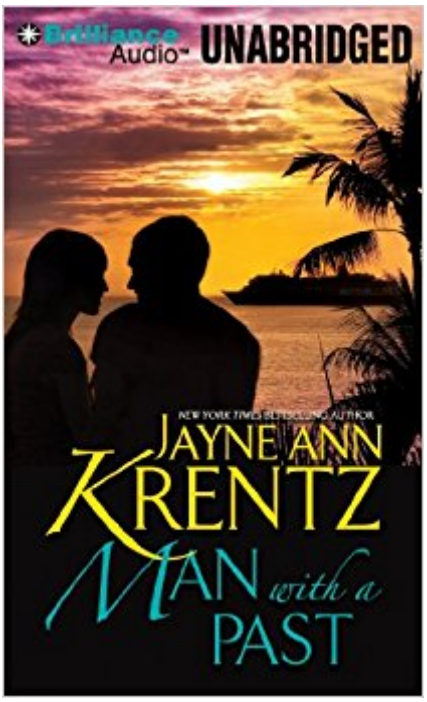
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Man With A Past



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Synopsis

Cole Stockton had a will of steel and a raw determination to go after what he wanted Ã¢â ¬â œ including Kelsey Murdock. HeÃ¢â ¬â„¢d invaded her life, assaulting her with his sensuality, tempting her to be reckless. She sensed something dangerous about the man Ã¢â ¬â œ in the secrets he refused to share, the past that still haunted him, the coiled tension that denied intimacy. For Cole, the past was a closed door. For Kelsey, that meant too many questions and no answers Ã¢â ¬â œ and the best reason to walk away, before it was too late. But when a simple business trip turns into a dangerous survival game, she is plunged into a world Cole knows all too well. Now Kelsey must trust he knows it well enough to keep them both alive. Ã¢â ¬Å“Who writes the best romance fiction today? No doubt itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Jayne Ann Krentz.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œ Affaire De Coeur

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Customer Reviews

Jayne Ann Krentz is the author of fifty New York Times bestsellers. She has written contemporary romantic suspense novels under that name, as well as futuristic and historical romance novels under the pseudonyms Jayne Castle and Amanda Quick, respectively. She lives in Seattle.

OK, so this may not be Jayne's finest piece of work, but it's a start. I read the reviews, but I was curious, so I bought a used copy and read the book. The reviews are valid but I looked upon this story as a jumping off point. I saw many of JAK's later themes developing within these pages (alpha male, women in the work force, etc) I basically looked upon this book as a study of Jayne's

evolution as a writer. So don’t run out and buy this book unless you are interested in how a popular author begins her creative journey.

Jane Ann Krentz/Amanda Quick/Jayne Castle is my desert island romance writer. However, this book from earlier in her career is truly awful. As other reviewers have pointed out, the book is a product of its time and reflects what was popular at that time. Today, the hero would be viewed as a scary, abusive Neanderthal and the heroine would be viewed as spineless and too stupid to live.I loved this story at one time and read my old paper copy more than once. I thought the hero was swoon-worthy, and I loved the heroine. However, I just reread the book, and I cannot believe that I once found this type of hero and this type of relationship romantic. Today, I would be advising the heroine to bypass the restraining order and head straight for the nearest hit man. As for the heroine, I hoped someone would shove her off the ship and put me out of my misery.This book is extremely well written from a technical standpoint. As well, Ms. Krentz’s phenomenal skills as a writer shine through and indicate what to expect as her writing matured. For example, as much as I hated the hero, I found myself feeling sympathetic towards him at times. Krentz skillfully imbued him with vulnerabilities and insecurities in some scenes. The rose coloured glasses would slip over my eyes and I could empathize with the hero, until the next time the words out of his mouth showed his abuser/stalker side. Readers may fault the mores exhibited in this book, but they can’t fault the author’s nascentcraftsmanship.I don’t recommend this book to anyone, unless it’s for academic purposes. Instead, read her later works, under all three of her names. I have all of them and there is not a bad one in her later oeuvre.

This has been my least favorite Krentz book. Krentz usually writes hero’s with such character and excitement. Cole, however, is much more the villain than the hero in this book.He starts out with scaring Kelsey, the heroine, nearly to death. She tries to end their casual month of seeing each other on weekends, and he reacts by smashing a glass of brandy in his hand (one of a couple of glasses he smashes in anger). He then chases Kelsey out into the rain when she runs to try to escape him. Freezing cold and scared, Kelsey walks slowly back to the house, where he jumps out from behind a tree, grabs her by the waist, covers her mouth with his hand and tells her she can’t escape. He brings the terrified Kelsey inside and forces himself on her. She finally gives in (why I have no idea) and they sleep together. He then claims that she belongs to him.He refuses to answer any questions about his past and expects Kelsey to trust him unconditionally (his behavior to me would indicate that he’s very violent and possibly a serial killer, but Kelsey is expected to trust him

unconditionally). She goes back home to avoid him and thinks her solo cruise she has planned will give her space to clear her mind.Little does Kelsey know, that Cole follows her onto the cruise (can we say "stalker) and pays a cruise ship employee to give him her room information. When he doesn't see her there he pays another person to arrange her seat at dinner with him. When she doesn't show up to dinner, he bangs on her door, and barges in. (Um, hello, psychopath!). Kelsey is in her room sea-sick so he calls the doctor to give her a sedative which will knock her out. He insists on staying in the room and she is too weak to fight him. She wakes up once in the night and notices he is going through all of her papers and then steals said papers. When she asks him about it in the morning, he then taunts her to "turn him into the police" and is angry with her for not trusting him.He goes on to yell at her about who she can spend time with, question why she is out of the house, require her to obey orders, threatens to take her over his knee and hit her when she doesn't, criticises what she wears, asks her to leave her job and move in with him (but he is "kind" and accepts eventually that she wants to keep her job to which Kelsey is very grateful- seriously?!?), intercepts her messages, reads her mail from her boss, yells at her, tells everyone she belongs to him, tells her she isn't allowed to leave and he will chase her down, oh and she says she loves him and they will live happily ever after...There is a little side story going on, but don't want to add any spoilers, so just tlaking about the hero/heroine here.Seriously?!?!?! I'm all for dangerous bad boys and mysterious men, but Cole is downright creepy! I can't understand at all why Kelsey agreed to all of his conditions when she should have been getting a restraining order and running for her life. I'm OK with females who are a bit submissive, but the extent to which Cole is creepy and she agrees with him is jut scary. This is more like a story for abusive relationships, than a romance. I'm very disappointed in this book.Maybe the audio version made him sound even creepy than the paper book would have, but his behavior is unexusable and unacceptable in any realm. He's a very possessive controlling man with an anger problem. Kelsey should've kept on running!

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