



Crossing the Line

Clinton McKinzie

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Clinton McKinzie writes powerhouse thrillers that are like nothing you've ever read— novels that crackle with raw emotion and brilliantly explore the nature of risk: the risk that lovers take, adventurers seek, and men and women live with on both sides of the law. In an unforgettable new novel, set against the breathtaking Rocky Mountain landscape he has made his own, the acclaimed author of Trial by Ice and Fire brings back Special Agent Antonio Burns and his renegade brother, Roberto—two men who have chosen very different lives, now coming together to make a treacherous descent into a world of loss, betrayal, and terror.

Antonio Burns is a cop, not a saint. Having earned the scornful nickname “QuickDraw” for a shooting that went very wrong, the Wyoming narcotics agent is fighting for redemption and holding on to his family with all the strength he possesses. His brother, Roberto, is another story. His quicksilver heart, hair-trigger temper, and unquenchable hunger for adrenaline rushes have landed him prison—and make him the right person for an FBI agent with a plan. Agent Mary Chang—cool, collected, and always under control—wants to go after Hidalgo, a murderous drug lord who has moved his operation from Mexico to a Wyoming canyon. In Roberto, Chang has found someone who can penetrate Hidalgo’s heavily guarded crime ranch. And she has found a man who can quickly take her to her own wild side.

Now, while Mary and his brother watch over him, Roberto goes to work for Hidalgo for the promise of a free pass from prison. But Roberto can't stay with any script for long, and soon starts making up the game as he goes along. With Antonio sure that his brother is taking the ultimate death trip, and Chang guarding a secret of her own, the perfect plan starts to veer wildly off course. And no one is prepared for the dark forces that are about to engulf them—or the final betrayal that will send them to the dizzying heights and abysmal depths of love and loss. A novel that plunges like a knife, Crossing the Line is vintage McKinzie: brilliant, breathless, and utterly impossible to put down.

From the Hardcover edition.

Crossing the Line Details

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From Reader Review Crossing the Line for online ebook

Patty says

Set in Wyoming, the main character is in law enforcement and a climber. The descriptions of the landscapes and of climbing are great. The order of his books are 1. The Edge of Justice, 2. Point of Law, 3. Trial by Ice and Fire, 4. Crossing the Line and 5. Badwater. Though any of these can stand alone, they are much more fun read in order. Mr. McKinzie is an Assistant District Attorney in Colorado so he is well versed on the law.

Kara Jorges says

I have to wonder at the personal turmoils of an author when his work takes a sudden, dark turn. The Burns brothers I've come to love are back again, this time with wild brother Roberto having turned himself in after escaping prison, and now working with the feds in an operation to take down drug lord Jesus Hidalgo-Paez, known for brutally murdering informants and their entire families. Berto's younger brother, Wyoming state agent Antonio Burns, is in on the operation, ostensibly to keep volatile Roberto in line. They get their spying station downriver from Hidalgo's compound set up and send Roberto, an old acquaintance of Hidalgo's, in to gather information to hopefully put him away for good.

Anton loses his objectivity almost immediately when he realizes the level of danger his beloved older brother is in. He has every right, however, when he learns the two feds running the operation have gone rogue and have sent his brother into harm's way without the permission of their superiors. Anton's every instinct is to pull Roberto out as fast as he can, but when they have difficulty obtaining a warrant, the feds push Berto harder and put him at more risk instead.

What happens next sends Anton on a dark journey into the deepest parts of his soul, and we begin to see that the more straight-laced brother may be just as destriallado (unleashed, as their mother says) as the wild brother he always idolized. It is no wonder he goes there, as the very foundations of his life are shaken and he begins to open his eyes to things he did not want to see.

Though I cannot fault this novel for its darkness, which seems to reveal a deeper part of Anton's character, I found myself wishing I could reach into the book to give him a much-needed hug. Things will have to start looking up for the tougher, harder Anton in the next installment of the series, simply because he got taken so low this time out.
