



## Midnight Jewels

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Acclaimed New York Times bestselling author Jayne Ann Krentz dazzles with this thrilling contemporary romance of deadly secrets and desires. When a mysterious man enters a bookshop and demands a rare collection of 18th-century erotica, the owner has no idea that she will soon be a part of his dark and intriguing world.

## Midnight Jewels Details

Date : Published July 1st 2003 by Warner Books (first published 1987)

ISBN : 9780446692472

Author : Jayne Ann Krentz

Format : Paperback 425 pages

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

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## From Reader Review **Midnight Jewels** for online ebook

### **Krystyna says**

Never underestimate a determined woman

Loved it. Had to replace my hard copy as it had gotten tatty. She is a shy but determined book seller trying to get herself into the marketplace as an antiquarian dealing with rare books. He is trained in martial arts and is the strong, silent type. They meet because she has advertised a book. When he wants to buy, she refuses as she already has a buyer. Throw in a journey to a secret locate, a man who is hiding from justice, his employees (one of whom makes a play for the hero), arson, attempted murder and lots of action for a wonderful read. I especially liked the part where the hero is drugged. Wonderful humour is thrown in as well. The characters are as vivid as any of the authors previous ones. Loved the story - that's why my hard copy is tatty.

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### **Janette says**

#### WOULD HIS KISSES FREE HER DEEPEST DESIRES...OR MAKE HER A PRISONER OF LOVE?

From the moment Croft Falconer walked into her West Coast bookstore, Mercy felt drawn to him. He radiated an aura of mystery and a raw, primitive maleness that made her shiver with desire. Her career was books; his was violence, the beautifully controlled violence of the Asian fighting arts. That was all he would tell her when he demanded the "Valley of Secret Jewels," a rare edition of erotica she had advertised. How could Mercy have guessed the deadly secret of this book of forbidden passion? How could she have imagined that it would take her to the lust-haunted halls of a wealthy collector's remote mansion? And how could she have known it would be the first step on a woman's most perilous journey, that Falconer would become the lover of her dreams...stroking her gently, touching her deeply, and leading her toward the breathless limits of ecstasy itself.

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### **Kelly Crowley says**

To many grammatical errors. Find a book editor.  
Female MC is really dumb.

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### **Paraphrodite says**

This was a re-read. Another oldie from JAK. Typical JAK H/H pairing but a bit wordy.

What was thought provoking was how the contemporary world has changed in the last couple of decades. The heroine had no qualms about taking the hero back to her apartment 5 minutes after he turned up at her shop asking about her rare book of erotica nor of traveling miles to deliver said book to the villain's remote mountain hideaway! Such "innocence" would be considered sheer stupidity in this day and age!

Not one of JAK's best but still readable.

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### **Dawn says**

I can't believe I'm saying this because I usually like JAK, but I could not finish this. It is really rare that I don't finish a book because no matter how bad it is, I always need to know what happens. So little actually happens in the 150 or so pages I read that I don't care how it ends. The guy is a jerk and the woman is stupid. I can't root for them or care about them. This book is pretty old, so I'm going to chalk this one up to maybe an inexperienced author and I'm happy she got a lot better as she went.

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### **E\_bookpushers says**

re-read of the digital release. Not my favorite of her books. Hero and heroine were a bit too flat for me. Heroine saves hero on more than one occasion and he still treats her like she should be patted on the head and told to not worry about a thing. Heroine made a token, barely, effort to stand up for herself. I should have realized when my memory was sketchy on the details that there was a reason for that.

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### **Diane ~Firefly~ says**

Good, comfort read. Mercy is selling a rare book which brings Croft into her life as he thinks it might lead to a man he thought was dead. The standard JAK solid, mysterious and take charge hero meets his match with the intelligent but sheltered heroine.

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### **Mandi says**

and the book is getting really good. i've learned that you should trust now one. and if i guys come up to and try to swoon you, ladies stand your ground and don't let him in cause you never know what kind of powers he will have over you.

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### **Lara says**

This book is something of a precursor to the Arcane novels. The hero is a hunter, and much of the terminology used to describe him is the same. He's just lacking the ability to pick up the psychic spoor of crimes committed. The heroine is a bit more naive than most, although she has a strong spirit and is smart.

I didn't really care for the manipulation that occurs between the characters, especially the use of sex to bind and control Mercy. And speaking of sex, there are far more sex scenes than in most of Ms Krentz's books.

Overall, enjoyable if you like Krentz's style, but not one of the stronger books.

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### **Farah says**

**This is definitely one of my favorite books by Jayne Ann Krentz , I enjoyed the plot , characters and mystery.**

Mercy was the kind of heroine who did the opposite of everything she's being asked , she's also the kind of character who walks into danger for the sake of the man she loves either to save his ass or tell him off , quite the heroine. Croft was an instant hit from the very first page , I was very interested in his philosophy and in the way he viewed life , though his tea obsession made me wanna smack him on the head .. every time he opened his mouth I just couldn't wait to hear what he has to say .. a very intriguing character who can be quite funny sometimes. Mercy and Croft made quite the couple together , Jayne Ann always entertains when it comes to the battle of the sexes and the clash of wills , I loved reading about Mercy and Croft.

The mystery was fun and even though we knew almost all of the facts , the book still entertained , the villain was interesting with his hypnotic voice and very blue eyes but I feel like I wanted a little more , the plot with the villain could have been more interesting and Isobel didn't really make sense at the end of the book.

Overall it had some flaws but I really enjoyed it and I loved the characters.

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### **Maria says**

Not one of my favorite Jayne Ann Krentz books, and the only reason I can come up with is that I can't really get into any of the characters, so there is no feeling of visiting with old friends when I re-read it. It was published in 1987 when Ms. Krentz was beginning to hit her stride in character development and more intricate plot lines, but this plot is a bit over the top for me as are the main characters, Mercy Pennington and Croft Falconer closely followed by Erasmus Gladstone and Isobel Ascanius. The little things that make the book seem real rather than fiction are missing in this one. Also, Mercy Pennington frequently does things that are supposed to show that she is impulsive rather than cool and collected like Croft, but many of the things she does strike me as just plain stupid, which drives me crazy. Having said that, I will admit to having read this book six times so far, thereby proving my belief that any JAK is better than none.

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### **Lisa says**

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We begin the story with Mercy, a bookstore owner, having recently placed a magazine ad to sell a rare book she stumbled across at a flea market. She's already been contacted by a buyer who has insisted that she hand-deliver the book to his extremely remote estate in Colorado because he "doesn't trust the mail". Mercy agreed to this

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## Cruth says

**Author:** Jayne Ann Krentz

**First published:** 1987

**Length:** 426 pages, 7476 kindle locations.

**Setting:** Contemporary. Ignatius Cove, Washington and Colorado mountains.

**Sex:** Frequent and excerpt.

**Hero:** Martial arts expert and government mercenary.

**Heroine:** Rare and secondhand book dealer.

**Includes:** Excerpt from Shield's Lady.

Interestingly long narrative with superficial characters. Enjoyable but nothing special. Very explicit and frequent sex that fails to move the narrative.

Given I was expecting a very dry, ordinary story, it was readable and enjoyable.

2.5 stars rounded up.

### References:

Author's website: [jayneannkrentz.com/midnight-jewels/](http://jayneannkrentz.com/midnight-jewels/)

(ISBN ...)

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## Sharon says

Early Jayne Ann Krentz, copyright 1987. Excellent read. Again, if you can find it.

Here's the back cover text if you're interested. . .

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A LOVELY EX-LIBRARIAN CLASHES WITH A HANDSOME MARTIAL ARTS EXPERT? THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES!

Mercy Pennington liked to play it safe. Before she opened her cozy secondhand bookstore, she researched her prospects and minimized her risks. So she never should have handled a rare edition of erotica called the Valley of Secret Jewels. And she should have locked the door of her shop before Croft Falconer walked in.

Falconer enjoyed violence, not literature - beautifully controlled violence of the Asian martial arts. And he looked fighting mad when he learned Mercy promised Valley of Secret Jewels to another buyer. Falconer argued with her, offering her a small fortune, and then tender seduction. As volatile as a match and dynamite, Mercy and Falconer lit sparks like the Fourth of July. But the real fireworks started when she discovered he had told her almost everything a woman falling in love wanted to hear. Falconer only forgot to mention one

little thing: the secret behind the book of forbidden passion that could get them both killed.

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### **Rexanna Irock-Brown says**

Krentz is one of my favorite authors, however, this story seemed to drag a bit compared to many of her books I've enjoyed. Still, I finished it and loved it once I got to the end. It had good sex, romance and suspense, just not the certain something that keeps me reading long past my bedtime.

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### **Jane Stewart says**

I couldn't enjoy the story because I was angry at the heroine's stupidity.

At least three different times, Croft told Mercy (the heroine) to stay put while he went to do what he was good at doing, sneaking around like a ghost, investigating and dealing with bad guys. She did not do as he told her, and she went after him, putting them both in danger. I saw this as stupidity on her part, and I hated it. Examples are below in Spoilers.

#### **DATA:**

Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: five. Setting: current day (or 1980s) small coastal town, Ignatius Cove, Washington and a mountain retreat area in Colorado. Copyright: 1987. Genre: romantic suspense.

#### **CAUTION SPOILERS:**

1. She knew Croft was going to snoop in Gladstone's vault at night. Yet, when she discovered him gone from bed, she decided to go after him to tell him not to do it because he might get caught. He was like a ghost and made no noise. She was clumsy and set off silent alarms as she walked around and got them both caught.
2. Croft told Mercy to stay in the motel while he went to deal with Gladstone. After Croft left, she got a message from Gladstone saying he had Croft as a prisoner and that Mercy should bring the book to trade for Croft. She asked to speak to Croft, but Gladstone said no. Then, she stupidly went to Gladstone, whereupon she was immediately imprisoned. Gladstone planned to use her as bait to capture Croft. Croft had never been captured by Gladstone, and Mercy stupidly became the bait.

I did not like her personality. She would argue with Croft for petty reasons, and sometimes she was just plain wrong. Also, after their first night of sex, she said she didn't want any more sex until they developed more of a relationship. This turned into a game of her saying no, but meaning yes. He would chase and catch her, then she would melt, then they both wanted each other. I did not like her being dishonest with herself as well as him. From his perspective, he was attracted to her because she caused him to lose control emotionally, whatever that meant. Page 224 described this as "It worried him that he couldn't explain his passions or his sense of protectiveness or the strange bond that seemed to link him to her." I saw no reason for him to like her. Their interaction did not make a good story.

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## Carrie says

2.5\*

*Midnight Jewels* is in many ways a typical JAK book, with a remote hero and a woman who doesn't know her own worth. The heroine in JAK novels often owns some small business, a bookstore, an art gallery, an antique store, and is getting over some form of tragedy in her life. The hero often studies martial arts or some other form of self-discipline, and almost everyone drinks tea instead of coffee. The heroine "gets to" the hero in a way no one else ever has, and the hero allows the heroine to "blossom" in a way she never has. Even though a long-time fan of JAK's knows these things, the reader often finds a certain comfort in the known. Krentz usually delivers a good story and likable characters, good for a day or two of diversion and very little effort. A comfort read.

In *Midnight Jewels* the oft used scenario isn't very comfortable. It's a early book, published in 1987, and Krentz has perhaps not honed her ability to present her characters and plot with very little elaboration or redundancy. *Midnight Jewels* is wordy and because of that it's also boring. A good editor could trim 50 pages from this book by taking out the redundant passages where Croft thinks of Mercy and Mercy thinks about Croft. The same goes for much of the dialog between the two. The suspense plot wasn't very complicated, and went on forever with very little action. It was all topped off with a three-page "bad guy soliloquy" near the end, when Gladstone rambles for what would've had to be 10 or 15 minutes in real time about all his cleverness.

To round out my impressions of the book, I thought Mercy was too often self-righteous and petulant and never understood why Croft thought her actions were "sweet" and "motivated by her wonderful loving personality." I liked Croft better, but what's with his name? Croft Falconer. Give me a break.

I did like parts of the book, and at times I enjoyed the interactions between Mercy and Croft. I might be judging it more harshly because I recently read another early Krentz book, *Sweet Starfire* which I think is one of her best.

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## Nancy says

A friend recommended Jayne Ann Krentz when I told her I liked adventure/ romance / paranormal / time travel books as fun reading.

Reading this book was an exercise in frustration, however. None of the pieces seemed to fit. Who was the hero and what gave him such special powers? Nothing, evidently. And the heroine was somewhere between spunky and cardboard. The mysterious, ancient book of erotica? And how it got into the heroine's hands? Never explained. The significance of the ghost town? Who knows?

There was a lot of action. And some fairly tepid sex. And a whole lot of unbelievable rationalizing about what a miracle it was that the two lead characters found each other. Krentz seems like a capable writer. But the plotting was a giant mess.

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### **Kelsey says**

I've read this before, and maybe it's because I've grown up, changed, whatever-I didn't like it as much as I had when I first read it. The speed of the romance and the constant arguing between them (yet within 3 days of knowing each other, they love one another), I found it slightly annoying. I still enjoyed reading the book, but not nearly as much as I did the first time.

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### **Raelene says**

This was a great book, I thought in the beginning it was a paranormal book as the Mercy kept making statements that Croft moved like a ghost. Although I like the story line it took me awhile to figure out Crofts character. Croft and Mercy immediately connected, although the author never really explains how or why, so again eluding to it being paranormal, but them not. I found it a good storyline but a slow read, not her normal page turner, and I am a fan of Jayne Ann Krentz.

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