



Crash

Pepper Pace

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This multicultural romance begins when a young man is brutalized and raped. He finds an ally in Sophie Baxter, a reclusive writer of interracial fiction. When Sophie initially meets Lucas she believes he is a young teen and takes him under her wing. By the time she realizes her mistake it's too late—this polite and sweet kid has found a way into her heart.

Lucas wants Sophie to see that he is no child even though he has an innocent baby face. And Sophie thinks that anyone looking at them together would mistake the older black woman for being some young white boy's care giver. She can't fathom breaching that trust...not with her history.

Pepper Pace has woven a tale of unpredictable circumstances and unlikely characters. This sweet romance deals with a difficult subject matter but is not a story about rape but about self-discovery. Warning; graphic description of rape, strong language, sexual situations including homosexuality and incest.

Crash Details

Date : Published (first published February 5th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Pepper Pace

Format : ebook

Genre : Romance, Interracial Romance

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From Reader Review Crash for online ebook

Shelby P says

This was my second novel by Pepper Pace. Crash is 1000% better than Stranded. I recently discovered Pepper Pace and heard that Crash was good. I went into it blind and was shocked by the opening scene but the book kept my attention throughout. I loved that Lucas did not wallow in self pity although life has thrown him a terrible lot.

Sophie was not your typical heroine: she's older, overweight, legally blind and REAL. I loved how the author included a story within a story and that even kept me riveted. Lucas and Sophie are two unlikely people who found love together. This story surpassed my expectations and I would highly recommend it to others.

Layeshia says

There was nothing before, and there was nothing after; just the silent crash of two unmovable objects finally meeting. That's my favorite line in this story. And it sums up Sophie and Lucas' love story. This is my 4th story written by Pepper Pace. She always writes something that is always different always a different twist. What remains the same is love is unconditional, Love and acceptance is paramount. Great job again Pepper Pace!! I highly recommend this story. 5 stars

Denise ~The Procrastinating Book Diva~ says

"There was no beginning and there is no end. There is just the moment when everything comes crashing together, and that is where it started."

In the mood for something a little different I reached for *CRASH*. I've read several of PP's books and what I love most about them is that she brings the mundane and average to the forefront and makes them shine. She writes about romances that are unusual and real. Here we find the story of Lucas, a 22 y.o. white homeless man with a baby face, and Sophie, a 42 y.o. black woman who writes interracial romance novels. The romance between the two seems unlikely both in fiction and real life, yet they have an undeniable chemistry. However, despite that chemistry I could not see them as being more than friends. I had a hard time buying into the romantic relationship between the two. I like different, but I felt that these characters were *so* different that the relationship would never work. Although PP tried she just didn't delve deep enough to make their love connection plausible. So I enjoyed Lucas and Sophie as individuals and friends but the romance felt forced and fell flat.

As the story unfolds Sophie is in the process of writing a book and the story within the story became a character all its own; and not a good one. It was unnecessary, distracting, and contributed absolutely nothing to Lucas and Sophie's story.

So, despite this being somewhat of a miss for me, I will always be a fan of PP's work. She highlights the flaws in her characters and celebrates them. Not everyone has a chiseled body, a gorgeous face, or money to burn. Sometimes people off the beaten path fall in love with ordinarily average people. And in PP's world

average is not only okay.....it's beautiful.

Gisele Walko says

Aw. Where to begin....I only wish I could give this book more than 5 stars. 5 humongous gold stars! My only gripe would be that it was so perfect that I wish it was longer. I didn't want it to end. Sophie and Lucas both endured and overcame so much. This book was a true testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the ability to find love. This book had the potential to be really dark and heavy but I laughed at several parts, and the tone felt overall optimistic. Great job Pepper Pace. Any literate person should read this.

Monique says

This is my second Pepper Pace read, and I enjoyed it overall. She is a great storyteller, and I think that with a professional editor to tighten up her work, she could end up with a great Pace anthology in the future!

SPOILER ALERT

Now - on to my thoughts on Crash...I felt a bit squeamish with the H/h age difference at first; as I kept reading, I found that the two characters were made for each other. They were like a pair of mismatched but comfy socks. Taking into account that I actually knew a couple much like Sophie and Lucas, who were still happily married for ten years when I last saw them - the storyline here was not only possible, but real. (The couple I knew also had a twenty-year age difference, and the guy was also homeless! Now he's a producer at a local tv station!) The only part of the story that I didn't like was the pregnancy. It just didn't seem logical for Sophie, considering her age and health issues. She seemed too smart to be having a baby... Anyway - Crash brought a smile to my face, and I loved the H/h innate sweetness. 3.5 stars.

s says

3/5 stars

I only read this to be honest because it was tagged in Interracial Romance. This wasn't a bad book but it wasn't for me.. Have any suggestions for me?

Michelle says

Amazing!

This was an awesome and emotional story. My heart broke for Lucas and how I wished the men that assaulted him got what they did to him back 10 times worse.

I loved how well written and complete Crash was and how it ends with the beginning. Pepper Pace is a gifted author and other love her stories.

Jennifer says

Reading this on the heals of, "Seal upon your heart" this book ,while good, just didn't hit the mark of excellence I've began to expect from Pepper Pace.

If we forgive the gratuitous grammatical errors and the skimpy development of the characters I was bored with they sub-story (written by the characters) in the book. I found myself skimming those chapters because they never caught my interest. The story in itself was an interesting read with Pepper's usual style of characters with complexity, however it felt rushed at the end and the depth I was looking for never happened.

How did Sophie realize she loved Luke? How did she overcome her fears and internal issues with intimacy? Did anyone have therapy? How did Luke overcome his trauma? From the book he just got over it and moved on to fall in love with a woman. Also what made him fall in love with her?

There are many questions left unanswered from this book. After getting to the end I closed it with a shrug.

J. Libby says

I avoided Pepper Pace for a really long time. A friend raved about her books, but I wasn't feeling the type of romance that was being featured. I can admit now, having gobbled down two Pepper Pace books, that I cheated myself out of excellent reading material for far too long. Pace's writing isn't traditional romance, and I am challenged to comfortably declare it part of that genre. Yes, there is a romance in Crash. Yes, the romance is inter-racial. Crash (and the other book that I read, Adaptation) are about so much more. Pace is great at building characters and creating harmony between them in full view of their flaws and weaknesses. Crash is an unlikely story and the first few pages grabbed me so hard that I was compelled to finish the book in a single three-hour marathon reading session. I was really curious to find out how on Earth she was going to pull off this story.

Crash is the story of a very young man who is, in a way, saved by an older woman after he has been raped in an alley. He's a survivor, he's learned how, but Lucas is at pretty much the worse moment in his life when Sophie looks out her kitchen window to see him resting on the curb on the other side of her back yard. Despite the risk, she invites him into her home and what happens over the remainder of the novel is the beautiful unfurling of hearts damaged by life. Sophie ends up needing Lucas as much as he needs her. It's a gentle kind of story. The characters are interesting and compelling, the plot is a complete surprise. Despite the insularity of the novella (this book focuses only on the two leads), I was always engaged. That's a hard thing to accomplish with such a limited cast and such a narrow plot. But it works SO WELL here. It works because Pace is a gifted writer and nuances a story about people and character!

This was a lovely and surprising read which I very promptly recommended to my Best Friend. I think it's definitely worth the read.

~*~**Princess Nhya~*~** says

Solid 3.75 Stars

This was a quick, but gripping read. There were times when my heart broke & soared when it came to **Lucas** and the loss & pain that he has known for most of his short life. It starts on a gritty raw note. And this remains when it comes to certain things concerning both of the main characters. Very heart breaking & shocking.

I loved the dynamic of how he and **Sophie** came into each others' lives. Very poignant. But I just never saw them together as an HEA (Happily Ever After) type of couple. I loved them both as individuals, and I thought both of their personal story & journey was quite touching. **But** when it came to the type of person that **Sophie** is, and where she is in her life vs **Lucas** and where he is in his life, it just didn't feel like these two would come to be together in the long haul sense. I could see & feel an attraction there, but I didn't feel it would ever go any further than that, if they were to ever have a weak moment & scratch that itch.

Also I didn't care for how the separate story concerning the book that **Sophie** was writing, (since this is Sophie's career, she's a writer) I didn't like how it took up a lot of time & opportunity away from the actual story of her & **Lucas**. I didn't really need to actually see what she was writing. There were long scenes of this. Where you are actually reading her story that she's writing. I thought this was pointless cos it adds nothing to the story. In fact, I think it took something away from their story by adding so much of this in there.

And even though I liked the close of this one, and the way things turned out for them, I still feel as though the ending would have been just as good, if not better, if it ended on a note of them parting ways but with a deep & loving admiration & loyalty for one another. I think that was the type of ending I was hoping for. Considering these type of characters, their circumstances & views; that ending would have felt much more in tune with the story we are given.

But I still liked this story, I thought it was another good read from **Ms. Pace** Hey, I read it in one sitting :)

I would recommend this read.

Senora says

I did not think I would get past the violet subject matter in this book, but it turns out to be a very well written and wonderful love story. Granted it is NOT your typical romance by any means, but it was great all the same. The story in some instances was tragic, touching and triumphant. The author was able to weave a tale that was believable, and realistic in nature, and content. I recently discovered this author and find that her original and creative writing style is very engaging!

Monica says

Crash by Pepper Pace

Ah-Mah-Zingly gifted writer Pepper Pace has awed me once again. In Crash Pepper brings together two of the unlikeliest characters; Sophie and Lucas. Sophie is a middle aged writer who lives and works alone in her Cincinnati home. Lucas is a twenty something homeless man, one of Americas thousands of sham domed youth who's young lives have been filled with loss and rejection. The circumstances of their meeting is steeped in violence and cruelty, but the writer handles it well, even for sensitive readers.

The good:

Great storyline, sweet romance; it will make you think one way or another. Younger man, older woman; black, white; bisexual, heterosexual.

The bad:

I read a few reviews where the reader wasn't able to "believe" the love story ; I can see that, but when reading sometimes you have to let go of reality and let the characters speak to you.

I'm jus sayin:

I really liked this story, I think the violent scenes were handled tastefully and respectfully. Lucas is a good protagonist, though if you asked me if I could I be with a man who confessed having a consensual sexual relationship with a man my answer is HELL NO. However it didn't bother the character, so It didn't effect my critique of the book. This is a good read with some orchestra characters, I dare you to give it a go!

Genney Blass says

OMG, gave 4.5, Truly fell in love with this book, how a man and woman lives entwined with each other for a better life. I have to commend on Ms. Pace for bringing another story twined with the main story, loved it. This story hit many people around the world, and how at the end the love they had for each other was beautiful. Lucas didn't care about age, color, only how he felt towards Sophie. Sophie had her guard up for a very long time, since her past relationship was traumatic for her. Her love in the past didn't fight for her nor her baby she was about to have; She was an open book for Lucas, but all she was how young he was; But Lucas was so mature for his age, what he went through in the street and finally met his angel; In Sophie's eye, she was just simply scared of loving someone young while she was 42. I truly understand what Sophie though in her mind. Ms. Pace, please keep them coming. You one of a few author that I am that is waking people that even though your a different race, the love will conquer. Thank you.

D says

The paths of 42 year old novel-writer Sophie and 22 year old Lucas, who has been raped and is homeless, collide is Pepper Pace's Crash. It's a tale about unexpected love and love's ability to be color-blind and age-blind. I wanted to love this story but I didn't.

Ms. Pace made age an issue for the reader as opposed to allowing the reader to make his or her own determination about it. Sophie is 42 yet she was written to sound like someone's grandmother. There was so much emphasis on her impaired vision and her inability to keep her balance that she felt much older than she was. It didn't help that Lucas compared her to his grandmother at times and that the ways in which he had to

help Sophie, he had helped his grandmother. At times, I had to remind myself that Sophie was 42 not 62. I think this emphasis defeated the purpose of the reader having an open mind. It wasn't necessary to stress age beyond them sharing and having a different level of experience. The age wouldn't have bothered me at all if it wasn't stressed with this overtone.

Lucas' love for Sophie felt like savior's love in that, he feel for the woman who saved him because she cared when no one else did. I never felt like there was a turning point where Lucas' gratitude grew into something more, something genuine that had nothing to do with why they met.

I wanted to love this story but it fell short for me.

Shay says

3.5 stars
