



## Grand Passion

*Jayne Ann Krentz*

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## **Grand Passion** Jayne Ann Krentz

Searching for his hidden inheritance, Max Fortune finds more than he expects at the Robbins' Nest Inn. Max's mentor and friend, Jason Curzon, has left five priceless paintings on the coast and from his deathbed has sent Max to retrieve them along with anything else he might discover. What Max does find is a woman who sends shock waves to his core.

Cleopatra Robbins has her hands full managing her small coastal inn. When Max arrives she recognizes her dream man...and he's not at all dreamy! But when danger threatens from Cleo's past, Max is the one man she can trust.

## **Grand Passion Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2003 by Pocket Books (first published January 1st 1994)

ISBN : 9780743482875

Author : Jayne Ann Krentz

Format : Paperback 282 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Romantic Suspense, Fiction, Suspense

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## From Reader Review Grand Passion for online ebook

### Andrea says

The story was very predictable but okay. The main characters name was Max Fortune, though. That's a pretty cheesy name - it reminds me of the episode of The Simpsons where Homer changes his name to Max Power. He got it off a hair dryer.

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### Diane ~Firefly~ says

Standard JAK. Cleo has made a new family for herself at her inn and when Max shows up looking for his inheritance from his mentor, he finds something better than paintings, once he lets himself feel. The subplot with the Curzon hotel chain had some rocky points, but otherwise it was all good.

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### Kathleen says

4.5 stars. A winner on all fronts! Heartwarming, suspenseful, sizzling, and sometimes amusing. Plus, a standalone novel, set in contemporary Pacific-time USA. I first read this years ago, when it was published. Since then, I have revisited Robbin's Nest Inn several times. I loved seeing elegant, aloof Max Fortune fall headfirst for his polar opposite, the cheerfully rumpled Cleo Robbin, innkeeper with heart. She is just what he never knew he needed, this lonely millionaire. Soon, he's got a new goal: keep Cleo safe from a psycho-stalker, and preferably in his bed.

Loved the happy ending, served up with a welling sense of joy, as experienced from Max's POV.

The suspense was decent. In some books, Krentz gives too many clues, revealing the villain early on. Not so in this book.

I enjoyed all the secondary characters, too. Fun bunch, and of course with the requisite benevolent gay couple. The secondary romance was believable. Tugged on my heartstrings. Some sweet male-bonding scenes between Max and little Sammy, and where Max counsels young Ben through his fears.

One or two mildly funny scenes, like the he-man warriors drumming away butt naked.

This is not part of a series, so no time is wasted recapping prequels or leading into upcoming sequels.

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### Annette says

Max is a wealthy former hotel executive. His mentor has died and left him some very valuable paintings. The problem is, the paintings are supposed to be with a woman who runs a small inn and Max goes to recover his inheritance.

Cleo runs a successful small inn on the Washington coast. Her entire staff is made up of people who she considers to be her family. They are related by a sense of caring for one another. There is a sort of organized chaos and a feeling that makes the inn a haven for travelers. Each of the staff, including a precocious 5 year old, contribute to the atmosphere and sense of welcome at the inn.

Max is drawn in to the welcoming nature of the people and the he enjoys the sense of becoming a part of a family. The secondary characters are interesting and each has a back story that adds to their depth.

Cleo is being threatened by an unknown person. Max is determined to protect her and find out who and why the threats are coming to someone who is so well liked and not they type of person who normally would receive any threats on her life.

There are psychological issues in the background of both Cleo and Max. In spite of this, each of them is attracted to the other. Among other things, Cleo has written an erotic novel under an assumed name. That may or may not be the reason for the threats. It definitely makes the relationship between Cleo and Max interesting.

Krentz generally writes with a sense of humor and this is no exception. Her books tend to have strong sexual content and a secondary mystery which adds to the development of the plot and the entertainment of the reader.

I enjoyed this book and if you like strong romance with humor and mystery, this will be a book for you.

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### **Mariya-Teodora says**

Grand Passion was another great book of Jayne Ann Krentz. Light but with growing suspense and amazing chemistry between Max and Cleo. I recommend it!

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### **Yuli Michaeili says**

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### **Jane Stewart says**

Pleasant but predictable personal interaction. I wanted more meat. Audiobook narrator made it worse.

Cleo runs a small hotel/inn. Her parents were killed a few years ago. A small group of friends work at the Inn. They call themselves a "Family." This book takes the prize for using the word "Family" more than any other book I've read. Max arrives. Because he was a friend of Cleo's friend, she gives him a job at minimum wage doing maintenance. He also gets room and board. She tells him he is now part of the "Family." He likes this because he was brought up in foster homes. In one part Max wasn't able to do something and thinks he might leave, but Cleo says it's ok if you don't succeed when you are part of the "Family." (By the way, Max is wealthy and recently worked as a corporate executive. But Cleo doesn't know that.) When talking to a bad guy Cleo says "you're a product of a dysfunctional family."

Someone is threatening Cleo. Max hires O'Reilly a PI to investigate. As soon as O'Reilly arrives, he and one of the women have an instant attraction. He is now also part of the "Family" and will walk a young woman down the aisle at her coming wedding. Max and Cleo had an instant attraction with a marriage proposal that was too soon for me. Their relationship needed more time. It felt thrown in.

This was mostly people puttering around the Inn, interacting, and getting along with each other. That was pleasant and kept my interest. But I'm marking this down because the suspense parts of the book were weak. There are three mysteries/subplots: 1. Where are the paintings that are supposed to be in Cleo's possession that she knows nothing about? 2. Who is threatening Cleo? 3. Max used to work for a large hotel chain. They want Max to come back to his old job. Things get resolved at the end but not in new or different ways. It's like the author just ended things the way she always does.

**AUDIOBOOK NARRATOR** Richard Ferrone:

I did not like his emotional interpretations for both the hero and heroine - like he made someone sound whiny or like a little girl. He was not sexy doing Max. He overacted when doing the villain art dealer Spark. He had an awful voice for Sammy the little boy. At times I heard his breaths which were annoying.

**OTHER BOOKS:**

This author is hit and miss with me. I liked her following books. All Night Long, Trust Me, Running Hot, Deep Waters, Sizzle and Burn, Twist of Fate.

**DATA:**

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Unabridged audiobook length: 11 hrs and 39 mins. Swearing language: mild including religious swear words but not often used. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: 4. Setting: around 1993 Washington. Book copyright: 1994. Genre: contemporary romance with some suspense.

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## **Elke Eelbode says**

Dit boek kon me jammer genoeg niet echt boeien, het hoofdpersonage kon me niet boeien en ook de verhaallijn was maar matig. Jammer want de vorige boeken van deze schrijfster vond ik wel goed.

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## **Gea says**

Gewoon weer een heel erg leuk, ontspannen boek. Heeft wel iets weg van de boeken van Nora Roberts.

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## **Anita says**

**Actual Rating: 3.5 Stars**

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## **Amanda Kern says**

### **Lucky ducky**

Sammy is my favorite character. And as we find out lucky ducky can swim every where. To learn more read this book.

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## **Lindsey Jackson says**

My apologies to any fans out there, but I found this read to be predictable, recycled and exasperating. There are far too many fantastic books out there- don't waste your time with this one.

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## **Brenda Audiobooks Only says**

Narrated by Richard Ferrone

Ferrone is not a favorite narrator for me but he did fairly well with this 1994 audiobook.

Krentz is, and always will be, a comfort read for me, I know the basics of what I'm going to get going in and I enjoy the new twists and turns she adds along the way.

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## **Teri-K says**

Not the best of Krentz '90s romances, what I liked most about this book was the way the various towns people reacted to Cleo getting her book published. There was some good humor there, especially with the man who kept complaining that his manuscript was much better, if only publishers didn't want to please women readers by putting in all the "relationship stuff". I also found the final hospital scene amusing. Otherwise this story suffers from MCs who are pretty flat, and not strong enough minor characters to lift them up. Also the solution to both "mysteries" was obvious from the very beginning. So, though I did enjoy the humorous sections, over all this book was only OK.

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## **Cruth says**

**Author:** Jayne Ann Krentz

**First published:** 1994

**Length:** 392 pages, 7441 kindle locations

**Setting:** Contemporary, Harmony Cove.

**Sex:** Explicit. Infrequent. Often closed door or fade to black.

**Hero:** Hotel Executive.

**Heroine:** Would-be author and Innkeeper.

A contemporary for fans of Krentz's historicals written as Amanda Quick. Almost a direct transplant of historical to contemporary.

- ✓ Oddball background characters.
- ✓ Ditzzy yet smart and strong heroine.
- ✓ Stoic yet charming and respectful hero.
- ✓ Easy but interesting mystery/suspense.

It works. And I really enjoyed it.

**References:**

Author's website: <http://jayneannkrentz.com/grand-passion/>

(ISBN ...)

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**Leyns says**

**Nice.**

It was an okay read. The paranormal aspect was disappointing though - it was mentioned at the beginning that the hero has an 'inner eye' but that was about it. It didn't play a part that pertained to the plot at all. I didn't dislike the book, but I wouldn't recommend it. Too bland.

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**Robin says**

Max Fortune, CEO of a giant Arizona hotel chain, comes to the Robbin's Nest Inn looking for five priceless paintings left to him by his mentor, Jason Curzon. Max believes Cleopatra Robbins has these paintings since Jason stayed at her Inn the last years of his life. Cleo is at her wits end. Her inn is booked full, her handyman has disappeared, and Cleo needs help. When she offers Max room and board for his help at the Inn, Max decides to stay at the inn in order to find where the paintings are hidden.

This is a fast moving romantic suspense. Max is a bit of a loner and finds himself accepted into the quirky family that runs Cleo's inn. The supporting characters in this book bring the story to life. The suspense is light but well written. My rating: 4.5 Stars.

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**Sheryl Tribble says**

Still my favorite JAK.

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## Anto says

2,5/5 ?

Mi segundo libro para el #RitaJACK no fue tan acertado como el anterior. Si bien empezó fenomenalmente, antes de llegar a la mitad comenzó a caer en picada.

Tenía de todo: unos personajes muy humanos, marcados no solo física sino emocionalmente (y con unos nombres super originales, aplausos a la autora), una búsqueda que sirviera de nudo a la trama, descripciones de arte plástico moderno, una premisa que involucrara a los protagonistas con un libro ficticio erótico, y por lo tanto, una gran tensión sexual en los primeros encuentros de los personajes. Todos los ingredientes para una novela atrapante desde la primera página.

Lamentablemente, todo eso quedo en la nada. La relación entre los protagonistas se sintió forzada, para nada real, y si nos ponemos a analizar en profundo, no del todo sana (si nos ponemos en minuciosos y tomamos en cuenta ciertas actitudes y frases que dicen los personajes, en especial Max); sin mencionar la necesidad de la autora de formar otras parejas innecesarias y de desperdiciar todo el potencial que tenía la historia ficticia de "El Espejo" para crear escenarios increíbles, que le hubieran conferido al libro un matiz mucho más atrayente.

Además de fallas en la trama, incoherencias entre escenas y un final apresurado que deja medio sin sentido el misterio que se introduce después de los capítulos introductorios. Como si hubiese elegido al culpable/asesino a último minuto porque no se le ocurría a quien hecharle la culpa, ergo, escogió al menos pensado. Bah.

Si, tiene escenas muy divertidas y es rápido de leer; además los personajes secundarios condimentan a la trama de manera agradable, pero no es suficiente. Una lastima, porque me comí la primera mitad del libro en una tarde. Pero terminó siendo una historia olvidable y no muy recomendable, dado que sé que la autora puede hacerlo mejor.

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## Lizzy says

I have read several books by Jayne Ann Krentz. I generally enjoy anything she writes; they are reliably a good light read. *Grand Passion* doesn't escape from this fact. I reveled in it.

Max is a wealthy hotel executive. His mentor and friend Jason Curzon has recently died and left him six valuable paintings. Collecting art is a compelling aspect of his life. The paintings have been left with Cleo, who runs a small inn in the coast. So Max resigns from his job and goes to collect his inheritance. He's in no hurry; for he hasn't decided yet what to do professionally next.

Cleo bought the inn after the death of her parents, and runs it with the help of a motley group that became her '*family*'. When he arrives, she recognizes him as her dream man. While the moment Max steps into the reception, Cleo not only captivates him but gradually begins involving Max in the work of her business; starting with menial tasks such as fixing the plumbing and hoisting luggage for guests. It's hilarious to see how this wealthy executive finds himself going up and down at her beck and call.

I loved Max and Cleo. There are some hilarious misunderstandings along the way, like when she takes control without asking while he assumes he is in command. I loved that he's slowly embraced into her family group without even realizing; filling a deep hunger that exists inside him that he thought he would never fulfill: to have a family of his own. It was beautiful to witness as he finds something much more valuable than the inheritance he expected to collect.



The plot is led by the romance, with the slowly developing relationship between Max and Cleo. There is also a mystery twist but it was secondary in the story, and it fits well into the whole. I also enjoyed the secondary characters, the small crowd involved in the inn were a lot of fun. The dialogue between Cleo and Max was well executed, as well as the conversations among their small clan. Moreover, it was great that while reading I could identify a feeling of authenticity.

A winner as a light entertainment, with you are looking for something good to enjoy a few hours. 4 stars, recommended.

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