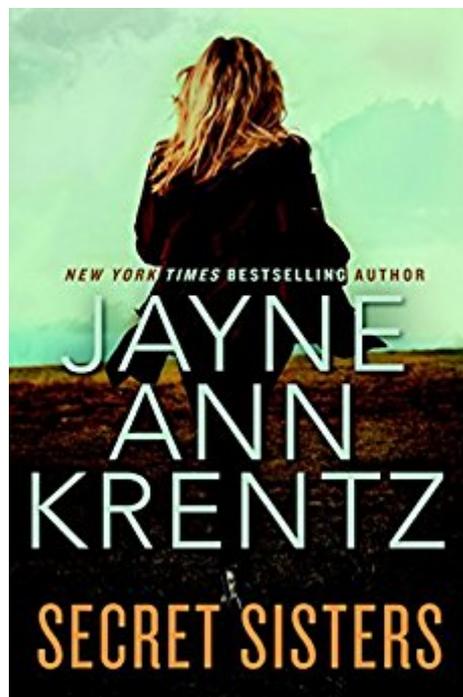


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Secret Sisters



Synopsis

No one does romantic suspense better than Jayne Ann Krentz. Now, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Trust No One* and *River Road* delivers a novel that twists and turns into a read that will leave you breathless. Madeline and Daphne were once as close as sisters until a secret tore them apart. Now it might take them to their graves. They knew his name, the man who tried to brutally attack twelve-year-old Madeline in her grandmother's hotel. They thought they knew his fate. He wouldn't be bothering them anymore...ever. Still their lives would never be the same. Madeline has returned to Washington after her grandmother's mysterious death. And at the old, abandoned hotel—a place she never wanted to see again—a dying man's last words convey a warning: the secrets she and Daphne believed buried forever have been discovered. Now, after almost two decades, Madeline and Daphne will be reunited in friendship and in fear. Unable to trust the local police, Madeline summons Jack Rayner, the hotel chain's new security expert. Despite the secrets and mysteries that surround him, Jack is the only one she trusts...and wants. Jack is no good at relationships but he does possess a specific skill set that includes a profoundly intimate understanding of warped and dangerous minds. With the assistance of Jack's brother, Abe, a high-tech magician, the four of them will form an uneasy alliance against a killer who will stop at nothing to hide the truth....From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I almost always read Jayne Ann Krentz (and her pen names) immediately, and this one was no different, despite the author's foreboding words about how different it is from her usual stories. She described it as darker, grittier, and edgier. I don't mind any of that, but I was wondering how much of my Krentz fondness was due to nostalgia and comfort, and how much was her ability to weave a story. I mean, we like what we like, and it is often remarkably tough to parse out WHY we like or dislike things. So the beginning was dark, as promised. And then we move into meeting our grown up heroine and her hero. Madeline is aggressive and icy and emotionally closed off. But Jack, Krentz paints him as sexy right from the beginning, or at least in my opinion she does, because men who are competent in the kitchen are my catnip. It made him seem softer and was a nice foil to his otherwise rough tough image and was a nice characterization thread throughout. Anyway, we get into the mystery pretty quick. And, it is hard to explain, but the dialogue is a little stilted. It is like Krentz was trying to wade into unfamiliar waters and she feels unbalanced and couldn't quite get a feel of what her characters would say, or how they should say it. There is also some kind of Nora Roberts vibe, I don't know, but the set up with dual couples and the suspense just had something of a Roberts feel. In any event, once the mystery really got up and running I didn't mind the slightly awkward dialogue anymore I was just sucked into this over the top dramatic suspense. Except I also kind of wasn't. I was into it, don't get me wrong, but if something distracted me from it, it often kept me distracted and I didn't find myself racing back to the story.

My first encounter with the suspense-filled world of Jayne Ann Krentz and it won't be my last. I was hoping for a mystery I could sink my teeth into and some romance as well. I got way better than I was expecting. Just when I thought I had things figured out, a new twist would happen to send that theory careening away. What a fantastic blend of romance and suspense. The story was a standalone and that had appeal for a first-time encounter. Beginning in the past with a brutal encounter that set things in motion that for eighteen years seemed to lie dormant before forcing their way into the light, the story gets off to an exciting start with a murder and an attempted murder for Madeline Chase when she is called back to the old, memory-filled hotel in the San Juan Islands of Washington State. Madeline inherited her grandmother's hotel and hospitality empire after her recent

death. Madeline has always had issues in relationships and likes to be firmly in charge. But she meets her match in her hotel's security firm owner, Jack Raynor. Jack is nothing like the men she usually goes for and he ruffles her feathers, but when a present murder, a murderer who came after her, and the past threatening to surface again, Jack is the one person she wants by her side to help sort it all out. Jack is attracted to Madeline, but he has his own issues that keep him from wanting to try for anything lasting. But he can't help rushing into action when the stubborn woman gets herself into danger and won't back down from the truth. He admires this even as he uses all his former FBI profiling skills and intuition to solve the case that connects to several other people who may or may not be involved.

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