lands a job at the local stables, she meets the owner, Boyle McGrath. Cowboy, pirate, wild tribal horsemen, he's three of her biggest fantasy weaknesses all in one big, bold package. Iona realizes that here she can make a home for herself - and live her life as she wants, even if that means falling head over heels for Boyle. But nothing is as it seems. An ancient evil has wound its way around Iona's family tree and must be defeated. Family and friends will fight with each other and for each other to keep the promise of hope - and love - alive.... Don't miss the next two books in the Cousins O'Dwyer Trilogy!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When shall we three meet again? In thunder, lightning, or in rain? When the hurlyburly's

done, When the battle's lost and won.-William Shakespeare, Macbeth And so the tone is set for Nora Roberts' *The Dark Witch*. It is the Winter of 1263 and we are introduced to Sorcha and her three wonderful children. We learn of her powers, her struggles, and her sacrifices. We learn of the importance of her home and her family. We fall in love with this strong and powerful witch and our heart breaks with the losses that she endures. Fast-forward to the year 2013 and we meet Iona Sheehan. She is beginning her new life in County Mayo, Ireland. Iona is a take-charge kind of gal. She is an only child that grew up with disinterested parents and has always felt that she never fit into her life. The stories of their ancestors in Ireland, told to her by grandmother, bring Iona comfort. It is with those stories in her heart that she sells all her belongings and moves to Ireland in hopes of finding a place where she finally feels at home. We soon meet Iona's cousins, Branna and Connor and discover that all three are descendants of Scorcha. The story unfolds as the three cousins get to know one another and Iona settles into her new life in County Mayo, Ireland. There is magic, love, danger, and suspense as the battle between good and evil is begun anew and the connections between the past and the present are revealed. One of the things that I enjoy about Nora Roberts books is that each one usually features a couple and a continuing story line. You get a sense of resolution but can't wait to see what will happen next. I enjoyed all of the characters in this story. Iona was my favorite with her strong, honest, and somewhat innocent personality but I am looking forward to seeing Connor fall in love in a future book. The romance part of the book was great. I enjoyed Boyle's character and I loved his reactions to Iona's honest and straightforward approach to life. We meet some other characters and you get a good idea of how the future romantic couples may play out. *Dark Witch* is a great addition to Nora Roberts' collection of books. I enjoyed it and look forward to reading Book 2, *Shadow Spell* very soon.

If you enjoyed Nora Roberts' other magical books involving witches, spells, magical, suspense, intrigue, black sorcerers and star crossed lovers....then you'll love this book as well. Shorter than most of her other books it's perfect for a rainy day or ANY day for that matter when you don't have time or the inclination to get started reading a book you know will take three to four days. This book is short enough to read in one day yet long enough to feel like you've left your own world behind for awhile. While similar in theme to her other Wiccan books the characters and story line are different enough that you don't feel like you are reading a cookie cutter book. You might know the star crossed lover's will eventually work things out but the rest of the story line.....well that is always new and exciting which is why she's one of my favorite writers. I'd recommend this to anyone who

loves Nora Roberts and if you have a "mid-aged" teen who loves to read but hates books that "take forever" as my daughter says, this is a good book to get them hooked on a great writer. There's a little cursing, mostly with a Gaelic "accent" which I find entertaining and some mild sex so read it yourself first to see if you think it's appropriate for your child, as every parent has an idea as to what is or isn't for each of their children. I would have no problem with my 15 year old niece reading it but think it might be a little much for her 13 yr old sister. I can't wait to read the next book in this trilogy...It's sitting right next to me telling me to hurry up and finish this review so I can get started. I'll let you know what I think about it when I finish. Well I'm off to faeries land Nora Roberts style! Slainte!

I enjoyed this trilogy but it bothered me that SO MANY of the plot details were so similar to her previous books--especially the Three Sisters trilogy. Do I recommend the series? Yes, but it isn't my favourite. I have read this in print version and have the audio books. The narration is fine but the same person doesn't narrate each book. Warning: below are mild spoilers for the general story line all 3 books. Woman who doesn't know she is a witch joins 2 other witches to fight big evil (first book). Woman falls in love with non-witch good guy who totally accepts her being a witch. The most powerful female witch (3rd book) has unresolved former relationship with other male witch who isn't a true part of the 3-witch circle but is determined to win back the woman and help fight the big evil. As always, there are gardens in this series but less than some other books. Has horses, which was a prominent element in many of Nora's earlier books. The one thing I did REALLY like about this series and found to be unique is the connection to the original witches from hundreds of years ago in the family line and how their story is really explored. The story actually starts with them and goes on for a chapter or two in each book--really established this part of the tale. Then the characters from this past part show up more and more as the trilogy continues and I like that too. This element is involved in a minor way in the Three Sisters trilogy (metaphysical contact with the ancestral witches that started the family line) but this series really tells the tale and those witches are actually important characters in this series.

I liked this book, but I have read plenty of Nora Roberts' books over the years. I liked this book because the plot line was not completely predictable, there were a few surprises but not outrageous ones, and there was still a happy ending. The plot makes the most sense if you read all three books in order and finish the series, but each book is technically readable as an individual story if you want to read the books out of order. I thought the books were a little slow to start, but the pace picked up

throughout. If you like Nora Roberts' writing style and find paranormal romance books entertaining, this book (or any in the series) would be worth a read.

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