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Light In Shadow



Synopsis

Zoe Luce is a successful interior designer in the Arizona town of Whispering Springs who's developed an unusual career specialty - helping recently divorced clients redesign their homes, to help them forget about the past and start anew. But Zoe knows that some things can't be covered up with a new coat of paint. And when she senses that one of her clients may be hiding a dark secret, she enlists P.I. Ethan Truax to find the truth. Working together, they solve the mystery...and barely escape with their lives. But Ethan's exquisite detection skills are starting to backfire on Zoe: she never wanted to let him find out about her former life; she never wanted to reveal her powerful, inexplicable gift for sensing the history hidden with a house's walls; she never wanted him to know that "Zoe Luce" doesn't really exist. She never wanted to fall in love with him. Now, no matter how much she resists, Ethan may be her only hope - because the people she's been running from have found her. And just when Zoe dares to dream of a normal life and a future with the man she loves, her own past starts to shadow her every step - and threatens to take her back into a nightmare.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Abridged edition (September 28, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 142331946X

ISBN-13: 978-1423319467

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1.4 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (107 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,603,830 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 inÂ Books > Books on CD >

Authors, A-Z > (K) > Krentz, Jayne Ann #5775 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Romance #10529

inÂ Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers

Customer Reviews

The last 6 Krentz books have been less than stellar. But now she's back in stride. Characters you care about, enough of a plot to keep me reading all night--and on a work night yet. Hope the rest of the series are as good as this one.

Zoe Luce was an interior designer and owned a shop called Enhanced Interiors. She had talent that she considered to be a curse, walls spoke to her. Well, in a way. If any strong emotion happened in

a room, such as lust or fear, it would sink into the walls. So when Zoe went into a client's bedroom and the walls "screamed", Zoe could not leave fast enough! Whatever horrible thing happened in that room was recent. The client said he was going through a divorce. Zoe believed he murdered his wife in that bedroom. Without proof, cops would laugh at her. Besides, she could be wrong. The wife could be sunning herself on a tropical beach somewhere. Zoe simply needed a computer whiz to discretely find out. Ethan Traux had taken over Truax Investigations from his uncle. Zoe would be his first case. It should have been simple. Only a few minutes on the computer to see if a lady was using her credit cards or an ATM. Instead, Ethan found a corpse. Zoe and Ethan became attracted to each other. All seemed to be going well. However, Zoe's dark past was about to catch up to her. After a year of hiding under a different name, they had finally found her!***** Wonderful! Zoe always seemed to be bubbling over with optimism no matter how awful things became. But she sure had to tap deeply into a bottomless well of optimism to get through all this! Zoe was a strong willed character that needed an extra ordinary man in her life. Author Jayne Ann Krentz did a wonderful job in creating just such a man. This novel was like having two books in one, a murder mystery and a romantic thriller. The "client" part was a work of genius on Krentz's side to bring the couple together. The author brought back the Vastu and Feng Shui techniques that I recall being used in one of her novels a few years ago. This is a fast paced, romantic, and heart pounding thriller that I highly recommend to all.

Zoe Luce has been in hiding in Whispering Springs, Arizona. She is a decorator with very special abilities. She can hear past tragic events in the walls of a room. When a recently divorced man hires her, she is disturbed by what she senses in the bedroom. Zoe is convinced the man murdered his wife, and is compelled to help, but she is unsure what to do since she is living a lie herself as an escapee from a mental institution. She decides to hire a private investigator to help her. Ethan Truax has just taken over a small operation in town, and Zoe reluctantly hires him. They clash from the first time they meet, but that doesn't stop the attraction from coming to the surface. Ethan is trying to piece together his life after his brother's murder, and another failed marriage - his 3rd! He also hates psychics, and makes no secret of it. As the pieces begin to fall into place in solving the mystery, Zoe's life begins to fall apart. One of the guards at the mental institution has tracked her down, and decides that it would be more profitable to blackmail Zoe than take her back. When Zoe goes to Ethan for help they are drawn even closer to each other, as he now understands her past. When Ethan delves deeper into Zoe's life it comes out how her deceased husband's family had her put away to keep her from her inheritance. To keep her safe, he decides to marry Zoe. I liked the

characters of Ethan and Zoe and was rooting for them to be together. It was interesting that the main case was solved early on only to fall immediately into another to solve. Different concept not often seen.

I love Jayne Ann Krentz's books, own virtually all of them (under all her names), and reread them regularly, like visiting favorite old friends. That said, I found this one just a tad disappointing. Her characters are always likeable, but I found Ethan somewhat less compelling than some of her other male protagonists, his character not so clearly written. Don't get me wrong, I want to think he's wonderful, it just didn't come across to me as clearly as some of her other characters. I wanted him to leap off the page. I was also disappointed that the relationship between Ethan and Zoe was left hanging, as it was with Lavinia and Tobias in the two Lake-March Amanda Quick books. I assume Ethan and Zoe will be back for further adventures (since this is called a Whispering Springs story, implying there will be others), so perhaps Krentz doesn't want to remove dramatic tension by solidifying their relationship too quickly, but if J.D. Robb can do it with Eve Dallas and Rourke, why can't Krentz do it with her main characters? After all, one of the elements of fantasy in the romance genre is the satisfying feeling you get when two characters you like figure out that they are essential to one another and no one else will do. When the commitment is lukewarm (even though that happens in real life), some of the air goes out of the balloon. There are plenty of contemporary novels out there with imperfect and uncertain relationships; that's not what I read romance for. I also thought the solution(s) to the murders came out of nowhere. I would have liked there to be a few more hints so that I could really go along for the ride. Even a disappointing work by Krentz is better than most of the other romances or romantic suspense out there, so don't hesitate to read this one. But I will continue to look for a little more in the next book.

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