



Wildest Hearts

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Annie Lyncroft knew her scheme was outrageous. She'd come to the elegant penthouse to meet Oliver Rain, the richest and possibly the most dangerous man in the Pacific Northwest. Annie needed this sensual, secretive corporate maverick for what she was about to propose. Marriage!

With her brother Danny missing after a mysterious plane crash, Annie is struggling to protect his hot electronics company from the sharks who think he's not coming back. But fanciful, ethical Annie -- who usually runs a bizarre bric-a-brac shop knows Danny's alive, and she's determined to keep his company safe by putting his biggest investor at the helm. When Oliver actually says yes to the marriage of convenience, Annie dreamily envisions a few platonic weeks of helping him become a sensitive New Age guy. Oliver has a different plan; his cold, gorgeous eyes have been watching Annie, and he sees his chance to seduce the beautiful schemer. Love is the wild card destined to teach these two strong-willed opposites a lesson: icy control might run the business world, but all hell is about to break loose in the passionate territory of the heart.

Wildest Hearts Details

Date : Published April 1993 by Pocket Books (first published 1993)

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Author : Jayne Ann Krentz

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

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From Reader Review Wildest Hearts for online ebook

Clau says

I'm not quite sure what I should say about this one.

So, we have Annie and Oliver. These two get married just so that Oliver can control a particular company, that belongs to her brother. Daniel, Annie's brother, went missing days ago, and now all his creditors are after the company. The only way to save it, according to Annie, is that she gets married, so that half of her shares go to her husband. Annie is sure that Daniel is alive, and plans to get a divorce as soon as her brother comes back from wherever he is.

Of course, what starts as a convenience marriage becomes quite real after a while. But Oliver is a really reserved and closed-minded. But Annie sees that problem and decides to change him.

I really hate when people try to change other people. And I just can't buy that she fell in love with someone who she tries to change all the damn book.

Oh, and something that really bothered me was the legal side of the story. All that thing with shares and stuff. Well, I am studying to become a Lawyer, so I guess I notice that sort of thing. And I just couldn't understand how, if Lyncroft is a family business, so that all shares are in possession of the family, has investors? For what I understand, an investor has shares. All shares belong to Annie and her brother. Am I the only one who does not understand this? Well, a minor detail, but it really bothered me. Besides, I just don't think that managing a company is that easy. I would guess that the board, that includes the shareholders, has to make that kind of decision. And let's not forget that the main shareholder is missing, but that doesn't mean he losses the property of said shares.

The fact that this "legal" aspects bothered me so much should tell you that the story is not that fun or interesting. It has a bit of suspense, but other than that, it seemed kind of plain.

Cruth says

Author: Jayne Ann Krentz

First published: 1993

Length: 5946 kindle locations.

Setting: Contemporary, Seattle.

Sex: Explicit. Reasonably frequent.

Hero: Entrepeneur.

Heroine: Owns a small business.

Nice premise. Good story. Good characters. Marriage of convenience in a contemporary setting.

But.

Not enough grovel from the Grey-like Oliver.

Too much bending and bottomless cheer from "Polly-Annie".

Story took an unlikely arc with an unsatisfactory BadGuy and too-tidy ending.

It is of it's time (early-90s) as the expectations in male-female relationships was changing: the business woman who also wants to be a *wife* (have-it-all) coupled with a caring yet stoic Alpha male (like her father but gentler and kinder). I suspect today we would consider it Christian Principles - someone has to be the

head of the family - and it struggles to find purchase in mainstream (adult) romances.

It works and I enjoyed it but...

2.5 stars rounded up.

References:

Author's website: <http://jayneannkrentz.com>

(ISBN ...)

-CR-

Omaira says

"Aunque no es una historia que dé grandes sorpresas, se disfruta bastante, sobre todo por Annie y Oliver, sus dos carismáticos protagonistas que se complementan a la perfección y que van evolucionando cada vez más a medida que se desarrolla la trama".

Reseña completa: <http://entrelalecturayelcine.blogspot...>

Carrie says

3.5*

Another Krentz book that I won't pick apart, but just enjoy. While the suspense plot was recycled from an earlier JAK book, the main characters weren't. Oliver is the ruthless businessman and autocratic ruler of his family that he seems. While Annie sparks some self-evaluation in him, it's slow and painful, and therefore more believable than most books with this device. Annie is perhaps a little too "good," but I enjoyed her efforts to thwart Oliver's draconian plans. I especially enjoyed the "family intervention" scene near the end. I also appreciated the fact that the book was mostly free of the worst lame plot devices, like "big misunderstanding" and tsst actions by the heroine (although Annie was somewhat headstrong a few times). The major "cringe" of the book came with a series of way-too-convenient situations that were used to resolve one sub-plot.

Overall a better than average way to spend my reading time.

Angelique says

I tried listening to it but the narration was not working for me. So I grabbed a hard copy and read it instead.

Mollie *scoutrmom* says

Take a wacky, impulsive heroine, mix with a brooding macho business shark who is closed off from his feelings, stir well. Jayne Ann Krentz does it best. No one else could give her hero the dorky name of Oliver and make us lust for him in spite of it.

Lizzy says

The theme of a contemporary marriage of convenience was delightfully explored by Jayne Ann Krentz in *Wildest Hearts*. *"Annie are you by any chance proposing to me?" LOL!*

When Annie Lyncroft's brother is lost and presumed dead in a plane crash, she needs someone to help save her brother's company. Proposing to Oliver Rain seemed like the only thing she could do. This serves Oliver ends very well, but he intends to make their marriage the real thing.

I loved Annie and Oliver. Despite his quirky interests (Ferns!), Oliver is a very successful businessman. His crazy family only adds spice to the character. Annie is great, she manipulates Oliver's controlled life, turning it upside down and breaking his self-controlled existence for the best. They make a very believable and lovable couple.

Wildest Heart is above all a romance, while mystery takes a somewhat secondary role. There is some suspense picking up towards the end, but there was not much angst in the whole, which I appreciated after reading many tense plots.

One of the best Krentz novels I read. Highly recommended.

Hala says

A MAZING

COMPLETELY ADORED THE CHARACTERS
AND THE PLOT
AND THE TWIST
AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN??????

Nefise says

Actually, until last part, I would give it 2.5 point but I liked last part with both suspense and romance.

It was an old, classic suspense and its hero, Olive, reminded me Shibumi's hero very much. Although, Shibumi's hero is really very eccentric and has been well characterized. On the other hand, imo, because of he has not been characterized that well, he seems a bit exaggerated. I don't like to read when author tells and

tells about some major characterization about hero or heroine but we can't read any proof about it. I felt this about Oliver. I couldn't see very cold, calculated man in the story, just author kept telling those by other protagonists' mouth.

Annie, the heroine, was too much sweet for my taste and while I could understand and admit that there were chemistry, I couldn't feel and persuade about her love, or later about Oliver's too.

It was a quick and light read but not so much good.

Deranged Dreamer says

Yep.

Same formula.

Im still entertained. It suits my currently mood very well.

Ivonne says

Una historia entretenida con un poco de suspenso, y unos protagonistas que van evolucionando a medida que avanza la trama, sobre todo es de buen ver como el amor va cambiando poco a poco a Oliver, un hombre al que hasta su familia teme, por lo controlador y frío para los negocios, otro punto que me ha gustado, es como describe la autora la variedad de helechos que cultiva Oliver, tanto que hasta ya sentía el olor, el final me pareció apresurado y previsible, pero igual me ha gustado.

Una Historia más del #RetoRita2.0 Mes de Mayo

Pat Cromwell says

This book ties with The Waiting Game as my favorite Jayne Ann Krentz, with Wildest Hearts slightly ahead. It is quinessential Krentz at her best. First she turns a geeky type hero with a geeky name (Oliver) and turns him into a sexy, go for broke chameleon and we the reader discovers several chapters into the book that the guy is like James Bond. You have the quirky heroine (a wonderful Krentz trademark) and you have the perfect couple. She transforms her man into this great to die for guy without spoiling what made "our Oliver" so perfect from page one. Add in the usual assortment of crazy family members and you have a wonderful love story. The "marriage of convenience" theme is used here -- its a common theme in romances -- but I absolutely love it when the basis for that concept goes beyond the typical workings and boy this book does. I always picture an Aubrey Hepburn type heroine when I read Jayne Ann Krenz -- in my mind's eye they always have on the Breakfast At Tiffany's dress and Annie or I should say Oliver's Annie was no exception. Oliver didn't say much so Jayne used a lot of adjectives and thoughts for us to understand where Oliver was coming from and she is great at it. Some writers can't put off paragraph after paragraph of passive writing but Jayne can and does. With her book sometimes it is even better than conversation between the characters. I loved it when Oliver would say things like well just "Annie." Yeah, her books at times are short on conversation but that is what I like most about her books.

Oh yeah, after reading Wildest Hearts I dare anyone to walk into a flower shop and view Ferns as just Ferns!.

I discovered more about the plant after reading this book! But then, that too is common in her earlier writing. Oliver and Annie are my favorite Jayne Ann Krenz couples.

Tyna says

Cartea Suflete s?lbatrice este o carte foarte romantic?, plin? de umor ?i cu pu?in mister. Chimia dintre personajele principale se simte ?nc? de la ?nceputul c?r?ii. De?i firi diametral opuse, cei doi sunt irezistibil atra?i unul de cel?lalt, fiecare recunosc?nd ?n cel?lalt sufletul lui pereche.

Recenzia mea:

<http://www.delicateseliterare.ro/sufl...>

Chris says

A good little eccentric book. A love story started from a wicked *business* proposal. A peculiar, stoic, ruthless self-millionaire business tycoon meets a sweet, independent, busy-body lady who owned a queer collections of designs.

They are both weird, Oliver with his manmade rainforest located on the rooftop and his infamous anti-social side, and Annie with her elephant pink toenails that is still occupying on the store and her Saint-Theresa-broken-cases-charity. She really tries to sell the elephant but I guess every character on the story has a common sense not to buy it.

I don't like that she's a bit too meddler on Oliver's space and his peace. Also, Oliver is too robotic on emotional department, too self-controlled at times I thought I will be the one who'll break.

Lisa says

Although Wildest Hearts was of average length for a romance novel, the plot still felt rushed.

Annie and Oliver's relationship goes from non-existent to "I'm in love with him" in the space of three days during which they hardly spent any time together. It's not unusual in a romance novel for things to progress rather quickly, but in most cases the hero and heroine are inseparable and their time together is filled with romantic tension and smoldering gazes, etc. In this book Annie and Oliver marry for "business reasons" and she moves into his penthouse to keep up appearances. They both go off to their respective jobs during the day and at night Oliver barricades himself inside his study all evening until they go to their separate beds without speaking hardly a word to each other. And after three days of that we're supposed to believe that Annie has realized she's in love with him and ready to start sleeping together?

Their first time together was ruined by Oliver's deliberate effort to keep himself separate from her passion. In a cold and completely unromantic way he was determined to "own" her by giving her pleasure and making her desire him, but not give up anything of himself in the process so he could hold onto to his precious control. It made it hard for the reader to get behind their romance when the hero himself didn't actually seem

to be all that into it. And Annie's attempt to turn the tables on him only rather pathetically served to demonstrate that she really didn't have any power in the relationship.

Beyond that the plot was interesting but had so much going on that most things were resolved in a page or two before we skipped on to the next thing. The feud with the former business associate, the issue with Oliver's sister's forbidden romance, his long-standing issues with the step-mother and the industrial espionage; all of these things were discussed but barely affected the plot in any meaningful way before they were swept under the rug. Even the villain didn't feel like a very big threat since for most of the book he didn't do anything.

And the resolution of the romance was very unsatisfying.

(view spoiler)

Zee1 says

I really did not enjoy this one. Was kinda disappointed. Since I love Amanda Quick's regency romances.

Annie was annoying as hell...I love Ms.Quick's heroines, so this was disappointing. She was sooooo unnaturally cheery and optimistic. She bulldozed over anything to get her way! I mean it was a bit much, and it was even more ridiculous that Oliver put up with it. Oliver was not anywhere near as likable as her regency period heroes either. His weird control thing was honestly a bit overdone. Yeah, yeah, we get it, he's SO misunderstood.

Honestly, this read like something that might have inspired the revolting 50Shades crapilogy.

Sigh. I don't know if I'll be trying more of these.

Linda says

First, may I say, this was such a 1990s romance. It was only my second Krentz book and I wasn't too impressed with the first one I read. *But I heard so many good things about this story that I had to give this author another go.* And I am glad I did.

Oliver Rain was a rich uber-alpha male with control issues. He wore his hair pulled back in a ponytail, had a zen garden and performed yoga daily. He also had a serious problem with trust: no close friends, just acquaintances. Oliver took care of his immediate family as he did his business, with precision and a take-charge attitude. *He was not a team player.*

His manservant and confidant/chef/chauffeur, Bolt, came as close to having a relationship as possible with another man. With one other exception: computer-geek Daniel Lyncroft. And it turned out that Oliver's

passion, of all things, was collecting *ferns*. He had the much-needed patience that was necessary to hybridize and grow this type of vegetation. It gave him purpose and was a reward to himself. That was, until he was introduced to Annie Lyncroft: Daniel's sister. She was Oliver's cutesy polar-opposite and someone he had to have or, in his own words, he wanted "to collect her".

Did I mention that Oliver was offbeat in a peculiar way? Well, he was.

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You know from the start of the story, Daniel was missing and presumed dead. Everyone believed this except his fiancée, Joanna, *and Annie*. His fledgling business was in turmoil. Annie had come to the conclusion that a marriage of convenience would offer the necessary security the company needed until they could determine what happened to her brother. Oliver accepted her proposal except he had his own reasons.

Married: what a charming verb!

Oliver and Annie became husband and wife: he would keep Daniel's business afloat and she would...oh....continue to sell odd pieces of eclectic whatchamacallits, torment Oliver with her brand of common sense, make friends with his family, schmooze with Bolt and so on and so on. And so on.

With some very intense sex and a minor mystery who-done-it, this story was a fun read. Annie's advice, timing, and jolts of humor, drove Oliver crazy. Yet he kept coming back for more. The storyline was a little dated and a few women readers might want to scream at Oliver for his over-the-top need to control everything but just ignore those typical 1990s quibbles. They come with the territory. Without those *issues*, the plot would have fallen apart.

My biggest complaint was how the author handled the last two chapters. I didn't understand why Ms. Krentz had Oliver and Annie take two steps back before earning their HEA. And I should not have liked this romance but I did. :D

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### **Never Never Psyche says**

why do i have the feeling that this was EL James's inspiration for her over-hyped trilogy?!?!.<  
oh right, because i wanted to slap annie the way I wanted to slap James's anna! T\_T

nah!

seriously, the hero & heroine in this book feels like the original grey and anna (respectively)  
mysterious but weird, eye-candy billionaire with paranoia and stalker-tendency... ring a bell anyone?! urrgh.  
next!

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### **Jane Stewart says**

3 1/2 stars. A bit too syrupy - but ok if you're in the mood for that kind of escape.

The heroine Annie was too much of a Mary Sue for me - too perfect. From the beginning she tells wealthy man Oliver how he needs to improve his communication skills. She treats him the way a mother would. She insists that he keep her involved in everything even though she is out of her league in his high tech business world. Annie owns a shop selling artsy and decorative things for the home.

The plot about Annie's missing brother and some questionable things going on in his company was pretty good.

Oliver's father took all the family's money and left debts when Oliver was in college. Oliver wanted to be a botanist, but he left school and became a wealthy businessman, paying off his father's debts and raising his siblings. Oliver has a reputation for being ruthless and dangerous. Annie is the sweetness who brings love to his life.

This story is what you'd expect from a 1992 Harlequin novel.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 376 pages. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words but rarely used. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: two brief scenes plus one referred to. Setting: around 1992 Seattle, Washington. Copyright: 1992. Genre: contemporary romance with suspense.

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### **Teri-K says**

This book is so much like Perfect Partners it's easy to confuse the two, but that one's better. Our heroine, Annie, owns a quirky decorating store and her brother, head of a rising electronics firm, has disappeared while flying over the ocean. She and the brother's fiancé believe he's still alive but everyone else assumes he's dead and the company is in trouble. Annie's solution is to get Oliver Rain to marry her so everyone will think he's taking over the company and keep it afloat until her brother returns.

This book doesn't work as well for me as others from this period in Krentz's writing for several reasons. For one thing, we never see why Oliver wants Annie so much. There's no believable passion between them. What makes her stand out among all the other women he's known? The author forgot to tell us. Their relationship has none of the funny dialogue or give-and-take that it needs for this book to work, either. Basically Oliver is a jerk and Annie says, "He's not really" and talks him into being nice. Over and over. For me the best of these books have a light-heartedness, either from those teasing speeches or from the minor characters, that is totally lacking here. 2.5 stars

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