



Crash and Burn

Allison Brennan , Laura Griffin

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New York Times bestselling and award winning authors Allison Brennan and Laura Griffin team up for this exciting new series featuring the unforgettable Southern California detective duo, Moreno & Hart.

Trial by Fire ...

Three years ago LAPD Detective Scarlet Moreno and rookie cop Krista Hart were nearly killed during a botched sting operation. Now, they're best friends and partners in the Orange County private investigation firm of Moreno & Hart. But their routine assignments are anything but safe ...

Crash ...

Scarlet Moreno has her hands full with a cheating spouse case when the bartender at her favorite pub becomes a murder suspect. Worse, the detective in charge of the investigation threatens to arrest Scarlet for obstruction—even when she tries to give him valuable information. Scarlet risks her PI license and her life to find out the truth, absolve her friend, and track down a killer—with or without the help of the arrogant, mysterious Detective Alex Bishop.

And Burn ...

Krista Hart is burned out on catching deadbeat dads and philandering husbands when a big-time criminal defense attorney hires her for a choice assignment: find the sole witness to murder the day before the trial. The case could be a boon for Moreno & Hart, but the witness is in hiding, someone is following Krista, and her own client is withholding information. The last person she wants help from is sexy investigator R.J. Flynn, but he claims he's willing to share intel—for a price. If she can solve this case, it'll elevate Moreno & Hart above being divorce voyeurs, but first she has to survive, with her life and heart intact.

Crash and Burn Details

Date : Published September 2nd 2013 by Socal Press, LLC

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Author : Allison Brennan , Laura Griffin

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Mystery, Suspense

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From Reader Review Crash and Burn for online ebook

Lauren says

Crash & Burn

4 Stars (3.5 for "Crash" and 4 for "Burn")

Three years ago, LAPD Detective Scarlet Moreno and Officer Krista Hart were almost killed in a sting operation that went wrong. Now partners in a private investigation firm, Moreno & Hart find themselves in two very different, but just as deadly situations. Scarlet investigates the murders of several college students while Hart is hired to locate a missing witness.

This is the first writing collaboration between romantic suspense authors, Allison Brennan and Laura Griffin. While the stories are linked by setting and characters, they can also be read as separate novellas.

As short stories are not really my cup of tea, my expectations for this book were not all that high. Nevertheless, I was pleasantly surprised by the solid characterization and entertaining suspense plots although Griffin's contribution, **Burn**, has a slight edge on Brennan's **Crash** for a couple of reasons.

First, **Crash** is comprised of two unrelated subplots and there is simply too much going on all at once. In contrast, the story in **Burn** is more cohesive and intense, which results in a more gripping reading.

Second, the romantic element in both installments have similar love-hate relationships, but Krista and rival PI, RJ Flynn, have better chemistry than Scarlet and detective Alex Bishop.

All in all, the premise is compelling, the characters are well-developed within the format and the mysteries are interesting. I look forward to seeing what is up next for Moreno & Hart.

Elvan says

3.5 stars

Not bad. Of the two ex-cops turned PI's, Scarlet Moreno is the better drawn character and story but the Krista Hart tale was fast paced and kept the reader on edge with the deadlines Hart was working under. Novella length stories are not my favourites and I had hoped that the two authors would write one story with the two characters.

Enjoyable enough that I will read the next installment of Moreno and Hart.

Saly says

Rating 3.25 stars

Two small novella's written by two different authors slated to be a series and my impression was mostly positive.

Crash by Allison Brennan was about Scarlet who doesn't like being a PI and is trying to find out who tried to

set her up to die three years ago. We are introduced to someone that could be a possible love interest.

Burn is by Laura Griffin and about Krista, Scarlet's partner. I liked Krista a bit more, she was a bit more open I guess. Here too we are introduced to RJ, a possible love interest.

Overall I am curious to see what the other books will bring because the short novellas were good enough to get my interest up.

Kathy Altman says

How thrilling is this, a collaboration between USA Today bestselling romantic suspense authors Allison Brennan and Laura Griffin?! Folks, whoever brought these two together is a genius. Wait, it was all their own doing? Well, then, I rest my case! The premise for their partnership is fun, fresh and intriguing, the sky-high quality of *Crash and Burn* proof positive that the award-winning suspense Griffin and Brennan write separately is in full-force attendance when they write as a team.

And speaking of successful partnerships...Scarlet Moreno and Krista Hart are best friends and a dynamic PI duo, united in their determination to find out who in the LAPD set them up three years ago. They're also desperate to score the meatier, more lucrative assignments that will help them move up the investigative food chain. We meet Scarlet in the novella *Crash*, and learn Brennan's heroine is a gutsy, snarky, streetwise loner who lives above a bar and is all about the job. Detective Alex Bishop is a perfect romantic foil—he's as lonely and wary as she is, slow to trust and with too much to prove. The story is tightly plotted and rife with tension as Scarlet takes on one dangerous situation after another—and even Alex is impressed when she takes *him* on. I look forward to the time when their interactions aren't all about the job.

But she liked him.

“Bishop?” She turned around and smiled.

“Yeah?”

“I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.”

He put his beer down. “I was kind of hoping it was the beginning of something more.”

Me, too, Alex. Me, too.

As compact as *Crash* is, Brennan makes room for more than mystery. She gives us grit and romance, of course, but also darkly complex characters, some entertaining symbolism (e.g. Alex climbs Scarlet's balcony) and an addictive humor.

Scarlet had to do something. Had Chase seen her at Valerie’s yesterday? She couldn’t be sure. She stepped back into the storeroom and grabbed Diego’s Dodgers cap. Nearly killed her to put it on, but sacrifices had to be made.

Griffin introduces her half of the PI partnership in *Burn*. Krista Hart is as tough as Scarlet, but in a less in-your-face way. She's equally driven, maybe not so confident, loves animals and indulges in the occasional chocolate shake and taco combo for breakfast. Great detail, right? Griffin excels at characterization.

He was one of those men who was always looking around in case someone more important happened to come along.

She's also a dab hand at crafting a mystery and building tension, as well as setting a vivid scene:

So the crappy motel baffled her. The Palm sat on a wedge-shaped patch of asphalt just off the Santa Ana Freeway, under a permanent cloud of road dust and hydrocarbons. Flanked by a used furniture store and sex shop, the place was a touch on the sleazy side—and not in a good way.

And here's another evocative line:

It was one of those white-hot days where the air didn't move and everything looked bleached by the sun.

Top-of-the-PI-pyramid R.J Flynn makes for a perfect nemesis/romantic interest. He's cocky one moment and concerned the next, and switches from devious to sweet in less time than it takes Krista to roll her eyes. He's also smart, tough, ripped and oh-so-sexy and Krista is beside herself with desire. But like Scarlet, she finds it easier to push than to pull.

Crash and Burn is a kick-butt kickoff for Griffin and Brennan's Moreno & Hart Mysteries series. Whatever adventure Griffin and Brennan have planned next for this investigative pair, it's sure to pack a lot of attitude—and all kinds of heat.

Look for more of what these ladies do best in Brennan's *Cold Snap* (book seven in the Lucy Kincaid series) due out October 29th, and in Griffin's *Far Gone*, available in April of 2014.

Alima Livzletlivz says

Allison Brennan and Laura Griffin are two writers to reckon. Their books of suspense and thrill are as adrenaline flowing as going on a roller coaster ride. I fell in love with Laura's books with my first read of her "Glass Sister series" (Thread Of Fear and Whisper Of Fear), what fantabulous books those were, and I visited that series innumerable times. And if I don't mention her "Tracers Series", I'm not doing justice to Griffin's exhilarating creations. With her "Predator Thriller Series" (The Prey, The Hunt and The Kill), Allison Brennan mesmerized me with her writing and narration. Even as I am catching up with Lucy Kincaid and her adventures, Brennan is already into her next series, "Max Revere Novels Series".

Alone, both Laura and Griffin stand mighty strong and if these two forces join their brains to come up with a new storyline, that is some kickass reading for us readers. Brennan and Griffin's new series, "Moreno and Hart Series", is not to be missed and they made me mad, angry, sad, happy and sometimes utterly helpless!

The Moreno and Hart Series brings together Scarlett Moreno and Krista Hart, ex-cops as partners owning their own private investigation agency. Each book is a narration of two separate stories written by Laura and Allison, but they intertwine with each other during the course of their investigation to become a single gripping book you don't want to put down. Scarlet and Krista are two amazing fearless women, wanting to do the right thing, stand by the right thing and help the innocent, with integrity and passion.

Crash and Burn is the first in the series and it totally rocked. It took me back to some old fashioned simple reading, with contemporary investigative techniques. It took me back to those days of soft reading of Agatha Christy and Nancy Drew but with all the spicy ingredients of suspense, mystery, danger and death with nefarious evil existing in the current world. With subtle romance adding that extra zing to the series, Moreno and Hart have so much to discover about themselves as well as put a closure to a past that refuses to go away.

Sinful, engaging, exciting and sweet, is The Moreno And Hart Series.

<http://alimalivzletlivz.wordpress.com/>

Lisa Filipe says

Already addicted....I need me more Moreno and Hart!!

As most of you know, I am a HUGE Laura Griffin Fan, her Tracers Series is one of the best Romance Suspense Series out there, but I am new to Allison Brennan, and after reading CRASH AND BURN, I know I will be going back to grab a few of her other releases.

This book was so much fun! The Two In One Story-line, was awesome, since we got to see both heroines in each, but each starred in her own story. These are two BAD-ASS ladies and I loved every minute of it. They aren't afraid to stick their noses where they aren't welcome, and they aren't afraid to kick some serious ass when needed.

Yes, there is a Building Romance for each Moreno and Hart, and I am dying to see where the next storyline will take these ladies...Hopefully into the arms (beds) of Alex and R.J.....cause I HAVE NOT had enough of that!!

These are quick, fast-paced reads and you will become so addicted, you will look down and see that you have finished when you felt like you just started. Laura and Allison pull out all the stops with CRASH AND BURN, from Murder, to Infidelity, to CRAZY Stalker Ex-Girlfriends and More....Be prepared to take a RIDE and you might want to hold on tight!

Definitely a Must-Read for my RS ladies, and Fans of Laura Griffin will NOT be disappointed.

Happy Reading and Enjoy!!

Sheila says

Two different stories that this private eye team are involved with.

Cynthiaj says

A nice two in one for the drive to/from work. Crash was a bit better than Burn I thought, but I would be willing to try #2 in the series.

Suspense Magazine says

Two gripping stories told by a pair of amazing talents merge into one fantastic book with “Crash and Burn” by Allison Brennan and Laura Griffin. Familiar with Brennan’s smooth and flowing style, but initially less sure of Griffin’s voice, the writing by this duo was magical.

Scarlet Moreno—a hardened, former LAPD detective and now co-owner of the investigative firm of Moreno & Hart—has baggage. At death’s door, three years prior, Moreno found herself in a warehouse with multiple gunshot wounds, waiting for a killer to finish her off and knowing that this had been a set-up. Had it not been for a spunky, wet-behind-the-ears, rookie cop named Krista Hart, Moreno would have died. Now they’re partners and their bread-and-butter is hunting down errant spouses. Not what they’d planned.

When Moreno—who lives above a Newport Beach bar—steps in to break up a fight between the ex-con bartender and a delinquent college kid, she believes that she’s done her duty for bar owner, Diego Hernandez. It’s already been a trying day, so when a shot rings out after two a.m., that old saying “nothing good ever happens after midnight,” is only too true. Moreno, still a cop at heart, rolls out of bed, grabs her gun, and falls smack dab into a murder investigation. An investigation where newly hired, by the book detective, Alex Bishop doesn’t want her treading.

Determined to broaden the Moreno & Hart client base, Krista Hart jumps at the chance to put a bit of extra cash in their coffers and takes a nearly impossible assignment from a top defense attorney. She has twenty-four hours to beat her competition—smug investigator R.J. Flynn—to the prize of locating a missing witness and cash in. Piece of cake, right? Wrong. Hart soon discovers that this case is layered like an onion and smells just as bad.

Impossible to put down, the realistically flawed characters and sparks aplenty remind me exactly why I love this genre.

Reviewed by Shannon Raab for Suspense Magazine

Anita says

Actual Rating: 2.75 Stars

Crash and Burn is a book about two ex-police turned private investigators, Scarlet Moreno and Krista Hart. The backstory from the **prologue** gives us the events of three years ago when Scarlet is almost killed on a mission--somehow, she surmised that someone had set her up for dead, and in the meantime, there was no back up to come bail her out. Rookie cop Krista is the only other officer willing to jump into the chaos to save Scarlet.

Gunfire ensues and we skip ahead to three years into the present when Scarlet and Krista have both left the LAPD to become private investigators in Newport. The events of three years prior had bonded the two women, turning them from a senior and rookie cop partnership into best friends, practically like sisters. At the present moment in this book, the two are struggling to make ends meet by taking every divorce and marital battle case they can get their hands on just to build a client base.

The book is formatted like an anthology, based around these two main characters where *Crash* is Scarlet Moreno's story, written by Allison Brennan, and *Burn* is Krista Hart's story, written by Laura Griffin.

To be totally honest, I picked up this book mainly because I'm a fan of Laura Griffin's *Tracers* series. I have read something by Allison Brennan before, but couldn't really get into it, and was hoping that this second chance would fare better, especially with only half the book to get through before getting to Laura Griffin's part.

Crash

by Allison Brennan

This first part of the book is very abrupt and bite-sized, but still manages to run two story tangents within this little bit.

The Story:

Scarlet chances upon a traffic accident, which ends up landing her in the middle of some domestic dispute involving two rich young adolescents, one of whom might be a bit mentally unstable. They both contact her to help them with something to do with the other, and Scarlet questions why and how she got herself into this situation when things start getting out of control--apparently between these two clients, there is stalking, death threats, and some crazy-crazy involved.

Meanwhile, she also manages to insert herself into a murder investigation involving a group of college kids. The chaos begins after an attempted date rape drugging is thwarted by Scarlet's friend, Isaac, who is the bartender of Diego's, a local bar--Scarlet lives in the little hovel over the establishment.

That night after the little college group leaves, a gunshot is fired, waking Scarlet, and she soon finds one young man dead, one critically injured, and one of the girls who'd been at the bar earlier disoriented, drugged, and a possible rape victim. The incident soon escalates when another girl is found in critical condition, dropped off at a hospital, with an overdose of the new designer date rape drug in her system--her boyfriend is dead in his own home with a knife in his back, and the other college kids who'd been at Diego's in the same group are missing.

The case is being investigated by Alex Bishop, a new detective in Newport, who seems to have gotten the wrong impression of Scarlet, either based on hearsay or something, because he is hostile towards her the moment they meet.

My Thoughts:

Again, this particular portion of *Crash and Burn* was quite short and abrupt. While the investigation was done decently, the ending felt kind of like it was quite sudden. I'm not really complaining, since with only a little less than two hundred pages to present Scarlet's part of the story, it was actually quite detailed and well-written.

In fact, I'm kind of surprised that Brennan was able to include two separate story lines in this bite-sized piece, and am kind of impressed that both had quite well-rounded conclusions following a well-outlined story.

The only complaint I have is that I would have liked to see more of the story on Bishop's side of things, and that this first part of the book could have been a little bit longer. Instead, it felt incomplete and unsatisfying, even with the well-rounded ending of both cases. We get little chance to get to know all the major players in this story, especially Detective Bishop, even though we are told quite a bit of backstory about Scarlet.

For instance, I would have liked to know why Bishop was so hostile towards Scarlet in the beginning. What did he know about her that had him calling her a "disgraced cop" without preamble? His antagonism against her is much more extreme than even I would have expected towards a private investigator, even knowing that, as a rule, law enforcement officers typically don't care for P.I.s. And then what changes his mind later on? And why did he bring up Scarlet's brother? I didn't see what that had to do with anything.

There are a lot of unanswered questions.

And on top of that, the romance kind of happened as a snap action--one moment Bishop is still glaring at Scarlet, the next moment he's kissing her? Is this just part of the story because we expect romance? Because it felt out of place.

There was just so much more that could have been covered had this been a full length novel instead, really.

But it was still quite enjoyable nonetheless, and I'm reconsidering my impression of Brennan's work.

***Crash* receives a fairly meh 3.5 Stars.** But only because I can feel that it has a lot of potential to lead into a good story.

Burn

by Laura Griffin

Burn was... forgettable. Truth be told, I'm a little disappointed.

The Story:

Amidst working a marital cheating case wherein the husband confronts her with homicidal tendencies, Krista Hard finds herself drawn into a missing persons case where said missing person's life may be in jeopardy.

An infamous criminal defense attorney offers her a job to locate one of his witnesses who has dropped off the face of the planet--the trial is coming up soon and he needs this girl to testify. But as Krista investigates

the disappearance of Lily Daniels, she soon realizes that there is something more going on with Lily.

Meanwhile, Krista also learns that she wasn't the only private investigator hired to locate Lily Daniels. It's a dog-eat-dog world in a career as a P.I., and Krista is again reminded of just *how* hard things can get when people like defense attorney Drake Walker and rival P.I. R.J. Flynn do what they can to keep her out of the game.

My Thoughts:

There was a lot of potential to this short section of *Crash and Burn* if only because it's an exciting premise, and because it's written by Laura Griffin and I'm a big fan. As is with most Laura Griffin books, *Burn* doesn't hold back anything, jumping straight into the action. We even get private investigator politics, crossed with pissing contests, and gender inequality issues.

So much could have been covered just with those little factors and side tangents.

But unfortunately, the execution of the rest of the story kind of felt monotonous and unoriginal. *Burn* gave me a sense of "been there, done that," and I can't help but to think that it could have been developed a bit better if it had been a full-length novel, just like *Crash*. Instead, we get a bite-sized teaser of what might be forthcoming in the rest of the series as the authors try their best to introduce these two wonderfully crafted main characters.

Nonetheless, this novella-sized half of a book was written well.

The romance between R.J. and Krista had all the makings of a potentially likable "Bickering Couple Romance," between their rivalry. But there were moments when R.J. went a little overboard on the teasing and the butting in--he reminds me of an elementary school boy who likes the tough girl on the playground, but shows his affection by pulling her pig tails and throwing staples in her hair, unapologetically. Or taking her glue and crayons and refusing to return them, only to use them for his own means. Or taking her project ideas and claiming them for his own.

Really, he's just that popular and cool asshole in school whom all the girls tend to fall for anyway.

And Krista is the tough girl who rises to the teasing, which just makes the boy want to tease her some more.

In a way, it could have been a cute romance until the ending came around and did something that I found a little bit distasteful. In fact, I plain did not like the way R.J. decided to resolve their romantic conflict, as well as the issue concerning Krista's involvement in the missing witness case. It pissed me off, and days later, it still pisses me off.

This book would have been a higher rating if not for that ending.

Meanwhile, the rest of the story was kind of exciting, but at the same time, entirely forgettable. I still like that Krista is shown as capable and good investigator, if a little hot-headed and reckless. I don't like that there were still so many loose ends, and that, like the first story by Allison Brennan, Griffin tries to cram too much material into the short, novella-length story.

For instance: How does the little cheating husband with homicidal tendencies side-tangent resolve itself? Did I miss it somehow? It's a small tangent and I kind of forgot about it for a while, but it's still there and feels like a very big loose end.

Burn receives an even more 'meh' 2.5 Stars. To be honest, I might have expected too much and felt the sting of disappointment when things didn't turn out the way I wanted it to turn out. That's probably my fault.

Overall Thoughts

One of the things I DID appreciate about *Crash and Burn* was how realistic it was in portraying the life of a private investigator. Not that I know what the life of a private investigator entails. Granted, it was still chalk full of excitement, but our authors DO take pains to emphasize how not-so-glamorous being a P.I. really is. Moreno & Hart have spent the past two years since leaving the police force trying to build a client base and a reputation, but even as they've managed to sustain a living with their agency, they admit that the majority of their cases involve jilted spouses, divorce cases, and the like. The majority of their time is spent waiting for a cheating husband or wife to slip up so that they can take that money-making photo to show their clients.

There's a lot of waiting involved for these two women: waiting for a picture to be taken, waiting for their target to do what they need to do, waiting for a client to hire them...

And then there are more private investigators out there just waiting to pick up that first exciting case that attorneys would be willing to hand them.

While I don't like how things end up for Krista in *Burn*--where she does almost all the work, but gets no credit for it; where she just knows that she's going to get screwed over on her pay by a hotshot client she's not willing to antagonize--it's something that DOES happen in real life, whether you're a private investigator or not.

I'm hoping we'll see more action and less bite-sized snippets in the next few installments of *Moreno & Hart*. While this book was pretty enjoyable, neither of the two stories included in it felt like it was fully complete. These were teasers at best, and I'm hoping we'll get better with the next book.

2016 Reading Challenges:

- Goodreads Reading Challenge
- BookLikes Reading Challenge
- Reading Assignment Challenge
- Mount TBR Challenge
- COYER Summer Vacation 2016

Chris says

THIS SUMMARY/REVIEW WAS COPIED FROM OTHER SOURCES AND IS USED ONLY AS A REMINDER OF WHAT THE BOOK WAS ABOUT FOR MY PERSONAL INTEREST. ANY PERSONAL NOTATIONS ARE FOR MY RECOLLECTION ONLY

I enjoyed the plot of the first story better story #1 4, #2 3

Authors Allison Brennan and Laura Griffin teamed up to write these mysteries about Scarlet Moreno and Krista Hart. The book is divided into two parts, one tells the story of Scarlet and the other is about Krista.

Both left the LAPD after a sting operation went awry and have formed their own private investigation business, Moreno and Hart. Crash is the story of Scarlet who finds herself in the middle of a murder investigation after she helps the bartender kick some college kids out who have spiked the drink of their two female friends. Scarlet also gets entangled with a woman who is stalking her ex boyfriend and now is accusing Scarlet of being the one who drove them apart. Detective Alex Bishop is assigned to the murders and soon sparks begin to fly between the two of them

In Burn, Krista Hart gets an offer from an defense attorney to find a witness. She is wary of his offer since he usually hires Investigator RJ Flynn. However, the struggling business needs clients so she takes the assignment and soon finds herself in the middle of a murder investigation. RJ wants to work with her but she doesn't trust him though her body says yes we should work together.

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When Moreno—who lives above a Newport Beach bar—steps in to break up a fight between the ex-con bartender and a delinquent college kid, she believes that she's done her duty for bar owner, Diego Hernandez. It's already been a trying day, so when a shot rings out after two a.m., that old saying "nothing good ever happens after midnight," is only too true. Moreno, still a cop at heart, rolls out of bed, grabs her gun, and falls smack dab into a murder investigation. An investigation where newly hired, by the book detective, Alex Bishop doesn't want her treading.

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Impossible to put down, the realistically flawed characters and sparks aplenty remind me exactly why I love this genre.

but this involves Moreno's 2 cases...one a drug rape with murder and another with an obsessed former lover fixated on the man who dumped her.....Hart's case is locating a witness to a murder and she stumbles into finding out the murderer is a dirty cop..

Cris says

[Review originally posted at (<http://ramblingsfromthischick.blogspot.com>...)]

When I heard that two of my favourite romantic suspense authors were teaming up to co-write a new suspense/mystery series, I jumped at the chance to read CRASH AND BURN, the novel that kicks off the Moreno & Hart series. I love Allison's dark and twisted romantic thrillers and think that Laura's Tracers series is some of the best straight-up romantic suspense around, so I was intrigued to see how these two fantastic authors would combine their two very different writing and storytelling styles into a cogent whole. The result is two great (but short) stories featuring two kickass characters that reads like the pilot for a new high-octane television series and sets the stage for what is sure to be a very successful collaboration.

CRASH AND BURN is an unusual collaboration in that it's actually two separate-but-connected stories written by each of the two authors and each told from the point of view of one of the two protagonists, Scarlet Moreno and Krista Hart. Scarlet and Krista are former LAPD officers who were set up and nearly killed during a sting operation three years ago and now run Moreno & Hart Investigations in Orange County. Each story follows one of the investigators on a case and is heavy on the action and suspense but lighter on the romance as we are introduced to Scarlet and Krista and their romantic interests.

CRASH is very much an Allison Brennan novel, darker and with a heftier dose of murder and violence to match the older, broodier Scarlet, who's truly still a cop at heart but enjoys the freedom being a PI gives her to investigate who betrayed Krista and her three years ago. Scarlet is working a cheating spouse case when she finds herself inadvertently in the middle of a hilarious-but-sad crazy stalker ex-girlfriend case and butting heads with new, sexy Newport Beach detective Alex Bishop in a double homicide where her favourite bartender becomes a suspect. [Note: sexual assault plays an important role in the story]. It boasts Allison's trademark pitch-perfect pacing and approachable writing style, and the great dialogue makes both Scarlet and uptight Detective Bishop thoroughly likeable characters—even in a short(ish) story. I wish there had been more time for the romance to feature more prominently, but that will hopefully come in subsequent books! Scarlet absolutely kicks ass, and I want to be her when I grow up. Krista too.

BURN is a great example of why Laura Griffin won the 2013 romantic suspense RITA—though, again, lighter on the romance than usual. It's beautifully written, with a great balance of humour and gripping suspense that perfectly showcases Krista's sunnier personality and dogged determination to elevate Moreno & Hart to the top. After chasing down deadbeat dads and philandering husbands for most of the three years Moreno & Hart has been operating, Krista is hired by the biggest criminal defence attorney in Orange County to track down and deliver a missing witness. But things are not what they seem, the client is an absolute wanker, and Krista is forced to cross paths (and reluctantly work with) sexy-but-irritating-as-hell rival investigator R.J. Flynn. Though the length of the story and the focus on the suspense means there isn't much in the way of romance, the attraction (reluctant on Krista's part and blatant on R.J.'s) between the two of them is evident and their banter has me really looking forward to them finally getting together!

If you like your suspense primarily plot-driven (but with some really great characters) and/or are a fan of Allison Brennan or Laura Griffin, CRASH AND BURN will not disappoint. If you have never read anything by Allison or Laura, it's a great way to get acquainted with their voices before delving into their very extensive backlists. I'm already looking forward to the next Moreno & Hart book and intrigued to see if they will keep to the current format of two connected short(ish) stories with Allison writing Scarlet and Laura writing Krista.

Keri says

Nice start to a new series with a different kind of format. AB writes one character story and LG writes the other, but they are tied together through the PI agency. Wish we would have known what Krista's answer to RJ was though. Can't wait for the next book in the series.

Misti says

I've been eyeing this one for a while now and finally bit. It was ok. The BURN story was better than CRASH. I did like Scarlett and Krista but Alex was almost non-existent and RJ was an ass. I'm not invested enough to read the next book. Unless it's free. Maybe.

Judy Fischer says

Love Moreno & Hart

Have read two Moreno and Hart stories and can't wait for the next one! Alex and RJ complement the girls well.
