



## Crystal Caress

*Zuri Day*

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Passion is heating up those arctic Alaska nights!

It took nerve for Northern California socialite Teresa Drake to walk away from her family's famed wine empire. Flying off to Alaska is even riskier?especially when the budding journalist stumbles down a cavern while admiring the spectacular sights. But it's her gorgeous rescuer who makes Teresa truly reckless. The night she spends with mogul Atka Sinclair convinces her she's found her soul mate...until her charming lover becomes her worst enemy.

Atka has deep ties to his native land. So how can he trust the pampered beauty who just published a glowing article about the politician out to destroy his people's heritage? But as traitorous desire reignites, Atka realizes what he and Teresa share is too precious to lose. Will pride prevent him from building a future with the woman who could write them the most thrilling love story of all?

## Crystal Caress Details

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Author : Zuri Day

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## From Reader Review Crystal Caress for online ebook

### **Shone says**

The Drakes are all of that and a bag of chips. Determined to make a life for herself with out the help of family Crystal walks away from the family business with an I can do this attitude and does not look back. The punch is in order to avoid her family and friends for going behind her back o give advice or help she has to leave what is familiar, Alaska in the cold and snow is where life takes her pitting her against a native. Families, backstabbing, helicopter rides, precious gems and trust bring us to Crystal Caress.

Book #6 in the Drakes of California Series, a must read series.

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### **Nana Prah says**

I wasn't sure how a relationship between a native, business minded Alaskan who had no interest in ever leaving his homeland would work out with a wealthy, yet hard working journalist who had no interest in living anywhere near a remote area. And yet Teresa and Atka found their way together, because love conquers all (at least it does in a good romance novel).

Ms. Day knows how to balance the right amount of drama, romance, and description. I've never been to Alaska, but after reading this book I can see how beautiful it is and why people would actually want to live there.

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### **Tammy says**

I loved this story. The main characters were so likable and I loved how their love grew.

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### **Reshemah says**

I thought Alaska was cold!?! Well, Theresa and Atka heated it up all on their own. In this installment of the wonderful Drakes of California series by Zuri Day, we get Theresa's story and it takes us to the frozen tundra, Alaska. When I think of Alaska I think of igloos and Eskimos. Well, Atka is no Eskimo!

I loved Theresa's strength how she decided to take a chance and branch out on her own, away from the family business. Theresa's and Atka's love story was simply wonderful and I'm looking forward to reading about Theresa's sexier than sin, twin, Terrell!

Reviewed by Shemah of Cilla's Book Maniacs

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### **Lynn Spencer says**

For some reason, the “recommended read” prompt for the TBR Challenge always gets me tied up in knots. I think that’s because it doesn’t fit in very well with how my books are (not all that) organized. Since I was talking recently on Twitter about my trip to RWA in New York several years ago, I remembered that I had several books in what was left of my RWA crate that had been recommended to me by others. One of them, **Crystal Caress** by Zuri Day, was passed to me by an excited conference attendee who had just finished reading it. This was my first time reading this author and I definitely enjoyed myself.

The heroine, Teresa Drake, comes from a prominent African-American family in California. While her family is in the wine business, Teresa has carved out a different path for herself. Even though the book blurb describes her as a “socialite”, that really sells her short. Teresa wants to write and throughout this book, we see her actually working at it as a journalist, not just dabbling as the term “socialite” might imply.

As the story opens, Teresa’s editor sends her off to Alaska to do a travel feature. Naturally, there has to be a twist so that we can have some conflict. In this case, the owner of the paper has a son running for office in Alaska and Teresa’s travel features will of course be showing said son in a good light. This is all well and good, until Teresa gets to Alaska and meets the very gorgeous Atka. While Atka is elusive about his background, he and Teresa share a very passionate night and it’s obvious from the writing that, despite what they might say to the contrary, this isn’t a simple one nighter in either of their minds.

This is a partial review. You can find the complete text at All About Romance:  
<https://allaboutromance.com/november-...>

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### **\*~blerdsmith~\* says**

I really enjoyed this one. Very sweet story and liked how the relationship between them blossomed. Lots of romantic moments. I really liked Teresa's character--she was a high-maintenance "princess" without being snobbish or unrelated. It was nice to see a portrayal of an affluent black woman, one that made her realistic and still down to earth. I also liked the focus on family, and the closeness between the Drake clan.

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### **Taneshia Jenkins says**

I have read all of Ms. Day's books and this is one of my favorites. I love the chemistry between Atka and Teresa from the start and how it builds to the end. I love how they talk to each other and work things out with each other. Teresa's independence is very refreshing and Atka's family values and willingness to please his woman even if it did go against his mother was so admirable. I fell in love with him myself!! Looking forward to more from this author soon. I take a book or two or three everywhere I go so I read this one in a day!

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### **Mikka says**

[ I do not like "love at first sight" or "I've known you a week and we had sex and I'm in love" books because they feel unrealistic to me. The L word was dropped way too early for me in this book, but the couple was nice, even if the pacing was a little bit off on their relationship (really, this entire thing takes place over a month? It felt like the timeline was longer). Atka's grandmother was delightful

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### **Marilyn Diamond says**

Teresa and Atka was unlike any story that I have ever read. I would love for a man to take the time to present me with a gift sitting on the water in Alaska.. Go Zuri..

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### **The CurvyJones says**

I received a copy of this novel from the publisher via NetGalley. Opinions stated here are my own\*

This novel was a pretty quick and steamy read about a journalist who is assigned to cover a story in picturesque Alaska. On her first night in town, she's surprised to meet Atka, a native who is tall, dark and distractingly handsome. After a fall lands her in a ditch, it is Atka who comes to her rescue. The attraction between the couple is palpable and a one night stand is not only imminent but unavoidable.

However, the two can't seem to stay away from each other and when business brings Atka to the states, the relationship blossoms. The undercurrent of this story is drama between a politician and Alaska's largest Salmon fishery.

The beginning and ending of this story are superb. Around 50%, however, I started to drift. I was entirely more interested in the romance than I was with office politics with the owner of the paper Teresa works for and the inner workings of a politician trying to destroy the livelihood of that native people. The education and the description of pristine Alaska was nice, but the deeper the story got, the more I realized that I'm just not interested in that topic.

I picked back up around 75%, when Atka and Teresa are rolling hot and heavy and discussing and negotiating who would move where to keep the relationship going... and the drama between Atka's family (namely his mother) and Teresa kept my fingers turning pages!

This is a great book if you'd love a quick read about the beauty and wilderness of Alaska and it's native people. Also if you love some steamy sexy "lemme soak you up because we don't have much time together" lovemaking! :)

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### **Tanishia Pearson says**

I absolutely love the Drakes of California! In this story, we see Teresa happen upon something she had never imagined. A trip to a place, that boasts a climate and culture totally opposite from her beloved Northern California, changes her world personally and professionally. This is a very cute and sweet romance story and I can't wait to read the next one. Well done Zuri Day! Five Stars!

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## **Beyond the Pages says**

This story was a toss up. There were parts that I liked and parts that I did not care for.

About the Characters:

- Teresa: strong, fiesty, independent streak, ambitious, spontaneous, family-oriented, great sense of morality
- Atka: family-oriented, successful, passionate, caring, old-fashioned values, grounded
- Atka's Grandparents: charming and memorable
- Drakes: loyal, fierce, honorable

Regarding the Writing:

The story moved fairly well. The writing tone in some spots was inconsistent with others which gave the story a different feel. I loved the setting!

Rating: 3/5

Recommend: +/-

Audience: Adult

Status: M

Chemistry/Intensity: Yes

Conflict/Drama: +/-

HEA: Yes

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## **Debbie J says**

**Crystal Caress** is romantic chick lit based on an unexpected interracial match.

Author Zuri Day hits my pet peeve list by not using the Oxford comma though I appreciate her lush writing style. She also pens somewhat stilted dialogue--people don't talk the way they do in this book--but I realize these kinds of tales may often feature florid speech.

The plotline goes a bit 50 Shades-ish with Teresa's rich suitor Atka flying her around in his own helicopter. Since I rarely read romance novels I wonder whether whirlybird dates represent another genre hallmark.

Finally, I laughed at the writer substituting "fracking" for "f\*cking" because that euphemism no longer works. Today fracking means something quite non-sexual. ;-)

Although I have little interest in the earlier entries in the "Drakes of California" series, I want to see how Teresa and Atka's love story might continue. Kudos to Day for finding and exploiting an unplumbed literary niche: African American/Alaskan romance.

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## **Isha Coleman says**

Crystal Caress is a tale of two people that have to learn to put trust and instinct before anger and pride. Have

read a couple of Ms. Day's books in the past. Did not enjoy them as much as I enjoyed Teresa and Atka's story. I thought that it took a lot of strength of character for Teresa to strike out on her own. To try to become her own person without relying on family. What both characters had to learn is that sometimes seeking guidance can be the best decision any person can make. Good book.

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### **CaroMommie says**

Oh this was good, I means really really good. Atka is amazing, deep and thoughtful. And Teresa is written from the stance of a well rounded, intelligent and understanding partner, and that was refreshing.

I thoroughly recommend this book.

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