



## Shattered

*JoAnn Ross*

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More than a year after his red-hot affair in Baghdad with Army doctor Kirby Campbell, Army pilot Shane Garrett is trying to rebuild his life stateside. Kirby is also stateside, but when she learns a friend is being held hostage in Central America, she works with Phoenix Team to organize a rescue?and Shane isn?t about to let them leave him behind. Or let Kirby get away. But when Kirby and Shane stare danger in the face, they come to know each other in the way no civilian could ever understand. And they wonder: can they fight for their country, for their lives?and for love?

## Shattered Details

Date : Published February 3rd 2009 by Berkley Books

ISBN : 9780451226129

Author : JoAnn Ross

Format : Mass Market Paperback 377 pages

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

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## From Reader Review Shattered for online ebook

### **Lisa - (Aussie Girl) says**

3.5 stars

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### **Cruth says**

**Author:** JoAnn Ross

**First published:** 2009

**Length:** 355 pages, 6820 kindle locations

**Setting:** Contemporary. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somerset, Carolina and Monteleone, Central America

**Sex:** Very Explicit. Not Frequent.

**Hero:** SOAR pilot.

**Heroine:** Doctor (Army and civilian)

**Trigger:** Death and battle in Afghanistan and other places.

**Trigger:** Child soldiers.

**Includes:** excerpt from Breakpoint

An enjoyable suspense with a light romance. Some scenarios that are difficult, including child soldiers (drugged killers), discussion of rape, and poverty.

Many characters from previous books make appearances with Titania pregnant and ex-Priest Michael Gannon (re)finding his *One*.

Enjoyable.

3.5 stars rounded up. Because sometimes we need to confront the realities of the world.

### **High Risk:**

Book 1 Freefall - Zach Tremayne and Sabrina Swan

Book 2 Crossfire - Caitlin Cavanaugh and Quinn McKade

Book 3 Shattered - Kirby Campbell and Shane Garrett

Book 4 Breakpoint - Dallas O'Halloran and Julianne Decatur

### **Shelter Bay:**

Book 1 The Homecoming - Sax Douchett and Kara Conway

Book 2 One Summer - Gabriel St. James and Charity Tiernan

Book 3 On Lavender Lane - Lucas Chaffee and Madeline Durand

Book 4 Moonshell Beach - J.T. Douchett and Mary Joyce

Book 5 Sea Glass Winter - Dillon Slater and Claire Templeton

Book 6 Castaway Cove - Mac Culhane and Annie Shepherd

Book 7 Christmas in Shelter Bay - Cole Douchett and Kelli Carpenter

Book 8 You Again - Meghann Quinn and Adam Wayne

Book 9 Beyond the Sea - Conn Brennan and Sedona Sullivan

Book 10 Sunset Point - Tess Lombardi and Nate Breslin

**Michael's family:**

Blaze (1999) - Tess Gannon and Gage O'Halloran  
Out of the Storm (2004) - Laurel Stewart and Joe Gannon  
Crossfire (2009) - Michael Gannon and Rachel Moore

**References:**

Author's website: <http://www.joannross.com>  
Author on w'pedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JoAnn\\_Ross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JoAnn_Ross)

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**Wendy says**

I just finished Shattered, can I just say that Shane Garrett is HOT! I really loved this story. The hero and heroine are not typical to the other two in the series that I've read. Shane is recovering from the loss of his leg and Kirby is a Doctor that he had an affair with in Iraq, but after his accident didn't feel he could burden her with his disability.

When Kirby's friend is kidnapped they are brought together again trying to rescue her and must face their feelings for each other.

This is not only an exciting adventure but very touching. I would recommend it highly.

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**Cherise says**

Book #3 in the High Risk Series

Army Night Stalker pilot, Shane Garrett, and Doctor Kirby Campbell engage in a short but steamy war time romance. When their lives change course, they go their separate ways. Then while Kirby is working in Pakistan she gets the opportunity to see her one time lover again, briefly, to save his life and send him on his way. Eighteen months later they are forced together again when they team up to rescue her friend from being held hostage in Central America.

I am a long time fan of JoAnn Ross, but she has really let me down with this series. I wasn't crazy about the first book; I liked the second book a little more, but barely. This third book is probably my least favorite of the bunch. This was more of a recap on military action, than a romantic suspense. That wouldn't have been bad had the action been believable. But I just found it really hard that a team of retired SEALs would bring along an ex-Army Doctor to rescue a civilian hostage from drugged up rebels in the midst of a violent civil war.

Ms. Ross has so many anagrams and military sayings in this book, I felt like the use of it was unnecessarily

excessive. If the main character said "Night Stalkers don't quit" one more time I was going to scream.

The romance is virtually non existent. The author establishes said romance by a brief reminiscing done by Kirby and Shane in the beginning of the book. Kirby and Shane don't actually see each other in the present day till chapter 25, they don't get together in the biblical sense until the book is almost over and in the middle of all that they never have a real conversation. Meanwhile we are supposed to believe that these two are in unrequited love with one another from a romance that happened about 2 years ago?

The whole book just moved so slow, I found myself skipping over most of the military mumbo jumbo hoping to find it pick up the pace somewhere. It never did. There was a secondary couple involved, Michael and Rachel, that I hoped would spice things up, but their romance was even more invisible than Shane and Kirby's. I can only hope she will give them a proper story in a future book.

Like the previous two books in this series, the author has moseyed her way through 360 pages only to wind up the entire story in a frenzied last 10 pages. She gets you to their destination, solves the problem and then fills you in on all the characters futures. It's not smooth, and it comes off as borderline ridiculous. All in all this was a below average book from a usually above average author. I am not even sure if I want to read, let alone buy the fourth one.

Cherise Everhard, January 2009

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### **Rjsmommy says**

This was the book I was looking forward to in the series, Shane's story. Ms. Ross once again gives her readers a further glimpse and differing POV of the Afghanistan incident that connects the three men in the series. As more and more is revealed about the incident, you can see why each soldier was so affected by it. Shane and Kirby's story is one similar to the others... a past relationship that went askew and now must find a way back to each other. I appreciate Shane's spirit and personality as he recovers from his amputation. Shane does wallow for all of two weeks and then showing his SOAR colors bounces back vowing to not let this injury sideline his life. He adjusts well but there is one thing he regrets; the way he tossed Kirby out of his life and room in the VA thinking he didn't want to saddle her with a burden. Then he gets the opportunity to fix that, when he and Kirby are members of the team sent in to rescue an international aid worker and friend of Kirby.

We also have another secondary pairing here, Rachel, the kidnapped aid-worker, and Michael Gannon, former military doctor/priest ( known as "Father What a Waste" by his female parishioners). They had a war-time romance just as Shane & Kirby but theirs was derailed by Rachel's near death and hidden marriage. This romance seemed less developed than the ones in the previous books; I wish we had more between these two.

Overall, another enjoyable venture into Ms. Ross' world.

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### **Anne says**

As another reviewer said, a good read for fans of contemporary romantic suspense. Especially for those who

like it military-style.

Ross' stories spend a good deal of time on the background of the characters and the action. This leads to a little more telling and a little less showing than I prefer.

Let us into the character's thoughts. Also have the action help propel those thoughts. Then let the thoughts develop into feelings and more action. In Romantic Suspense, the focus is, of course, on the growing relationship between the hero and the heroine. Action is used heighten the immediacy of the thoughts and feelings of the characters. The action, while present, was not particularly used as part of the emotional growth of the characters.

Kirby and Shane's instant attraction is believable under the emotional circumstances of war. That love can develop under such circumstances is plausible. While running into each other after Shane has been wounded and she's working in a medical relief camp is overly-convenient, it is illustrative of the push-and-pull of their growing relationship.

Good job of making points about the types of injuries our troops are receiving in Afghanistan and rehabilitation.

When the action does hit, it's almost too little too late. Here again, we have telling instead of showing. I must say, though, that the use of volcano was great fun.

This is part of the Phoenix Team series. It is written in a way that the books may be read out of order and still make sense. I may be too enamored of Suzanne Brockmann and her development of her teams, so that colors my feelings about the Phoenix Team. The comraderie between team members and the growth of the team is not well-explored. I'm hoping to see more of that as the series continues.

I will try another book or two in the series. I'd like to see if it improves as it goes along.

Would I recommend this book to a fan of Suzanne Brockmann's series? Yes

Would I recommend this to a volcanologist? No. I suspect the volcano scene, while exciting, might be a little unbelievable.

Would I recommend this to a recent military veteran? Unsure. I suspect there are incredibly unbelievable portions. The reader may find them ignorable or funny or irritating.

Would I recommend this to a man in a bear suit? No. Bears are neither mentioned nor objects of romance in this novel.

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## Ns says

**Shattered** was all action; fast-paced and thrilling. As such, I quickly realize it's also the kind of story you really want to devote reading time to to appreciate. It was evident with the terminology and detailed accounts of the characters' adventures that much research went into writing this story. Something that makes the *High*

*Risk* series very appealing and authentic feeling.

I was impressed with the author; other books I've read by JoAnn Ross were nothing like this one. They were contemporary romances, sweet and safe. There was nothing safe and reassuring about *Shattered*. Rather, it was ambitious and highlights Ross's skills as an author. The touch of romance is still there but in characters who are more damaged and traumatized in their lives.

Shane Garrett is fearless, reckless and coping remarkably well with the loss of a leg during warfare. Well, remarkable well enough if you count pushing away the woman he loves from his life. That love, Kirby Campbell is a doctor devoted to saving lives, whether they are soldiers, victims of wars or the enemies itself. A life is a life. However, when it comes to her own heartbreak, she's not so sure she can save herself.

Months later, plenty of recuperating and dangerous moments, Shane and Kirby are given a chance to rebuild and reclaim their love -under the most dangerous circumstances. Their love re-connection will have to happen while en-route to a chaotic Central America, where Kirby's friend is held hostage. All this makes for a great read filled with moments you don't want to miss.

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### **SheLove2Read says**

Gutsy heroine who wasn't pushy or too "tough". Terrific alpha hero with a heart. Great storyline. I loved this book from start to finish!

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### **jenjn79 says**

I'm debating between 4 stars and 3.5 stars for this one. I was leaning solidly in the 4 star area, but then the ending fell a little short for me. Maybe I should say it was 3.75 stars, LOL. But aside from the somewhat lackluster ending, I enjoyed this book a lot. I loved Shane. Wanting to read his story is what kept me reading this series after the first book didn't do much for me.

*Shattered* is the third book on Ross's High Risk series which is about a bunch of former Spec Ops military men who are now trying to adjust to civilian life and dealing with the demons of things that happened on their last military mission. Shane Garrett is the hero of this book. He was the SOAR helicopter pilot who was seriously injured during the tragic Afghanistan mission. His injury caused him to have to have his leg amputated.

The book is divided into 3 sections. The first part, about 80-90 pages takes place in the past. It tells how Shane met Army doctor Kirby Campbell and how they started a hot affair and how Kirby ended up being the doctor who helped save Shane's life after he was shot. It goes through the Afghanistan mission again, this time from Shane's point of view. And finishes with how things went wrong with Shane and Kirby.

The second section, the longest one, moves into the present and tells what Shane and Kirby are doing now...Shane is teaching flying to civilians and Kirby is a doctor with a relief organization in an unstable country. When Kirby's partner doctor is kidnapped by terrorists, she ends up joining with the Phoenix group to go in and rescue her, which is how she and Shane meet up again. Though Kirby tries to deny it, the feelings are still there and Shane makes it clear that he screwed up before and wants Kirby back. But first

they have to rescue her doctor friend.

And the third section of the book moves on to the rescue part of the story where Shane, Kirby, Zach, Quinn, and Michael Gannon go to the Central American country to rescue Rachel, the other doctor. And of course, there's an HEA for Kirby and Shane.

Though this book is a romantic suspense, it's what I call a low-intensity one. There's not a lot of action. Most of the scenes are planning and talking and whatnot. But I found it easy to read. I enjoyed Shane a lot. He was a cool, very together kinda of guy. Alpha without being over the top. And I liked him and Kirby together. They had great chemistry. Though, like the last book, the present aspect of their relationship doesn't pick up until very late in the book. But considering parts 2 & 3 of the story only cover like 3 days time, that's kinda understandable (even if a little disappointing).

And also, like the last book, I thought the ending was a bit abrupt. The "suspense" aspect of the story and the HEA for the H/H covers only like 15 pages. I would have liked something a little more drawn out. And I was really disappointed with the wrap-up of the Michael/Rachel storyline.

Michael Gannon has been in several Ross books. He's the brother of some of her other lead characters. He was a military doctor who then became a priest (called by women Father What-A-Waste) who then went back to being a doctor. In this book, you learn Michael had a past relationship with Rachel, the doctor kidnapped. And that both still loved the other. So you know they're going to end up together. But all Ross gives you is one scene between them in the middle of chaos, then a short few lines between Shane and Kirby telling readers that Michael is going to join Rachel as a relief doctor. It was so disappointing. Michael was an endearing, recurring character and then to not get a full reunion, HEA scene with him and Rachel...well, it was more than a small let down.

But aside from the subpar ending, I liked this book. The characters were engaging, the romance was pretty good and the plot was interesting enough to keep me reading. I wouldn't call it a super great book, but it was good. I'm glad I decided to stick with the series.

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### **Linda says**

This is another book in the High Risk series and in my opinion, probably the best yet. You think you have things figured out but it surprises you. Shane Garrett is a Army Night Stalker pilot who is injured in a helicopter crash. Each of the High Risk novels has been a different point of view from one of the men in this crash. They each have a story to tell but Shane's is very interesting. He had met Captain Kirby Campbell in Bagdad during the war and had fallen in love at first sight but each were deployed to different places. It was only after his injuries and his refusal to allow her back into his life that our story gets really involved. Good read

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### **Michelle says**

So far, I think this may be my favorite in the series. I'm not quite sure why, but I just definitely like the setup of the book. I think Shattered is a little different from the first two books in the series - because the first two books kind of dealt with serial killers that kept me guessing - while this book is more of like a hostage

situation and civil unrest and a power struggle in a poor country. Though I feel as though I'd read a lot about the time that the Special Ops had in Afghanistan, I felt reading about the past in Shane's case made it a little different. Reading about their history of meeting and their instant chemistry only made their "breakup" scene that much more heartbreaking. Parts of the book were definitely predictable in the sense that you always know that the two main characters will get back together - but knowing and understanding what each of them went through, from her dealing with the heartbreak to him dealing with his amputation, shows that their characters have grown by the time they were reunited. I also really liked that I was able to get a good sense of how their "special ops" missions took place. Good story!

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### **Msky chick says**

2-1/2 stars.

This might be a good read for those who don't know military lingo, but it felt too much like a primer to me.

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### **Lhenry says**

There's a lot to like about this one. I liked the format starting with the background and then heading into the current action. Liked both of the main characters, Shane and Kirby and liked their relationship and the way they questioned the war-time aspects of it, whether that made it a real deal or not. Also liked the comradery between Zach, Quinn and Shane as well as the girly girl bonding scene.

But I have noticed with Jo Ann Ross that I tend to skip the secondary romance because for some reason those characters are less interesting. It could just be as the reader, but Michael and Rachel's story should have been just as gripping and emotional, but it wasn't. I read this twice, and the 2nd time actually skimmed the Rachel and Michael scenes. So, all in all, good but not great.

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### **Sarah says**

Best book of the series. It lost steam as it went on though. The beginning was great and after that it got kind of boring. My only other complaint was that what happened to Kirby at the end of the book wasn't really necessary. It was actually quite random. It didn't really need to happen.

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### **Buggy says**

I love romantic-military-suspense and this was a good one, in fact it was almost a great one. Running along the lines of Cindy Gerard or Suzanne Brockmann SHATTERED opens up in Afghanistan with an amazing action sequence that's based on actual events.

This is no fluffy romantic action either; it's realistic, harsh and filled with accurate military terms, mind bending acronyms and real locations. Soldiers use the f-bomb, get wounded and die here. In fact our hero (Shane) winds up losing his leg from the helicopter crash and ensuing firefight and his subsequent transfer while injured to the military hospital and extraction behind enemy lines is WAY exciting.

Now while this is book #3 in the 'High Risk' series I read it as a stand alone and did just fine, never feeling lost or like I was missing anything. And if you are reading in order you'll be happy to know Zach and Quinn are back as well as updates from their spouses. Speaking of which, Army Doctor Kirby Campbell is a very likable heroine here; strong, not physically perfect and relatable. And her gradual falling back in love with injured pilot Shane Garrett feels natural. I enjoyed getting to know both our leads through flashbacks to their MASH beginnings in Baghdad; and jeez that scene in the German hospital when Shane lets her go will just break your heart.

I also should mention (because it really impressed me) the amount of research that's gone into this book, with loads of information and background down to the smallest of details. Unfortunately this is also where Ross lost me as she often gets sidetracked, moving away from the main story with irrelevant factoids and reminding me of Stephen King in that you're reading something 3xtimes removed from the story.

So while I really, really liked this it just didn't flow very well, leaving me often frustrated by moments of greatness and then a story that wandered off all over the place. Ross also had an annoying habit of letting our reunited couple talk through their love scenes (most of which are done in flashbacks) having full on conversations while poised, condom in hand. This was distracting and ruined the moment particularly because we had to wait forever for them to finally get it on.

My biggest disappointment of all though would have to be the ending which is a rescue set in Central America that we'd worked towards for the entire book. I was expecting another intense action scene instead its hurried and even silly with our strong leads going all Harlequin, rescuing child soldiers and worrying about abandoned dogs in the brief pages given. Shane's sweet proposal almost makes up for it though.

Highly recommended for romantic suspense fans \*Zosia\*

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