



Flash

Jayne Ann Krentz

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A blockbuster of sensual suspense from New York Times bestselling author Jayne Ann Krentz.

Sparkling with Jayne Ann Krentz's irresistible blend of sassy wit and sheer suspense, this sizzling bestseller explodes into passionate pyrotechnics as a self-made millionaire and a charmingly disorganized entrepreneur team up to corner a killer. Soon, they find their unruly partnership has the power to set the night on fire....

Olivia Chantry may leave her desk in disarray, but she's a business dynamo: her Seattle-based company, Light Fantastic, creates the promotional flash her clients need. Her marvelous success has almost made up for a crumbled marriage that has left her wedded to a career instead of a mate. But all that may change when Olivia inherits 49 percent of Glow, Inc., her uncle's high-tech lighting firm, and she butts heads with the interloper who bagged the other 51 percent: Jasper Sloan, a venture capitalist and deal-maker known as an orderly man with all his ducks in a row.

From the start of their feisty business dealings, the so-called partners nearly crash and burn—and barely keep control of the sexual energy crackling between them. But when they discover a blackmailer is hard at work uncovering secrets inside Glow, Inc., Olivia and Sloan's steamy joint venture faces the acid test of truth...and a need for absolute trust. For when extortion turns to murder, a union of their minds—and hearts—might be their only chance to stay alive.

Flash Details

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S.J. Tyson says

Enjoyable romance/thriller from Jayne Ann Krentz. I kept wanting to get back to the story every time I had to put it down...a sure sign of an interesting plot. The romance aspect was provocative, the dialogue was quick-witted and lively, and the thriller/mystery plot was complex and left you wondering Whodunit? until the very end. I very much liked Ms. Krentz's writing style, and I will be reading more of her other novels in the future.

Synopsis:

Sparkling with Jayne Ann Krentz's irresistible blend of sassy wit and sheer suspense, this sizzling bestseller explodes into passionate pyrotechnics as a self-made millionaire and a charmingly disorganized entrepreneur team up to corner a killer. Soon, they find their unruly partnership has the power to set the night on fire.... Olivia Chantry is a business dynamo: her company, Light Fantastic, creates the promotional flash her clients need. Her success has almost made up for a crumbled marriage that has left her wedded to a career instead of a mate. But all that may change when Olivia inherits 49% of Glow, Inc., her uncle's high-tech lighting firm, and she butts heads with the interloper who got the other 51% percent: Jasper Sloan, a venture capitalist and deal-maker. From the start of their feisty business dealings, the so-called partners nearly crash and burn -- and barely keep control of the sexual energy crackling between them. But when they discover a blackmailer is uncovering secrets inside Glow, Inc., Olivia and Sloan's steamy joint venture faces the acid test of truth...and a need for absolute trust. When extortion turns to murder, a union of their minds -- and hearts -- might be their only chance to stay alive.

Maria says

Thoroughly entertaining in typical Jayne Ann Krentz style, this book has it all - great characters, dialogue, humor, excitement, and a plot that keeps the reader hopping. Which is why I re-read it as often as possible. Every time I find something fun and new to appreciate. My favorite line, "He was in very dangerous territory without a map.", provokes a laugh every time, even after five or six readings. I also love the emphasis on Jasper's "timing" issues and especially like the way Jasper humorously describes his position in Glow as having the "corner office with the big windows". Olivia's coffee consumption also adds a touch of reality. It's these little details that make JAK's characters come alive and make me want to "visit" with them as often as possible.

Susan says

Enjoyed it a lot even though I figured it out by half way at the latest.

Angie Lee says

Decent

Kathleen says

3.5 stars for this stand-alone romantic suspense, set in contemporary Seattle. I first read it years ago. Now I'm listening to the audio, narrated by **Kate Fleming (aka Anna Fields, who narrated for Susan E Phillips)**. She's got a broad vocal range and portrays men well. Sadly, she passed on in 2006.

POV is 3rd person, switching between Jasper and Olivia, and occasionally some mysterious chess player.

Contents include a few explicit sex scenes, a little violence, minimal swearing or profanity, and no crude terms for female anatomy.

Why do I read JAK?? It's typically not for the suspense, even though that is usually interesting. The main reason I come back to this formulaic author is this: She writes about honorable men who are deeply alone. Misunderstood, or misjudged, or unwanted, or taken for granted. Whatever. I feel for these guys, even though they are tough, shrewd, sexy, and rich. I like them because -- true heroes -- they keep on doing the right thing, without fanfare, despite public opinion. I like the heroines, too. Krentz sells me on their HEA. It's heartwarming and satisfying, knowing the couple is going to take care of each other and contribute to the well-being of others.

Quibbles: Some dialogue felt like it went on a bit long at times. Olivia's internal reasoning also droned on, especially in audio format, where I cannot skim. The chess player POV felt out of place. Also, the big bad villain is a stretch.

This book begins with two prologues, running along parallel lines. In the first prologue, set 8 years in the past, the hero (Jasper Sloan) is burning some mysterious documents while tending to his newly adopted nephews, Kirby (age 10) and Paul (age 12). Jasper's wife left him a year ago, when the boys moved in, after their father died. Their dad was Fletcher, Jasper's step-brother.

In the second prologue, set 3 years in the past, Olivia Chantry is also burning mysterious documents. Her artistic husband Logan Dane just died (gored, running with the bulls, haha!). Olivia's cousin Nina and Logan's family blames her for driving him to it, by starting divorce proceedings. (His family include Sean Dane, etc.).

Fast forward to the present, in Seattle, where young Kirby and Paul (now in college) think Jasper's off his game, and fast approaching a midlife crisis. "Take a vacation!" they insist.

Meanwhile, Olivia runs a company called Light Fantastic. Using special lighting effects, she stages parties, conventions, trade-shows, etc. Her Uncle Rolly owns a lighting company called Glow. She uses his lighting equipment at her events, so it's a partnership. Jasper -- a venture capitalist -- is the money man, funding the business.

Then Uncle Rolly dies (early in the book) and everything changes at Glow and Light Fantastic, because Jasper owns 51%, controlling interest.

Jasper is orderly, organized, and logical. Conservative. Reserved. Olivia is his polar opposite. He's fascinated and bedazzled, but can they work together at Glow? Jasper makes it clear that he's in charge, but Olivia resists. She worries that Jasper will be hard on Chantry relatives who work at Glow (Aunt Rose, etc).

Other Plot Threads (minor spoilers):

(view spoiler)

Brianna says

good, but not a good as the other books by her.

Lea's Audiobooks Hensley says

I'm not much of a Krentz fan but when I discovered that Anna Fields narrated Flash, I had to listen. It was a DNF however. The leads had an interesting intro but then were thrown into a basic whodunit which dominated the story. Not interested.

Narration is, of course, 5 stars. Content - 2-3 stars.

David Johnston says

A fairly routine outing from the days before Jayne Anne Krentz got into paranormal romance. A motherly woman in a slightly quirky business meets a rich man who manages to be as tough as he is nerdy and is just what she needs to find out why someone is going to try to kill her.

Cheri says

This book was okay for me. It was an early one of JAK's novels. I just found it kinda mundane. The mystery of who dunnit was interesting. I wasn't totally satisfied with the chemistry of the 2 main characters.

Mae says

When you buy a used book for \$1.00 you get your money's worth if it entertains and passes the time. This one did that - no more, totally predictable but what do you expect for a buck:)

aem says

Enjoyable JAK.

Carrie says

Dec 4 2010. 3 star for print edition. Good, not great. I liked the romance but would have enjoyed more time spent developing it. The suspense plot was very good in parts, but it hinged on something a little far-fetched, and that fact kind of ruined it for me. Still, light and fun, with some witty dialog.

Revisited on audio, narrated by the incomparable Kate Fleming/Anna Fields.

3/37/12- audiobook review 4* because the narrator brings up the rating.

Flash was more enjoyable in audio for the simple fact that Kate Fleming is a wonderful narrator. Her voices are great, even her male voices, and her timing is perfect. Listening to her deliver the lines made them more witty and clever. Unfortunately Fleming can't improve a slightly flawed plot line. The suspense plot isn't bad, just a little bit confusing at one point and somewhat unbelievable (or cliché?). But, honestly, it's a good book with fun characters, decent dialogue, and (if you buy it on audio) you get Kate Fleming to make it all even better!

Lori Shafer says

When Jasper inherits the controlling interest in the family company, Glow, inc., he thinks it will be the change he needs. However, not everyone is thrilled with the new boss. Someone is willing to use deadly methods to end his reign.

The book is a nice read. It was not as suspenseful as I like. The storyline was a little predictable.

All in all, *Flash* is not a must read.

Hannah says

This is a weak three stars for me. I almost gave it 2.5 stars, but I decided to be generous. There was nothing seriously wrong with *Flash*, except that it followed Jayne Ann Krentz's formula too closely. The characters were people I've met before in her other novels. They were the same irritatingly-naïve heroine and slightly-nerdy-but-still-deeply-masculine hero that show up in so many Krentz novels. I could predict everything they did, and even portions of their dialog. It's depressing when I sit down to read a new-to-me book, and it ends up feeling like a second or third read-through. If this had been the first Krentz novel I had read, I might have really enjoyed it (although I would have had some problems with the heroine, Olivia, who was annoyingly dense). But after having read dozens and dozens of Krentz's novels, I find that her style has lost its charm.

On the plus side, the mystery/suspense plot was mildly entertaining; I didn't have the villains' schemes figured out as early as I usually do in such novels. Also on the plus side for the audio book: Kate Fleming (aka Anna Fields) did a good job on the narration. My one complaint regarding her performance is that I

didn't always love the way she read Olivia's dialog. Olivia said some dumb things over the course of the novel, and Fleming's delivery occasionally emphasized the inanity of the dialog. However, this is more Krentz's fault than Fleming's.

Teri-K says

This is one of the "tough business man is forced to work with young woman" books by Krentz that I enjoy reading every so often. It's not, however, one of my favorites. I think it lacks interesting MCs and enough tension in the plot. Olivia and Jasper are likable but they don't ever come alive on the page. I think the story would be much more interesting if his nephews played a bigger part, as they make him feel more interesting. The plot mostly concerns people being blackmailed who don't really care so there's not much threat anywhere. Then there's the ending, which takes way too long to wrap up. If she'd combined the last 15 percent of so of the book down into a couple of chapters it would be a fantastic ending, but everything is so stretched out with mundane events in between that the impact is diluted. 2.5 stars

NB - I revisited this in audiobook form, and enjoyed it more the second time around. Perhaps I had lower expectations, but this time I didn't care as much that the plot has huge holes, though I did still think the ending went on too long. "What, there's *another* chapter???" What I liked more this time was a few bits of clever dialogue between the MCs, a bit like a screwball comedy. More of that would have livened the book considerably. Still 2.5 stars
