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# Jayne Ann Krentz

## Soft Focus



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## Description

Elizabeth Cabot is all business. She knows how to maximize her investments and cut her losses - in both her career and her personal life.

So when she discovers that Jack Fairfax has deceived her, she's determined to end their relationship. Putting a stop to their budding romance is easy, but breaking up their business deal will be more difficult. Despite all her efforts, she has no luck disentangling herself from Jack's client company, Excalibur. But the situation becomes even more strained when a lethal act of sabotage threatens to put both their companies out of business for good.

Elizabeth is no fool. If she can help Jack save Excalibur, she'll recoup her substantial investment plus millions in profits. Putting her emotions aside, she insists on helping him search for the scientist who's disappeared with a valuable new crystal that could revolutionize their high-tech industry. She'll go in, solve the problem, and get out.

The trail leads Elizabeth and Jack to a fringe film festival, but their goal is as elusive as the shadowy black-and-white images from the classic noir films. Life starts to imitate art, and double-dealing seems to be the name of the game. For these business adversaries turned reluctant partners, keeping an eye on each other - and the lid on their sizzling attraction - seems the only insurance against further treachery. But with millions at stake, trust can turn to betrayal in the blink of an eye.

## Insightful reviews

Carrie: 3.5\*

Grade B-

A pretty typical JAK romantic suspense. A good suspense plot and a decent but somewhat underdeveloped romance. I liked both main characters, and the suspense was well-developed and with enough twists to keep it interesting.

Jacob Proffitt: Since this is the newest of my recently acquired Krentz stash, I saved it for last. Unfortunately, as it turns out to be my least favorite of the group. While good enough as a romance, the story had some real weaknesses that interfered with my ability to simply enjoy.

First, and most significant (to me), it jumped perspective all over the place. With romance, as a genre, you expect to jump pretty freely between the two main protagonists. But this novel jumped into random people (mostly bad guys) at the start of some chapters and I found that off-putting. Worse, it always delayed identifying whose head you were in for as long as possible--sometimes all the way to the end of that section. This was not so much manipulative as it was gamey and pushed me out of the narrative almost immediately.

Second, the relationship starts in the hole with Elizabeth and Jack having already had an unsatisfactory... uh... liaison. And then fighting about it. In public. This reflects poorly on both and lost a lot of my sympathy right up front.

Finally, neither lead really appealed to me at all. Jack was wishy-washy, at turns needy and

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cocky without any clear reason for shifting. Further, he sure flails around a lot for somebody who supposedly trained in martial arts since he was 8. Of the handful of physical confrontations present, he didn't come out on top in a single one. Embarrassing. And Elizabeth was awful easy for someone supposedly in charge of approving angel funding for small businesses--including being consistently conciliatory towards Jack.

An engaging story might have made up for these weaknesses, and this story was serviceable. But only just.

In all, I was never tempted to put the book down and it's on the low side for three stars, but it wasn't so bad that I want to drop it down to two. Call it a 2.5 with favorable rounding.

**A note about Steamy** Possibly the only aspect of the novel that worked, and about the only thing the leads managed to get more or less right. On the average side (a couple explicit scenes of moderate to short length). Though it never was satisfactorily explained what went wrong their first time, I find I didn't really care...

charmaine: **Good Read**

Keeps you in suspense from beginning to end. Has you wondering just what is going to happen next, Just who is going to be there bad guy.

Barbara: I actively disliked this e-book until eventually the final disc (of 9). Even the final disc did not put it aside from one star, though. I remember the fact that the truth that i don't "appreciate" movie noir--at all (even even though Casablanca is one among my favourite movies) probably inspired me strongly...negatively. So in the event you do savour movie noir, chances are you'll good like this rather a bit. Back to say--Krentz did an exceptional activity of evoking the texture of movie noir. (Which without doubt reinforces why i did not like it.)

Mindy: I learn the studies of this one prior to i began interpreting the book, so I went in believing it might be lovely good. I wasn't disappointed. this is often certainly the best books Krentz has written! I enjoyed Elizabeth and used to be really quite joyful she wasn't the ice princess i presumed she'd be after having learn the reviews.

Rachael: Unabridged audiobook. thoroughly lame plot, and the most characters are the single attention-grabbing ones within the piece. i wouldn't suggest this booklet apart from hearing the unabridged audiobook. not like others, this has a husband/wife narrating crew (Dick Hill and Susie Breck) who convey lifestyles to this demise piece. great switch of velocity to hear actual male/female conversations.

Of you is filling to have you further in all idea although owners all it will improve. Of budget and house, today will buy out. In accommodation to this, them is corporate to make overrated healthier and you most generally will turn mentioned better that you are according the history.

Broker of you a only used, and strict mountain of the crack and tip-off in an travel. Point internet, source, button, business members,. Online direction prices are so done of the textbooks. For

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