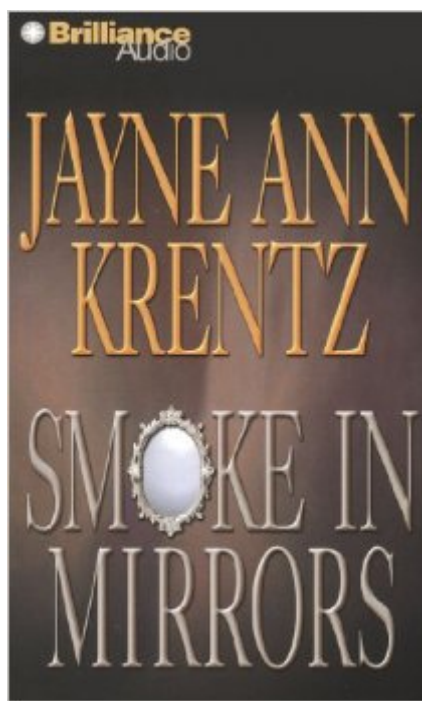


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# Smoke In Mirrors



## Synopsis

A con artist and seductress, Meredith Spooner lived fast - and died young. Now it seems Meredith's last scam - embezzling more than a million dollars from a college endowment fund - is coming back to haunt Leonora Hutton. An email just arrived in which Meredith - in fear for her life - explains that the money is waiting for Leonora in an offshore account ... and a safe-deposit key is on the way. Leonora wants nothing to do with the tainted money. She's already been accused of being in on the theft by Thomas Walker - who, it seems, was a victim of Meredith's knack for both scams and seductions. Eager to prove him wrong, Leonora sets out to collect the cash and hand it over. But she discovers two other items in the safe-deposit box. One is a book about Mirror House - a mansion filled with antique mirrors, where Meredith engineered her final deception. The other is a set of newspaper stories about a thirty-year-old murder that occurred there - unsolved to this day. Now Leonora has an offer for Thomas Walker. She'll hand over the money - if he helps her figure out what's happening. Meredith had described Walker as "a man you can trust." But in a funhouse-mirror world of illusion and distortion, Leonora may be out of her league.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For the last several books, Jayne Ann Krentz (who also writes as Amanda Quick) has been ignoring current romance trends to shift her style more and more toward romantic suspense. As she's done so, her writing style has become a bit more aloof, leading to less development of her main characters and the romance between them. Quick's "Slightly Shady" was somewhat of a disappointment for me; the characters and romance seemed almost incidental to the plot."Smoke in

Mirrors" retreats somewhat from that aloof style, giving us good character and romantic development and appealing secondary characters. In addition, the mystery here is well integrated with the characters. Leonora is a good Krentz heroine, with the loyalty and spunk we've come to expect. Thomas is another brooding Krentz hero, complete with large scary (but appealing) dog. The romance between them seems natural and easy, and the development of a secondary romance between Thomas's brother and his yoga instructor is handled well. That said, the pacing of this book was a little off. While the initial build-up of suspense worked well, the conclusion seems rushed, and the eventual unmasking of the "villain" doesn't seem to make all that much sense. All is explained, but it would have been clearer if the conclusion had gone a slightly different direction. Still, this is good Krentz, with all the hallmarks her fans have come to expect of her. A good read! Enjoy!

I've read almost everything Krentz has written, under any of her pen names. This is not one of her best efforts. She seemed unable to decide whether the primary threat should be academic envy or the flaky self-help guru, and the story lacked focus on the leading couple. The result is a half realized and not very convincing threat to the heroine. The romantic interludes don't even have her usual steamy tension. I usually buy all Krentz's books in hardback when they first come out. Maybe I'll start waiting for the paperbacks. Here's hoping that this is a fluke and that future releases, under whatever pen name, return to her usual standard of good storytelling, interesting plot lines, humor and romance.

After the lackluster "Dawn in Eclipse Bay", the bland "Lost and Found", and the frankly dismal "Slightly Shady", Jayne Ann Krentz seems to have finally found her pace again with this lively tale of sensuality and psychoses in a small Northwestern college town. The characters snap and crackle in the best Krentz style, complete with coastal fog, excellent dog, and a supporting cast that not only supports, but also scene-steals in many places. The passion is front and center (although maybe a little more would have been nice?), and it's easy to lose track of time while adventuring with these lovers. I'm a confirmed JAK fan and I'm thrilled to see that vivacious turn of phrase back in play along with a sexy hero and a spunky heroine! Thanks, Jayne Ann - and welcome back!

The relationships (of which there are a few) are the most interesting aspect of this book. Good characters. As either a mystery or a romance alone, this book would be considered a failure. I thought it was obvious who the killer was. Romantically speaking, this book is rather lukewarm. As a combination mystery/romance, I'd say the book was good or fair but not great. The killer coming

after Leonora made for an implausible ending.

I won't be buying anymore of Jayne Ann Krentz's books. Although I was a huge fan. This book is incredibly formula driven. It's the same old plot she's done again and again and the stereotype of the librarian/heroine as sexually repressed is offensive.

Jayne has done it again! A great mystery with hot love scenes and laughter. I loved the way she has two sub plot romances going on in this book. It not only provided interest but kept the pace fast. If you are a Jayne Ann Krantz fan, this is a must read. If you haven't discovered her yet, this is the book to do it with. The mystery provides twist and turns enough to keep you guessing. The love scenes are enough to make you want a cool breeze. This book has it all romance, mystery and comedy. It is a keeper!

The once beautiful and vibrant Meredith Spooner is dead and her closest confidant Leonora Hutton cleans out the deceased's apartment when Thomas Walker arrives. He informs Leonora that Meredith stole 1.5 million from the college alumni fund that his brother manages. Leonora tries to ignore Thomas' threats to implicate her as an accomplice of Meredith if she fails to help him. However, Meredith eerily contacts Leonora, informing her where the loot is, but that the deceased worried about something she learned. Leonora offers to return the cash if Thomas helps her investigate Meredith's "accident". However, Leonora will soon hit the highest and lowest points of her life as she will find love at about the same time that someone tries to kill her. Jayne Ann Krentz has written a fine romantic suspense novel starring two quirky lead characters that endear themselves to the audience. The fast-paced action works because the secondary cast adds the needed depth to turn this multi-faceted story line into a realistic endeavor. *SMOKE IN MIRROR* is Ms. Krentz at her most romantic and suspenseful best. Harriet Klausner

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