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## **Gift Of Fire**



## **Synopsis**

Jonas Quarrel was lean, sexy, and equally capable of quoting Renaissance poetry or wielding a dagger. Verity Ames knew Jonas was the perfect partner for an affair — and that he was not the marrying kind. Before long he would be looking for new excitement, leaving Verity behind to run her gourmet restaurant in a California resort, hold on to misty colored memories, and wonder what she was going to do if she were pregnant with his child. Sure enough, her adventuring lover was soon off to an Italian villa rebuilt on a Pacific Northwest island. Jonas went to hunt for missing Renaissance jewels. Verity went along to snare a husband. A big, soft, four-poster bed might be the ideal place to try out her lures! But in this ancient mansion of hidden passageways and mysterious perils, there were some deadly traps for those blinded by love—unless Verity could help Jonas discover the most precious treasure a woman and man can find.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Jayne Ann Krentz is the author of fifty New York Times bestsellers. She has written contemporary romantic suspense novels under that name, as well as futuristic and historical romance novels under the pseudonyms Jayne Castle and Amanda Quick, respectively. She lives in Seattle.

In this sequel to Krentz's earlier book *GIFT OF GOLD*, mysterious Jonas Quarrel and strong-willed Verity Ames continue to explore their growing romance and their psychic gifts while investigating a murder and finding Renaissance treasure. Wendy Petersen's competence as a narrator is showcased by her credible portrayal of a variety of accents, from British to Irish to American.

Although the story continues well past the point of entertainment, Petersen works hard to engage listeners by making each character distinct. She also lends suspense to the pair's experience with the "psychic corridor" and the dangers within. A.C.P. © AudioFile 2009, Portland, Maine

This was a mediocre story. The hero and heroine were only semi-likeable and that made it difficult to root for them. Plus, since this is apparently a sequel, the hero and heroine are already together at the beginning of the story so we miss out on the development of their relationship. In fact, the relationship we see at the beginning of this book is pretty dysfunctional. They don't communicate with each other at all. The hero, Jonas, has absolutely no ambition whatsoever. He's completely content to be a dishwasher in Verity's restaurant for the rest of his life. Verity, on the other hand, is an irritating nag who constantly pesters Jonas to grow up and get a real job. That would be a perfectly legitimate thing for her to bring up, but the way she does it and the way it's described by the author is specifically as nagging in a very negative way. Verity is also completely insecure about the future of their relationship to the point where she expects Jonas to pick up and leave at any moment. Their initial connection apparently has something to do with Verity being the only person on earth who can act as an "anchor" for Jonas' psychic ability. She worries that the only reason he's with her is because he needs her to be this anchor and the minute he figures out how to control his abilities without her, he'll skip town with nary a backward glance or stop at the gift shop. Jonas, on the other hand, frets that Verity is only drawn to him because their psychic connection gives them a level of intimacy that goes beyond a normal relationship and if she were to find that connection with another man, or if Jonas lost his psychic powers, she'd immediately ditch him. It's not a very healthy relationship. In addition, Jonas comes across as kind of a psycho. He holds a knife to a man's throat just for carrying an injured Verity into the house. That's not the romantic act of a man in love, it's the warning sign of a dangerous psycho. Naturally it transpires that it was all an innocent misunderstanding, but what if Verity really HAD been having an affair? Would Jonas have killed the guy, just like that? Yes, we're given to believe that he would, and without a second thought. That's not sexy, it's disturbing. A job offer comes along that is tailor-made to Jonas' skills and since he's out of town, Verity accepts the job on his behalf. Jonas resists at first but finally lets her nag him into making some actual money for a change and they head out to a creepy mansion on an isolated island. Once there Jonas and Verity use their psychic abilities to discover things about the house and a treasure that has been allegedly hidden in the walls. In between they have to deal with some ridiculous fake psychics, an irritable housekeeper, and a mystery man who keeps trying to frighten Verity. Overall the plot was fine if a bit silly but I had to force myself to finish the book because I just

didn't care about the characters or story enough to stay interested.

While I'll admit I'm a sucker for this favorite old plot--assemble all characters in an isolated house, then stumble over a corpse and have your main protagonists ferret out the bad guy on the guest list--this romantic suspense variation of it is severely lacking. First the major plot hole. The idea that someone could transport an entire 16th century Italian villa to the Pacific Northwest and not notice certain peculiarities when it was disassembled, then reassembled, is too far fetched to believe. However, without the villa's special features the plot falls apart and half the action in the novel would evaporate. More disturbing to me, however, was the obsessive jealousy displayed by the hero in ANY instance where the heroine interacted with a member of the opposite sex, no matter how banal or innocent. It read like a textbook example of behavior listed on pamphlets distributed to abuse victims. I get it that this book was first published in 1993, and relationships have gradually changed, but the hero's weirdly dominant behavior would have been considered worrisome even twenty years ago. Not even the light bondage in the book justified it for me. Rather, the hero comes off as a creep who won't take no for an answer, and the heroine is portrayed as the male fantasy of the submissive woman who says 'no,' but really means 'yes.'

The Arcane Society should keep an eye on this couple. Fiery Verity Ames and adventurer Jason Quarrel find that they need each other in unexpected ways. This sequel to Gift of Gold has a good story, good romance and a reasonably good ending, but it took way too long to get into the main plot. I would have enjoyed the book more if there were about 75% fewer gratuitous sex scenes. This was annoying enough for me to take a star off of my rating. I wasn't sure if the book was meant to be read principally as an erotic romance or if the erotica was just a way to expand the number of pages in the book. If you are easily offended by verbal erotica, then you should probably skip this one. If you are interested in original paranormal adventure with some romance, then I say give this a try. I would have enjoyed the book more if the many typos in this edition didn't keep breaking the flow of the story. I don't know about the original edition, but Gift of Fire--Kindle edition could be used as a case study proving that proper use of quote marks does indeed matter. There are plenty of other typos as well, but dialogue gets confusing when quotation marks are missing. The expertise of a good proofreader would have given my 3-star rating at least one more star. If JAK was following her current pattern when she wrote this book, this story would have made a good Harmony ghost hunter plot.

Yeah too much gratuitous sex and caveman like mind set and Jonas and really took a lot away from this book it was OK but definitely not her best

I am a Jane Anne Krentz fan. Her books are fun, interesting, action-packed without being too violent, bloody or horror stricken. They are definitely entertaining with interesting characters gaining insights into themselves and their romantic and family relationships while being thrust into complicated and murderous whodoneit situations with interesting twists and turns.

I love Jayne Ann Krentz and this book didn't disappoint. It's fun, suspenseful and has enough romance to make it interesting. What's a JA Krentz book without romance? As a follow-up to Gift of Gold, it sticks to the storyline perfectly; and what a storyline! I'm not always interested in the "paranormal" type of story; but this was totally different simply because it was different from any that I've read before. If it hadn't been a JA Krentz book, I might not have given it a try. Don't let that stop you from reading it. You will really enjoy this book especially if, like me, you're a Krentz fan. The characters stay true to form and you find yourself totally hooked. Don't forget to read Gift of Gold first; it's a must in order to follow this story.

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