

Author Read Alike

Jayne Ann Krentz

Genre: Romance

Jayne Ann Krentz as a romance author has the distinction of many best-selling novels behind her, written in more than one sub-genre of romance. She has to date, written themes ranging from historical romances to contemporary, romantic suspense, paranormal, and futuristic romances. In contemporary novels, she writes as herself, Jayne Ann Krentz. Her historical themes are penned under the nom de plume "Amanda Quick", while her pen name for her futuristic romances is "Jayne Castle".

Typically, each year Krentz will release one book per year in the contemporary and historical sub-genres, and one other in her choice of the remaining genres. Her style is characterized by humor, dialog-infused scenes, and offbeat protagonists. She loves to employ double-entendres, which usually

focus on the title's secondary theme, which will focus on one of the main character's careers or interests. If you wish to start reading this prolific writer's works and multiple sub-genres, here are some suggestions.

If you like Historical and Regency romances, then an earlier title you can try by her Amanda Quick pen name is *Seduction*, a story which brings to mind *Rebecca* by Daphne du Mariner. Sophy finds herself drawn into the mystery of her the death of her husband's first wife. Another title in this genre is *Reckless*. In this romance, Phoebe's suitor is murdered, and a valuable book stolen from him. Phoebe asks another book collector to find the missing item and the killer.

For those who like the future instead of the past, one could begin in the futuristic sub-genre under

Krentz's pen name Jayne Castle with any of her current *Planet Harmony* series titles. In #4, *Ghost Hunter*, hostile energy beings lurk in the ruins of an ancient alien culture. Hunter Cooper Boone helps Elly track down her missing friend in this SF romance replete with mysterious tunnels and a futuristic metropolis.



Jayne A. Krentz

Read Alike—Catherine Asaro

Catherine Asaro's work resembles that of Jayne Krentz's (E.g., Jayne Castle's) SF romance novels. When beginning to read Asaro, one can start with her debut novel, *Primary Inversion*. This novel features spacefarers from rival empires who meet on a neutral planet, Soz, heir to the Skolian Empire, is attracted to Jaibriol Qox, the son of the Emperor of Tarnth. For SF

readers interested in a break from standard SF fare, there is a surprising blend of hard science and ill-starred lovers in this plot.

The second novel in the series is called *Catch the Lightning* and, like Diana Galbadon's *Outlander* series involves time travel as the SF element in this SF romance.

In this story, a pilot from the Skolian Empire lands himself back in time to an alternate Earth in 1987. Tina from 1987 returns to Althor's time wherein they get married. This SF romance contains, in addition to time travel, psi powers, quantum physics, and cybernetics. Asaro is a physicist, which accounts for the caliber of her work.

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Read Alike—Sandra Brown

If you want a break from Krentz, try Sandra Brown. Some examples of her series are the *Mason Sisters* series, the *Texas Trilogy*, the *Alicia* series, or the *Second Chance at Love* series.

Brown began her career in the 1980s, when her work was characterized by racy romances in contemporary settings. Some of her

more recent novels still contain this type of traditional romantic entanglement, but she has in more recent years changed the emphasis to suspense romance, which often contain independent heroines and strong heroes. These titles combine romance, mystery, and suspense. Plot twists and flashbacks abound to build the drama of the stories, and she frequently employs steamy,

decadent Southern settings. Among the earlier examples is *Tomorrow's Promise*, about a radio broadcaster who doesn't know how she'll cope if her Viet Nam soldier spouse is not on the list of those recovered after thirteen years of MIA. A more recent title is *Smash Cut*, in which a romantic mystery evolves around the investigation of a teen who is found to imitate the action in violent films.

Read Alike—Linda Howard

Linda Howard has been writing for approximately twenty years. In this time she, like Krentz, has written in more than one genre, including frontier/Western and time travel, but she now is currently focused in suspense romances.

An example of earlier works includes *Son of the Morning*, a title involving suspense, and SF/fantasy,

and even a dash of historical elements not unlike Diana Glabardon's time-traveling *Outlander* series.

In this tale, Grace, a manuscript scholar lands herself in a jam when her latest find provokes the attentions of a killer. She travels back to the past and is aided by a 14th Century Scottish knight.

In her most recent work, *Burn*, Jenner finds herself the lucky winner of a lottery. But all's not well and her overnight wealth causes more trouble than she could ever have imagined.

From an embezzling father, to being kidnapped on a cruise, Jenner finds truth in the adage that money isn't everything.

Read Alike—Tami Hoag

Tami Hoag has also written in a range of writing sub-genres ranging from romance novels to romantic suspense and also straight suspense novels.

Her suspense works are often now known for suspenseful plots that are stylishly taut, fast-paced, and centered around a woman in danger.

Readers will find that Hoag stories involve plots that are believable with plenty of twists, are chilling, and contain a high level of violence. While appealing, her characters are subordinate to the plots in her titles. An example of this later form of her novels is *Deeper Than Dead*. When teacher Anne Navarre's students stumble across a dead woman buried up to her neck in a

park. Vince Leone, an out-of-area FBI profiler is brought in to aid in tracking the serial killer responsible. Immediate attraction ensues between Navarre and Leone as they solve the case together.

Her earlier works do not have as much violence, detailed horror, or sense of immanent threat as her current works. An earlier romantic suspense title is *Magic*.