



## Follow Love

*J.H. Croix*

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### **Follow Love** J.H. Croix

A sexy and tender love story set amidst the wild beauty of Alaska. On vacation in Diamond Creek, Tess Stanton plans nothing more than fishing and sightseeing. After a rough year that left her convinced love wasn't worth it, the last thing on her mind is falling for a handsome and way too charming fishing guide.

Nathan Winters is the quintessential sexy outdoorsman who finds Tess's reserve too tempting to ignore. Despite her qualms, Tess can't resist Nathan's down-to-earth charm. What was supposed to be a fun fling becomes so much more once Nathan and Tess yield to the sparks that fly between them. Steamy, sensual passion stokes a love that can't be ignored.

When Tess returns home, far away from Diamond Creek, she is confronted with just how much Nathan means to her and is dragged into complications by her unscrupulous ex. Nathan has no question that Tess is the woman for him, and he's willing to follow her anywhere to prove it to her. Can Tess let down her guard long enough to follow her heart?

### **Follow Love Details**

Date : Published March 1st 2015 by J.H. Croix

ISBN :

Author : J.H. Croix

Format : Kindle Edition 228 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Business, Amazon

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## From Reader Review Follow Love for online ebook

### Heather Miller says

I received this book as a free ARC copy in exchange for a honest review. Book #2 was just as great as Book #1, nice romance, with people who are in love with each other.

This is the 2nd book in the series, (Diamond Creek, Alaska Novels series). Book #2, Follow Love, is about the youngest brother, Nathan, who has always been a 'player' or a serious flirt. He has grown up a bit since book #1, his older brother's marriage helped him realize he wants that love in his life as well.

Nathan and his brothers have a family book a few trips with them on their boats, and he meets the daughter of the guest, Tess. Tess & her family are from North Carolina, no where near Diamond Creek, Alaska! But, Nathan & Tess decide to give their time in Alaska a chance and see where things go. After they have fallen for each other & Tess & her family are leaving, they aren't sure where their relationship will lead. Tess wants to be with Nathan, but, can't see herself leaving her life in North Carolina.

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### Mark McKay says

#### An Unexpected Love Affair

A young woman still suffering the effects of an abusive relationship goes on a fishing holiday to Alaska with her family. While out on fishing trips she finds herself attracted to one of the three brothers who crew the boat. The attraction is mutual.

What each of them believes will be nothing more than a holiday romance blooms into a passionate affair, complicated by our heroine's reluctance to commit to anything more lasting. Her struggle with her self-esteem, and lack of confidence in her own attractiveness threatens to derail their fledgling love. Not to mention the thousands of miles that will separate them on her return home. Our hero, for his part, is surprised by his depth of feeling for this woman, and has to cope with the emotions that it uncovers.

Using Alaska as a backdrop for this book gives it a stunning setting in which to play out most of these issues. The leading characters are well thought out, and when their sexual chemistry expresses itself (as it often does) the author doesn't hold back.

I thought at times the pace could have picked up a little, but overall I think this is a good story which will satisfy any romance fan. Did they get it together in the end? Read it and find out for yourself.

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### Jo Sparkes says

The first half of the novel – exactly 50% -- takes place in Diamond Creek, Alaska. The three Winters brothers run a business taking tourists on fishing trips. This is the second book in the series.

On a three week vacation, the Stanton family fishes with the Winters several times. Tess is just off a bad relationship, and far more aware of Nathan Winters than she would choose to be. He asks her to dinner, she doesn't want to go. And then, meeting on a beach one night, the attraction proves too strong, and they wind up in a fast and furious fling.

Tess returns to North Carolina in the second half of the book. While Nathan has been clear that he wants a serious relationship, she has trouble believing this through her cloud of self-doubt. Her ex (from the bad relationship) shows up, wanting to get back together. When she refuses, he threatens to embarrass her with her clients (she runs a fund-raising business with many useful contacts) if she doesn't allow him to use her to further his own cause.

Tess' brother does what he can to help, including telling all to Nathan, who flies down to help her if he can.

This is a pure romance novel with very graphic sexual situations.

I enjoyed reading about Alaska, and had the feeling the author knew the state first hand. Indeed, I suspect she knew the North Carolina area as well. I learned a few things, and that's always a good sign.

For me, I'll admit the first part of the book was a little slow. There was only the romance aspect – no conflict, every character nice and warm and friendly. I found myself a little impatient with Tess' hesitancy. Croix's writing is clear and descriptive, if a little repetitive (at one point the word 'room' appeared in four consecutive sentences).

When Tess' ex turned up in North Carolina, the story really started moving. I suddenly had a vested interest in seeing her get away from him, and found myself reading this part all in one night.

For those who love this genre, Croix is someone to check out. As this is only her second novel, expect even better things in the future.

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### **Scott Spotson says**

Nicely written, with descriptive language, this is above all a love story. I would truly be a grinch to find any fault with it. The two lovers are very likeable, and the scenery in Alaska sounds truly gorgeous.

I must admit, as a guy, I don't understand the fascination women have with writing and reading romance stories. This was a good one though! The love scenes were very steamy and how I would recount them.

I think one character that stole some scenes was Tess' mother. She seems like the perfect empathetic mother.

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### **Pamela says**

#### ***2.5 stars***

While it was a good romance with hot sexcapades, the story was so freaking long. I didn't think it would ever end. A hundred pages less would've been better. Waiting for Tess to make up her mind about Nathan was mind-numbing. Should I or shouldn't I? Should I go or stay? Blah, blah, blah. Give me a break. By the way,

the whole thing about Tess being blackmailed by her ex-boyfriend was absolutely ridiculous. Seriously, it was stupid. I wish authors would come to realize that you don't always need some ridiculous "angst," especially asinine ones like this.

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### **Linda Berg says**

Follow Love is the second book in J H Croix's Diamond Creek Alaska series. Tess Stanton and her family are visiting Diamond Creek and have booked fishing trips with the Winters brothers guided fishing service. Those Winters are very easy on the eyes and Tess immediately falls for the youngest brother, Nathan. Sparks fly and soon they can barely stand to be apart! Eventually, Tess must return to her fundraising business in North Carolina. Her ex-boyfriend, Chad, shows up and expects her to attend several functions with him and introduce him to some of her contacts. Chad appears to have his own agenda. Tess confides in her brother, Simon, an accountant, and he discovers some problems. Simon contacts Nathan and Nathan shows up on Tess's doorstep to help deal with Chad and to convince her to move to Diamond Creek.

This story is very easy to read and leaves the reader wanting to learn more about the people in Diamond Creek. I have lived in Alaska 50+ years and love the author's description of Alaska's captivating scenery and the people that would live nowhere else! This is a marvelous series and recommend it to just about anyone (realizing that some of the steamy descriptions are a little much for some).

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### **T.S. O'Neil says**

Follow Love

It takes a while to get going, but eventually Follow Love develops as an emotionally charged and steamy romance. The book would be a fantastic travelogue for Diamond Creek, Alaska as the author does a great job in describing the terrain and foliage native to our largest state, as well as describing amusing wildlife encounters. The story is interestingly written equally from a man's perspective as well as a woman's. I find fault with the weak plot device used to serve as motivation for the protagonist's fear of not cooperating with an ex-boyfriend's nefarious scheme. I was, however, pleasantly surprised by the ending.

Anyone who knows the main characters, Tess and Nathan, would not expect them to end up together. Tess is careful about every little move she makes. Appearances are everything to her as she thinks her reputation is what puts food on her table. Nathan is wild, manly and carefree. He is a notorious flirt who seems unlikely to ever settle down.

I am giving 4 stars because I did enjoy the characters, scenery and romance but the afore mentioned weak plot device prevents 5.

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### **Tony Parsons says**

Nathan Winters (brother), Jared Winters (brother) & Luke Winters (brother) ran The One That Didn't Get Away a commercial fishing & guide business in Diamond Creek, AL (Kuchma Bay).

Hannah Winters & Luke have 1 son; John Winters. Susie is the accountant for the business.

Today's New Bern, N.C. fishing customers for salmon & halibut were: Michael Stanton (father/grandfather), Tess Stanton (daughter), Simon Stanton (son) & Jordan Stanton (9, Simon's son).

Celine Stanton (wife/mother) greeted the family back at the motel.

The day was done & the boat was moored back at Otter Cove.

Nathan (31) didn't waste any time, He & Tess fell for each other right away.

They go on a date at the Diamond Creek Brewery.

Back in Greenville, NC., Tess (Maryland) & Deanna (Tess's BFF, Florida, PhD, biology, Professor, East Carolina U) are at a restaurant.

Chad (Tess's on/off again B/F, Coastal Alliance) later calls.

Future date, Nathan surprises Tess (events planner/coordinator) & shows up in Greenville.

The 2 go to visit Tess's parents' in New Bern, NC.

What will John Stephens (BMF) reveal to Tess?

What is Simon (Tess's brother, accountant) looking into?

Nathan heads back to Diamond Creek, Alaska.

Will Tess choose Chad or Nathan?

I lived in Seattle, my biological dad in Anchorage.

Fish whacker what is that?

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A very well written mild erotic contemporary romance book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make another great sensual romance movie, or mini TV series. I don't normally read romance books but this 1 got to me. There is no doubt in my mind this is a very easy rating of 5 stars.

Thank you for the free Goodreads; Author; PDF book

Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

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## **Rubin Johnson says**

Hot and steamy HEA

Follow Love (A Diamond Creek, Alaska novel, book 2) by J.H. Croix.

My inexperience with the romance genre led to me being surprised by the steaminess of the sex scenes. The female main character, Tess, from North Carolina, falls for a fishing guide on her family's visit to Alaska. The guide, Nathan, is a tall athletic outdoorsman with wonderfully blue eyes.

Unruly curls highlight the freedom the two experience with one another. Along with the love story, readers are treated to Alaskan fishing adventures and a tour of old North Carolina. (I liked those parts!) Interactions with moose (charging and otherwise) give the reader a chance to learn more about the characters under pressure.

Supportive family members, including Tess's empathetic mother and Nathan's numerous helpful brothers, provide a cast of characters to flesh out the story. Not everyone is good; an ex-boyfriend is given the

opportunity to be a shallow villain. He provides a reason for her to question her judgement in men.

The story is told in a straightforward fashion, alternating between Nathan and Tess as point of view characters. Time together in Alaska, then apart, then together in North Carolina, then apart again are all part of the romance. Did I mention there are steamy sex scenes?

The novel would benefit from a solid copy edit. My immersion in the story was interrupted too often by simple mistakes: "Just glad their okay" instead of they're; "... you're personal alarm clock" instead of your; a "small" instead of a smile; "coolers summers"; etc. Combined with instances of ambiguous pronoun references and several awkward constructions, my reading experience didn't always flow. Maybe I'm being too picky. I received a copy of the e-book in exchange for this review. In spite of these flaws, I suspect this will be an enjoyable read for an adult who fancies romance.

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### **Ted Farrar says**

Review of 'Follow Love' by J.H. Croix

The novel starts in Diamond Creek, Alaska, and a family fishing trip where Tess meets, and is instantly attracted to Nathan. All holidays eventually come to an end however, and Tess returns to South Carolina where she discovers her ex-fiance Chad has been crooking the books. Nathan follows Tess and takes objection to Chad's attempts to assassinate Tess's character in public, and a fight ensues, to the extreme embarrassment of Tess. Upset and angry, Tess sends Nathan back to Alaska, but eventually accepts that he's a part of her life that she doesn't want to let go.

I confess I had misgivings about reviewing a romance since it's just not my thing, so you'll understand when I say the story didn't do a great deal for me. In particular, the frequent, rather naughty sex scenes left me wondering how a couple could maintain and retain such pinnacles of ecstasy: everything that follows has to be anticlimax (if you'll excuse the pun). To me, that's the problem with romances – life just isn't like that. Then again, it's a novel, and novels are about escapism.

My cynicism aside, there is no faulting JH Croix's ability to create atmosphere, to paint a picture, to describe Diamond Creek with just enough words, maintain interest and to create realistic and lively dialogue – in fact everything one would want in a book.

For those with a penchant for romance and at want of a good book for the weekend, you might give it a try. This is an honest review of a free review copy of 'Follow Love'.

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### **Sonal Panse says**

The last thing Tess Stanton expects when she visits Alaska on a fishing holiday with her family is to find true love. She is not even looking for romance, burned as she has been by a previous abusive relationship. Nathan Winters, however, who runs a fishing boat company with his two older brothers, is hard to resist.

This was a pretty sweet romance. The characters are likable, although I wish Tess had more spunk; she seems a little too passive in regards to her meddlesome friends and her horrible ex, Chad. The descriptions of Alaskan scenery and the encounters with the Moose are well-written. The sex scenes didn't work for me as much. It's not that I'm a prude and I totally get that they were madly attracted to each other, but after the poetic scenery descriptions, a term like "dripping channel" was a little jarring.

I also thought the old 'Show, don't tell' treatment was needed in some places. A nice read overall. Liked it

particularly for Alaska.

Disclaimer - I received a free copy of this book for an honest, nonreciprocal review.

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### **Florian Armas says**

Follow Love is not a travel guide, yet I enjoyed Diamond Creek atmosphere in particular and Alaska “presentation” in general. For sure I know now what to do when meeting a moose family on the road, and I learned about fishing salmons more than I knew about fishing in general.

The love story itself blended well in the exuberant Alaskan summer when a vacation flirt turned out more than both protagonists thought or wanted, in the beginning. Who knows when love comes into town? The plot starts a bit static, but gathers pace once Tess returns to North Carolina, and her former fiancé wants to play some dirty social games. It’s then when Tess realizes that she really needs Nathan. Follow Love is an enjoyable read.

I received the book from the author.

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### **Lynn Lim says**

I just read this most wonderful second book in the Diamond Creek Alaska series, Follow Love, by Jh Croix. I could not put it down, and finished it in less than 12 hours, and that included sleeping, well sleeping some anyway. I really love a great HEA book and this one definitely did not disappoint.

Tess and her family are on fishing vacation in Diamond Creek; it has been her father's dream vacation for as long as she can remember. They scheduled several guided fishing trips with The One That Didn't Get Away, Nathan's family business. During their first trip, Nathan sees Tess for the first time, and wants to start flirting with her. He definitely thinks she is HOT! However, flirting with a guest, not good. But.....

Tess ended a relationship with Chad, an "asshat" as her brother Simon called him because of the way he treated her. She no longer trusts her own judgment in relationships because of some of the things Chad did and said to her. She does not see why Nathan would be interested in her, but he will not give up.

JH Croix again does a phenomenal job writing this book. Her description of the scenery makes me want to move to Diamond Creek, and I hate the cold!!

Lastly, THANK YOU JH for the gift copy of this book for my honest review. I cannot wait to read the rest of this series. I am soooo happy I found you on Choosy Bookworm!

Thank you for reading my review!

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### **Eden Sharp says**

Follow Love is the story of a vacation romance that turns into something more but geographical distance and the fallout from a disastrous past relationship form obstacles to be surmounted if the lovers are to take a chance on taking things further. The characters of Tess and Nathan are largely well drawn and with Tess in particular there are some well-observed emotional conflicts that many readers will be able to identify with. The pace was good overall but felt languid in places and in a couple of places the writing could have been tightened up a little. That’s not to say it wasn’t well written. Personally the settings were the star of the show

for me. The descriptive prose of the location was so atmospheric I really felt like I got a richly drawn flavour of Alaska and part of the joy of reading when the location is so exotic is in feeling like you've been on a journey albeit a vicarious one. The love scenes were erotic and the story felt contemporary, aside from the niggle I had with a professional woman doing her job and being referred to as 'bossy'. As the romance genre is all about wish fulfilment plenty of Follow Love's target audience will no doubt also enjoy going on this journey of the vagaries of forming a new relationship, and be left feeling satisfied by its conclusion.

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## Terry says

\*I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review\*

Oh damnnnnnn.

I am so in love with this book that I feel emotional because it's over. What am I supposed to do now?

From the opening sentence of this book, I was hooked (get it? Hooked, like fish!) on Nathan. He was so charming and sweet. I want my very own Nathan. He's dominant, but not in a pushy, bossy way, more like in a respectful way. I have a thing for lumber-sexuals (outdoorsy men), and that's exactly what Nathan was. Tess was a cutie, and I really liked that her issues didn't rule the story. Yeah, her problems fuelled a lot of her over-thinking and second-guessing, but she didn't make extremely stupid decisions and act crazy like many other characters with the same problems do in other books I've read. I enjoyed watching Tess and Nathan flirt and get close, it was very sweet. The only thing I'd change between them is maybe adding more affection. We seen them begin to hang out together during her trip, but they never really sat alone and talked about their lives. I became addicted to reading about how Nathan would tuck a curl behind Tess's ear, and I craved more of that type of affection between them. The transition into their "relationship" was smooth. I'm glad they didn't just jump into bed, there was steamy moments, but Nathan, being a gentleman, wanted to get to know Tess and not just sleep with her right away in case she regretted it. I would have liked to see them alone together more during her trip to Alaska with her family. I think it would have been nice if they talked, and learned more about each other and we seen some cute, affectionate, flirty moments between them. Many times throughout the story we're reminded of Tess's previous disastrous relationship, and all that happened, but Tess and Nathan never really talked enough for him to learn about it -- he finds out towards the end of the book from someone else. Also, Nathan talks about how him and his father and brothers moved to Alaska from Seattle (I think that's right), but we never really meet, or learn, about his father.

Despite these things, this book has my heart. Probably one of my top 3 books dealing with relationships. I have a love for everything Nathan did in this book, so I felt my connection to the book and Nathan through our shared love for fishing, boating and Alaska! I'm really going to miss Tess and Nathan. I would have loved another book dedicated to them, maybe about their future. All I could think about throughout this book was how beautiful their babies would be, hahaha. The scenery was described so beautifully, and the sex was amazing, as well as the drama. I loved that the drama and angst weren't taking over the story. Gahhhhhh!!! I'm gonna go curl in a corner and cry because I miss Nathan and Tess already, and now I want my own Nathan ;) Awesome book!

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