



Black Diamond

Susannah Sandlin

Download now

Read Online 

Black Diamond

Susannah Sandlin

Black Diamond Susannah Sandlin

For some people, the untamed beauty of the bayou is a place to hide. For Louisiana wildlife agent Jena Sinclair, it's a place of refuge—one where she can almost forget the tragedy that scarred both her skin and her soul. But when the remains of yet another fisherman turn up, Jena realizes that Bayou Pointe-aux-Chenes is not safe for her...or anyone else.

The mysterious deaths aren't her only problem. A dangerous drug known as Black Diamond is circulating through Terrebonne Parish, turning addicts into unpredictable sociopaths. Jena's investigation leads her to Cole Ryan—a handsome, wary recluse struggling with his own troubled history—who knows more than he's willing to admit. If they want to stop the killer, Jena and Cole must step out of the shadows of their pasts and learn to help each other...before the evils lurking in the bayou consume them both.

Black Diamond Details

Date : Published October 18th 2016 by Montlake Romance

ISBN :

Author : Susannah Sandlin

Format : Kindle Edition 266 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Contemporary

 [Download Black Diamond ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Black Diamond ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Black Diamond Susannah Sandlin

From Reader Review Black Diamond for online ebook

Melliane says

Mon avis en Français

My English review

I really liked the first volume, I must say that the setting attracted me immediately. How not to be intrigued by a novel in the bayou? For an opportunity to learn more about a part of Louisiana? I admit that I am always curious in these cases.

So we are following here two new characters Jena, an agent as Broussard is, and Cole, a recluse who is trying to escape his past while living like a hermit. But now, history will gather them together when a body is found in the Bayou killed by a crocodile and that Cole detains the famous animal. Yet the story also seems to be related to the new drug spreading in town and changing people in sociopaths. Everyone is trying to stem this new scourge without much success.

I loved the novel again. As I said the universe is fascinating but when in addition we have a good investigation, everything is perfect! Cole and Jena are also two characters that I loved to follow. Indeed, they have both been broken by life and if some scars are only physical, there are many psychic. Moreover, we discover that perfectly with these two characters. I will not say more for not giving too much away but I was easily carried by the chapters, wondering what was going on exactly. Moreover we can also see several characters of the first novel to our delight and others are of course staged. I hope we will have the chance to discover more about Mac, Jena's partner, soon. It was a very endearing character too.

It was like I said once again a very good novel mixing drugs investigation and a nice story between two protagonists.

Arah-Lynda says

On Sale Now!

There is something about Bayou country that just radiates adventure and romance. Then again it could simply just be me, but my mind conjures up these fabulous images of a slow moving, barely breathing, body of water, surrounded by low hanging trees, each competing with the other for a slice of sky, their greens a jewel toned riot against the backdrop of water and the cerulean blue of the sky; nature's perfect camouflage for the great blue heron resting on the decayed stump, while the alligators lurk, nigh on fully submerged, behind the silverish grey of the tree trunks, while waterfalls of cascading moss sway gently on the intermittent breeze. Somebody please get me in that boat!

Jena Sinclair is a wildlife agent in the Louisiana Bayou, just recently returned to active duty from a tragic injury that left her scarred inside and out, when her new partner Mac spots the body. On closer examination it would appear that this fisherman has gone a round or two with an alligator. Obviously the alligator won.

Cole Ryan, a handsome, young recluse with a world of hurt in his own past has also come across a gator, a big one. Very big and quite dead, Cole is determined to find the cause of death before consuming any of the meat and he does, but it is a great deal more than he bargained for.

Meanwhile there is a new drug circulating through Terrebonne Parish called Black Diamond. The effect of this drug is terrifying. Users quickly become addicted and their behaviour, spins out of control, becoming unpredictable, full of rage and violence.

And another report has just come in of an alligator acting oddly. Just what is going on?

Part bodice ripper, part suspense, with a heaping spoon of adventure thrown in. I must say I enjoyed my trip down into the Bayou of Terrebonne Parish.

My thanks to Susannah Sandlin, NetGalley and Montlake Romance for an advance copy in exchange for an honest review.

Expected release date October 18, 2016.

3.5 bayou loving stars

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Originally posted at Heroes and Heartbreakers-<http://www.heroesandheartbreakers.com...>

The second installment in the Wilds of the Bayou series focuses on Louisiana wildlife agent Jean Sinclair. We met her in book one, Wild Man. Best friends and partners with fellow agent Gentry Broussard, Jean was caught in crossfire of one of his cases and paid a huge price. Jean is now back on the job after recuperating from multiple gunshot wounds though her self esteem is still fragile due to the physical and mental damage she sustained.

“Two bullet wounds that left her scarred inside and out, a horrible lapse of judgement that had almost gotten a civilian killed, and four months under the roof of her parents in New Orleans. All three had marked her.”

A routine patrol leads her to a dead body and an alligator acting odd. Tests reveal the alligator ingested a substance known as on the street as Black Diamond—a dangerous synthetic drug that is taking lives throughout the state. Her agency and the DEA team up to discover who is trafficking the drug through Terrebonne Parish and how. A tip leads her to Cole Ryan and Jean finds herself making a connection with the mysterious recluse. A connection that Ryan also feels and desperately doesn't want. Cole came to the parish to heal; going completely off the grid. He doesn't want to be on anyone's radar; especially a cop's.

“You don't like to talk to people, do you? I mean, slamming the door in my face was a clue that was hard to miss. I'm perceptive like that.”

As Jena and her partner Max dive deeper into the investigation, looking for the drug smugglers, they discover that everyone in Terrebonne Parish has a secret. A secret they are willing to die... and kill for.

I'm a huge fan of Susannah Sandlin's alter ego-Suzanne Johnson-and her outstanding urban fantasy Sentinels Of New Orleans series. I was pleased to learn she was writing a romance suspense and keeping it centered in the world she knows so well; the bayous of Louisiana. Sandlin captures the southern flavored

atmosphere perfectly with lush descriptions of both the scenery and the characters we come in contact with.

Black Diamond is a well plotted, character driven mystery thriller that blends a police procedural investigation with a budding romance. Intense action and suspense keep us on edge as Sandlin take us deep into the drug smuggling culture, using it to frame the tentative, delicate friendship that grows between two damaged individuals. The slow burning romance flows freely under the main storyline, giving readers brief reprisals from the overall seriousness of the investigation.

Upon first meeting, Jena and Cole recognise and are drawn to the pain, sorrow, and guilt each carry with them. Victims of circumstance which resulted in tragedy, they are both weary and scared of the “what ifs” that life has to offer, having been burned in the worst of ways. As they spend more time together, Cole joins Jena in her investigation in an unobtrusive way, and begins to see that hiding away from life is not a guarantee that nothing will ever happen again. He acknowledges the reasons behind his running away and accepts that he cannot change what has happened but he can change how he proceeds from here on out. To do that, he must make the ultimate sacrifice-rejoin the living. Jena learns to let go of the guilt she has shouldered. She realises that her supposed failings are not her fault but the faults of those who can't or won't accept her for who she is.

“She had a lot to be grateful for. A job she loved, and was alive to enjoy. She had colleagues she enjoyed working with, who were more family to her then her own family had ever been. [...] And then there was Coel Ryan, a face that has somehow slipped into her mental recounting of things which to be grateful for.”

A dynamic well developed cast of secondary characters all hold viable places in the story, each one a personable entity that I can't help but hope to see more of in the future. Some lighthearted scenes are injected, giving the story a more personal feeling; allowing us to see the strong friendships and affection these agents hold for one another. The climatic ending gives us the answers we have been looking for while assuring us that Jena and Cole have found the key to healing themselves through each other.

Fans of suspenseful police procedural mysteries with a strong southern base and a heartfelt romance are sure to enjoy Susannah Sandlin's latest offering.

Michelegg says

One of my favorite books this year. Written by one of my favorite authors, this book was completely unputdownable. I loved everything about it, the location of course, I am a big fan of Louisiana bayous and gator hunting and the atmosphere was creepy and awesomely delicious. The characters were beautifully written, so broken and yet strong and fierce. I loved Jena, she was perfect and Cole was just delicious.

The storyline was right out of the headlines and caught my interest and kept me reading into the night. The action was intense and I was glued to the book from page one to the end not wanting to stop till I had enjoyed every word. Absolutely romantic suspense at it's finest, written by a master of the genre. I highly recommend this one.

I voluntarily read an Advanced Reader's Copy of this book.

Luli says

Unos meses atrás, Jena Sinclair, lo que para nosotros equivaldría a ser un agente del Seprona, se vio involucrada en un tiroteo que la dejó tocada tanto física como mentalmente. La historia comienza cuando Jena está casi recuperada y ha vuelto al trabajo. Ahora se enfrentan a una droga tal letal como desconocida que está haciendo estragos su localidad.

Por otro lado tenemos a Cole, un ermitaño solitario y totalmente desconectado del resto del mundo que ha encontrado en los pantanos de Lousiana el lugar perfecto para “desaparecer”.

Uno de los puntos fuertes de esta autora, a mi parecer, es la descripción realista (realista con mayúsculas) de los procedimientos policiales. Nunca deja lugar para estupideces y a pesar de eso consigue enganchar con la trama y consigue que el suspense sea realista, cosa muy difícil de encontrar o casi imposible en este género. Sus personajes también están bien descritos, son multidimensionales y reales, con fallos, humanos y realmente es muy fácil conectar con ellos.

En este caso teníamos unos ingredientes de primera para la historia:

Protagonistas heridos, traumatizados, con un pasado que los aprisiona y con fallos tan humanos que da miedo mirarse en ellos.

Un elenco de secundarios que le dan fondo a la historia sin llevarse demasiado protagonismo, igual de bien descritos que los propios protagonistas.

Una trama increíblemente original. Desde la droga tan extraña hasta los métodos tan poco ortodoxos que los traficantes eligen para distribuirla.

Y por supuesto el marco en el que se desarrolla la acción, los agobiantes, oscuros y húmedos pantanos de Terrebonne Parish.

Esta historia lo tenía todo para ser una de mis favoritas pero, desgraciadamente, no ha sido así.

El romance me ha parecido apresurado. Ha habido una insta-conexión que me ha parecido desafortunada. No me gustan los insta-lo que sea... no son justos para el lector porque se pierde parte del romance. Eran unos personajes demasiado complicados y reales para lo rápido que sucede todo.

Me ha dado la sensación de que el romance salía de la nada. He tenido que asegurarme que el protagonista era el que yo pensaba porque la prota pasa más tiempo con su compañero que con él.

El suspense ha sido un poco lento. Parecía que pasaban y pasaban las páginas y no pasaba nada. Recuerdo que en su anterior libro *Wild Man's Curse* (una maravilla de suspense romántico que recomiendo al 100%) el malo fue algo asombroso. Original. Bien hecho. Aquí no he tenido esa sensación...el malo ha sido muy malo pero no sé bien porqué, no ha habido muchas explicaciones.

En fin, que me ha decepcionado un poco. Después de leer *Wild Man's Curse* tenía mis expectativas demasiado altas, imagino, y esta historia me ha parecido sosa.

Aún así seguiré leyendo esta serie.

ARC provided by Montlake Romance via Netgalley.

A few months ago, wildlife agent Jena Sinclair was involved in a shooting that left her both physically and mentally scarred. This story begins when Jena is almost recovered and has return to work. Now, they face a drug as lethal as unknown that is ravaging this quiet place.

Then we have Cole, a hermit totally disconnected from the rest of the world who has found in the swamps of Louisiana the perfect place to "disappear".

One of this author's strength, in my opinion, is the realistic description of police procedures. She never leaves room for stupidities and makes the suspense so realistic that you get engaged with the plot instantly, a very difficult or almost impossible thing to find in this genre.

Her characters are also well described, are multidimensional and feel real; they have faults and is really easy to connect with them.

In this case we had some top-quality ingredients for the story:

MC's wounded, traumatized, with a past that imprisons them and failures so human that is scary to look in them.

A cast of characters that give background to the story without taking too much prominence, as well described as the MC's themselves.

An incredibly original plot. From the so strange drug to the so unorthodox methods that traffickers choose to distribute it.

And of course the setting: the stifling, dark and humid swamps of Terrebonne Parish.

This story had everything to be one of my favorites but, unfortunately, that has not happened.

The romance has seemed rushed. There has been an insta-connection that I found unfortunate. I do not like insta-whatever ... they are unfair to us, the readers, because we miss part of the romance. They were too complicated and too real characters for how fast everything happens between them.

It gave me the feeling that the romance came out of thin air. I had to make sure that the hero was who I thought he was because the heroine spent more time with her partner than with him.

The suspense has dragged a bit. It seemed that the pages passed and passed and nothing happened. I remember in her previous book *Wild Man's Curse* (a really great romantic suspense I recommend 100%) the bad guy was amazing. Original. Fantastically described. Here I have not had that feeling ... the baddie was very, very *bad* but I'm not sure why, there have not been many explanations.

Anyway, I was a bit disappointed. After reading *Wild Man's Curse* I had my expectations too high, I suppose, and this story has seemed bland.

Yet, I'll keep reading this series.

Cindy ~ SnS Reviews says

Back in the Louisiana bayous where you gotta watch out for dem gators. What a thrilling opening the book starts with.

Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana Wildlife Agent Jena Sinclair is just getting back on the job after being shot and a suicide attempt. She's dealing with scars both on the outside and inside but is determined to try and put that all behind her. Her and her temporary partner stumble across a dead body who was the victim of an alligator attack but what they didnt know was they had come across the first clue to the deadly new bath salt drug Black Diamond that has been making its way around Terrebonne Parish.

Cole Ryan has been hiding out in Terrebonne Parish for 5 years living the life of a hermit after losing his family traumatically. All he wants is to be left alone. When a dead gator ends up behind his house and the

stomach contents of said gator are suspicious he has no choice but tell the pretty Wildlife agent he had just met. She also was the first person to awaken his soul which he thought was long dead.

I love these deep southern thrillers that are wrapped in Cajun tradition and culture. Along with the mystery and suspense of trying to find out who is supplying Black Diamond we also get to see two people who were so used to living with deep seated grief recognize that the other was a like soul and form an immediate bond which helps them heal.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

I really appreciated the setting on the bayou that Ms. Sandlin used for this novel/series. This is the second book in the Wilds of the Bayou Series, but can be read as a stand-alone. There are returning characters and references to what occurred in the 1st book, but this story's plot worked well on its own and the characters were well developed. I didn't read the first book and it didn't impact my enjoyment of this book, although I'm now intrigued enough to add book #1 to my TBR.

Cole is referred to as a hermit as he has isolated himself off from society after a tragedy happened to him. Jenna is a wildlife officer who has returned to work after dealing with not only getting injured on the job but also emotional issues brought on by a less than desirable home environment. I thought both Cole and Jenna were well developed and interesting. They both were recovering from traumatic pasts and they recognize the kindred spirits within each other. The supporting cast was also good and I really like Jenna's temporary partner, Mac (except the references to his womanizing exploits).

This is more suspense/investigation than romance but our H/h interest and involvement in each other is still very present. As I like more suspense/plot than romance this is a good fit for what I like to read. The physical details are minimal and not detailed which I appreciate as I tend to skip through books where the plot is either angst or sex, so I appreciated the real story in this book.

Mac and Jenna are pulled into a drug investigation when they tie a captured gator to the synthetic drug known as Black Diamond. The build-up of the plot was well paced and I really enjoyed this story and it's exciting ending.

Thanks to Net Galley for an ARC of this book. This was my first book by Ms. Sandlin and I look forward to the next book in this series.

Shay Williams says

There are just some books that are so good, where you get so involved with the characters, that you just are unable to set them aside. BLACK DIAMOND was one of those books. My plan was to read a little over breakfast and then go get the rest of my errands done for the day. Well let's just say that my errands did get done but a few hours late.

While I did enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the bayou, what really grabbed and held me were the characters. Jenna is such a flawed individual who is unsure of herself but determined to regain the ground

she had lost after the shooting. Cole's answer to the darkness of our society was to retreat completely but meeting Jena is causing him to rethink that decision. I also really liked Mac, who was Jena's partner and a secondary character, he tends to be a chatterbox and a flirt so people tend to underestimate him.

The pacing on this book was perfect with a lot of tension that builds towards a satisfying conclusion. I really appreciated the bits of humor that gives the reader a chance to catch their breath.

I do recommend BLACK DIAMOND to any of my readers who enjoy a well written romantic suspense. This series is on now on my radar and I can't wait for the next book to come out.

? Kimberly says

Five reasons to grab Black Diamond

Each of the books in this series can be read as a standalone and feature a Louisiana Wildlife agent. In Black Diamond, the Gators are acting strangely, and a designer drug known as Black Diamond is circulating in the parish. It is highly addictive, and the side effects are terrifying. Sandlin not only delivers a page-turning thriller, but she allows us to become a part of this community. We get to know key characters and experience life in the bayou.

Wildlife agent Jena Sinclair is back in the field after an accident that left her scarred both inside and out. She has a new partner, a new home and has her brother living with her. When the story begins, Jena is not in an excellent place mentally, but Sandlin allows her to grow as the case escalates. Jena felt real and had depth. I appreciated how the author developed her.

Sandlin brings the Louisiana Bayou to life from the people to the creatures who live there. We go deep into the marsh, learn gator behavior and bear witness to the struggles folks have from the economy to Mother Nature and her tantrums. Sandlin, a native of Louisiana, lends an authentic flair to the story, and her well-written story allowed me to see, smell and taste the bayou.

Suspenseful and intense Sandlin kept me flipping the pages as the mystery surrounding the Gators and drugs escalated. Jena and her partner soon find themselves in the thick of things as their case begins to thread with the DEA case. The author provided details, red herrings, and plenty of good old-fashioned detective work to develop a solid mystery with a realistic feel.

The romance was served as a side dish to the mystery and carefully threaded through the tale. Cole Ryan is a recluse who keeps to himself and his story will rip out your heart. Jena and Cole connect as only two damaged souls can do. Their interaction felt genuine, and their stories allowed me to connect with them both. The romance is fade black, slow burning, and filled with heart.

Copy provided by Publisher. This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Katie says

This is a fabulous romantic suspense that focuses on building up to an explosive story rather than being action-packed.

Jena is a Louisiana wildlife agent who has just returned to her job after a shooting that has left her physically scarred and a suicide attempt that has left her boss wondering if she can handle the pressure and a family that is coddling her in their most unusual way. Cole is a hermit with a somewhat unknown past, who is thrown in Jena's past as part of her investigation into rogue swamp alligators and a search for the source of a new, deadly street drug.

The story builds the suspense slowly by introducing characters, enabling you to get to know them, and relating events that are connected together but not in a direct or clear way. The romance ignites with a clear connection between Cole and Jena sparked by their emotional wounds and builds. The slow build of both stories come together in an action-packed closure that is full of suspense and more heat than the bayou.

Everything about this story was well thought out and executed including the ending that moved the romance along without becoming sappy. This a great romantic suspense that is a bit nontraditional.

Dísir says

An unusual, gory scene in the wild bayou opens the story and had me grimacing straight out in revulsion and sympathy. And maybe that was how I had a good feeling that this was going to be a wild and exciting joyride in store.

I emerged from the last page a little dazed and needing more, glad that my initial suspicions were proven right.

Riveting and well-written, 'Black Diamond' was hard to put down as it introduced lead characters with their quietly broken pasts we never really find out about until much later because the suspense and the brisk action took precedence over the romance. Drug-running and smuggling in the Louisiana bayou frame Cole's and Jena's ever-growing connection, but even that tenuous friendship and attraction fade slightly into the background as Susannah Sandlin carefully draws out the mystery and the tangled web of lies that Jena and her partner Mac have to wade through.

It's also primarily why I'd be more comfortable categorising 'Black Diamond' as a suspense novel with romantic elements, rather than romantic suspense. The slow, slow build between Cole and Jena isn't quite the priority or the central focus of the book, which made every scene with them together all the more precious, intense and excruciating. I hankered after every part of their relationship development, disappointed when it only solidified in the epilogue and not earlier as I'd hoped.

Yet for all the little we've been given of them, I loved both of them together immensely, but perhaps more so because they handled themselves in a manner - withdrawal and uncertainty yet with so much contemplation and self-awareness - that I found myself able to respect more than the typical response of (male) characters who simply become unthinking womanisers after a momentous tragedy in this genre.

That Jena/Cole managed to forge a gentle, quiet understanding early on surprised me pleasantly - Cole learns that the isolated hermit he has been isn't who he wants to be when he is with Jena; she conversely, lets her own pain go when she finds the same depth of empathy with him. That there's such dignity and maturity

written into them made it all the more difficult to see the pages close on their tentative steps towards a future that's finally sort of broken free of their pasts. But this being a series, I can only hope both Cole and Jena - with the odd man Mac - will return soon.

*ARC by netgalley
(stunned and grateful, as always)

Carien says

I've loved everything I've read by Susannah Sandlin/Suzanne Johnson so far, so you bet I pre-ordered this book.

And it's yet another great read.

The way Sandlin describes the bayou makes that I could easily picture it and imagine I was there. I loved the mood and atmosphere in this book, just as I loved it in the previous one.

I liked Jena in the first book, so I was rooting for her from the start. Events from the first book had a serious impact on Jena, and the drugs flooding the parish aren't her only problem. Cole is an intriguing character as well, and I had to keep reading to find out what would happen to both of them.

Another thing I love about this series are the minor characters. They play an important role in the story and seeing these recurring characters makes that you feel for not only the lead characters, but the entire Parish. (And I so want to read a book with Paul as the lead character!!)

All in all this is a gripping and suspenseful read, with a fast developing, but believable romance, great characters and writing, and gators! I can recommend it to anyone who's looking for a great Romantic Suspense read.

Rachel- Goodbye Borders says

Glad that Jena has her own book.

Jena, recovering from the events of book 1 is finally back on duty. She is self-conscious about her scars. Cole had something Bad happen and he decided to move and live off the grid. He succeeds until the arrival of drugs in his backyard.

I thought Jena and Cole were a good match because of things that happened to them. (I surprised to read about what happened to Cole- I thought he was hiding from someone). I liked the secondary characters- Ceelie and Gentry make appearances (and Paul, Mac). Decent plot and the villains (while guessed about 1/2 through), were good ones. I would liked a bit more at the end, I thought it was a bit rushed.

Jena's parents are TOXIC.

CL says

Louisiana wildlife agent Jean Sinclair has returned to work after almost losing her life during the course of a case that had dire consequences leaving her scarred and trying to reclaim her self-esteem and get on with her

life. The remains of a fisherman turn up and it appears he has been attacked by an alligator. Then an alligator is reported acting strangely and when it is captured and tested it seems the alligator has been drugged with a dangerous drug called “Black Diamond”. Now she and her fellow agents are trying to discover how an alligator came in contact with the drug. The investigation soon involves Cole Ryan who has been living completely off the grid for a few years and Jena wants to know why. What is he hiding from? She cannot deny her attraction to him even if she does not realize that she is attracted to him and Cole has felt something between them as well. Can these two tortured people trust each other enough to save the bayou they have come to call home. I would like to thanks the Publisher and Net Galley for the chance to read this ARC.

Linda says

An utterly fabulous gripping romantic suspense read!

Jena Sinclair had taught him a couple of things about himself in the past few minutes that he didn't want to know.

First, sometime in the past five years, a deep fatigue had wrapped itself around him – not the fatigue that could be slept off with a soft bed and a warm blanket, but the fatigue caused by a tightened harness that restricted. That promised no end to long days and longer nights. A harness of his own making.

Cole had realized another surprising thing too. Very surprising for the man who needed nothing and no one. He was lonely.

If you are looking for an utterly fabulous gripping romantic suspense read, I'd highly recommend that you check out Susannah Sandlin's **BLACK DIAMOND**! Susannah Sandlin is a pseudonym of Suzanne Johnson. When Suzanne writes as Susannah Sandlin, her stories of romantic suspense and paranormal romance are typically set in the Deep South where there are things that go bump in the night. **BLACK DIAMOND** is set in the Terrebonne Parish bayous of Louisiana where dangers often lurk unseen until it's too late.

BLACK DIAMOND is the second installment in Susannah's breathtaking Wilds of the Bayou series. It can work well as a stand-alone, if that is your preference as Susannah seamlessly integrates any needed information from the first book into this one. However, just know that the first book, **WILD MAN'S CURSE**, is just as terrific as this one, and that some of the characters in **BLACK DIAMOND** are first introduced in **WILD MAN'S CURSE**.

This is the story of two characters carrying a world of hurt on their shoulders: Louisiana wildlife agent Jena Sinclair and handsome recluse Cole Ryan. In the last book, Jena was gravely injured inside and out, when Celestine, the sole heir of murdered voodoo priestess Eva Savoie, was kidnapped while under Jena's protection. Jena still blames herself for what ensued. As this story begins, Jena has returned to work on light duty. While on assignment with her new partner, Mac, they discover a man's body which had been mauled by an alligator. Then, while investigating a report of a rogue alligator acting oddly, she meets Cole Ryan and leaves him her card in case he remembers any information that may help with their case. Cole does call her – but it's about another alligator – a big, dead one. Meanwhile there is a new terrifying drug circulating through Terrebonne Parish called Black Diamond.

If you have ever read one of Susannah's books, you know to expect plenty of heat and thrilling edge-of-your-seat action sequences. She writes with such vivid imagery, that the reader is transported into the setting with the characters. **BLACK DIAMOND'S** hero and heroine are broken, yet strong. Their story is beautifully written. Will Jena and Cole find a way to work together to live another day and to heal their emotional wounds? Pick up this book, strap yourself in, and hold on for a riveting roller coaster ride.

Following please find a few of my favorite quotes from BLACK DIAMOND:

“I see you’ve got an unwanted visitor.” He walked to stand beside Doris just as she poked at the gator with the table leg and caused it to hiss and back up again. “Ma’am, would you please not poke the gator anymore? Hissing is his way of telling you he doesn’t much like that.”

“You don’t like to talk to people, do you? I mean, slamming the door in my face was a clue that was hard to miss. I’m perceptive like that.”

Everybody has scars; some are more visible than others, that’s all. But anyone without a scar is someone I don’t want to know because it’s someone who doesn’t feel things deeply. You have to understand loss to recognize a gift when you see it.”

He leaned over and kissed her again. “You are my gift. I want to be yours, if you’ll let me.”

I was very fortunate to read two spectacular, well-executed, nontraditional romantic thrillers back-to-back – both by favorite authors. I would not hesitate to read either of them again. BLACK DIAMOND was one of them and it is a strong contender for one of my top ten reads this year. I can’t wait to read Susannah’s next installment in this series.

My full review is posted at Reading Between The Wines Book Club. Please check it out there:
<http://www.readingbetweenthewinesbook...>