



Fragile Crystal: Rubies and Rivalries

M.J. Lawless

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The second part of the Crystal Fragments trilogy.

Jealousy is a dangerous addiction.

After the torrid beginning of their affair, Kris Avelar has achieved a degree of freedom that will allow her not merely to withstand the demands of her lover, Daniel Stone, but also rise up to the challenges that he places upon her body and soul. If he is her demon lover—a troubled, wealthy man with his own dark secrets—then she is an artist who can transform those secrets into something brilliant, shining and beautiful.

Yet if Kris is the most perfect lover that Daniel has known since the death of his wife, she is not the first. And so when she encounters the lawyer, Maria Gosselin, she understands just how all-consuming her jealousy can be, especially when when Maria makes it clear that she believes there is unfinished business between her and the rich founder of Stone Enterprises.

Seeking at first only to understand more about Daniel's past and to uncover the motives behind Maria's actions, Kris begins to pursue the woman. It comes as a shock to her, then, to discover that her own attraction to this strong, clever rival threatens to overwhelm her own senses—and that Maria is more than happy to use this to get everything that she wants, even if it means destroying whatever fragile happiness Kris and Daniel have achieved.

Fragile Crystal: Rubies and Rivalries Details

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From Reader Review Fragile Crystal: Rubies and Rivalries for online ebook

Anesha †Curious & Obsessive Bookworm† says

FIVE BLAZING RED STARS!!!

I know this book was going to be amazing, but I wasn't prepared for such a depth!

First off, I want to say how much more I fell for Daniel. His dominantly powerful, calculated and mysterious persona was a turn on from the get go. I loved his sense of control and the way in which he disciplined. He always sparked that electricity deep within me, making me shudder in delight :3

But it was his laid back, caring and sweet personality that showed me there was more than his amazingly, darkly sinful talents with his body (and the place or time is never a problem.) *How more fucking hot can that get?*

:D

Daniel was so sickeningly sweet it really gave true meaning to stupidly in love. And with a body like his - the way he simply is, I found it refreshing that lil old Kris caused that.

Omg, Daniel Stone/Logan is fucking amazing. He's reserved yes, but when the walls start to chip away you see that he's worth it all. And all the hardship, his short comings won't matter because in the in, it's what make him *who he is*.

And we all love that. :D

Just to throw in what I *didn't like*:

-I didn't like the lack of independence she had (that's just me, but I can't see myself dependent on a man completely)

-Also didn't like how to some extent, Kris was overly angry with Daniel for how he went on - granted he was an ass -but he was hurt...and in the end she was wrong - even if he went about it like the sexy bastard he is.
:D

Moving on to the big wtf moment in this installment?

I can honestly say **I. Did. Not. See. That. coming!!!**

I had my suspicion but I was so fixed on something more...*common* happening that I dismissed it... And even when the signs became evident I still had faith that... it wouldn't be acted out.

But boy, was I ever wrong?!

When it happened I was like:

I was speechless as I read it, but a small part deep within me was happy (oh fuck, am twisted - deal with it! lmao)... I like that for once - it wasn't who I expected it to be and I was happy...

But then the truth came to light and my heart literally hurt.

Like a thousand times over. I felt like a pathetic fool, but this book affected me deeply. I was able to feel every emotions - and where I thought all would be with delight, the pain of the betrayal, the hurt expressed just...

But... The storm had to come and go, right? I liked a lot.

I love the explanations with the whole submissive thing. It was subtle but it was there and I found that kind of approve to be refreshing. Most books dive in with the clear written thought of such a thing lately, so the oblivious feeling with not being oblivious all the same was good to read.

Which is why, I can understand why it wouldn't have worked out between Daniel and Maria. Both of them were dominants - they would clash too much and Kris was a natural - the act of submitting, of giving herself completely to the pain and pleasure was what fuel the emotions and that was something Daniel loved (omg I getting glazed eye just remembering how he punished her x3)

Also just to put it out there. I keep picturing Marie as Gisele Bündchen:

[image error]

She was a character I loved to hate. She was written amazingly and she was messed up so good, so methodically with the right amount of control. Damn, I couldn't find any fault in her evilness and that alone made me love her right up to the very end.

This book is truly good. Beyond amazing and would definitely not be a wasted read

READ IT

SueBee★bring me an alpha!★ says

★★★★★! The Crystal Fragments, Book 1-3 (complete series). Impressive, captivating & intriguing w/ a super sexy alpha male.

Wow! What a debut by M.J. Lawless. I came across this trilogy while looking at Susan Johnson's (aka C.C. Gibbs') latest contemporary romance recently released in the UK. This series looked promising based on the description and the fact that the complete series was available was a huge plus in this "Everything trilogy" era. Don't get me wrong I do enjoy trilogies/series as it allows the author to explore the characters in depth and spin a rollercoaster story. I just don't like to read book 1 only to have to wait months and months and months to read book 3.

The Crystal Fragments Trilogy - you can either purchase the three books separately or the most recently released Omnibus. Either way: buckle up for some 20 hours of mesmerizing, all consuming reading (230,000+ words). I won't go into details of the story – to get started you just need the brief description above and expect to be sucked in right away. M.J. Lawless is an amazing story teller! This book has it all – hotter than hot alpha male Hero, love, intrigue, suspense and of course scorching sex scenes (some BDSM).

The hero, Daniel (widower/38 yrs/dark hair/hazel eyes) is an alpha male: rich, successful, private, handsome, sexy, unattainable, controlling and dominant. He is not as possessive and jealous as some of recently popular heroes (yes, I do love Gideon Cross, William Honor, Gabriel Emerson, Ethan Blackstone and Christian Grey). Daniel is more mature and secure which partly can be attributed to his age, but it did not in any way detract from his appeal. His demons mainly stem from being an orphan and from tragically losing his wife. In this love story he found a purpose again; he was able to sort out his demons, but he also had to face huge challenges with his business empire.

The heroine, Kris (28 yrs/black-brown hair/blue eyes) had to work through issues from losing her mother at an early age, father issues and a history of bad relationships. She also has a lot of growing up to do as well as finding her strength and identity next to Daniel ("A man so dominant as Daniel Stone— in height, in physical and sexual prowess, in financial and worldly muscle— could easily drown her. Sexually, yes: she wanted to submit to him, again and again and again. But that didn't mean that she wanted to be his shadow in every way...").

Both Daniel and Kris are very complex characters. Their love is intense, sex scenes at times violent and as the story unfolds and their love is challenged you'll find everything from jealous, vindictive and ruthless ex-lovers, business associates, to even friends.

*** One observation: the story is told in 3rd person from Kris' POV, but at times - in the middle of a paragraph (particularly in the beginning) the writing appeared to shift into 3rd person from Daniel's POV. It just threw me off, but I wrote it off as an editing glitch. I promise it did not deduct an iota of a point away from the story itself.

What a story!!! My oh my! So intense, it will leave you breathless and definitely take a lot out of you while reading – the suspense will keep you at the edge of your seat, you'll literally be glued to the pages, staying up all night. 5+++ stars! I truly love this series and I am so happy I stumbled across it. I love Daniel -so alpha, but with a mature twist. He was so loyal, sweet and composed, but still all dominant and sexy. Kris annoyed me at times, (like the heroines oftentimes do when paired with alpha males), but she matured, found her footing and in the end she was faced with the challenge of... hmm you are just going to have to find out for yourself.

This is an incredible read! I can't believe that readers haven't caught on sooner. This is a definite keeper and a book that can be re-read. I recommend that you get your copy today, turn off the phone, light some candles, cozy up on the couch and get prepared for a love story of epic proportions.

Hero rating: 5 stars

Heroine rating: 4.5 stars

Story line rating: 5+ stars

Overall rating: 5+ stars

Would I recommend this book: Yes!

Would I re-read this book: Yes!

Emmy says

I have no idea what possessed me to read on when I really did not enjoy the first book.. But this one had "Rivals" in the title so I thought maybe the story would pick up with a little interesting drama :) Unfortunately this fell really flat. There were a lot of characters introduced that annoyed the hell out of me and this book did not raise my opinions about this trilogy.

Saunders says

I devoured book 2 straight after book 1.

WARNING - Spoiler

This continues the love affair between Daniel and Kris but we also find out the secrets each one holds, especially Daniel. Kris resembles his wife who was killed in a car crash whilst she was 6 months pregnant. Daniel blames himself for her death.

But jealousy is a dangerous addiction and Kris wonders if Daniel is only attracted to her because she resembles his dead wife. Is she jealous of a dead woman?

Kris has found a degree of freedom. She was now painting and experiencing happiness, desire, discipline, and order in her life. Daniel Stone is the source of this and it reflected in her images and painting.

Dark, foreboding, Daniel. Dominant in height, physical and sexual prowess and in financial and worldly muscle. She loved him.

But soon the serpent enters the room in the form of Maria Gosselin - Daniel's lawyer. Maria makes it clear to Kris that there is unfinished business between her and Daniel and jealousy raises its ugly head again.

Kris wants to find out more about Daniel's past and she makes the mistake of pursuing Maria. Kris is shocked to find out that there is an attraction to Maria but Maria is more than happy to use this to get everything she wants even if it means destroying the happiness that Kris and Daniel have found.

In book 2 I wasn't sure where M J Lawless was taking this story. I don't like FF scenes (although it was brief) but I understand why she took this route.

The tension between the three characters was very believable and the scenes between Daniel and Kris were very human, emotional and at times my heart stung. Mistakes are made, there are bad thoughts, bad reactions and bad intentions and we are left thinking what happens next?

Will Daniel finally find everything he wants in Kris and will she become the woman that Daniel needs?

I can't wait for book 3 to find out - another great book from M J Lawless and another well deserved 5 stars for this new author.

Kat Meyer says

I liked the first book, but I LOVED the second book.

This is a very interesting series. It's like other series I've read, but at the same time nothing like them. Daniel is the strong, rich dominant male... while Kris is the artistic, unsure of herself female. But where it turns different is that there is intrigue and mystery mixed in. Lawless uses their character flaws to weave a great story that doesn't just focus only on them. It's darker and a bit more intense than the first book with jealous ex-lovers, business rivals and mistakes threatening to break them apart - or maybe push them closer.

I like Kris and Daniel so much more than other similar duos, they are not so dependent on each other or so unreasonably jealous. I guess it seemed more believable.

You also find out more what the title of these books mean in the second book, and I absolutely loved it. The author has a distinct style of writing that was refreshing. She doesn't spell out every character's thought, but it still flowed smoothly and you know exactly what they were feeling or trying to convey.

I would compare this series so far to finding a little quaint restaurant off the main road that not everyone knows about, you take a chance with it and love it. Can't wait to get to the third book. Everyone better leave Daniel and Kris alone and let them have a happily ever after!

Kathryn Wren says

Absolutely loved it, it was much darker than the first book with the introduction of Maria, the jealous ex of Daniels. Beautifully written and it flows just right, I will be recommending this book to all my friends or rather this trilogy. The only thing that I am really disappointed at is that I am up to the final book and I don't want it to end. Looking forward to another great read with Refracted Crystals: Diamonds and Desires and I am truly hoping that it is a happy ending for Kris and Daniel. M.J. Lawless your imagination and writing style is out of this world!! LOVED IT!!!
