



Crazy Wild

Tara Janzen

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It's a long way from the jungles of Colombia to a Colorado library, where Special Forces operative Creed Rivera is staking out one of the world's most dangerous women. With her prim librarian looks, Cordelia "Cody" Stark doesn't look like a nuclear arms broker. But nabbing her is Creed's latest mission—until a trio of thugs shows up and he's suddenly forced to play hero....

Armed with secrets that could ignite a global inferno, Cody was already running out of places to hide. And now a hotshot government agent has blown her cover by throwing himself between her and certain death. Trusting the hero who just saved her life is not an option. Resisting him is something else entirely. And when bullets start to fly, a man and a woman running out of time are gearing up for the wildest adventure of their lives....

Crazy Wild Details

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From Reader Review Crazy Wild for online ebook

Erin says

Meh. Almost DNF'ed this one right away, due to extreme info-dumping, to which I say: read some Marjorie Liu, see how it's done. Exposition is not your friend and must be handled carefully.

After the first few bumps I found it readable, fun but with a huge red flag. SPOILER ALERT.

Cody is raped before the book takes place. She doesn't consider it rape since she didn't explicitly say no, but I'm going to assume I don't have to explain why it really is rape when a man who just brutally murdered your friend and holds your life in his hands coerces you into sex. Let's just...assume that. So Cody feels very ashamed about what happened. This is not what I have a problem with. What I have a problem with is the way Creed reacts to this news. He sees that she feels ashamed, and instead of telling her it wasn't her fault and she really was raped, he makes her an honorary Catholic and tells her that since she didn't explicitly consent, it isn't a mortal sin and she can work it off. A-what now? I don't even think Creed believes that Cody has a "sin" to work off, I think he thinks that what she needs to hear is that she can be redeemed. I just....what the fuck. And Cody feels way better about the whole situation after that.

END SPOILER ALERT.

That's a lot of thinking and writing about a book I didn't really like, and I actually have more to say about it that I won't get into. This particular plot point is handled in a very fucked up way that I didn't appreciate, and I honestly think Janzen could have done it better. I think she's a better writer than that.

Jessica says

Creed has just returned from a mission in South America. This mission was very personal, and not easy to recoup from. He's become the SDF's jungle boy, almost a wild card, but they also know he's ready for his next assignment. Enter Blond Bimbo with a Bomb. She has a bomb for sale, and she has a lot of potential buyers. Creed's job is to locate her before they do, and protect her until he can hand her and the location of the bomb off to the right branch of the US government. Unfortunately, handing her off will be a little difficult for him, after that kiss on the snowy rooftop. With a little help from Skeeter and Hart, Creed will keep Cody Stark alive and out of the hands of the Germans, Russians, Taliban, and whoever else she is running away from. For a little longer at least. And with no help from anyone, Creed will do a lot more to the Bombshell wearing the Days-of-the-Week undies.

A fun and quick read. I'm enjoying reading about the Steele Street gang, and how they make up a happy little family (or something like that). Again, this story opens up another story line, for a future book, I assume. This one had more life-or-death action, less sweaty-between-the-sheets action...

Quinn says

I'm loving Tara Janzen's *Steele Street* series! *Crazy Wild* is another winner, although there are some changes from the first two books in the series. This one spends more time on the suspense than the relationship, and doesn't have the heat of *Crazy Hot* or *Crazy Cool*, but it was still a lot of fun.

All the books so far only cover a short period of time (a day or so), so there is always plenty happening and it's easy to get caught up in the ride and carried away with the adventure. These are fast-paced books – there are thrills aplenty and never a dull moment – just the way I like it!

In this one, the action and suspense is centred around a missing nuclear warhead and the various factions vying to buy it. Naturally the Special Defence Force (SDF) is called in to do what they do best – beat the odds, do the impossible, and save the day. And this team of ex-juvenile delinquents are always up to the task, even if they don't always play well with others.

Creed is our agent on the job, and is charged with capturing the dangerous nuclear arms broker, linked to the Russian Mafia, before the other terrorist groups get there first. Being attracted to the world's most dangerous woman is the last thing Creed expects, and his loyalty is pushed to the limit as he discovers he is willing to risk his future for Cody's freedom.

In this book, we learn the agonising details of Creed's ordeal in South America that left his best friend and fellow agent J.T. dead, and see him get his vengeance before starting on this mission. This is definitely a guy with a lot of damage and it's understandable that everyone thinks he's coming undone – including himself. Creed definitely fits the bill of a tortured hero, but there was also more to him than just that experience.

I've liked every hero that the author has written so far, and Creed is no exception. She sure knows how to write them! The harder sell in this one is that unlike the previous two books, Creed and Cody don't have a history, so their relationship has to fully develop in a believable way very quickly. I was happy to go with it, just like I'm happy to go long with anything this author dishes up, and I walked away satisfied with the romance element.

As always, she also delivered a delicious secondary romance (or at least the beginnings of one) that leaves you wanting more, more, MORE! It's nice to have something to look forward to, and I can't wait to get my hands on the next book. If you haven't tried this series, I highly recommend it.

Kelsey says

I think Creed is a bit less developed than some of the other heroes, which is a bummer because he has a great premise.

PepperP0t says

Though the last two rebels responsible for JT's death have to be put down quickly by boys since they're needed home from their personal mission, avenging JT, to find out the particulars on a Russian nuclear arms deal in America's heartland. Creed gets the hot hand and the hot babe with more feathers on her tail than a peacock, including CIA agents envious of Grant's team.

Party girl Cody Stark's broken heart leads her to look for dear old dad, in Russia where she falls in with the bad crowd. That crowd introduces her to danger that gets worse when she witnesses a murder, her father unwittingly entrusts her with clues to secrets that have kept him alive then trades her to mobsters to save his own life. When the mobsters find out what she has it's off to Denver for safety.

Finding the girl was easy so was falling hard for her but keeping her safe from the Iranians, Germans and Russians was proving to be a challenge... even for Creed. Meanwhile, Dylan's kept his distance to Skeeter's charms but his armor is pierced through the heart when she's determined to do her part in helping ease the hole in Steele Street left by JT.

Another good outing in this fun series, it's full of action, adventure, romance drama and a tad of mystery. Delving deeper into Steele Street, I want to live there with the hot cars, hot guys, danger and fun on every case.

Rating: 4 stars

Dee says

Two-haiku review:

Crushed by partner's death
He seeks woman selling nuke
But is she really?

Even more action
I'm loving this series lots
Best read in order

Mrs. Badass says

[Skeeter and Dylan. (hide spoiler)]

Katherine says

What a fun, crazy ride! I borrowed this from a friend because it's one of her favorite thrift store books, and now I might have to go find the rest of the series. The action is fast-paced, constant and kept me on the edge of my seat. I flew through this book because it kept my attention so well. It's obvious that this book is in the middle of an ongoing series, but the author does a great job of mentioning old histories to keep the reader up to date. I didn't really feel out of the loop because the main histories are repeated quite a few times- maybe a few too many times. However, it's quite apparent that there is a lot going on, and the government parts had me a bit confused.

I really want to see Skeeter's backstory. She is one badass lady and I adored her so much. Creed, our main hero of this story, is a crazy guy but he really endeared himself to me as the story went on. His romance with Cody was done really well- I often get annoyed by the attempt to force a romance into a book that is mostly

action because it never feels real or necessary, but the slow progression of their trust and the natural steeliness felt right. Creed's ptsd is also handled really well. There is so much backstory to this whole organization, and I'm not sure I want to know all of it (things get pretty graphic from what we're told in this book), but I'm interested enough that I might give the rest of the series a try. There's no denying how fun this book was to read- only took me a partial day, and my boyfriend kept teasing that I couldn't put it down long enough to eat. Also, I'm just gonna say that I would LOVE to live in Creed's loft. Totally my aesthetic, hands down.

Alex (HEABookNerd) says

DNF (2008)

Crista says

I am beginning to think that anything with Tara Janzen's name on it is a slam dunk! I've already read and raved about the first two books in this series and now I'm getting ready to rave about this one...well, here goes!

This is a wild and suspenseful ride that involves the plot of a hidden nuclear warhead, terrorists that want it, and a pretty lady who has the map! Cody is quite the lady...she is crafty, quirky, and has the tendency towards running, escape, and disguise! Creed is the stuff that dreams are made of..he's sexy yet human, strong yet sensitive, dangerous yet safe, and a loner yet loyal. The romance develops quickly as they are on the run for most of the book.

Another bonus of reading book by this author is that she tends to involve secondary couples who are even more interesting than the main couple. Kid and Nikki were the focus of the first 2 and now it's Skeeter and Dylan's turn. Both get their own story in the future...hurray!

One last thing...The Headquarters on Steele Street is absolutely fascinating..I don't often get mental images of buildings, but in these stories you can't help it. Creed's floor in the headquaters is basically a jungle growing in the midst of a warehouse. It is also equiped with a pool/waterfall/lagoon, that of course Cody and Creed put to good use. I wish it were real...I'd love to visit! Anyway, do not hesitate to read this or any of the Crazy books..it will be time well spent!

Christine says

And crazy wild it was!! Loved this book and adore this series!

Christa says

I am thoroughly enjoying this series. Crazy Wild was the third book about a group of former car thieves who are agents for a government organization called SDF. This book is about Creed Rivera, who is in a bad state

due to having been captured in Columbia a few months earlier where he watched as his best friend was brutally tortured to death. Creed is back home at agency headquarters in Denver when he is sent to find and bring in a woman, Dominika Starkova, aka Cordelia "Cody" Stark. SDF has been told that Cody is trying to broker a nuclear warhead on the black market. After Creed finds Cody, he quickly decides that there is more to her story, and he is determined to protect her from several terrorist organizations that are after her, as well as some government agencies. Other SDF members who figure prominently in this book are Dylan Hart, head of the agency, and Skeeter Bangs, a protege of some of the agents.

This book was every bit as action packed as the first two. It was very engrossing and was a fast read. I enjoyed the characters of the hero and the heroine in this book, just as I have all of the characters of this series. I liked the chemistry between Creed Rivera and Cody Stark. I didn't think this book was quite as wonderful as the 2nd in the series, mostly due to one event in the book that I didn't like. I am so interested in this series that I am on to the next one, the story of Kid Chronopolous and Nikki McKinney. I definitely recommend reading this series in order.

Karen L Gallagher says

I read this entire series a while ago. I liked the writing style, setting and characters. Fun, fast reads - all of them.

Michelle says

I am really late to the party with Tara Janzen but with the absolute hole in the romantic suspense market I'm so happy I was able to find her now. This *Steele Street* series is full of alpha, sexy former military men working special ops. Creed has survived torture and even though he's alive he has really only half returned back to the land of the living. He's on a new assignment, trying to track down the Blonde with the Bomb but the mousey brunette he's located in the Denver public library looks nothing like the party girl he was expecting. But when baddies start popping up around the library, Creed has to intervene and pull Cody to safety. Cody's been on the run for months now and even though she's terrified of the men after her, this mystery man who's stepped in to save her doesn't look that much safer. But as the night progresses and they find that they only have each other to lean on, trust begins to build and is put to the test. Wonderfully written, lots of great action. It's almost hard to believe that the story happens almost all in one evening. There was some great build up to the next story in the series. So excited to read more!

M.J. Friday says

*****re-readed July 14,2014*****

I recently cleaned out my garage and stumbled across the Steele Street books and decided to give them a re-read, I am so glad I did. I love this series. Creed(the Jungle Boy) & Cody are my favorite. I love the action, the suspense and the romance. This book was very good as the whole series is good. I love how the author gives you little glimpses into other characters and small details about other stories w/o taking the main focus off of the primary story, I love this book! if you are looking for romance ,hot sex, suspense, & action, in a series this is the one for you.

This is my favorite of all the Steele St books, I just loved Creed the "Jungle Boy" and Cody the plain "Jane" in the crazy spy world of SDF. This is a fast paced book, had lots of action a Good plot and hot sex. This is one of my favorite books ever! TJ writes a wonderful story , she does a great job of character development, and writing the story so you get a glimpse of other characters and future books w/o taking away from the main characters. the writing style reminds me of J.R. Ward BDB books 1-5. excellent series.

Beanbag Love says

About 3.75 for the action, as silly as it was. At least it wasn't nearly as messy as the previous installment, with fewer POVs and one straight forward plot. The romance was a little odd, though.

Cody Stark is a wanted woman. Involved with the Russian mafia, labeled a terrorist, she's hiding out in Denver working as a librarian. She's in danger not only from the bad guys, but from the "good" guys as well.

Creed Rivera, fresh off a spree of vengeance against his torturers and the killers of his best friend in South America, is tasked with watching her at the library and bringing her into Steele Street headquarters if possible. It's supposed to be a pretty low-key assignment, all things considered, although none of his colleagues thinks he's stable enough to be working any assignment, especially not one with a nuclear warhead at the end of it.

Can a warrior in PTSD overdrive and an accidental terrorist find love in the middle of a blizzard in Denver, Colorado?

You betcha!

All in one night, too.

That's the problem. It's kind of cool that we can see their chemistry evolve over one incredibly action-filled night, but ultimately it feels unfinished. We go a long time -- the majority of the book -- before Cody fills Creed in on the whole truth of things, and that may have been a sticking point for me. After a while I didn't want that stuff hanging out there, I wanted them to connect on a level beyond physical and there was just too much baggage for me to believe in anything more than sexual attraction.

The secondary romance is pretty interesting, however, and I look forward to seeing more of that.

Yes, I'm continuing this silly series. It's outlandish fun and Janzen is extremely devilish about teasing future couples, so I guess I'm in for a while.

Danny says

I quit! I can not finish this series. There is just something very wrong with the way this books are written; ok, I can look past the useless monologues (I just edit them) but when the long explanations come between the dialogues, which by the way have little connection with the story unfolding, and disrupts the flow of the action, it annoys the hell out of me. I am just very sorry for the story which was very good and the only thing that kept me going till the end.

It is just a personal opinion but I do not like Tara Janzen's writing style.

Jae says

Holy freakin Tarzan, Creed 'the jungle boy' was the wild and brooding one. There was not much of Creed's background from previous books apart from the fact that he was hurt in his missions in Columbia. And he was still emotionally and psychology unbalanced in this book. He had nightmares and felt guilty about J.T's death.

He was so alone and so was Cordelia (Cody) and they overwhelmed each other and they had sex after meeting for the first time 5 hours prior, I got that. But what freaked me out a bit was the UNSAFE hot sex they had. Creed, you don't poke people you just met without a condom on. Maybe you were too anxious and hadn't had any for a very long time, but still it was no excuse for being irresponsible.

I enjoyed the introductions to Skeeter and Dylan's entanglement though. They were cute together. I am heading to Kid's story in book #4 next.

Alex says

Jumping into this one right after having read Crazy Cool I was a little thrown because we hadn't gotten much of Creed, and I was expecting Kid's story. But then here came Jungle Boy Creed out of Colombia battling the demons that are still crawling all over him and I was immediately captivated. As fast as some of these stories go, as two characters go from strangers, to lovers, to forever in the span of one intense night, the series itself makes you believe it all: the trials, heartache of losing one of their brothers, the unimaginable horror of what Creed and JT faced in Colombia. All of it is captured in such a intense, brutal way that carves these heroes open allowing you to crawl inside and really see them. They become more than you might expect from an action romance hero. You hurt for Creed. You see him facing JT's last moments. And you feel the intense romance of the salvation he finds in Cordelia.

Cordelia, or Cody for short, is running. She's been running for so long that she's about to fall apart. She isn't what SDF thinks she is, what the CIA believe her to be. She's caught in the middle of a dangerous situation that's end-the-world big. But she's only one woman, and finally after finding out how low she can go to survive she's intercepted by Creed. The man who just got home and is this close to losing his head over the memories he can't escape. In one night of chases, escapes, blizzards, terrorists, and a certain hot tub these two are going to find the only other person that can save them from themselves. This one is fast, and intense, but it all comes together in such a romantic way that you'll believe every bit of it. And even if you don't, you'll want to.

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

Yowza you want to talk about an intense first chapter, it was crazy with Creed and Kid tracking the last two survivors of the men who held Creed and J.T. (Kid's bro) captive.

Alright I have to comment on this, enough with the "Geezus" and "Keerist" spell it out right. It has officially

gotten on my nervous after 3 books of it.

I'm really liking the character of Creed. He comes off being dark with the flashbacks to his captivity and torture in South America and the post traumatic stress from the experience and having his partner J.T. die. Janzen is did a really great job of molding Creed into a complex character who is interesting to read.

Wow Janzen goes darker with this book, definite shift from the first book "Crazy Hot". That book could be described as light hearted fun, not so with this book. What is revealed that happened to Creed and J.T. in the jungle is not pretty. Reading about how Creed felt he had to "bear witness" to what happened to J.T. had my eyes tearing up.

Good God the cars just keep getting better and better, Creed drives a cherry red black stripped Chevelle (insert swoon here).

A sweet story is revealed about Skeeter and Hawkins, author seems to be setting up another love connection between Skeeter and Dylan, can't wait to see where that one leads.

Even after I finished the book I am still sort of wondering why or how Creed and Cody got together. I will give some leeway though for not being impressed with this book or couple; I felt like I was rushing through this book to get to the next (Kid and Nikki's story) Although this book started off super strong and Creed was an intense character it was a bit of a disappoint to me, not a strong couple, a meandering storyline, and not nearly enough of the Chevelle.

B- and C (I honestly couldn't decide, the first half B- and second part C)
