



Rules of the Game

Nora Roberts

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Television director Brooke Gordon thinks that major league baseball player Parks Jones is a major *pain* - an insufferable bad boy with an inflated ego. Unfortunately, he's also brilliant... and her client's spokesman. Booked to direct a series of commercials together, Brooke is irritated to find herself intensely attracted to the sports star. She's determined to ignore her feelings - but Parks is just as determined to prove that love is more than a game to him...

Includes a preview of *Whiskey Beach*, published in April 2013

Rules of the Game Details

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Author : Nora Roberts

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From Reader Review Rules of the Game for online ebook

Meg says

This was a book I read many years ago. I was (and still am) a fan of Nora Roberts' writing, including her books as J.D. Robb, and gave this one a quick re-read when I ran across it while redoing some shelves. It's one of the few print books I've read within the last couple years, being a diehard Kindle user, but I have many more that I hope to have a chance to revisit before too long.

Sophie says

Didn't know anything about baseball before this book, no more knowledge now - that doesn't detract from the romance in my opinion. Unfortunately, similarly to others of her early books, I found the consent issue tricky - her early male leads are not good at taking no for an answer and instead see it as a challenge.

Cynthia says

I liked the depth in characters. In romances, I like it when the female lead is comfortable in her skin. I think Nora Roberts is probably one of my more favoured authors now. I like how straightforward she is in her writing. When I want to get to the meat of a story, Roberts provides it. I was initially hooked into the name of the book, because I was locked into looking at life as a game, and I caught so many key words that are connecting with me in the moment. I liked the book. I liked the characters. I liked the chemistry. In another time I might have given this book 3 stars, but coming back into romance books, I think I prefer this straightforwardness in relationships and I plan on coming back for more!

Sandy says

There's nothing particularly wrong with this book. It just felt a little flat for me. The characters were superficial, the descriptions were a little boring, and the conflict just didn't hold my attention. I've been reading Nora's books for most of my life, but this is the first time I've read one of the early ones. It's fascinating to see how her writing style has changed over the years.

Ashley Christensen says

I really liked this one.

It felt like I was reading a more recent novel she wrote, instead of one written in 1984. Park was an outstanding leading man, and Brooke was the perfect leading lady- standard Nora, with a strong female protagonist.

I also thoroughly enjoyed all of the side characters, as I usually do in her novels.

I'd love to know what happened with Brooke and Park, if he went off to be an actor and she went off to direct films. I guess that's the sign of a good book- wanting to follow the characters more.

Fernanda says

:)

não sei porquê tenho sempre algum "pudor" em atribuir menos de 3 estrelas, acho que o autor merece sempre pelo esforço apesar de historia não ser exactamente "the one"!

bem, apesar de ser NR, nota-se perfeitamente que foi escrito nos anos 80, mais ou menos no inicio da sua carreira.

esta historia pouco ou nada trás de novo. recheada de "clichés" o que acaba por condicionar algum envolvimento maior com os personagens.

apesar de ser uma historia "cute" fica um certo vazio porque não houve um amadurecimento dos personagens e consequentemente a historia fica "deslavada".

a trama acaba por ser basica, temos uma estrela do basebol que foi contratado para fazer propaganda a uma marca de roupa e temos a directora/publicista da dita propaganda.... envolvimento amoroso super previsivel, nada de dialogos fantásticos, mordazes e com atitude.

posso considerar que foi mais uma "palhinha"....

Lisa says

Ouch. I adore Nora, but I'm discovering in re-reads that some of her older titles just don't work for me.

The absolute arrogance/cockiness of the hero, Parks, in this one drove me insane. He's decided he wants Brooke, and he'll persuade/convince her to go along, despite her telling him quite clearly that she does not want to get involved with him for very logical, reasonable business reasons. Reasons which are proven completely valid when they DO get involved, and he gets butt-hurt and all broody male because his lover tell him what to do in their professional interactions (like she's SUPPOSED to, and she is bad-ass at her work). Parks doesn't respect Brooke, and he shows it.

This book showed it's 1994 origins quite well, and it kinda hurt.

Vona Bowling says

Typical short Nora romance. The interesting thing about this one was instead of immediately living happily ever after it showed an end chapter where they actually had difficulty adjusting to being married and living together instead of it being instant perfect. They worked through it of course but it was nice to see that yes, two completely independent people have to adjust to being married where you have to recognize the other person's POV.

Maura says

Brooke is a seemingly confident and mysterious director of commercials, while Parks is a sexy (rather arrogant) baseball player who is endorsing clothing in her commercials. These two have to figure out how to navigate a relationship when Brooke is the boss and doesn't want a relationship, while Parks doesn't take orders well and very much does want a relationship. This would normally garner the "average" rating of 3 stars. It's fairly well written, the romance is pretty passionate, it's even paced pretty well. It also distinguishes itself by being one of the few romances where there are no silly misunderstandings or even secrets or betrayals that get in the way of the two characters getting together. It simply follows their courtship and falling in love.

The reason this is only a 2-star book for me has to do with "the game." These two play ridiculous mind games with each other. These characters frustrated the hell out of me with their always wanting to be in control and always needing to have things his or her way. It got really irritating that 50% into the book, she's still trying to hold the reins and keep in control and he's still spouting that he makes the rules off camera. It honestly felt like he pressured her into a sexual relationship. How is it romantic or sexy that she's trembling with fear at the thought of starting something with him and falling in love and he's ready to make love to her? I don't find this sort of power play very romantic. And even at 80%, when they've been dating forever, he still admits that he gets angry that he can't have things his way in a relationship. That's a pretty selfish love IMHO. (view spoiler)

Melissa says

The book I read this in was anthology called Forever.

I wasn't a fan of the couples, but I liked the supporting characters so it wasn't a great read for me, It was OK but not one I enjoyed very much.

Jen says

Parks Jones, professional baseball player is the new spokesman for a clothing line and he isn't that excited about it. But, when he meets his director, Brooke Gordon, sparks fly immediately. Parks is attracted, Brooke is intrigued but doesn't want to get involved and both are not ready for the relationship that seems to develop overnight. While Parks shoots for a World Series championship and Brooke contemplates branching into directing more than commercials both have to open their eyes to the love they've developed together and the lives they can share.

MissKitty says

An early Nora Roberts, under silhouette intimate moments. The sex scenes are pretty risqué for its time period, 1984. The story line is quite contemporary and it still lives up to the present. I liked the main

characters, both were strong personalities and the author did a good job of showing how this could cause tension between the couple.

Teddie says

Take this rating with a grain of salt - perhaps I've become too cynical to enjoy early Nora Roberts.

lori callis says

Lori's review

Really enjoyed reading this book. Nora Roberts is one of my favorite authors. Each one of her books are a pleasure to read.

Amy says

As a baseball fan and a Nora Roberts fan, I thought a Nora Roberts book with a baseball theme would be a treat. Sadly, my knowledge of baseball actually hurt my ability to enjoy this book. I know it wasn't meant to be a guide to understanding the game, but the baseball parts should have been reviewed by someone who knows the sport (like winning a World Series isn't the same as winning a pennant). Oh well, I guess it's not realistic to expect to like every book an author writes!
