



Kiss Of The Bees

J.A. Jance

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E-book extra: "A Statement by J.A. Jance."

Somehow, brilliant psychopath Andrew Carlisle is back prowling the Arizona desert and seeking to feed his insatiable hunger for blood, fear, and revenge.

Intellectually, Diane Ladd Walker knows Carlisle died in the prison cell she and her sheriff husband sent him to after he was convicted of the brutal torture-murder of a Tohono O'otham Indian girl twenty years ago.

But the signs are unmistakable, and soon Diana's beloved adopted daughter, the baby who was "kissed by the bees" and whom the Tohono O'otham expected to be a great medicine woman one day, is missing and presumed dead.

As Diana's carefully-constructed world begins to unravel at the hands of this unforeseen and never forgotten evil, she must fight to keep her family safe and bring about a justice more final than the grave.

Kiss Of The Bees Details

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Author : J.A. Jance

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From Reader Review Kiss Of The Bees for online ebook

Tonya says

This is one of those rare times when I am just not willing to force myself to continue reading a book that I am not enjoying. I quit right about the time they introduced Brandon's son who apparently spent time in prison with (and was eventually protected by and is now grateful to) the evil killer who raped (and would have done much more to) his father's wife and this new evil psychopath who is taking over the obsession. I mean really....already most relationships in this series feel forced and unrealistic. And then this.... I just don't care to stick around to find out what else I can't stand about this series. I tried this series because Brandon Walker shows up in the next J.P. Beaumont book I plan to read, and I wanted to know who Brandon was first. Now I just don't care to find out more. Nope, I'm out.

Elizabeth Hulse says

I found it slow to start, but once it started going, I was hooked! Stayed up til 4:30 to finish it, NOT a good choice for me. Discovered I was reading book number 2 somewhere in the first few chapters, obviously will have to go back and get book one and probably three. But need a break right now! Too much late-night reading spoils my broth.....

Merrilee Buroker says

This is one of the worst books I have ever read. I started reading this book many years ago, but only got through 50 pages or so, and couldn't finish it. However, I have a steadfast rule that once I begin a book, I MUST FINISH it, no matter what, out of respect for the author's hard work in having penned it in the first place. Therefore, the book has been on my shelf ever since then waiting for me to fulfill my pledge, and so with time on my hands I dove into the thing once again, this time determined to tough it out. Everyone tells me that J.A. Jance is a very good author, and I must not have been in the right mood or something the first time around, so I felt sure that my failure to finish it the first time was all my fault, and I just hadn't given it the proper attention. But....NOPE. It really was/is that bad. It's confusing (somebody's aunt's sister-in-law does something to the cousin of the brother's best friend's step sister twenty years ago...what??), disjointed and vague. One major problem is the frequent use of Native American language, which is difficult to pronounce and really gums up the flow of the story. Many characters are referred to by 3 or 4 different names; their White Man name, their Indian name, their Spirit name, and the White Man translation of their Indian and Spirit name. The plot is muddled, but we know that there is a creepy serial killer on the loose, but just when we get a glimpse of him, we get waylaid by yet another new character's introduction and subsequent flash back memory. Whether there was some bad editing, or the author was under some sort of contractual deadline duress, nevertheless, this book is a BIG FAIL.

Ann says

I found it difficult to read this book because it had so much evil in it. The story was interesting, however, and I liked how it wove Indian legends into the modern plot. I think that it showed some of the racism that is alive in Arizona society which is very evident today. I gave it 4 stars because the plot was interesting, the

setting compelling, and I did like many of the characters.

Nancy Ellis says

I had to average 1 star and 5 stars and came up with 3. Technically, it probably deserves more because it is extremely well written with great character development, intricate story lines (which may push the limits of believability), and a plus for the inserts of native folklore, as well as the beautiful Arizona setting! I did find myself hating it in parts, though, because of the intensity, graphic violence, and the fact that it was a bit too "rough" for me in several parts, making it disturbing to read. It really pushed my limits personally, although it is possible that I just read it too soon after finishing the first book, Hour of the Hunter. In spite of that, she remains one of my top favorite authors, and I'm moving on to the next book in the series.....

Carol says

another scary book from J.A. Jance, like this one better since it was not as gorey. #2 in the Walker Family series.

Paul says

Kiss of the Bees is the second in J.A. Jance's Walker-Ladd family series. Because the book is so plot driven, this is a spoiler-free review so as not to spoil the book for anyone. It's therefore brief.

This story jumps ahead 20 years from the first book, Hour of the Hunter. The first part of the book is used to catch the reader up on the happenings of the family but then the story from the first book continues, against expectations, into this one. Like the first installment, this book is slow to start then becomes a page-turned about mid-way.

Jance continues to introduce each chapter with a bit of Papago Indian folklore. This helps cement a sense of place within the desert of Southern Arizona amongst the Tohono O'Odham people.

I'm a fan of Jance's writing but I'm becoming particularly fond of this series. The plots in her other works are always interesting and have plenty of twists, but the characters are a bit shallow. In this series, she's taking the time to thoroughly develop her characters. Quite a bit of this story is internal dialogue and you get to experience the growth of characters and better understand their viewpoint as a Native Americans. There are quite a few interesting heroes being developed for future works in this series and I'm looking forward to diving into the next book, Day of the Dead.

Matthew Eargle says

I picked this volume up as an advanced reader copy over a decade ago as the title seemed interesting. I'd never heard of Jance or the Walker Family series. I'm not even a particular fan of the genre, preferring the science fiction, fantasy, and adventure genres to the sprawling murder mystery. After finally reading the book, I was pleasantly surprised. The characters are well-developed and the action is tense--especially

toward the climax of the story. Unfortunately, this volume in particular suffers through "extended universe syndrome" wherein every character has a complex back-story that could stand alone as its own novel and these back stories are often dropped into the middle of a scene, breaking up the action and making the casual reading wonder where the hell he was when the scene picks back up. I understand the need for believable characters with plausible motivations, but Jance takes it all a bridge too far. If you're patient and have the time, go for it, but if you're not emotionally involved with a well-to-do and politically-connected family in Tucson, AZ, you might ought to skip it.

Hans Brienesse says

This is a delightful book to read. The plot is good and the cultural aspects are dealt with in a sensitive manner. Each chapter begins with a part of Indian folklore and one could read just those pieces in sequence and that would be another story in itself rather than the qualification it is. Nothing was superhuman or unrealistic as is so often the case nowadays. For a good read do not pass this author up; I shall certainly read more from her.

Lobstergirl says

A highly intelligent rapist and murderer rapes or murders about half of an Arizona woman's family and friends, over the course of several decades. (I think; it was confusing all around. There were so many friends who were like adopted family, and so many flashbacks, it was impossible to tell without creating a timeline and a chart, which I didn't do.) Then, knowing he is going to die in prison of AIDS, the rapist/killer trains his cellmate to take over his rage and hatred of this same family and terrorize them again, so it will seem to them as if he is acting from beyond the grave. This was interspersed with a constant heavy trickle of Indian folklore and tribal beliefs, which I ignored (the story by itself with all the flashbacks was complicated enough). I noticed many other reviewers also ignored all this, so I felt less racist.

What could trigger readers: a lot of damage to nipples and breasts, plus a weird insistence on giving people many, many names. One of the protagonists was named Diana Ladd Walker. And this was not usually shortened; she was usually referred to by these three names. Then the author gave her a fourth name: "Diana Cooper Ladd Walker." Finally the ultimate ridiculousness was when the five-named characters began to pop up:

"Brian's mother, Janie Walker Fellows Hitchcock Noonan, had been Brandon Walker's first wife."

"It was fine," Diana said. "Myrna Louise Carlisle Spaulding Rivers couldn't have been more gracious."

Bruce Snell says

Thru the first 300 pages of this book I wanted to grab the author - J.A. Jance - by the throat and scream, "Just tell the story, damn it!" She couldn't go a full page at a time without digressing into a flashback, or a flash-forward, or a flash-sideways, or even a flashback within a flashback, and even though I could see there was no other way to tell this particular story, it was driving me nuts. On the other hand, the last hundred pages finally tied up all the loose ends leading to where we were, and the story was told with alacrity, leading to the

end that fate determined must come. If you can stick with it long enough to get to the story, it is a pretty good read.

Debbie says

Twenty years ago, Diana Ladd had been instrumental in putting Andrew Carlisle in prison, as well as maiming and blinding him. After all those years, he was dead and Diana had published a book about the whole ordeal that had changed their lives. She had gone on to marry Brandon Walker (the sheriff), raised her son (Davy) and adopted an Indian child (Lani). Being part of the Walker family and having Rita Antone raise them, the children both knew the Indian customs and stories, including the ones about evil enemies. They never expected that evil 'ohb' to show up again, he was dead, but his cellmate had learned his lessons well and had agreed to help get revenge from the Walker family. Both Carlisle and Mitch Johnson had reasons to dislike the family and they agreed the way to the parents was through the kids. A dying request the Mitch was happy to see fulfilled.

Book 2 All suspense, the mystery is in the timing. Will Brandon and Diana figure it out in time, will Davy understand what he is seeing in time, will Fat Crack (Gabe) get there in time, will Lani know what to do at the right time. We know from the start what kind of evil is coming for the family. The interactions between the family is defined by flash backs of previous events that give a better frame to the family. Liked the inclusion of Brian, even Quentin and Tommy help to show the dynamics of the family structure. Felt Brandon as a character so much more than Diana, but liked how strong Lani was. Interested to see the next one, Day of the Dead.

Steve Payne says

I've read several of the Sheriff Brady novels and found them enjoyable. I picked this up from one of the Free Tiny Libraries on vacation. I didn't realize this was book 2 in a series. I would have enjoyed it more if I had read book 1. The main problem I had with this book is the Walker Family series concept. There are numerous main characters, too many to flesh out effectively. I did enjoy the Native American aspects of the books. I found them to be quite enjoyable and added a lot to the story.

Debbie says

Twenty years earlier an evil person named Andrew Carlise came into the life of the Walker family. He tried to kill Dianne Ladd Walker and her young son Davey. Dianne fights back and both survive. Andrew is caught and sent to prison, while he is serving his time he meets someone else who has it out for the Walker family. Together the hatch a plot to get even with them but this time the Walkers young daughter is the target. This was an interesting story but i wasn't to keen on all the Indian stuff it kind of thru me from the story line.

Joan says

I had a hard time deciding between one and two stars; I decided on two for the thread of the book that I enjoyed. This book was a big disappointment for me, a big J.A. Jance fan. Perhaps it would have made more sense if I'd read the first book of this series first, but reading books out of sequence doesn't usually hinder my enjoyment of a novel. I finally learned to just skip the gobbeldy-gook in italics, and the most of the rest of the novel made sense and even became pretty interesting. The constant switching between time frames and settings without cluing in the reader was very disconcerting. If I'd tried reading this on my Kindle, I would have given up -- I was constantly having to flip back to previous pages to find out who was speaking or when the time jumped back or forward (or in or out or beside or inside or outside - or...). That is hard to do on an electronic reader. Overall, the major plotline of Kiss of the Bees was a good one, but it just took too much work and effort to ferret it out of all the Indian lore and sideplots.
