



Crossfire

Jeanette Windle

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Sara Conner's Prince Charming, Nicolas Cortez, rescues her from a mugging and proceeds to sweep her off her feet in a whirlwind courtship and marriage. Then he takes her with him to Bolivia, where he puts his business degree to use in the family business. Sara had no idea the Cortezes were filthy rich until they arrive at the family compound. And she has no idea exactly how filthy the Cortez money really is. Sara's na?vete is stripped away as she realizes the family's connection to cocaine smuggling, and she learns that she is disposable if she gets too nosy. In her struggle to reconcile a loving husband with the horrors of his actions, she turns to God for spiritual answers and to a DEA agent to save her life. Despite the use of an unbelievably innocent protagonist, Windle captures the essence of Bolivian society, caught between "easy" money and the desperation of a poverty-stricken economy. Sally John's *To Dream Again* (reviewed on p. 106) offers a similar story with a more sympathetic heroine. For comprehensive collections only.

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Crossfire Details

Date : Published August 14th 2011 by Kregel Publications (first published July 7th 2000)

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From Reader Review Crossfire for online ebook

Jeni Enjaian says

I have no idea why I loved this book so much the first time around. When rereading the book this time, I first became wary when barely a hundred pages into the novel Windle trots out a technique used by far too many Christian authors, a technique that I abhor, preaching. Whenever an author includes actual (fictional) sermon text in the novel the book does not survive long in my collection or my opinion. I have no recollection of this the other times I read this book. When I read that section I had a feeling that the book would not survive but I persisted even though over 500 pages remained. In the end, what did this book in was a lack of engagement with the characters. I simply could not get over Sara's annoying naiveté through the first half of the novel. How could she not see the signs so obvious they practically screamed at her? Windle does know how to write suspense well but the above two reasons, particularly her over-reliance on sermonizing which made Doug an indefinable character (not a good quality in a character as prominent as that) were the reason that this book does not survive round two of the purge from my personal collection.

Debra says

I truly enjoyed this book! I really liked that she kept it clean while it still remained very exciting! I loved the message. I couldn't put it down! Makes me want to read Ms. Windle's other books.

Kay says

I felt this book was rather tedious, though not bad. I read about 40% then skipped to the epilogue. The main character, Sara, was just too naive and difficult to tolerate, as noted by other reviewers; I preferred the sections that did not involve her.

Megan says

this book was amazing and very interesting it will keep you in the edge of you page=]

Abigail Mitchell says

This story would make a great Movie!

Joyce says

This is the first book by Jeanette Windle that I have read. I love how clean her writing is, and how she puts

the reader right there. It's a little more action than I like, and the writing wasn't as tight as I like, but overall I liked it. The story was great!

Lorraine says

SUMMARY: Adventure and drama suddenly flood the life of a young woman whose marriage into a prominent South American family draws her deep into a world filled with danger. *Crossfire* is an exceptionally well-written novel, filled with intrigue, action, realism and biblical truth

REVIEW: Intense suspense at its ultimate. This new-to-me author kept me up late reading a couple of nights in order to finish this long, but thrill-a-minute book. This book would indeed make a movie that would pack the wallop of a James Bond; but filled with a superb Christian faith thread, this novel has greater depth.

Sara, a naive, love-longing, young woman rushes into marriage after a short whirlwind romance with a romantic, handsome Bolivian studying in the US and heads off to Bolivia to be caught up in danger, intrigue, and the underworld of the Bolivian drug culture. Windle's research into the Bolivian drug culture and US DEA is apparent from start to finish in this book. I must say it definitely opened my eyes to a part of the pipeline of drugs with which I wasn't very familiar. Doug's past, his strong efforts to combat the drug pipeline, and his faith were exactly what Sara needed to weave her way out of the situation she had become caught up in. He also supported her growing renewal of faith.

My favorite part was when Sara was out with the campesinos and spent many quiet hours in studying the Bible and renewing her faith. A wonderfully written chapter that shows how God gives forgiveness, second chances, and never ending mercy.

This book does contain some violence which might repel some readers, but it is definitely appropriate where it is used in order to develop the insight into the drug culture.

I look forward to reading book 2 in the CrossFire series: *Firestorm*.

FAVORITE QUOTES: (Too many to list them all but here are just a few.)

" If only she could go back! Not to the blissful early days with Nicholas, but further. Much further. Back to when she'd known God's tenderness and has felt his very arms close around her! Back before she'd ruined it all with her own stubbornness and rebellion."

"Joy. Plain, simple, sheer joy. Not because things were going well, but because...Because they had you, God! That's why they could rejoice, all of them! Even when they were yelling at you and confused like Jeremiah and Habakkuk. They didn't have anything else, but they had you. And that was enough, wasn't it?"

"Oh God, I mocked when Sam Histed read those verses! I didn't think I needed to hear because I had it all! A family, a home, everything I wanted. And now it's all gone. But even if I had it all back, it wouldn't matter, because that wasn't really what I wanted. It was you! And it wasn't you who turned away. It was me!! I ran away from you as soon as things got hard, and then I got lost and I couldn't find my way back. And all these years that I've been missing you, and searching for you, and thinking you'd abandoned me, you've been right here, waiting for me!"

Lisa Carter says

Action-packed. Amazing detail about DEA and drug trafficking. Very, very long.

Jen Heinze says

WOW!!

Pat says

Sara, a young college student, falls in love with a Bolivian man and, after their marriage, moves to his country. She has come to terms with the fact that his standard of living may not be very high and is shocked when she discovers his family is among the wealthiest, millionaire wealthy, in the country. It is not until much later that she discovers just how the family makes their money and how deeply involved her husband is in criminal activity.

Author Jeanette Windle, in her page-turning novel, thoroughly explores the social, political, and cultural aspects of the Bolivian people and the rights and wrongs of how the American people contribute to their well-being. Jeanette draws on her own experience as a missionary in Bolivia and knows firsthand the daily lives of the people she portrays through the fictitious characters in her novel. They effectively play out the drama of life in the midst of the cocaine industry.

The book is long, 600+ pages, but provides romance, suspense, a strong but not preachy Christian basis, and a compelling story that keeps the reader turning pages. There is a great deal to be learned throughout the story about the drug trade in South America, the DEA, the influence the United States has on other countries, and the Bolivian culture.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and will look forward to more reads by this author.

Shirley Corder says

It is rare indeed for me to have a Christian fiction book that is difficult to put down. The last few nights have been way too late as I've gone for "just until the end of this scene" and then carried on to the next.

While at college, Sarah, the naive young heroine falls head over heels for the handsome, smooth-talking, Nicky. She has no family, and is desperate for love. After a whirl-wind romance, of which we read very little, she marries Nicky, and he whisks her off to a new life in Bolivia. Only after the plane lands does she start to suspect all is not as ideal as she first anticipated. She faces a devastating twist to her dream life and desperately hangs onto belief in her husband's innocence.

The tension grows as she struggles with her relationships with Nicky, her new family, and a growing awareness of the horrors of the Bolivian drug culture. She initially loathes Douglas Bradford, the DEA agent responsible for trying to bring the Cortez family and their business to their knees. However as the story develops, she soon finds herself fleeing for her life, pursued by a formidable group of enemies, and the only one to whom she can turn is the DEA agent.

There are a number of lengthy explanations of the Christian faith, as seen through the eyes of both Sarah and Doug, and I feel at times they are too long. Having said that, at no point did I want to skip the passages, as Sarah grapples to see God in the impossible situation she faces. Sarah asks a lot of questions many of the readers will ask.

Jeanette Windle's research has been tremendous. She displays a clear knowledge of the Bolivian drug industry, as well as the way of life of both the incredibly rich, and the desperately poor. It is a long book, and at what appeared to be the climax of the story, I noticed with disappointment that I was only half-way through the book. I thought the second half would surely be drawn out and a let down from the excitement of the first half. I couldn't have been more wrong. The tension escalated, and although some of the scenes were long, they kept me reading right until the final resolution.

Well done, Jeannette. I will definitely be looking for more of your books. I have rated this five stars, based on Amazon's explanation of the star rating: An excellent read.

Deb Horst says

Loved this book...if you like Dee Henderson's books you will also enjoy Jeanette Windle. This is the first book of hers that I have read....really enjoyed it and will look for others of hers to read. I think this book would make a great movie!!

Amy says

One of my all-time favorite books

Mom says

This is well written book about the Drug wars in South America. You would enjoy it Megan. She's an MK.

LeAnne says

Got sore thumbs clicking pages on my phone. This story has no let up. Windle knows the culture and has done her homework on the politics. Her characters are compelling and the arguments for accepting the drug trade are convincing—until we learn what these men are really like and see the hollowness of their logic and the selfishness of their motivation. May God have mercy on Bolivia and raise up leadership that will stand against corruption.

