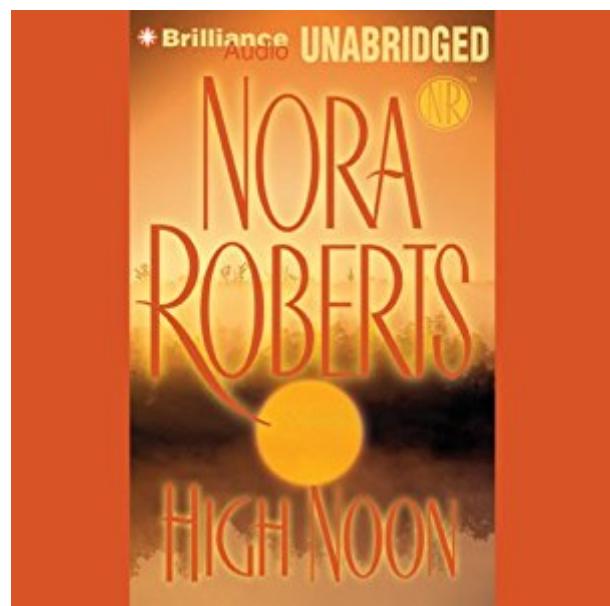


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# High Noon



## Synopsis

Police Lieutenant Phoebe MacNamara found her calling at an early age, when a violently unstable man broke into her family's home, trapping and terrorizing them for hours. Now she's Savannah's top hostage negotiator, who puts her life on the line every day to defuse powder-keg situations. Phoebe knows when to reach out and when to pull back - and when to jump in and take action, even if it means risking everything. It's satisfying work - and sometimes those skills come in handy at home when Phoebe deals with her agoraphobic mother, still traumatized by the break-in after all these years, and her precocious seven-year-old daughter, Carly. It's exactly that heady combination of steely courage and sensitivity that first attracts Duncan Swift to Phoebe. After watching her talk one of his employees off a roof ledge, he is committed to keeping this intriguing, take-charge woman in his life. Phoebe's used to working solo, but she's finding that no amount of negotiation can keep Duncan at arm's length. When she's grabbed by a man who throws a hood over her head and brutally assaults her - in her own precinct house - Phoebe can't help being deeply shaken. And when threatening messages appear on her doorstep, she's not just alarmed but frustrated. How do you go face-to-face with an opponent who refuses to look you in the eye? Now, with Duncan backing her up every step of the way, she must establish contact with the faceless tormentor who is determined to make her a hostage to fear - before she becomes the final showdown. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 16 hours and 34 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: June 10, 2008

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B001AZT92E

Best Sellers Rank: #74 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Suspense #1699 in Books > Romance > Romantic Suspense #2166 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

## Customer Reviews

Phoebe MacNamara's life was irrevocably changed as a young girl when she was forced to make some pretty tough decisions, life and death decisions concerning her small brother and mother. Years later those decisions help shape her into the woman she is and the career she has. After a brief stint with the FBI Phoebe came home to Savannah and the local police department and is now a Lieutenant and the top hostage negotiator. When the fiery red headed Lt. walks onto the scene of a jumper, Duncan Swift has several thoughts about the woman in charge, all making him to want to know more about the sexy woman with a badge. The chemistry between Duncan and Phoebe is more subtle than usual; there is a mutual attraction at first then it slowly builds, with a more natural and realistic progression. Phoebe is a single mom and has her reservations, having been burned a time or two in the past. Duncan is confident, persistent and utterly charming. Their relationship kicks up a notch after Phoebe is attacked. After the attack, Phoebe starts receiving strange offerings at her doorstep and soon discovers someone is out to harm her and those she loves.... And so the mystery begins. At first I thought Phoebe was going to be another ultra independent, cool, detached heroine, like Eve Dallas. But Nora ended up writing a tough woman with a soft heart. Duncan was a loveable hero who didn't take any crap from the heroine. The side characters were just as intriguing. Phoebe is surrounded by tremendous family with a lot of personality; Duncan has a family built of friends. I gave it the 4 star rating because the conclusion seemed a little rushed and left a few loose ends.

Phoebe MacNamara loves her job. As with most police officers working in such a dangerous and stressful position, she has had some career "losses". This has been when a hostage situation or a suicide intervention has gone horribly off the rails, resulting in the loss of life. It is not ultimately that the approach the Lieutenant has taken with her hostage negotiation has been incorrect, for there have always been many factors coming into play, but the emotional part of the Phoebe, the single mother, has never truly accepted that. Neither, it appears, has someone else. Her own messy past has had much to do with her choice of career as a child her own life was once saved by both by her own quick thinking, and by the cool head of a hostage negotiator. It has been difficult for Phoebe to keep her head above water as she juggles her demanding job alongside a complex domestic situation which involves her traumatized mother, her own daughter, and a family friend all living under the same roof. In walks Duncan Swift, an eligible lottery winner who doesn't have much to do all day but charm his way into the life of the MacNamara's. After a vicious attack at work, Phoebe first thinks that a colleague, jealous of her successes, has taken this as a very personal affront. When the horrific little "gifts" begin arriving on her doorstep, Phoebe realizes that someone has

been watching her, and more frighteningly, her family, for quite some time. The juggernaut of women's fiction that is Nora Roberts continues to churn out an enormous amount of work which must be unparalleled by any other top ten writer out there today.

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