



Cross To Bare

Susan Mac Nicol

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Tough in business but romantic at heart, fashion designer Lenny James isn't hiding his masculinity behind his super successful female alter ego, but a vulnerability that only handsome financier Brook Hunter will be man enough to reveal...and worship.

TWO OF A KIND

It's amazing what a little mascara and lipstick, a blonde wig, false boobs, and top-notch female fashion can hide. Not that Lenny James is hiding his masculinity. He uses his normal voice when he's Laverne, and he's not particularly camp as a man. His reasons for creating his alter ego are locked deep in his past. He is who he is: tough in business, and a romantic at heart. What he's hiding is vulnerability. He wants a man to accept both sides of him.

Gorgeous, commanding, and dark as sin, Brook Hunter meets Lenny and knows nothing about Laverne until fate pushes her into his path. Cross-dressing is as far from Brook's reality as fashion is from his world of diplomacy and high finance. Understanding and truth take time, and trust doesn't come easy. But Brook is about to show Lenny that there are no sides to true love, just the place where they meet in the middle.

Cross To Bare Details

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From Reader Review Cross To Bare for online ebook

Natalie says

The story didn't drag!

Very enjoyable and terrific subject matter. Susan MacNicol did a marvelous job of explaining the varied reasons a man chooses to appear and dress in traditionally feminine clothing and makeup. I don't include transgender women who are simply dressing as themselves. I appreciated the way she presented Brook, who was unsure but didn't reject Lenny's female persona, Laverne, but genuinely sought to understand. It was quite a nice love story, with a little fashion espionage thrown in. There was nothing particularly exciting or dramatic about this story. I was completely interested, though, and liked reading it.

Carra says

Okay, Lenny really is the one who made this book for me. He's fabulous as both himself and Laverne, and he made me laugh while also having me cheer him on taking care of himself with those people who are either not tolerant or are just out to get others take him on. He is totally comfortable as both Lenny and Laverne, and is successful in his business with friends and employees who adore him.

Brook does a pretty good job I think trying to understand and accept Lenny/Laverne. To have something like that sprung on you can really test a person, and while at times Brook does have some difficulty with it, overall he tries hard to come to terms with Lenny's alter ego and in the end does a pretty good job of it. The two of them definitely have chemistry, and there's plenty of heat to steam up the pages.

One of my favorite things about this story was Leslie, he was fantastic in his own story in the series, and he's a trip here in Cross to Bare. Getting to see other characters from the series was great as well, I love how they all keep crossing into each other's lives.

Cross to Bare was a 4-star read for me, and is another good addition to the series. The only thing that would have made this one better for me is if it had started before the two of them met so we could see the entire relationship from start to finish instead of picking up after Lenny has tried to break things off the first time around. The more characters we meet in each book, the more stories I want to read in the series to find out all of their personal tales. This one's for readers 18+ for adult language and sexual content (yep, these two are plenty hot together!).

V says

It was nice don't get me wrong, but in my humble opinion it was too long for this kind of plot.

Joanne Swinney says

I received an ARC for a honest review

Introducing Mr & Ms L, A.K.A Lenny and Laverne, one person two identities. Lenny is super hot and stylish, he dresses to impress. He's a man with a big heart but frightened to love because of Laverne. Laverne is feisty and has great humor, the woman knows her fashion.

I never really understood why people choose to cross dress but that's okay it's not for me to understand, just respect that it's their decision to do so. It's their life after all. I suppose after reading this book, I have a better grasp of what it entails and obviously in Laverne case, she has her reasons for doing what she does. Laverne is part of Lenny, it's another side to love and if you love Lenny then Laverne is equally lovable.

Laverne will always have the haters but she handles them so well, you can't help but be impressed. It's a shame that people feel the need to voice their hateful opinions. My mother always taught me that if you have nothing nice to say don't say anything at all. Wise words that a few people should learn.

Time to introduce, Brook. Oh may the lord have mercy on my filthy thoughts right now. Yeah he's hot- delicious, if that's not a word well tough it is now. Brook was dating Lenny and he can't seem to get the guy out of his mind BUT he doesn't know about Laverne. Ahhh!! yes Lenny has been keeping Laverne a secret. Well actually only from Brook.

Brook doesn't know why Lenny is choosing to ignore his calls, he thought they were good together.

Relationships are never easy no matter what the gender. It's hard to reveal all about yourself, that part I completely understood but Laverne is about to get the shock of her life just when she was going to reveal all to Brook, she doesn't get the chance.

I loved this story, it was filled with humor. I do love a good giggle while reading. The romance just melts your heart. The drama is as always a great read. The Men of London have always kept me entertained. The sex is lip licking awesome. All round fabulous story my darlings. LOL!! Laverne kind of rubs off on you.

I one hundred million percent recommend this book to all lovers of M/M. Susan Mac Nicol is an exceptional writer and if you haven't yet been introduced to the Men of London Series you are missing out.

Valerie Degeorge says

Cross To Bare is book #5 in Susan Mac Nicol's Men Of London Series, this book is another brilliant read and it deals with a subject that can be very controversial about cross dressing and transvestites, and I will say this.... Susan once again brought to light another masterpiece. Susan handled this book with such grace where we actually live in the main characters head and learn the Why's on why some people choose to live this life.

Lenny James aka Laverne is a very well known clothing designer with a very prestige label, everyone wants to own his famous Debussy Suits and clothing. Lenny is at the top of his career one would think he has it all ... well the one thing that is missing is that "one special " someone that he can love and be loved for who he really is .

Lenny thought he found that certain someone when he met the hot sexy Brook Hunter but when something was said out of context he decided to run fearing that he will not be accepted as Laverne, the feisty famous

female persona.

Brook Hunter thought he met the man of his dreams sexy and oh so very hot Lenny but something happens and Lenny just stops accepting his calls and he has no idea why.

Fate has a funny way of stepping in and we see this with Lenny and Brook. Lenny has decided he is going to come clean with Brook and reveal his identity as Laverne ,but ,there's that fate again and what happens next is a shock to all and I will say that Susan was absolutely brilliant in writing this scene.

This installment of the famous Men of London series is different from the rest, we do get to hear from the characters from previous books and oh yes our famous Leslie plays a big part in this story and he will have you laughing as usual along with all the others.

I can't recommend this story enough it brings to light so much and proves that what we look like on the outside, and how we choose to dress does not define the person in which we are.

Thank you Susan for bringing us yet another beautifully written story and proving to us all how important it is to be free and live our lives as we see fit .

Remarkable a Must Read

Dawn Liddle says

received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

So it's finally Lenny's story. We have seen him or Laverne mentioned in previous books and now it's his time to shine.

Brook is from a very traditional family so Lenny doesn't think he would be able to accept Laverne so he cuts all communication until a business meeting brings them face to face.

I loved Lenny and Brook together, they just fit so well.

Lenny's story is pretty heartbreak as we find out all about his past and why he created Laverne in the first place.

I love this series, and I love the men of London.

~◊~Doxni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

~3.5~

~BR with Ele~

This is a perfectly pleasant story about Lenny, a fashion designer who's adopted the persona of Laverne as the face of his brand, and Brook, a financial investor.

Lenny calls himself a transvestite. He doesn't really do drag, but he feels powerful when he can let out his

feminine side.

What this book lacks in tension, it makes up for in romance and dirty fun.

And of course there's sassy, bubbly, sexy Leslie, Lenny's protégée and one of my favorite characters in M/M romance. He steals the spotlight every time.

The main source of conflict in this story is that Brook isn't entirely comfortable dating a man who dresses in women's clothing. Brook worries Lenny will be harassed as Laverne, a worry that's not unfounded, but Lenny assures him he can take care of himself (and he certainly can).

The book begins after Lenny and Brook have already met. Lenny, worried about a comment Brook made, shuts down the relationship. Lenny has a tendency to run, but Brook is good at communicating (and apologizing).

Brook didn't stand out for me. He was kind of boring, but at least he was good in bed.

I also wasn't sure how I felt about Lenny and Ryan's relationship. Ryan is Lenny's closest friend and fuck buddy. I liked Ryan, but I could have done without the on-page sex scene between him and Lenny. Lenny wasn't with Brook at the time, but he'd already met Brook, and Ryan was supposedly in love with another man. The scene seemed gratuitous and made me feel itchy all over.

But there were numerous cute, tender, and humorous moments.

I loved the scene in Lenny's office when Brook sees Laverne for the first time. Every time Leslie was on page, I laughed. There was also a really hot scene at a nightclub when Lenny can't wait to take his man.

Plus, the HEA was lovely, even if it felt a little wishy-washy. (view spoiler)

S.M. Harshell says

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

Cross to Bare is Lenny's story. Lenny runs a design business as Laverne Debussy-Smith, a woman. Lenny is a cross dresser. Laverne only is around for work, whether it's the day to day stuff or the occasional runway shows. The rest of the time Lenny dresses like a man. When Lenny gets involved with Brook Hunter, Brook only knows the "Lenny" side of him. Lenny is hesitate to introduce Brook to Laverne given some of the reception he's gotten in past relationships. When Brook makes a comment in passing not even directed at Laverne/Lenny, Lenny quickly ends the relationship realizing Brook with never accept that side of him.

When Brook comes face to face with Laverne unknowingly, Lenny panics and tries to lie to Brook's face. When the truth comes out can Brook stand by his man or will Lenny have to walk away from some else that doesn't understand?

I've said it before and I'll say it again, I love this series. Each couple has it's obstacles but the fight to get together and be happy is what makes it so good. Of course the super hot delicious sex doesn't hurt either.

Angie says

~I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Inked Rainbow Reads Review Team~
5 stars for this M/M

I just love this series and each book is so good. I loved Lenny/Laverne in previous books and I was thrilled his story was next. I laughed, cried and really enjoyed this book. We get to see so much of Lenny/Laverne and find out the back story. Lenny and Brook are amazing together; I loved the give and take between these two. The author did a great job with this story; I will have to say it is one of my favorites so far. I also really enjoyed seeing characters from the previous books in this story as well. Oh and man, do I wanna go see a drag show now!!!

Ele says

****3.5 stars****

I went back and forth with my rating, but I ended up rounding down. Although there were parts of the story I absolutely loved, for the most part of it, it was just ok for me.

I adored Lenny and his alter ego, Laverne. The cross-dressing theme was very well-done, same as in Leslie's book. Leslie was amazing in this story too; I loved every scene he was part of. Brook on the other hand, felt a little blunt as a character.

Had there been a little more tension or some kind of conflict, I would have liked it more. Also, when the story starts after the MCs have met, I always feel like I've missed something.

There were funny moments (especially when Leslie was in them) and pretty steamy scenes.

Overall, it was a good story and I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series.

~Second BR with my girl, Dani, in a row!~

Wax says

Another good book in the series. The issues that came between Lenny and Brook felt realistic and not just added for the sake of the story. Loved seeing the characters from previous books as well.

T.M. Smith says

Lenny James is confident and successful in both his personal life as Lenny, and his professional life as high profile Designer Laverne Debussy-Smith. The one thing that still eludes him is someone to love him and her, both Lenny and Laverne. When Lenny was in college he decided to dive head first into his passion to design clothes by not only making clothes for men and women, but wearing them as well. Now Laverne is just as much a part of him as Lenny is. No one seems to want the job of juggling their passion for both personas though.

Brook Hunter was an almost boyfriend that Lenny decided to kick to the curb over a comment that he read too much into. Brook as well is talented and successful, as well as tall, dark and oh so handsome. When Brook accidentally learns the truth about Lenny and Laverne, the designer thinks Brook will duck and run, unable to handle the commitment to them both. But Brook surprises Lenny in more ways than one, and he won't be tossed aside so easily, even if his feathers are ruffled by Lenny assuming he would be daft enough to walk away.

The relationship between Brook, Lenny and Laverne had its share of ups and downs, both men saying or doing things in the heat of the moment that they regret when having a clearer head. But neither one is willing to throw in the towel. I think it was the determination from both men that really gave this story credence for me. There was a struggle for Brook early on, not to accept Laverne per say, but to accept the danger he perceived Lenny was putting himself in when he went out as Laverne. This caused some issues and misunderstandings, but like most adults would do, they talked about it, they worked it out together. I really, really loved that aspect of the story, the communication that rivaled only the passion that these two shared.

If you are a fan of this series or the author, then this is a no-brainer for you, of course you'll enjoy it. There is passion and a super fun stage appearance by Laverne, there is a bit of danger as well, but there is zero angst which, in my humble opinion, makes this a must read. I'm very excited for book 6 now, someone please tell Susan MacNicol to write just a skoch bit faster please!

Tina says

This is Lenny's book! Yay, Lenny got his own story! Woohoo!

This one was already the 5th installment of Susan Mac Nicol's Men of London series and I enjoyed every single one of them.

Cross To Bare is about the fashion designer Lenny and his female alter ego Laverne, and the gorgeous, commanding, dark as sin financier Brook.

Two very different worlds collide... and HOW they collide! I loved every single scene between Lenny and Brook. :)

Recommended, and it doesn't matter if you have or haven't read the previous books. Cross To Bare works

perfectly as a standalone.

Susan65 says

The Blogger Girls

4.5 Stars

I love this Men of London series, and instead of it getting bogged down, repetitive, or boring, it just gets better and better. Susan Mac Nicol tackled a touchy subject when she took on the characters of Lenny and Laverne, but she handled it honestly and with grace. Cross dressing, transvestite, or whatever name you want to call it, the person involved deserves the respect for being true to themselves and Susan Mac Nicol kept it real.

We meet Lenny/Laverne in Leslie's story and he/she comes across as a very strong, intelligent person who maintains two very strong, non-apologetic personas. As Lenny, he is a man's man who walks the walk and talks the talk. As Laverne, she is a successful business woman who is as likely to sport a pair of heels as she is to kick you in the ass with them. Both are Lenny, and he has no desire to give up Laverne for any man. Until Brook.

Brook is a beautiful financier of Kenyan and Jamaican heritage who falls head over heels for Lenny. But, what happens when Brook meets Laverne? It's not as straight forward as you would expect, but also not as bad. The author does a fantastic job of keeping both Brook and Lenny real. It is not always easy, but they are so obviously made for each other that you know that they got this and it will all work out in the end.

Probably my favorite part of this story is the fact Leslie is generously sprinkled throughout. He is such an amazing character that he truly deserved face time in Laverne's story, too. The Men of London is intertwined between an eclectic group of friends that entertains and breaks our hearts before they finally buckle down and grab that happy ending. Lenny/Laverne and Brook was a story that gave us a little bit of heartache, but a whole lot of sexy and that requisite fairy-tale ending that we all live for, and as usual, I highly recommend this author, and in particular, this book and series.

Ruthie Taylor says

~~I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads ~~

Each of these books could be read alone, but actually they work beautifully as an ongoing series where we get to know the gang and their lives. So I am going to assume that you have read earlier books when writing my review.

We first met Lenny and his alter ego, Laverne due to him employing Leslie. Now that Leslie is deep in his relationship, Lenny is reminded about just how lonely he is - and how difficult it is to find a man who would accept both him and his persona of Laverne. I found the reasoning and detail of why and how it feels to Lenny to be him, to be both informative and thought provoking. I loved how Brook's feelings grew and his understanding developed. His parents were a good addition to the story, even if only there briefly. So there

was a lot of depth in the relationship - but also a lot of chemistry which lightened the moment.

Overall this was a good read, with some really interesting insights, as well as a delectable romance.
