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# Playing For Keeps



## Synopsis

For fans of Gillian Flynn, Caroline Cooney, and R.L. Stine comes *Playing for Keeps* from four-time Edgar Allan Poe Young Adult Mystery Award winner Joan Lowery Nixon. Rose Ann can't believe her good luck. Her grandmother, Glory, needs a last-minute roommate for her bridge-tournament cruise to the Caribbean. But Glory doesn't really need a companion. She's eager for Rosie to meet her friend's grandson, Neil, a brainy guy full of facts about baseball, among other things. Once Rosie is aboard the ship, though, someone else catches her eye—a boy her own age, who introduces himself as Ricky Diago. But after the ship sails, something doesn't seem quite right. Rosie sees only Ricky's uncle, Mr. Diago. Even stranger, Neil swears that Mr. Diago is actually a famous Cuban baseball player from the Cincinnati Reds. Then, after a day excursion in Paradise Beach, Rosie is approached by another boy who claims he's Ricky Diago. She's certain he's not the person she met at the beginning of the trip. Suddenly Rosie finds herself caught in a high-stakes game of international intrigue with life-or-death consequences. Who is the real Ricky Diago? And how far will Rosie go to help him? With her trademark expertise, Joan Lowery Nixon interweaves politics, baseball, and romance in a masterful novel of suspense on the high seas. "[An] engaging mystery." —Kirkus Reviews "[A] fast-paced combination of suspense and romance." —Booklist "Satisfactory teen mystery." —VOYA From the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

PLAYING FOR KEEPS, by Joan Lowery Nixon, was about Rose Ann Marstead, a sixteen-year old girl who went on a cruise with her grandmother, Glory. Traveling with Glory's friend, Eloise, and Eloise's grandson Neil, Rosie discovered a mystery on the ship. She met a Cuban, Ricky Diago, who fled Cuba and was trying to reach American soil. After two murders, in which Ricky was suspected, Rosie was determined to prove him innocent. I could probably relate closer to Rosie than any of the other characters. Although I have never helped solve any murder cases, I have felt some of the same things she felt. Before Rosie left, she got into a fight with her mom, and she felt bad the whole trip. She felt bad because she decided to go on the cruise with her grandmother, who, in her mother's eyes, always won. I also feel the same stress she felt of trying to please everyone with her decisions and the way things are handled. I enjoyed PLAYING FOR KEEPS a great deal. It was an amusing mystery with a fun-loving story line. My favorite part of the book would have to be when Rosie began looking for clues as to who the actual murderer was. My least favorite part would be when Rosie and her mother fought because, although it added to the story, it was just a tiny aspect of it. I would recommend this book to people. I would think that young teenagers, probably girls (it can get a little cheesy!), would enjoy this book the most. Also, you should enjoy reading mysteries with a fun, cutesy twist. So all you young, teenage girls out there, just remember PLAYING FOR KEEPS, by Joan Lowery Nixon.

The book I read and liked very much, was called *Playing For Keeps*. I bet you already knew this author's name, and his name is Joan Lowery. I think he writes books that has narrative hook, which means grabs reader's attention, and make our feelings *Wants to read more and more*. *Playing For Keeps* is a book, which is a fiction story, and it is adventure, and mystery. It is a book about teenage girl named Rose, and went to the cruise by ship with her grandma, and grandma's friend, and her friend's grandson, Nick. At the ship, Rose will meet the boy, Ricky. From the day they

met, they are in love. But Ricky is in danger, because he just escaped from Cuba, and the Cuban government is searching for him. If somebody from Cuban government finds him, they will take him back to Cuba, and the punishment---to kill him. And, there is another problem. The captain was killed on the ship, and when police found him, he was holding blue t-shirt in his pocket. They start searching for the people who have the blue shirts which has ripped on the pocket part. Do you think Rose and her friends, can solve who killed the captain and help Ricky??? I think this book has lot of strength, because again, it has narrative hook, and it has lot of mysteries. I don't think it doesn't have any weakness, but I don't recommend this book to the children who are 2nd or 3rd grade, because it might make little kids scared, because one of the characters are killed by someone. I recommend to boys and girls and adults, but I really recommends to the teenage girls, because the main character is a teenage girl, and I think you can feel the same feeling as main character. I am pretty sure that you will enjoy this book, and thank you so much for reading about *Playing for the Keeps*, it's one of my favorite books in the world.

*Playing for Keeps*, a suspenseful book with murders, adventure, and some fun, is about a fourteen-year-old girl, Julia. Julia meets a boy, Ricky, tall, dark, and handsome, on a cruise ship. They become good friends. Her grandma who was as old as dirt is on the cruise for a shuffleboard tournament. She wants Julia to meet another boy. Julia's friend, who came with her, has met Ricky and has been spending a lot of time with him lately. Julia is starting to get jealous. One day when the kids were in the teen lounge, an announcement came on the loudspeaker, which stated that they were at the paradise island of Cozumel. They got out and toured the busy city; they noticed a lot of busses and trams. The scent of diesel fuel clogged their noses as they headed back towards the ship. Once on, the buzz was getting around that a crewmember, first mate to be exact, was killed off the coast. The body was recovered in fishing net. Ricky's uncle was suspected of the murder. "It was a lefty with a light blue pocketed shirt," said the night watch. Julia was trying to help Ricky and his uncle to be innocent, but secrets are unveiled that might make it impossible. Is Ricky really who he says he is? Did his uncle commit the crime? Why is he suspected? Read on and find out. *Playing for Keeps* is a fiction book, for adventure readers. You can never be too careful.

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