



Crossfire Christmas

Julie Miller

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An injured undercover agent must keep an innocent nurse from getting caught in the crossfire in the latest installment of The Precinct

With his life bleeding out from bullet wounds and a car crash, Charles Nash's best option is to kidnap the innocent nurse who stops to help him. At gunpoint, the jaded DEA undercover agent offers Teresa Rodriguez a desperate deal: if she keeps him alive long enough to find out who's blown his cover and set him up to die, she'll be home for Christmas.

As the two go on the run from an unknown killer, the Good Samaritan gives Nash a bad case of unprofessional desire. He's drawn to the sexy little spitfire for her bravery, boldness and attitude. But how can he count on kissing her under the mistletoe when so many enemies are working to ensure they don't make it to the holidays?

Crossfire Christmas Details

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Author : Julie Miller

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From Reader Review Crossfire Christmas for online ebook

TINNG says

Was it just a month ago that I was kvetching about Ms Miller being stuck in a rut? Nevermind.

So our H gets set up by a fellow DEA agent, gets shot up, has an accident and... our h - playing good samaritan 2 days before Christmas, stops to check on him. He essentially kidnaps her and forces her to take him home where he (after she's treated his wounds) tapes her to a chair prior to passing out. Our h, ever resourceful, crawls to her sewing kit once she's sure he's out, and rescues herself - sort of.

Much mayhem occurs over the next 48 hours - mayhem of the near misses and near disasters sort; *not* the funny sort - then the little dweeb who played dead in the opening chapter grabs her. Since he's apparently too stupid to realize that kidnapping a cop's sister is going to have the entire local law enforcement on his arse, he's completely surprised by the SWAT team showing up at the exchange. So was the drug warlord.

Quibbles - the dweeb was a bit obvious to me in his attempts to find the H/h, and it doesn't speak well for the DEA captain that a would-be hit man could impersonate an officer right in front of him.

Susan says

Fantastic entry into the Precinct series, with plenty of action, suspense and romance. It starts in a rush with Nash and his contact ambushed by the bad guys. Nash is wounded in the leg and shoulder, while his contact is killed. Nash barely escapes with his life and is bleeding badly as he drives away in a snowstorm. Nash is from Houston, a place that doesn't see much snow, and on a back road spins out and crashes his truck.

Teresa is a pediatric nurse at the local hospital and loves working with "her kids". She is also the youngest of five kids, and suffers from very overprotective older siblings. She would really like them to see her for the competent adult that she is. On her way home she comes across Nash's wrecked truck and stops to see if he's alright. Terrified when she's confronted by what appears to be a desperate criminal with a gun, she takes him back to her apartment to fix him up. It's at this point that Teresa's natural sass starts to come back.

I really loved both Teresa and Nash. As the youngest in her family, Teresa learned early how not to be intimidated, and that comes in really handy when trying to take care of Nash. Once she got over her initial fear, I almost got the feeling she was simply humoring him so she could take care of him faster. The scene at the apartment the next morning, when he wakes up and she isn't where he left her, was pretty funny. I also loved her resourcefulness in her actions, even though one of those actions put them in more danger. Once she knows who he is and understands the danger, she's all in to help him. There's also a strong attraction that she tries to fight, since she knows he won't be staying around, but that's pretty much a losing battle. Besides the attraction she feels, she also falls for the man she sees under the undercover agent shell.

Nash had left Houston to get away from the cartel members until he could get his undercover identity replaced. Two of his undercover team members had already been killed, and now his contact. The only explanation is that there's someone in his office working for the bad guys, and he wants to find out who. Bleeding to death before he does is not an option, and when the Good Samaritan who stops to help turns out to be a nurse, he makes a desperate decision. He's not happy about scaring her so badly, but he can't risk her calling the authorities. When she turns out to be stronger of will than he expected he makes his deal with her, and hopes he can keep her safe long enough to follow through. He doesn't expect that sass and the

compassion that comes with it, to fire up an attraction he shouldn't be feeling.

I loved the two of them together. Teresa isn't going to let Nash get away with treating her like a hostage instead of a partner. She has no trouble standing up to him and making him see that she can help. One of the things that made her fall for him is that he treats her like an adult, not like the kid sister her family does. It's also fun to see her bully him into letting her take care of him when he needs it. Nash has quite a time of it right from the beginning, since Teresa isn't exactly docile. He seems to spend a lot of time readjusting his opinion about her. Nash has been on his own for a long time and his feelings for Teresa take him by surprise, but he doesn't deny them. He also doesn't think he's anywhere near good enough for her. Teresa, of course, thinks differently.

The suspense of the story was fantastic. The ambush is a great opening, and the action never really let up. Nash's cover being blown was bad, but knowing that his other team members were killed because of the same thing, made him realize that there was a mole in his office. Unfortunately, he had no idea who, which meant he couldn't ask for help. He was also in a strange city, which added more stress to his situation. Teresa's innocent email inquiry set off a chain of events that puts them in more danger. Their teamwork was great, and some of their situations were pretty tricky. I loved Teresa's ingenuity in getting help for Nash, and the little girl who got into the act was adorable. The final confrontation was really intense, and I never guessed the identity of the mole.

Though there wasn't a lot of KCPD presence in the book, what was there was great. I liked seeing Jake again and the part he played in helping Nash. Some of the best parts involved Teresa's brother AJ, and her efforts to keep him in the dark. He did come through for Nash when it was most important. There was also a nice little tip of the hat to Julie Miller's first books, the LadyTech series, with a mention of Isla Tenebrosa.

Out of the whole book, though, Teresa has the best line when everything is over: "Seriously, Nash? You need to stop getting shot. You should just ask me out on a date."

Kathy says

I enjoyed Crossfire Christmas. It was a little bit of a change from what I usually read as I don't read a lot of romantic suspense.

Although I didn't realize it when I started this it is part of a series of books. It worked as a stand alone but there was obviously plenty of back-story on many of the characters. When I looked online there are nearly 2 dozen books that are part of a series titled The Precinct.

Crossfire Christmas features both a likable hero and heroine. They were well developed characters. I honestly didn't have enough invested to care who the mole was but did like that it was a twist I didn't see coming.

As far as content he does much more than just "kissing her under the mistletoe" as described in the summary. Harlequin Intrigue's submission guidelines state that there can be no graphic sexual details, explicit language or gratuitous violence so it this wasn't over the top but there is a short sex scene, plenty of attraction and desire plus some mild language.

Rating: 4 Stars - Great Book

Content: mild language, short sex scene

Source: Netgalley.com

Rosemarie says

I love reading Julie Miller books. They have great intrigue, suspense and romance. They are the only Harlequin books I buy.

Jen_C says

I so totally love The Precinct in all its forms. The Taylor Clan, SWAT, etc. Julie Miller's 50th knocked it out of the park for me.

I really liked Teresa's story and getting to catch up with AJ & Claire. Teresa longs to be accepted as an adult - not just the baby of the family. I can relate! I loved how she found her courage and strength and helped Charlie Nash heal and fall in love.

Some awesome quotes/parts:

"Come on, tough guy." "You can get fresh with me in the snow and threaten me with a gun all you want. But if you really want my help, you'll put your weight on me and move your feet." "In about two minutes, my extremities are going to be so numb I won't be able to do anything for either of us—even if you do shoot. So move."

He couldn't have been rescued by some meek, mousy thing who'd do what he said without the attitude? He tapped the butt of the gun against her shoulder. "That's pretty bold talk for a woman who's got no advantage."

"Uh-huh. I'm not the one bleeding to death."

"Would I be your partner or your captive?"

"Depends on how well you cooperate, Gamberro."

"Don't call me that. Peewee is bad enough."

He wanted this sexy little spitfire in ways beyond what his body was craving. But if he was going to make love to this woman, he damn sure wanted to do it right. He wanted to make sure he could follow through and give her everything she wanted. Everything she deserved.

She didn't have anything in that bag that could fix the wounds inside his head and heart. But there was something about the woman herself that seemed to find those hurting places inside him. She exposed them—probed deeper into a few, gently tended others and, somehow, made him feel a little better. No wonder he was so drawn to her. He really did need her. Maybe more than he'd ever needed anyone his whole life. If she thought for one moment that he didn't know just how lucky he was to have her with him in this nightmare, then he needed to make that right.

"I imagine that once he finds out who set him up and has that man arrested, he'll go back to Houston. To his job, to his life there. But right now he needs me, Emilia. Like no one has ever needed me before."

Teresa circled the room, finally making sense of why Charles Nash meant so much to her.

"He needs me to be strong and capable. He lets me do things. He lets me argue with him. I don't feel

like the baby of the family when I'm with him. I just... I feel like...me. He lets me be me." LOVE THIS ONE

"Nash. Problem with the cops? For a while there, I didn't think they were going to let you make your phone call to me. Your little girlfriend has been a bit of a handful."

That sounded like his girl. Give 'em trouble, darlin'.

"Put her on. I need to know she's okay." "Of course." There was a scuffle of movement, and then a soft, familiar voice. "Charlie?"

"I'm coming to get you, Peewee."

"Seriously, Nash? You need to stop getting shot. You should just ask me out on a date."

Rhonda says

4 STARS

Crossfire Christmas is full of suspense, action, romance, and some characters that have been in previous books. It also has a couple of love scenes that I skimmed over.

Charles Nash is a undercover DEA agent who has blown his cover. He was supposed to meet a young agent who had his go bag. They were ambushed and Charlie has been shot, other agent dead, a few bad guys too. He needs help but can't go to cops or hospital. Plus he is in strange city.

Teresa Rodriguez a nurse sees a truck that had slid off the road and was still running. She is the youngest of the Rodriguez and still babied. Teresa is taken by Charles by gunpoint and threats to her place. He wants her to sew him up and clean wound.

Charlie figures a mole has been in his office in Texas. He has lost three agents and now was set up too. He needs to find the mole and protect Teresa too.

I was not sure who the mole was. There were a few suspects that I thought might be it. I liked Teresa. She was smart, brave, feisty and wants to help others. I loved Laila. She was so cute.

The love scenes were easy to skip over and were short.

The setting is Kansa city. The police building is the one who had the tornado hit it in a previous book of Julie's

I like how Julie writes. I have read a few of her books and enjoy them. I will read more of her works in the future.

I was given this ebook by Net Galley and Harlequin. In exchange I agreed to write honest review of it.

Midniteillusion says

I enjoyed this one more than the previous book in the series. This one focused on a younger sibling of two

characters we've already seen get their happily ever after. The long gap I took in reading this series left things foggy about the previous sibling which I wished I remembered more clearly since they played prominent roles in this book.

The hero was a bit of a jerk at first, I know his kidnapping of her is mentioned on the back but the way he did it kind of soured him for me. Obviously they overcome that etc dunces it's a HEA book and he's fine once the heroine stands up to him.

It's suppose to be Christmas time but I didn't really get a Christmas feel, maybe a winter feel but not Christmas which I always find disappointing.

Over it's a fine book and adds to the series.

Carmen says

Charlie Nash, undercover DEA agent, finds himself in a shootout with some Spanish-speaking thugs. He is badly wounded. He crashes his truck making his escape.

Teresa Rodríguez is a pediatric nurse. She's 29, but her older sisters and brother still treat her like a child. She hates their overprotective and coddling ways, yet feels like she can't tell them off without hurting their feelings. She wishes they would trust her and take her seriously.

It was both a blessing and a curse to be part of such a tight-knit, loving family. While she knew she was loved and would never lack for someone to care about her, she was the baby of the family and asserting her independence was a challenge she'd been working on for most of her 29 years.

When Teresa sees a black pickup truck spun out in a ditch, her nursing instincts drive her to stop and check on any potential passengers. But instead of finding an injured person in need of help, she finds a gun pointed at her.

The mysterious Charles/Mr. Charles was still leaning against the truck to hold himself up. But the gun he fired into the tree behind him was steaming in the cold air. The smell of sulfur filled her nose as he pulled the weapon down to aim it right at her. "Don't get any idea that you're going to run from me." His raspy low-pitched threat was a whispery cloud in the night air.

...

When Charlie and Teresa first meet, I was really afraid this was going to plunge into the kind of sick sexual fantasies that make Frank Miller so excited. You know, dangerous man threatens a breathless woman with a gun, dialogue consists of sexually provocative stuff like:

What are you going to do with me?

Blergh. Listen, I want romance. And being held hostage is NOT romantic NOR a sexual fantasy that makes me happy. :(

Thankfully, Miller avoids this route by clearing up Nash's DEA agent status by page 69. Thank you, Miller. Thank you for allowing these two people to get to know each other on more equal ground and thank you for not playing the sickening "I've got a gun now do what I say" angle. Miller neatly avoids some rather disgusting cliches here and I am grateful to her for it.

Teresa helps Charlie heal from his physical wounds - which are numerous and quite painful, I wasn't really buying it when they finally have sex at the end of the book - and in return Charlie helps Teresa by needing her and trusting her. He treats her like a responsible adult and that puts her on Cloud 9. Of course she IS a responsible adult, her family is just overprotective and annoying, but still. It helps her fall in love with him.

...

Once again, I am faced with an author using questionable Spanish. Seems very popular nowadays to put Spanish in your novels.

...

Her short legs had to do double time to keep up with his long strides.

Teresa was great because she was a character I could really relate to. She is short - 5'3" - and Miller often talks about her short little legs and having to jog to keep up with the long strides of Charlie, who is a full foot taller than her. I am also a little shorty and I also find myself running to keep up with people. I like having a heroine that I can relate to on some level. :)

...

One bad thing is that, due to her height, Charlie gives Teresa the unfortunate nickname of Pee Wee. Ew. I mean, really? Much to my relief, once things start getting hot and heavy she tells him to cut that shit out. I am grateful. I can't imagine what a mood-killer it would be to have your man calling you "Pee Wee" while trying to get you into bed. Blergh. o.O

...

Could she really be feeling something for Nash after knowing him so short a time? Was this dangerous attraction a lusty response to being forced into the most thrilling adventure of her life? Or was she just as foolish as her brother and sisters claimed because she was so eager to be treated as a useful adult that she mistook Nash's need for her medical assistance and knowledge of the area as some kind of emotional connection?

Lots of shoot-outs, lots of patching up the wounded hero, sweet hero interacts with dying little girl, and lots of motel hiding out.

...

This was a good romance book! 4 out of 5 romance stars, 3 real stars. The only reason it's not getting 5 romance stars is because the sex could have been better described. However, I'm sure the ladies who work for Harlequin Intrigue are under contract not to get too explicit, so...

P.S. Guess where Charlie's from? You have one guess. Yes! Texas! You are correct! Apparently the only super-hot men in the USA live in Texas. And Texas is just chock-full of hunks. I have NO kind of cowboy fetish and this whole "he's a rancher/cowboy/Texas Ranger" things just kind of baffles me. I mean it doesn't turn me OFF, but it's not a turn-on, either. It sure is popular, though.

THREE REAL STARS, FOUR ROMANCE STARS

Harlequin Intrigue November 2014

Jane Stewart says

2 ½ stars. Good enough to keep me reading.

I felt like I was watching a weekly TV show, just actions and generic good guys and bad guys. No special character development.

One scene was stupid. Teresa and Nash are running and hiding from the drug cartel. Nash wants help from a bartender friend, so he has Teresa make contact. She should have handed the bartender a note saying "don't mention names. Nash needs your help." But she talks and says her name. The bartender says Nash's name. A bad guy overhears this and follows them.

Another time Teresa and Nash are at the hospital. The bad guys show up hunting them. The author never told how the bad guys knew to go to the hospital. It could have been done in a more interesting way than just have the bad guys show up.

I think the romance was ok, but I can't remember much about it.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 214 pages. Swearing language: mild. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: 2. Setting: current day mostly Kansas City, Missouri plus Wisconsin. Copyright: 2014. Genre: romantic suspense.

Sparkymom says

I totally devoured this book in one sitting. It was a both suspenseful and fun. The interactions between Nash and Teresa were full of quick wit and mutual respect. The Christmas aspects were sweet without being campy.

When Teresa stops to help at a roadside accident, she finds herself taken captive by an injured man with a bag full of weapons. Even though he threatens her, he also seems to be going out of his way to protect her. Nash is an undercover DEA agent who is searching for a mole inside his agency. He doesn't want to put anyone else in danger, but he needs Teresa and her nursing skills. When Teresa turns the table and escapes from Nash's confinement, she not only discovers his true identity but also inadvertently places herself in danger. Nash has no choice but to keep her with him and try to keep her safe. Teresa, however, is having no part of being protected. She pushes Nash to consider her a partner and challenges his notions every step of the way. In the end, it takes both of them to finally bring an end to the danger in time for Christmas.

I received a copy of this book from Net Galley for honest review:-)

Griz Girl says

I had 15 Julie Miller KCPD books stacked up, and I decided to treat myself--read them all back-to-back, finishing up with the most-current, "Crossfire Christmas"! OUTSTANDING series!

LOVE LOVE LOVE this author & her KCPD characters. All her characters have such amazing integrity and moral fortitude. They just can't help "doing the right thing." Not to mention they're a bunch of stone-cold hunks.

A truly enjoyable way to spend a couple weeks of free time. I highly recommend this author!

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Crossfire Christmas- The Precinct Book 23
Author: Julie Miller
Publisher: Harlequin Intrigue
Published: 10-21-2014
Pages: 220
Genre: Mystery, Thrillers & Suspense
Sub-Genre: Crime; Murder; Series; Action: Holidays
ISBN: 9781373697977
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Reviewed For NetGalley and Harlequin
Reviewer: DelAnne
Rating: 4.5 Stars

An injured undercover agent must keep an innocent nurse from getting caught in the crossfire in the latest installment of The Precinct

With his life bleeding out from bullet wounds and a car crash, Charles Nash's best option is to kidnap the innocent nurse who stops to help him. At gunpoint, the jaded DEA undercover agent offers Teresa Rodriguez a desperate deal: if she keeps him alive long enough to find out who's blown his cover and set him up to die, she'll be home for Christmas.

As the two go on the run from an unknown killer, the Good Samaritan gives Nash a bad case of unprofessional desire. He's drawn to the sexy little spitfire for her bravery, boldness and attitude. But how can he count on kissing her under the mistletoe when so many enemies are working to ensure they don't make it to the holidays?

Now that is an original opening to a suspense thriller. It is surprising that Theresa was able to trust her instincts after Nash's desperate actions. There are moments of humor to keep the drama from becoming too heavy. Both the characters and the plot are well thought out and written. You will find yourself on your toes with your own touch of paranoia as you follow the clues and continuous action of Crossfire Christmas.

My rating of "Crossfire Christmas-The Precinct " is 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Amazon Link: [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00K9ZXY1S/...](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00K9ZXY1S/)

B&N Link: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/cros...>

Books-A-Million Link: <http://www.booksamillion.com/p/Crossf...>

Kobo Link: <https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/cros...>

GoodReads Link: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2...>

The Reading Room Link: <https://www.facebook.com/permalink.ph...>

Twitter Link: <https://twitter.com/DelAnne531/status...>

Lori says

This review first appeared on my blog <http://loriscreativity.blogspot.com/2...>

Like: Short sex scenes.

Dislike: Nothing.

Would I recommend it?

Yes, I would recommend 'Crossfire Christmas', it was full of suspense, action, and romance, a.k.a. all my favorite things! It does have a couple of love scenes and mild language, so if that's not your thing you might wanna skip over it.

I've never read any of Julie's books, but I would be interested in reading more from her and 'The Precinct'!

Throughout the story I wasn't sure who the 'mole' was, there were a few names mentioned, but I never suspected the person it turned out to be. Here recently I haven't really been interested in reading books with lots of sex scenes, I don't mind them, but here lately I prefer more suspense, action and romance, without having to go into gory details! This books sex scenes were easy to skin over, it was one page and it was over, so I was happy with that.

Favorite quote from the book: "Seriously Nash? You need to stop getting shot. You should just ask me out on a date."

Overall, I loved the book and would definitely read more from The Precinct series!

Copy received from Netgalley via Harlequin in exchange for an honest review.

Penny Watson says

1. Just because you put the word CHRISTMAS in your title, it doesn't make your book a Christmas romance. Just sayin.

2. If a man kidnaps you, threatens to kill you and your neighbors, admits he just killed 3 people, and you think he's involved in a drug cartel, when he falls asleep and you manage to free yourself, would you...

a.) Escape, and maybe contact your brother who is a COP?

b.) Run to a neighbor's apartment and call the police?

c.) Sing Christmas carols? (just to remind the reader it's a CHRISTMAS story?)

d.) Hang around, look through his stuff, find his "little black book" filled with phone numbers and just randomly contact someone from the list revealing your real name, then make chicken soup?

Of course it's D!

Summary of this book: it has nothing to do with Christmas, and the romance was ridiculously fast and unbelievable.

Ugh.

Debbie Heaton says

In Miller's romantic suspense novel, wounded DEA undercover agent Charles Nash kidnapes a kind nurse who stops to help him. Taking her at gunpoint, he promises her that if she keeps him alive long enough to discover the person who blew his cover, she would be home for Christmas. Passion sizzles as the couple runs from an unknown killer and determination to survive flares as Nash realizes he wants the brave woman under his tree this year.

Fast-paced story of an injured undercover agent intent on keeping an innocent nurse from getting caught in the crossfire of betrayal in this addition to The Precinct series.
