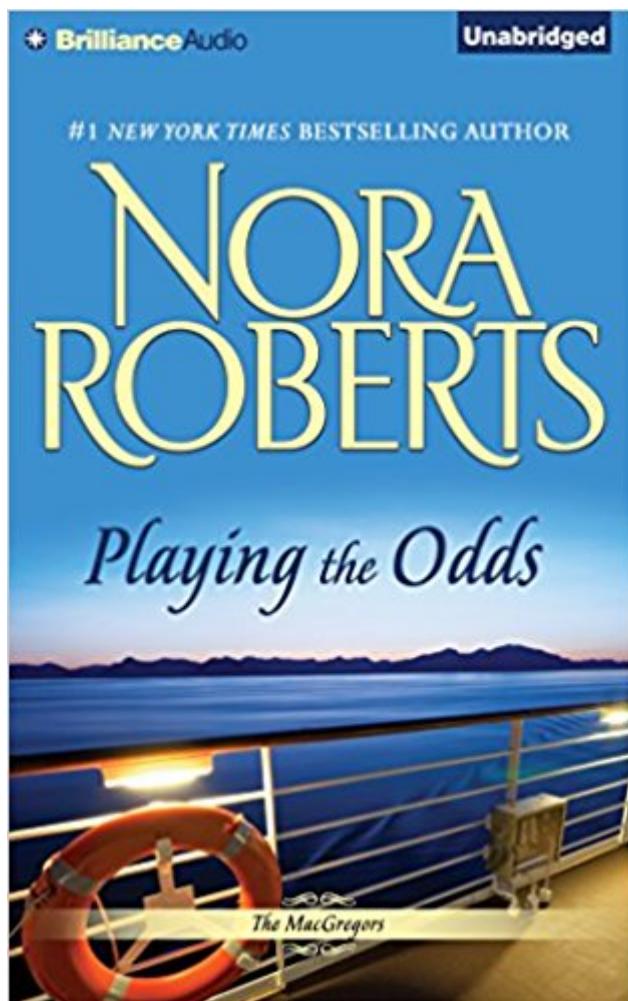


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# Playing The Odds (The MacGregors)



## Synopsis

#1 New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Nora Roberts enchants again with this beloved classic about the passionate and headstrong MacGregor family. Serena MacGregor had been looking for a little independence and some much-needed adventure, but Justin Blade was not what she had in mind. The stakes were high, and Justin was betting on changing Serena's mind about him. But when this fiery heiress upped the ante on the cool Comanche gambler, steamy didn't begin to describe the results.â |

## Book Information

Series: The MacGregors (Book 1)

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## Customer Reviews

Nora Roberts is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of more than 200 novels. She is also the author of the bestselling In Death series written under the pen name J. D. Robb. There are more than 400 million copies of her books in print.

I always like a good Nora Roberts book. Serena MacGregor is working for one year on a cruise liner and this is her last cruise. Justin Blade sits at her blackjack table and is immediately interested in Serena. He works to be where she is and to get to know her better. He does not realize this is the daughter of his friend, Daniel MacGregor and Daniel has set him up to meet his only daughter on the cruise. Justin owns several casinos and offers Serena a job as manager of his Atlantic City casino. She tells him she will let him know. The story develops with humor, romance and suspense. Be sure to read.

I have read this book 3 or 4 times and it gets better with each reading. I loved Serena and Justin and the whole MacGregor clan. I kept trying to picture the actor who would play Justin if the book were made into a movie. I haven't picked out anyone yet because he is just special to me.

I totally loved it!!! I have all the books in this series in paperback, and have read them all several times. Now I'm slowly adding them on my Kindle, which is much easier to handle when taking a trip. Justin and Serena's story will always be one of my favorites in the series, though. The way they try to one-up each other is hilarious. I don't know which one of them is more pig-headed or stubborn. I'm sure having to put up with a controlling father and two loving but over-protective brothers, helped Serena the strong woman she is today. And growing up the way that Justin had to do at such a young age, just made him more determined to win at any cost. Visiting the MacGregor family has always been a bit of a wild adventure, but always a very pleasant journey, all the same. The way Daniel continues his sneaky ways, and the way Anna reels him back in....always leaves me laughing long after the story has ended. I would highly recommend not only this book, but all of the books in this series.

Don't get me wrong, I really like Nora Roberts. But sometimes her formula is just a little too apparent and it feels as if she's skipping a little on the character development that makes so many of her books memorable. This is an example. One of the reasons I like Roberts is that she doesn't depend on an endless description of sexual attraction between her major characters to fill pages and pages of the book. But, she does here and, frankly, it was tiresome. Although I didn't count pages, it did feel as if fully the first quarter of the book described the attraction between the characters and the usual resistance to it by the heroine. The plot and the denouement were predictable. All of this was too bad because the circumstances of the plot (a casino) could have been mined for greater interest, something she can do beautifully. Not necessarily a stumble, but she doesn't cross the finish line with her usual panache.

I really enjoyed this first book in the series about Serena McGregor. She has finished studying and is working on a cruise ship in the casino for a year. She meets the H, a professional gambler, during her last few weeks before she returns home. There is instant attraction but I like the way the relationship develops through the book. I've already downloaded the next 2 books about this H's brothers.

If Nora Roberts wrote this book she is slipping big time. It is not up to her usual standards, the dialog is sophomoric. I think she has ghost writers and just puts her name on the manuscript. She is capable of much better.

Pages and pages of sex scenes, becomes boring. Not up to the standard she used to reach when she wrote the trilogies such as The three sisters, Dream trilogy, Irish Trilogy, The Sign of Severn and so on, now they were good stories and the sex scenes did not override the story. I have now read two of the MacGregor books and shan't bother with the others.

I like the series but would have liked it better if I could have read them in order.

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