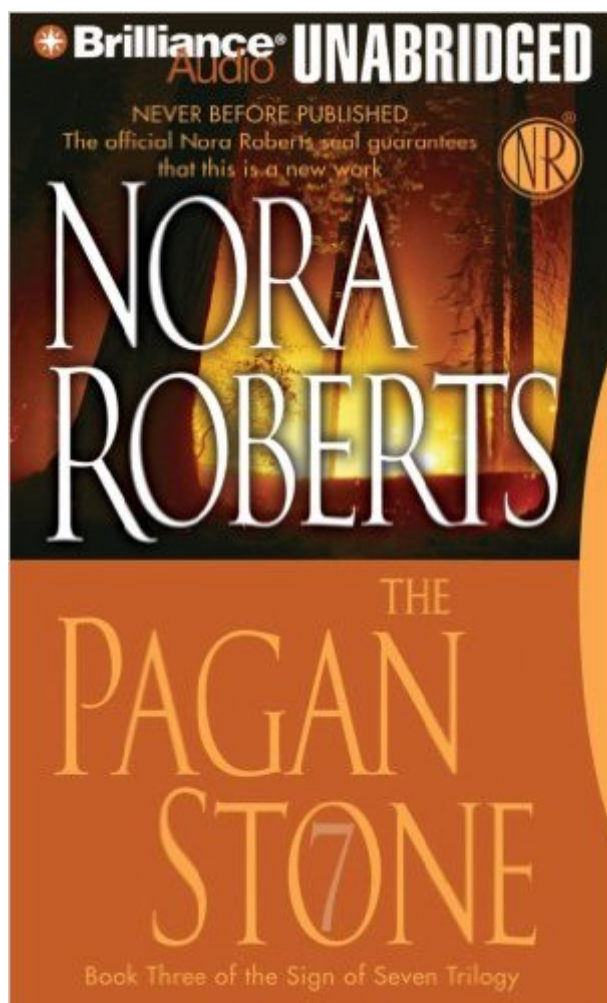


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# The Pagan Stone (Sign Of Seven Series)



## Synopsis

Years ago, after their blood brother ritual, Gage, Fox, and Caleb emerged from the woods, each with a piece of bloodstone. Now, it will become their weapon in the final fight against the demon they awakened. Winner take all. Shared nightmares, visions of blood and fire, and random violence begin to plague the longtime friends and Quinn, Layla, and Cybil, the women bound to them by fate. None of them can ignore the fact that, this year, the demon has grown stronger, feeding off of the terror it creates. But now, the three pieces of the bloodstone have been fused back together. If only they could figure out how to use it. A gambling man like Gage has no trouble betting on his crew to find a way. And though he and Cybil share the gift of seeing the future, that's all they share. Were they to take their flirtation to the next level, it would be on their own terms, not because fate decreed it. But Gage knows that a woman like Cybil, with her brains and strength and devastating beauty, can only bring him luck. Good or bad has yet to be determined, and could mean the difference between absolute destruction or an end to the nightmare for Hawkins Hollow.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have been a long time Nora Roberts reader, but this trilogy has not been very good, and this last book in the trilogy is just plain bad. My two favorite characters in the series have been Quinn and Gage, so I was hoping NR would redeem herself by giving Gage a good story. Didn't happen. I have never had to skim a NR book, but I did this one. Thankfully I read the series from the library, so I'm

only out time, and not money.

I just finished rereading this series for maybe the fifth time. This was a good wrap-up to the series and kept in touch with both the moods and backgrounds of the characters. It would have been easy to fall back on a deus ex machina, but didn't. The touching and laugh-out-loud moments continued right up through the end. It shouldn't spoil anything, but honestly, who can resist the lines: "We got you a Glad You Didn't Die cake. Betts at the bakery wrote that on it. She was confused, but she wrote that on it." "You guys are idiots. The appropriate Glad You Didn't Die token is a hooker and a bottle of Jack." "We couldn't find a hooker...Our time was limited." "You could give him an IOU." I have frightened small children, household pets, public transportation and salon neighbors reading that part. There's one section like that in each book in this trilogy. I just wait for them. I love the characters in this series. They're pretty quirky and hilarious.

I never thought I would say this about one of Nora Roberts's books. But I found myself skipping several pages at a time. There is just too much conversation between the 6 main characters. A lot of the talk is on the nature of the relationships between them. If you read her Circle trilogy, there is probably what amounts to a page towards the end of Book 3, where Cian muses upon the destiny of the 6 of them. I would say a good chunk of Pagan Stone is devoted to that particular exercise. Some portions of the book also reminded me of the comedies from the B/W era, where every cliched situation the makers could possibly think of would have been employed. All three of the women turning up pregnant and that too supposedly after conceiving on the same night?! Adding Gage's blood to the water supply to inoculate the town? I was actually looking forward to Gage's story since he reminded me of my other favorite NR characters, Cian and Roarke. I am very disappointed.

By far the best book in the series, The Pagan Stone tells the story of the last couple, Cybil and Gage. Both can see the possible future, most notably the outcome of the battle between the good and evil that the entire group now knows is inevitable. As the Seven draws closer, things get more and more sinister around Hawkins Hollow, and the former adversaries must learn to combine their power. Gage, ever the wanderer, is reluctant to create any ties to Cybil, while she in her turn doesn't want to be defined by a relationship. However, as they join forces with each other and the four others--Cal and Quinn, Fox and Layla--they realize that their purely sexual desire is about to become something more and that there is nothing they can do about it. Good luck with that, guys. At first I couldn't really get into Roberts' latest trilogy. The first couple of chapters in the first book,

Blood Brothers, were slow and it took me awhile to plow through to see the point of the setup. As a relative newcomer to the Nora Roberts scene, I wasn't sure I liked her style, but it grew on me and I now quite like it. It is very open and engaging, but still formal enough to showcase her talent as a writer. The characters in this book could have been more developed, but overall it was a very enjoyable read.

I think it might be a good idea for Ms. Roberts to stay the hell away from trilogies for a while and either take a long vacation or stick to her stand-alone novels. In my humble opinion, her best trilogy was the Sisters Island trilogy, and they've been going downhill ever since. I didn't think much of the first book in this series, but the characters were okay. The second book was more of a stretch, and I finished it because I'd paid for it. In this last book, however, the characters were unlikable and the romance was so forced as to be ludicrous. In my daughter's pithy phrase, it blew harder than a Force Five hurricane. Nope. I really think that a moratorium on these trilogies is in order.

Well, Nora, here we are again. I took you off of my "automatic buy" list when you wrote "Angels Fall". I just didn't like that book at all. I began checking out your books from the library. Then, you went and wrote the Circle Trilogy and, low and behold, you were back on my automatic buy list. In fact, after reading "Morrigan's Cross", I pre-ordered "Dance of the Gods" and "Valley of Silence" right away. "Valley of Silence" to me was one of the best books you had ever written. So, of course, I was so excited when I saw that you were coming out with The Sign of Seven trilogy. But, frankly, it was awful. "Blood Brothers" felt forced and my favorite character was the dog. Seriously. "The Hollow" was just that. Hollow. Lacking in character development, just like the first. However, I was really excited for "The Pagan Stone". After all, Gage and Cybil seemed to me from the first book to have the most potential for a great love story. They both were afraid of commitment and had the most baggage. It was obvious to me when I bought their book that Gage and Cybil would hook up. But, what I can't believe is how obvious you made it to them. There was no anticipation. Just endless conversations between the two of them of how they were not going to fall in love. Boring. That's not plot building. That's having your characters talk about the plot so that you don't have to develop it. This book is awful. It is the first Nora Roberts book I skipped pages in. I actually had to skip the third conversation that these two characters had about how they're not going to end up together. Did she just copy and paste to write each chapter? Sorry, Nora. You're back on the library waiting list.

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