

Betrayal in Death Study Guide

Betrayal in Death by Nora Roberts

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Plot Summary

A murder is occurring on this May evening in 2059. It is spring and many people are out on the streets. The man didn't know her name, but she was in the right place at the right time as she came to perform her nightly duties in the Palace Hotel's Suite 4602. James Priory hid in the closet, then jumped out and attacked her. To the music of Carmen, he beat, raped and strangled her.

This is the opening of *Betrayal in Death* by Nora Roberts, a very interesting and fast paced murder mystery. Nora Roberts uses the pen name J.D. Robb for her mystery books and this one is a good one.

Lieutenant Eve Dallas is with the New York City Police and Security Department. She is married to the wealthy Roarke. Roarke had been an Irish criminal who was involved in some big deals in his younger days while building his empire. Now he is legitimate and out of crime. He is a friend of movie star Magda Lane, who is auctioning off her art, jewelry and other items and using the money to finance a foundation. The auction items are on display in the ballroom of the Palace Hotel, which is owned by Roarke. Eve is there for a pre-auction party when hotel security tells her that there has been a murder in Suite 4602.

The novel is set in the year 2059. Technology is very advanced and people can travel and live off-planet. The latest technology is developed and used by Roarke who uses it to help Eve and her colleagues nab a hired assassin and the people who hired him.

The plot is very good and the novel is well written. Who is this hired assassin and why would someone pay him to kill a hotel maid? The reader is a part of every step Eve and her police team take to track the killer. The meticulous work of Eve and her team lead to the identification of Sylvester Yost early in the investigation. They track his purchases and find where he purchases his skin care product and silver jewelry wire that he uses as a garrote. Since his latest purchase was for three lengths of wire, they know that there will be two more murders.

The second murder takes place and it is another Roarke employee who dies. Now Eve knows that her husband is being targeted, and she has to find out by whom and why. She is up against a high priced killer for hire for whom money is no object.

The reader will enjoy this well written suspenseful novel. The action is fast paced with few lulls and the reader will find it difficult to put the book down once he/she has begun reading it. *Betrayal in Death* is well worth the time spent reading it.



Prologue and Chapter 1

Prologue and Chapter 1 Summary

A murder is occurring on this May evening in 2059. It is spring and many people are out on the streets. The man didn't know her name, but she was in the right place at the right time as she came to perform her nightly duties in the Palace Hotel's Suite 4602. James Priory hid in the closet, then jumped out and attacked her. To the music of Carmen, he beat, raped and strangled her.

Chapter one opens with Eve Dallas at a party. She is dressed in an evening gown and is carrying her badge and weapon in her evening bag. Roarke, her husband, asks if she is satisfied with the security and she answers that it is risky to hold an affair with millions of dollars of jewelry in an open ballroom. Magda Lane's art and jewelry are being auctioned and Roarke Industries is handling the affair. Eve is at the affair as Roarke's wife and not as a cop.

Roarke tells Eve how he came to see his first Magda Lane movie when he was a youth in Dublin. He then introduces Eve to Magda, who apologizes for not attending their wedding the previous year. Magda wants to talk to Eve, so the two women find a table. Magda has known Roarke for many years. Magda is holding the auction to launch the Magda Lane Foundation for the Performing Arts. Magda says she wants to have dinner with Eve and Roarke soon.

Roarke interrupts and tells Eve about the murder. She goes up to Suite 4602 and views the body and murder scene. She learns the details from John Brigham, head of hotel security. The murdered maid was known as Little Darlene, real name of Darlene French. Eve notified the police and begins recording the details of the crime scene. Roarke asks her to give the case to someone else.

Prologue and Chapter 1 Analysis

The book opens with the murder of the maid in Suite 4602 in the Palace Hotel and it sets the mood of suspense for the novel.

Magda has known Roarke for many years and is curious about the woman he married. She is curious about Eve and her work as a police officer. She also wants to see the kind of woman that Roarke married and if Eve was what Magda thought she was.

Eve switches to her professional mode when she arrives at the scene of the murder, Suite 4602. Roarke asks her to give the case to someone else since she was abused and raped as a child. He thinks the case will be hard on Eve psychologically, but she is a professional and says it is her case.



Chapters 2-3

Chapters 2-3 Summary

Eve learns the suite was booked three weeks in advance, registered to James Priory of Milwaukee. Eve watches the security discs of Priory checking into the hotel and being shown into the suite. She also watches Darlene French enter the suite. At 8:58, Priory leaves the suite with his suitcase, approximately one half hour after Darlene had entered.

Eve learns from her assistant that the real James Priory had been killed in a car accident several months earlier. She tells Peabody to run the picture through IRCCA to see if they can identify the man. She then goes to interview Hilo, the maid who found the body. Hilo had gone looking for Darlene when she didn't answer her page. She describes how she found the body and she tells Eve that Darlene wouldn't have played opera music. Darlene was dating a bellhop named Barry. The interview ends when Roarke walks in.

Roarke and Eve talk after Hilo leaves. Eve wants to interview Barry, but Roarke has sent him home. She then goes to New Jersey to notify Darlene's mother and sister. On the way back, she receives a call from Officer Feeney who has used the image on the security discs to identify the man, whose birth name is Sylvester Yost. He remembers a series of strangulations with silver wire cases from fifteen years ago.

Yost was watching a tape of a ball game. He was a hired killer who had accepted a contract to kill Darlene. He didn't ask why she was targeted, but the hit was part of a larger lucrative job that was just beginning.

Chapter three opens with Eve reviewing the information she received from Feeney, which is considerable. She wonders who would hire Yost to kill a young maid. Eve decides to concentrate on Darlene for a while. She tells Peabody to check out Barry Collins. Peabody tells Eve that she is dating McNab and Eve relays this information to Feeney, who is now working on the case with them. Feeney will check out Darlene's father. They have McNab analyze the silver wire to see if they can find out where he buys them.

Eve and Peabody return to the crime scene, trying to determine how Yost spent the time between check in and the murder. They notice that all of the bath amenities are missing.

Roarke arrives and announces that he has arranged interviews with the staff for her.

Chapters 2-3 Analysis

James Priory wasn't the murderer's real name. The real James Priory had died several months earlier and the murderer had known this when he booked the suite. He had his



plans made in advance, but did he know about the security discs? He didn't seem to care about being on the security discs. He came to the hotel with the purpose of killing.

The murder of Darlene is the second killing of a Roarke employee on a Roarke property in a few weeks.

Using technology and the good memory of Captain Feeney, the police come up with the name of Sylvester Yost, a killer for hire. But why would he want to kill Darlene, a maid? Eve begins to look into this. Since this is the second murder of a Roarke employee on a Roarke property in a few weeks, and Yost indicates that it is the beginning of a big job, it is possible that someone is trying to get at Roarke in this way.

Eve appears to be sharp with her husband when he walks into the suite. She reminds him that it is a crime scene even though it is his hotel. It is obvious that she doesn't like his interference in her work, even though she knows that he is only trying to be helpful.



Chapters 4-5

Chapters 4-5 Summary

Roarke and Mick Connelly, an old friend, meet in Roarke's office at the hotel. They haven't seen each other for almost fifteen years. Mick tells Roarke how he got out of Liverpool by switching identities with a dead man. He is in town on business and decided to look up Roarke, who invites Mick to stay at his home.

Eve learns that Yost earns approximately two million dollars for a hit. That is his starting price, and at a brainstorming session with Peabody, Feeney and McNab, the group concludes that Darlene was a random target and that Roarke is the target.

Eve focuses on the bag that Yost carried and identifies its manufacturers and model numbers. She asks for a list of locations where it was sold and who the purchasers were. She also suspects that Yost was wearing a wig and tells Peabody to check it out.

Eve goes home to work and finds that Roarke has installed Mick in one of their guestrooms. He asks her to accept Mick, a person from his past. He also tells her that Magda and others will be coming for dinner at eight. When Mick tells her that he won't bore her with stories from the past, she says she would like to hear them.

In chapter five, Eve is in her study reviewing files on the murders to which Yost is suspect. In studying the cases, Eve concludes that the murderer always takes some token item as a souvenir. She notices from the photos that Darlene's earrings are missing. Just then, McNab calls to say that the silver wire is jeweler's wire. A quick check of the files reveals that the murderers are committed with two foot lengths. Eve tells McNab to look for sales of that length. She asks Roarke who would spend two million dollars to embarrass or distract him. He says there may be several people and feels that the murders may be the result of an old grudge. As a result of the maid's death, Roarke is not focused on his own activities, which is the point Eve makes.

Eve thinks it strange that Mick showed up a few hours after the murder. Roarke tells her that Mick is in to a lot of things, but murder isn't one of them. She tells Roarke to think about the past and who would have a grudge against him.

During the dinner, Eve is preoccupied, thinking about the case. They talk about Magda's movies, and after the meal is finished, they go to view Roarke's weapons collection.

Chapters 4-5 Analysis

Roarke and Mick Connelly renew their friendship after fifteen years. Connelly is involved in crime and asks Roarke if he wants to come in on some of the deals. Roarke, who is now wealthy and legitimate, has put crime behind him. He does not need to engage in criminal activities anymore.

Eve is a little curious about Mick's appearance right after the murder, but Roarke vouches for his friend. They go back a long way and Roarke's says that Mick may have been involved in a lot of criminal activities, but murder wasn't one of them.

The feeling is that the murder of Darlene is part of a plot to embarrass Roarke. Eve points out that he is less focused in his thinking and asks if he is involved in any business negotiations that someone would want to disrupt. He has to think back over the past to look for possible suspects. In building his business empire, he must have made some enemies.



Chapters 6-7

Chapters 6-7 Summary

On the way out of the house, Eve asks their butler, Summerset, what he thinks about Mick Connelly. He tells her what he knows and that is basically that Mick is loyal to Roarke. She asks him to keep an eye on Roarke and to be sure that he always knows where Roarke is.

Peabody tells Eve that they are narrowing down the sources on the bag and the wire. Looking for information based on two feet of wire, they have located a seller in Manhattan. They have narrowed the information on the suitcase to less than one hundred. They find the sale of a wig on the same day that there was a sale on the bag and the wire.

Two FBI agents arrive at Eve's office. They are interested in the French case since they have been pursuing Yost for several years. They want to take over the case, and Eve objects. She is backed by her Commander. She brings her commander and the feds up to date on the case and says she will have no problems working with the feds.

In chapter seven, Eve checks out the lead on the wigs. She and Peabody go to the Paradise beauty salon. Eve shows the manager, Martin, a picture of Yost, and he identifies the wig. They find the clerk who made the sale of the wig and other items on the third of May. They learn from the clerk that the purchaser likes to vary his looks. The clerk tells them about the purchases and the purchaser and how he paid the eight thousand dollar bill in cash. The clerk couldn't find out the man's name, but said the man had a high pitched voice.

Peabody and Eve next visit the luggage store but come up with no information. At the jewelry shop, the clerk recognizes her as Roarke's wife and tries to give her a gift, which she refuses since she is on official police business. He recognizes the picture of Yost and says the man's name is John Smith and says he buys silver wire, but never stones. The bald man always buys two feet lengths and pays in cash. Eve and Peabody find out that he made a purchase the week before the murder and around Christmas. They tell the clerk to contact them if the man appears again. They then find that the man has also purchased silver wire from the London shop. When Eve finds out that the man's family has ten other shops, she asks him to send them a photo of Yost and to ask if there have been any purchases.

Eve has Feeney look into murders of missing persons in London. Eve then goes to see Dr. Mira for a profile on Yost. While there, Peabody calls and says there is another homicide with the same pattern in a private residence owned by Elite Real Estate, which is part of Roarke Industries.



Chapters 6-7 Analysis

Eve is meticulous in tracking down details and following leads. She finds things in the other murder cases that other investigators have missed. She follows the lead on the wire and finds Yost identified as John Smith, and also learns that he has made purchases from their store in London. She asks them to check their other stores and to contact her.

They know that Yost bought four lengths of wire. This means that there will be more murders. Dr Mira, the police department profiler, says that the purpose of the murders is probably to upset her and Roarke, which it seems to be doing. While they are talking, Eve receives news of another murder on a Roarke property.



Chapters 8-9

Chapters 8-9 Summary

The murder occurred in a swank neighborhood. Eve arrives at the home where Jonah Talbot had been killed. The man had been beaten, sodomized and strangled with a silver wire. She is briefed on the details of the crime. They discovered that Talbot had been drugged, which was why he didn't put up much of a fight. Eve also finds that the token souvenir the murderer took was a small body ornament.

Roarke arrives and Eve tries to keep him out. He knew the dead man and is very upset. He tells Eve that this was Talbot's day to stay home and edit. Roarke feels that the man is dead because he worked for Roarke.

Eve talks to Talbot's girlfriend, Dana, who found the body. Dana explains how he hadn't answered her calls so she came to the house and found the door open. She walked in and found him, then ran outside and called a patrol droid. Dana confirmed that Talbot wore a small silver hoop in his left testicle.

Feeney tells Eve that Yost had a new appearance. He had an arty look and wore a long black wig. He had opened the door with a master code. The house security cameras had been on so everything was on disc.

Roarke is outside and very upset. Eve tries to comfort him. She tells him she will see him at home that evening and he leaves.

Roarke goes to his office and thinks about his life and the present situation. With all of his money and power, he can't stop the murders. Mick is waiting at his office. Mick is impressed by the artwork and the lushness of the office. Roarke tells him about the murder. Mick says he has a dinner engagement and won't be home until late.

Chapter nine opens with Eve viewing the tapes of the murder. She concludes that Yost is methodical and enjoys his work. After the murder, Yost showered, dressed, and left the house without looking back. The murder took fifty minutes.

Eve discusses the case with Feeney and McNab. They think there will be two more hits even though Yost has never done four hits in the same geographic area. They try to predict what Yost will do. They think he might take a vacation or retire. Feeney says that he found a case in Cornwall, England that fits the pattern.

Even meets with Agents Jacoby and Stowe. Stowe tells Eve they found the case of a federal judge murder that fits the pattern. Eve gives them the information about Cornwall.



Chapters 8-9 Analysis

From viewing the body of Talbot, Eve begins to remember the abuse and rapes that she suffered at the hands of her father as a child. Roarke hadn't wanted her to work on the case for just this reason. But she is a professional and won't give up the case.

The murdered man had worked for Roarke, who had known the man. He is very upset feeling that Talbot is dead simply because he worked for Roarke. Eve could see that he was beginning to be angry about the situation. Eve does not discuss the details of her cases with her husband, and doesn't want to start doing so now.

Back at the office, Roarke realizes that there is nothing he can do to prevent or fix the situation, even with all of his money and power. All he could do was have the killer and the hirer of the killer hunted. He decides that he will not give into rage but will keep his head clear.

There is a great deal of animosity between Eve and FBI Agent Jacoby. He doesn't like Eve or Roarke and tells Agent Stowe that if Eve was such a good cop, she wouldn't marry a criminal like Roarke. Eve doesn't want the feds to interview Roarke and makes it clear that there will be trouble if they go near her husband.



Chapter 10-11

Chapter 10-11 Summary

When Eve arrives home, Summerset tells her that Roarke is upstairs and very upset. Roarke is talking to Mrs. Talbot on the phone when Eve walks into the bedroom. Roarke is feeling angry at the situation. Eve tells him that that is the purpose of the murders. She suggests that they hire Roarke as an expert consultant. He would have access to the information learned in the investigation and they would have to have access to information from his files.

Roarke looks at the tapes of the murder and tells Eve that Yost wears clothing designed by a British designer. He also identifies the briefcase as being British, made by a company he owns. He is able to identify almost every article of clothing as British. Since Roarke owns many of the companies, he says he will see what information he can find. Eve tells him that they are already checking on season tickets for different events.

Yost makes dinner at his home and relaxes with brandy and a cigar. He thinks of his coming retirement and the fact that he was being paid three times his usual fee for the three hits. The fourth hit was at his discretion and the target was Roarke. If he performed the hit within two months of the first three hits, he would receive a bonus of twenty-five million dollars.

In chapter eleven, Eve reviews the information of the murder of the federal judge. She found the judge was Thomas Werner. Roarke gives her the information that he has obtained on Yost's purchases in England. He did his shopping several days before the death of the Cornwall smugglers. Peabody and McNab are checking the porno sites.

Eve and Roarke fall asleep in the office chair.

Chapter 10-11 Analysis

Eve has mixed feelings about allowing Roarke to be involved in the case. As a wife, she is worried about him. She wants to protect him and keep him out of it. As a professional, she knows he can help out. The resources at his disposal are more extensive than those of the government. She finally agrees to see if the department will hire him as a civilian consultant.

They begin to work together and Roarke is able to identify Yost's clothes as British. Within a few hours, Roarke had provided a list of purchases made a few days before the murders of the Cornwall smugglers. They make a good team, since the billionaire has access to resources that the government doesn't.



Chapters 12-13

Chapters 12-13 Summary

Eve talks to the homicide detectives in Cornwall. She tells them about the silver wire, and they decide to re-question the hiker who found the bodies. She contacts the London hotels for information. Mick walks into the room and says that his business went well. They tell him that the bodies of his friends, Britt and Joe Hague, were found in Cornwall. Eve asks Mick if he knows who would pay a lot of money to have them killed. Mick says that he doesn't know. They were running liquor.

Roarke and Mick discuss different people in Europe who were engaged in crime and who might have ordered the hit. Mick says he will check around for information. Just then the computer returns the information that Yost lives in a building about four blocks away, a building that is owned by Roarke. They check the tenant list and focus on a computer analysis named Jacob Hawthorne.

Eve assembles a team of officers and they examine the plans to the building while waiting for a search warrant. They formulate their plans to enter and arrest Yost. Roarke wants to go with them but is told no. Just then Commander Whitney walks in and tells them the operation is aborted. The feds had obtained a warrant first, but Eve will have a chance to interview Yost. They all want to know how Jacoby and Stowe found out.

While they are talking about the situation, Whitney tells them that Yost is gone.

Chapter thirteen opens with angry comments about the situation with Yost disappearing. They all blame the feds for trying to grab the glory. The feds' raid failed. Yost had fled.

At the building, Whitney confronts Jacoby. Whitney wants to know how they lost the suspect that Eve had located.

Eve walks around the apartment to see how the man lived. The bathroom has the bathroom amenities from some of the world's best hotels. She examines the closet. She is paying attention to what items are missing.

Whitney and Eve clash with Stowe and Jacoby. When Jacoby lunges at Eve, she knocks him off with her elbow and Whitney steps between them.

The inquiry to the London hotels reveals that Yost had stayed at the New Savoy. When Eve learns this, Roarke examines the files of Jacoby and Stowe. Stowe, he finds, went to college with Winifred Carole Cates, who was killed in Paris in a style that fit Yost's pattern.



Chapters 12-13 Analysis

Eve is a thorough investigator, and along with Roarke she is able to obtain information about Yost's purchases in England. She also talks to the detectives in Cornwall. It turns out that the murdered Cornwall smugglers, Britt and Joe Hague, were friends of Mick. Roarke and Mick talk about who would be willing to pay that kind of money to have the smugglers killed, and Mick says he will find out what he can. This is the world that Roarke was a part of before and when he was building his empire.

Eve and Roarke manage to locate the building where they believe Yost is living. They are preempted by the feds in staging the raid, but Yost is gone. Eve and the others want to know how the feds obtained the information. They suspect a leak and are justly concerned. The botched raid, and the way it was handled will probably be blamed on Jacoby.

Roarke is curious about Jacoby and Stowe and examines their records. He found that Stowe was interested in Yost before the New York murders. She had been looking for information on the murder of Winifred Carole Cates in Paris. The method fit Yost's pattern. Stowe and Cates had attended college together.



Chapters 14-15

Chapters 14-15 Summary

Peabody is trying to identify a single ticket holder for the opera and is trying to get information on the phone while she is with McNab. McNab is upset with their relationship. He is jealous about a man that she is just friends with.

There is going to be an FBI media conference later that day and Eve is supposed to be there. While she is working at her office, reporter Nadine Furst comes in. She is looking for information on the situation. Eve won't say much except that the feds undermined her department's investigation.

Eve tells Peabody that she probably won't be able to attend the media conference and wants to set up a meeting with Feeney and McNab. Peabody tells her about the opera season tickets and they think the ticket holder is Yost. Peabody starts to cry and Eve realizes that she has had a spat with McNab. Eve tells her to pull herself together and act like a cop.

Roarke arrives to talk to Feeney, who is trying to find out who hired Yost. He offers Feeney a prototype of a new computer that will be coming on the market and wants Feeney's help in negotiating a contract with the police department. Feeney says he will try the prototype. After Roarke leaves, Feeney sees the disc on his desk.

Yost is having lunch at a townhouse while listening to Aida. He had passed the FBI on his way out of the other building and wasn't recognized by them. He calls the person who hired him, and is told to perform the next hit on the following day. Yost also says he plans to hit Eve Dallas on his own and that it is personal. He is told not to because Roarke will never stop hunting them. Yost says he will carry out the hit on Roarke within the terms of their contract.

In chapter fifteen, Roarke finds his wife fighting with a vending machine. He intervenes and obtains the candy bar for her and then tells her that he has a dinner meeting with Magda. Eve says she will try to be there.

At the meeting, Feeney tells them that Stowe knew one of the victims from college. Eve is curious about how Feeney had a source that could access FBI files and suspects it was Roarke. They find that Yost has a complete identity under the name of Martin K. Roles, and they think that this is his retirement identity. They decide to concentrate on this identity and feel that Yost will complete his assignment and the hit will occur in the next twenty-four hours. They conclude their meeting with plans to meet again the next day.

Eve calls Stowe and sets up a meeting for later that evening, then takes Peabody for ice cream to let her talk about McNab.



Chapters 14-15 Analysis

The relationship between Peabody and McNab hits a snag when he becomes jealous of another man who is one of her sources. Peabody breaks down and cries and Eve tells her to pull herself together and act like a cop. They all have to work together and office romances can make the situation awkward for everyone.

Yost now has a grudge against Eve and plans on killing her. She is not a part of the contract, and his employer tells Yost not to go after Eve because Roarke will never stop hunting them. Yost's plans for killing Eve are personal. He tells the man that Eve's death will be a major distraction for Roarke and make the man's job easier. The employer obviously has plans for Roarke, in addition to the hits, and he is willing to spend a lot of money to carry them out.

Eve and her team use statistical programs and technology to predict what Yost will do. Since he purchased three lengths of wire, they know there will be another hit, and they feel it will be in the next twenty-four hours and that it will be in the New York area. It is frustrating for them because there is no way that they can identify the target and prevent the hit. All they can do is wait and try to find Yost.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

The Blue Squirrel is crowded and the music is playing loudly. Agent Stowe is waiting when Eve arrives. Stowe asks how Eve found out about Winifred. Stowe begins to talk about her college days and Winifred. They became best friends, and after college Winifred went to Paris to live and work. They visited each other on and off. A few days before Winifred's death, she called Stowe who was too busy to return the call.

Stowe never informed the Bureau about Winifred or she wouldn't have been assigned to the Yost investigation. She admits to Eve that the FBI involvement allowed Yost to escape. Stowe tells Eve that the French authorities couldn't find any reason why anyone would put a high priced killer on Winifred. Winifred is acting as an interpreter during negotiations with the Germans for a communications station. Stowe gives Eve a list of names of the people involved. Eve tells Stowe to send all of the data and information she has to Eve's home. If they can arrest Yost, Eve will make sure that Stowe is included.

After the meeting, Eve goes to the Top of New York for Roarke's dinner party.

Chapter 16 Analysis

Roarke was right about Stowe. She had a personal interest in the Yost case because Yost had killed her friend, Winifred, in Paris. She never informed the Bureau that she had a personal interest in the case or they wouldn't have assigned her to the Yost investigation.

Eve talks to Stowe about Winifred and finds she was acting as translator for negotiations with the Germans for a communications station. Stowe provides a list of names of the people involved and provides Eve with all the information she has. Stowe's relationship with Winifred means she has a personal interest in seeing Yost being arrested. Eve promises her that she will be included if they can arrest Yost. The information that Stowe provides might lead to the hirer of the paid assassin. Since Roarke is targeted, he might be able to recognize some names.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Eve arrives home first and downloads the files from Stowe. She doesn't find much useful information in the files but finds that Stowe was taking the same approach as Feeney had.

When Roarke arrives home, she tells him about Peabody. She also tells him about the information Feeney presented on Stowe. Roarke won't admit that he was the source, so she tells him about the meeting with Stowe and the list of three names she has and asks if he could obtain information on them without being obvious.

It turns out that Roarke knows the three men, and that there were no negotiations for a communications station or he would have known about it. The communications station was a cover for something else. It is possible that Winifred heard or saw something and that's what she was killed for. Since some of the men were involved in smuggling, there may have been a tie to Joe and Britt Hague.

Eve returns to her work but finds she keeps thinking about the next murder. She feels that the next target will be someone who is closer to Roarke. Roarke's pet project is called Olympus, with hotels, casinos, homes, etc., something that Yost would be interested in. She goes to Roarke's office to ask about the project. They look for connections and find one in Magda. The auction is at the hotel, and Talbot had edited a biography of Magda. They discuss the possibility of a robbery of Magda's auction collection and who on the list could be behind it. Roarke says a man named Naples could possibly be the link to Yost.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Eve has the benefit of Roarke's past in the world of crime. He knows the men of Stowe's list and knows that if there was any possibility of a communications station, then he would have known about it. The names involved were smugglers, and it is possible that Winifred somehow learned something that led to her death.

Eve is preoccupied with the case because it involves her husband and she is worried. She knows there will be another hit and begins to look for patterns and links. They find one in Magda. Darlene was a maid at the hotel where the auction items are on display, and Talbot had edited Magda's biography. She concludes that the next hit will be someone closer to her husband.

Eve and Roarke then begin to consider the possibility of the robbery of the auction items. This is an area that Roarke is familiar with from his past.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

The next morning, Eve presents the information she has learned at their briefing. She discusses Dominic Naples and his organization and the murders of Joe and Britt Hague. She ties other victims to the names of Naples, Hinrick, and Gerade. The murders have occurred in a wide variety of countries. She then presents the Magda Lane link and the possibility of robbery, since most of the names are involved in smuggling. Magda's son Vincent is good friends with Gerade and Vincent is broke. She also tells them that if there is a bust, she will give it to the feds because of her deal with Stowe.

Summerset has a half day off and is walking around. He lost the surveillance that he had spotted, a fact that Eve is notified of. He still feels he is being followed, and when he turns around, he is face to face with Yost. He knocks a syringe out of Yost's hand and hits him with an illegal stunner that he carries, but he had already been injected. Yost flees and a grocer helps Summerset into the store. When he recovers enough, he goes to Eve's office and tells her what happened. Roarke arrives and is very angry. He wants Summerset to take a vacation but he refuses. Roarke fires him. Eve says that Summerset will remain at their house. She arranges for a patrol car to take Summerset home.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Eve was not wrong about the timing of the next hit and that the target would be someone closer to Roarke. Summerset was the target and he successfully avoided the hit by using an illegally carried stunner on Yost.

Roarke, Summerset and Eve all have sharp words at Eve's office. Roarke orders Summerset to get out of town for a couple of weeks since he is targeted. Summerset refuses and Roarke fires him. Eve says that Summerset is the only thing of value that Roarke has from his past. The man won't leave Roarke and Roarke shouldn't expect him to. She can have them both charged for what they did. They finally settle down and listen to her.

Eve knows that Roarke does not really want to lose Summerset. They go back too far together and she is not about to allow their relationship to break.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Roarke waits for Eve outside and says he wants Summerset out of the country. Eve says that he is a material witness and will stay in the city where the police will protect him. As they talk, Summerset leaves the building flanked by two plainclothesmen. Roarke goes to Summerset and Eve leaves with Peabody to interview Mince, Magda's financial advisor.

Mince and Magda have been together for many years and are like family. Eve gets right to the point with questions about Vince and finds that Magda thinks Vince has changed since he has taken an interest in the auction. Vince had been against the auction and the proceeds going to the foundation because he felt that it was his inheritance that she was giving away. Vince was gone for two weeks, and when he returned he had volunteered to help with the auction. Mince handles Vince's bills, and when Eve looks them over, she finds one for one million dollars for Naples Communications.

Peabody and Eve next go to interview Vince. Eve says she wants to discuss security for the auction then mentions plots to steal from family and charity. She then says that his guy missed his target that morning. When he tells them to leave, she reads him his rights and tells him if he won't answer questions, she will bring him in. She also suggests that Naples will hire Yost to hit Vince if he causes trouble. Vince begins to cry and then to talk. He tells Eve how they set up the deal with the Naples family. He says he doesn't know anything about murder. Vince was to pass the details and the security set up to Dom who would give it to his father. They would keep Roarke busy.

Then Vince was told he had to pay a one million dollar consulting fee. He was then told about Yost and the murders and that the one million was his part of Yost's fee.

Mick is in the swimming pool where Roarke arrives home. Roarke tells Mick that he is the last one Roarke thought would try to strike at him. Roarke punches him and knocks him back into the pool. Mick asks how he figured it out.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Now that Summerset is safe, Peabody and Eve go to talk to Magda's financial manager. Mick tells them that Vince was opposed to the auction because it gave away his inheritance. Vince was broke and desperate. Eve found a bill for one million dollars to Naples Communications and then went to see Vince. He broke down and told them the whole story. By the time he found out about Yost and the hit contracts, it was too late.

Roarke has a confrontation with Mick and accuses Mick of hitting at his back. He punches Mick, knocking him into the pool. Roarke accompanies him upstairs so he can dress and they can talk.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Roarke asks Mick if he did it only for the money and he responds that of course it was for the money. Roarke reminds him about the code for betraying friends. Mick said it was a fine line and he didn't think Roarke would mind because it wasn't his money. By the time he found out about the murders, he was in too far. He also tells Roarke that the whole plan was already formed before he was even approached.

Roarke says that he wants Naples. He explains how Yost killed two of his people and possibly Joe and Britt. Today, he tried to hit Summerset. Roarke says it was to direct his attention from the auction but Mick said that was his purpose. He swears that he knew nothing about the murders. Mick tells him that they have two men inside at the hotel and the heist is set for the next day at two in the morning. The diversion will be an accident outside. The security system has been jammed to give the six men twelve minutes for the heist. Mick says he will help Roarke, who promises not to turn him over to the police.

When Eve comes home, she asks for Connelly. Roarke says he isn't there. Roarke says he became suspicious of Mick when they figured out that the auction items were the target. Mick is one of the few people who could handle a job of that kind. He has all of the information from Mick. Eve is furious that Roarke let Mick go. Roarke says that Mick didn't know about Yost.

Eve says that Vince is in a hospital under sedation so he can't tip anyone off. Roarke assures Eve that Mick won't alert Naples. He gives Eve all of the files. As Eve is going through the room Mick had occupied, she is still angry at Roarke for allowing Mick to leave. Summerset tries to explain the situation to her.

Eve authorizes an all-points bulletin on Connelly but feels there is little chance of catching him. She is still worried about the third hit, even if the heist is aborted.

Eve has a meeting with her team and briefs them on the latest developments. Roarke is at the meeting and talks to Eve afterward. They each explain their position on Mick. Roarke tells her that Yost purchased beach front property at the Olympus, using the name of Roles.

Eve's people have been working on the skin care products and find that a bald man will be picking up his order the next day.

Chapter 20 Analysis

Roarke and Eve both put together the details of the planned heist - Eve from Vince and Roarke from Mick. Eve is livid with Roarke for letting Mick go, and Summerset tries to



explain to her how both Roarke and Mick view the situation. She tries to understand for Roarke's sake, and both she and Roarke try to explain their position to each other. Eve says they will deal with it later.

They get a break on the case with the skin care products. A source checks the place where Yost purchases his products and finds he is supposed to come in the next day for his order.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Eve is up early. She needs to talk to her team, Whitney and Stowe, and hopes to have Yost under arrest by noon. Eve had teams staking the salon by nine, with Peabody working as a clerk and McNab inside as a customer. This gives them a chance to talk. At eleven-thirty, they receive word that Yost is approaching the shop. Eve goes outside and sees Jacoby approach Yost, who knocks him down. Yost runs and Eve follows. Eve tackles him as McNab arrives and they cuff him. Eve finds a length of silver wire in his pocket. She says that it's Stowe's bust.

Eve finds Stowe and learns that Jacoby is seriously injured. She tells Stowe that it's her bust and they are waiting for her downtown. After attending to her bloody nose, she stops by the hospital to check on Vince. She had a warrant for the security discs and found that Gerade had paid a visit.

Chapter 21 Analysis

Eve's hard work pays off. They finally arrest Yost, even though they almost lost him because of Jacoby's interference. Eve stuck to her deal with Stowe in giving her credit for the bust and Stowe is grateful for that.

When Eve stops by the hospital, she has a warrant for the security discs. She finds that Gerade had visited Vince.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

Eve and Peabody enter the Palace Hotel through the main entrance. They meet Magda and Vince exiting the elevator and ask how Vince is. Vince's family knows that Eve was there when Vince became ill. Magda says that Vince will be unhappy at missing the showing and the auction after all of his hard work. Peabody and Eve go on to Roarke's suite.

Eve finds her team enjoying the banquet and tells them to get to their stations. Eve finds Roarke and tells them that there is too much food and that will affect the performance of her men. They are there to catch Naples but with Vince, Yost and Connelly gone, Eve thinks Naples may abort the mission.

Whitney arrives and informs them that Yost is dead. He cut his throat with a shard from a broken cup while they were checking him into the jail. Later that evening they see Vince's wife on the security cameras. They find that she is wearing a microrecorder that is sending video and audio, probably to the Naples team. She goes to her room. The police plan to jam the transmission and arrest her the next time she transmits.

They watch as the outside accident diversion takes place and they see the delivery truck arrive at the back of the hotel, where Honroe, one of the inside men, is waiting. Six figures get out of the truck and Roarke comments that Mick is with them. Mick signals Roarke that there are three more men. As soon as the men passed through security, the police began jamming.

As the police move in to arrest the group, there is a scuffle and Mick jumps in front of Roarke, taking a knife in the stomach. Mick dies. Gerade is charged with murder.

Later, Roarke tells Eve that he wants to bury Mick's body in Ireland.

Chapter 22 Analysis

Eve and the police have doubts that the heist will take place since the Naples team has lost three men. They think that Naples will call it off, but he doesn't. Mick remains true to his friend, Roarke, and it costs him his life. He had stepped in between Gerade and Roarke and had been stabbed. Roarke and Eve had stayed with him to the end. Mick had helped by signaling Roarke about the extra people and the weapons so the heist was prevented.

Roarke wants to take Mick's body back to Ireland for burial and Eve tells him they will do that. She has arranged for a posthumous citation to be awarded to him.

Eve still has hopes of capturing Naples, even with Yost and Mick dead.



Characters

Eve Dallas

Eve Dallas is a lieutenant on the New York City Police and Security Department. She has been married to Roarke for a year. Eve had been born to a poor family and was abused and raped by her father as a child. Eve keeps her job with the police even though she married into wealth. She is not the society type. She is a dedicated professional who doesn't like her husband interfering in her work. Eve begins to worry about Roarke after the second murder. She is worried that he might be a target and wants to protect him and keep him from being involved, for his own safety. The professional in her knows that Roarke can help and the whole situation will end faster if he is involved, so she allows Roarke to be a part of the investigation. Eve is street smart and good at her job. She is meticulous at tracking down details and catches details that other investigators missed. She is also able to use her husband's advanced technology and sources that are better than the police department's. Eve is not a publicity seeker or headline grabber. She is not looking for glory in the arrest of Yost and is willing to let Agent Stowe in on the arrest. She just wants to get a killer off the street and have the case ended.

Sylvester Yost

Sylvester Yost is the name of the man identified from the security discs at the Palace Hotel. He had been arrested once at the age of twenty for assault and had been of interest in several strangulation murders more than fifteen years ago. Yost killed for personal reasons and for professional reasons. He was a hired assassin who had accepted a contract to kill Darlene and others. Yost is fifty-six years old and is considering retirement. He lives well and is widely traveled. He is fluent in three different languages. He collected postcards when he traveled and kept them in a scrapbook.

Both of his parents had been criminals. His father had been a gunrunner and his mother was a car thief who used a switchblade on the occupants of the cars. She died of a drug overdose when Sylvester was thirteen. Sly was drawn into the juvenile system then and was placed in a group home. He perfected his technique of strangulation by practicing on dogs and cats. Escaping from the juvenile facility at the age of fifteen, he made his living from crime. Yost was suspected of forty-three murders and was known to the authorities as a suspected killer for hire, whose weapon of choice was a sterling silver wire, although he used other methods of strangulation. He dies by cutting his throat with a shard from a cup when he is being processed in prison.

Roarke

Roarke is the husband of Eve Dallas and the head of Roarke Industries, which owns the Palace Hotel. He was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland. His mother had been poor and



he had picked pockets and stolen to help them survive. He built his empire through crime but is now legitimate and out of crime. Roarke has all of the latest technology and uses it to help Eve identify and arrest Yost. From his earlier days in crime, he is familiar with many of the underworld figures. Mick Connelly, his friend from the past, arrives several hours after the first murder and is welcomed into his home. When they begin to figure that the auctions items were the object of a heist, Roarke realizes his friend was involved. He allows Mick to leave, which infuriates his cop wife.

Mick Connelly

Mick Connelly is a friend of Roarke's. They had grown up together in Dublin and worked in the crime world together. In the end, he steps in between Gerade and Roarke and is killed.

Captain Feeney

Captain Feeney is the police officer who came up with the name of Sylvester Yost. He remembered a series of silver wire strangulation cases from fifteen years ago.

Peabody

Peabody is the assistant to Lieutenant Eve Dallas and works with her on the case. She is dating Officer McNab, who is also working on the case.

James Priory

James Priory was the individual who was registered in Suite 4602. It is found that the real James Priory died several months before the murder.

Jonah Talbot

Jonah Talbot was the second murder victim. He was an employee in the Roarke empire and lived in a house that was owned by Roarke Industries.

Darlene French

Darlene French was the murdered maid in Suite 4602. She was a twenty-two-year-old maid employed at the Roarke Palace Hotel.



Magda Lane

Magda Lane is a sixty-three-year-old movie star and the mother of Vince, who helped put together the heist plan.

Ian McNab

Ian McNab is a detective working on the case. He is romantically involved with Peabody.



Objects/Places

Suite 4602

Suite 4602 is the scene of the murder at the Roarke Palace Hotel in New York City.

The Ballroom

The Ballroom is located in the Palace Hotel and was the site of the party for Magda's auction.

Police Headquarters

Police headquarters, called Cop Central, is where Eve has her office.

Roarke's Office

Roarke's office is located at the Palace Hotel and has all of the latest technology and equipment.

The Roarke House

The Roarke House is located in New York City.

The Talbot Brownstone

The Talbot Brownstone was located on the Upper East Side of New York City and is the site of the second murder.

The Hawthorne Residence

The Hawthorne Residence was where Yost was living and escaped from right before an FBI raid.

The Blue Squirrel

The Blue Squirrel is a New York City bar.

The Top of New York

The Top of New York is a restaurant where Roarke hosts a dinner party.

The Grocery Store

The Grocery Store is near Madison Avenue in Manhattan and is where Summerset recuperates from the attack by Yost.



Themes

Loyalty

One of the themes of the book is loyalty. Roarke had been involved in crime before and while building his business empire. He was raised on the streets of Dublin and turned to crime at an early age in order to survive. He was part of a gang that included Mick Connelly, and the two had been involved in many deals together, then had gone their separate ways. Mick appears after a fifteen year absence, several hours after the murder of the hotel maid, and is invited to stay at the Roarke home. Eve is suspicious of Mick because of his criminal activities but tells Roarke that she will accept him because he is Roarke's friend, just as she accepted Summerset, their butler. Summerset is also from Roarke's past, and when he is a target of the hitman, he refuses Roarke's order to leave New York, even though Roarke fires him. Summerset won't leave his friend when he knows he is in danger. Eve has to intervene to settle the issue and have Summerset return home. As for Mick, he is involved in the plan to heist the auction items. He tells Roarke that since it wasn't his money, he didn't feel he was stabbing Roarke in the back. He tells Roarke the details of the plan and Roarke allows him to leave, which infuriates his wife. Mick shows up for the heist knowing that Roarke knows about it and is watching on security cameras and signals him about the number of people. In the end, Mick loses his life by protecting Roarke from an attacker.

Relationships

Relationships are another theme of the novel. First of all, there is the relationship between Eve and her husband Roarke. When Eve arrives at the murder scene, she switches into her professional mode, which brings her into conflict with Roarke, who owns the hotel. This happens on and off during the investigation, until Roarke is hired as a civilian consultant. This allows them to use his technology and his knowledge of the underworld. The fact that Roarke is a target causes conflict for Eve because she wants to protect him, forgetting that he can take care of himself. She has to accept the people from his past, like Summerset and Mick, because they are a part of him. In spite of concern for each other, they are able to work together on the investigation.

The other relationship that occurs throughout the novel is that between Peabody and McNab. They are dating and continually fooling around in the janitor's closet at the police station. When Peabody is more interested in talking to a source for information that she is fooling around with McNab, they have a fight. This affects their working relationship, since Peabody does not want to attend a briefing that includes McNab. Eve has to remind her that she is a cop and that she better act like one. They eventually work out their problems so they can work together.



Hard Work

Hard work is another theme of the novel. Eve is a hard worker who pays attention to details. She is able to pick up on details that other investigators miss, and this is what makes her a successful investigator. She assigns her team to work on tracking down leads on the wig and skin care products, the silver jewelers wire and the luggage, and these leads pan out for them. By using Roarke's knowledge and resources, she is able to tie Yost to other murders, including the murder of Winifred Cates, who was a friend of FBI Agent Stowe. Stowe hadn't been able to make much progress on her own but had provided Eve with a list of three names. These were names of three underworld figures in Europe, which Roarke and Mick knew. This led to them focus on the possibility of a heist of the auction items. Eve learned of Magda's son Vince's involvement and Roarke figured out Mick's involvement. They were able to learn the whole plot and prepare for it. Hard work and attention to details resulted in Eve learning that Yost would appear at a salon to pick up his order of skin care products, which led to his arrest. Eve and her team worked long hours, looking for and connecting the details of the case. This resulted in the prevention of other murders, the arrest of Yost and the prevention of the heist. The reader has to believe her when she tells Roarke that they will get Naples.

Style

Point of View

Betrayal in Death is written in the third person point of view with the author, Nora Roberts, as the narrator. The use of the third person allows the author to provide the background details and information on the setting that gives the necessary information that the reader needs. The author can fill in the information as it is needed to keep the reader informed, which benefits the reader. There is enough dialogue between the main characters for the reader to get to know the characters and to see how they interact.

The point of view chosen by the author is appropriate for the novel. The reader is provided with the details that he/she needs for a thorough understanding of the action of the novel. The reader can also form his/her own opinions of the various characters in the book. The selected point of view allows the author to tell the story in the most straightforward manner, which adds to the speed of the reading of the novel and adds to the enjoyment of the reader. Any other point of view would have detracted from the story.

Setting

The novel is set in a futuristic setting in the year 2059. The scene of the action for the novel is New York City, although there are references to other places. There are various settings in New York City. Many scenes take place in the Roarke Palace Hotel, which is the city's finest hotel. The first murder takes place in Suite 4602, when maid Darlene is murdered. Magda Lane's items for auction are on display in the hotel ballroom where the party is held. There are numerous scenes at the police headquarters, which is referred to as

"cop central." Eve, Feeney, Peabody and McNab have offices there, and there are also scenes in the janitor's closet and in briefing rooms. Roarke has his office at the Palace Hotel, and both Eve and Roarke work in their home offices at their residence. There are also scenes at the Talbot brownstone, which is the scene of the second murder. Yost also had several residences in New York City. The Blue Squirrel is a bar where Eve meets Agent Stowe. There is also a dinner party at the Top of New York. When Summerset is attacked by Yost, he takes refuge in a grocery store that he frequents. These sites provide the setting for most of the action of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is clear and concise. It is easy to read and there are no hidden meanings to any of the terms and phrases. In addition, there are no foreign language terms used in the book. The dialogue between the characters is in easy to understand everyday English. There are a few scenes where Mick speaks in an Irish



brogue, but these are few and easy to understand. There are several places where police jargon is used but this is easily understood by anyone who watches television.

Everything about the novel lends itself to quick and easy reading. There is nothing to slow down the reader, which the reader will appreciate. *Betrayal in Death* is a fast paced detective novel that is full of suspense. The reader doesn't want anything to slow him/her down. The reader wants to know what happens next. The language used in the novel and the writing style of the author result in a book that is easy and fast to read, and this is what the reader wants in a suspense filled novel.

Structure

The structure of the novel is very simple. There is a prologue and twenty-two chapters. The prologue sets the mood of suspense for the novel by describing the details of the murder of Darlene French, the maid at the Palace Hotel. It also introduces the reader to the pattern of the killer, who is a high paid assassin for hire. The reader learns the assassin's style of killing. This establishes the suspense for the rest of the novel.

The twenty-two chapters comprise the body of the novel. They are labeled simply with the chapter number and no title. The breaks in the chapter are given by line spacing as the action moves to different scenes and different characters. There is no table of contents, introduction, index or afterword.

The structure of *Betrayal in Death* contributes to the speed of reading the novel and works well for the novel. Since the book is a suspense novel, the reader wants a structure that contributes to easy and fast reading.



Quotes

"In death there were many layers. Violent death added more. It was her job to sift through those layers and find cause. In cause, to meet justice." Chap. 1, p. 5

"It had taken him only thirty-two minutes to beat, rape, and murder Darlene French." Chap. 2, p. 22

"But a professional killer was, in essence, only a tool. However much she wanted him, she wanted his employer more." Chap. 3, p. 58

"He's a sociopath, and is probably intelligent and self-aware enough to know it. It may be a point of pride. Pride is one of the engines that drives him. He considers himself a businessman, the top in his chosen field. And choose it, he did." Chap. 7, p. 110

"None of the things I've just told you have anything to do with why he's dead. He's dead because he worked for me." Chap. 8, p.118

"The part that doesn't want you to is personal. That part's afraid for you, and worried about you. The professional part knows the more involved you are, the more help you can be, the quicker we close this thing. The personal side doesn't have a chance against the cop and you pushing together." Chap. 10, pp. 151-152

"I don't have the details. The word is the suspect has fled. The apprehension operation failed." Chap. 12, p. 192

"At this point, however, I feel obliged to tell you I intend to dispose of Lieutenant Dallas in my own time and fashion. She's inconvenienced me, and beyond that, she's come too close." Chap. 14, p. 22

"The Bureau frowns on personal involvement. They'd never have put me on Yost if they'd known why I wanted him." Chap. 16, p. 244

"It's not much of a stretch to draw the scenario that Winfred heard or witnessed something she shouldn't have. Something that rang enough bells with her that she contacts her pal in the FBI. For help. She needs to be taken out of the mix. Yost is hired." Chap. 17, p. 262

"Where does the investigation center? On who might have some kind of vendetta against Roarke. That was the motive we focused on. But what if it's not a vendetta. Or not that on the primary level. What if it's just profit?" Chap. 18, p. 277



"You know, Mick, in all the times we've had, good and bad, all we've done together and apart, you were the last I'd have expected to come at a friend from the back." Chap. 19, p. 305

"You were wrong to let Connelly go. But that's from where I stand. From where you stand, you did what you had to. We can't come together on that, but we need each other to finish this job. When it's finished, we'll have to deal with the fact that we're standing on opposite sides of a line. Until then, it's tabled." Chap. 20, p. 318

"It couldn't be, was all he could think. It couldn't end for him like this, face down on the street like a common criminal. 'I want an attorney.'" Chap. 21, p. 332

"You were right about him. There was no taste for bloodshed in him. And in the end, he stood up for you." Chap. 22, p. 354



Topics for Discussion

What are the circumstances surrounding the murder of Darlene French?

What is Roarke's background? Why is he so familiar with the criminal underworld?

How is Yost first identified?

What are the terms of Yost's contract with his employer?

What were the plans for Magda's auction items? Who was involved?

Explain the circumstances surrounding the arrest of Yost. How did he die?

What was the role of Mick? How did Mick prove his loyalty to Roarke?