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Anne McCaffrey

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At first Killashandra Ree's ambitions to become a Crystal Singer, get rich, and forget her past, were going just as she had hoped. But after she grew wealthy, a devastating storm turned her claim to useless rock. In short order she was broke, she had crystal sickness so bad she thought she was going to die, and the only way she could be true to the man she loved was to leave him....

Killashandra Details

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Author : Anne McCaffrey

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From Reader Review Killashandra for online ebook

Freya says

Review to come :)

Nola Redd says

I need a good light read and McCaffrey delivered as always. As usual, her novel delivered a strong female character perfectly capable of taking care of herself, yet willing to be swept off her feet. Over sentimental and thick on the love struck, the novel made for an enjoyable light read. The second book in a series, the novel itself stands alone, since I've never actually read the first. McCaffrey does insert back information with a time that assumes foreknowledge; rather than delving into the explanatory review so many authors fall into, she lets the characters actions and thoughts serve as explanation. If I am left feeling there is more to the story, out doesn't leave me confused but instead desirous of locating the first novel. Though the characters at times feel a bit over-the-top, they are amusing and enjoyable. The novel itself is wanting in depth, but the science fiction setting and characters make it clear why McCaffrey achieved such fame.

stormhawk says

It's a shame when a sequel of a book you really liked falls flat. Not entirely, but enough that you wonder why you remembered it as being better than it is. Most of the story revolves around something being wrong in the idyllic, utopian paradise, add some intrigue and a fairly creepy bit of romance, and you've got the essentials of Killashandra.

Sarah Gerdes says

Everything by Anne McCaffrey is good (IMHO) so my only ding on this is a completely personal preference, and shouldn't really dissuade readers (I almost feel guilty for nocking McCaffrey) but here goes. I didn't want Killashandra to start dating other people or even be interested in anyone else after connecting with a particular character in the first book. Second, I didn't like the plotline so much, because it stressed me out, and I have enough stress in my life. So was it still captivating--yes, I just had this dream of a lead character and the author didn't do what I wanted (ha, imagine that).

Karen says

Perfect light read for me! Actually a reread... again. Killashandra was a comfort read to give my brain a break from a rough work week. I needed some old school sci-fi!

Myreadbooks says

I loved this second volume Killashandra is a very endearing character. The author takes us from the realm of Ballybran to Ophteria while going through the Islands. In this book we find Killashandra which must be repaired an organ on Ophteria but it won't happen as planned, she will find himself in a strange situation and dealing with problems her blocking the road.

Gail says

Again, I read this book when it first was published. Almost none of the story takes place on the crystal cutting planet. Killa is desperate to get off-planet, before crystal resonance shakes her apart, so after she cuts 44 white crystals for an organ-- the kind that plays music-- she gets to go install them in the organ for the planet that buys them. She's also requested to look around the plan because people go there, but only the tourists leave. None of the citizens ever do. Which is weird. So, she goes and has a huge adventure, not a whole lot of crystal stuff, but enough. It's a good read and I liked it a lot.

Patricia says

Excellent character development. Tight narrative. Second of a trilogy. Couldn't put it down!

Kristan Cannon says

When a family member bought me this book as a gift I read it so much that the cover fell off and the pages started to wear out.

One of these days I'll write a more intelligent review than this but I had to say I loved this book that much.

Brian Rogers says

After having just read Crystal Singer this was distinctly underwhelming. Part of it is that Crystal Singer, for all of its later editing, is still based on McCaffery's 1970's short fiction which contained a lot of the primal energy you see in pulp authors. The difference in energy between those stories and this later book is the same as the difference between her very primal early Pern fiction that won a Hugo and the later YA targeted fiction of the the Pern books. It's not bad, per se, it's just very much not the same thing. The SF world building of the first book didn't carry over much. There is certainly the potential for this series to have a different take on the galactic politics of Dune as the core idea of spaceflight and interstellar communications being dependent on the output of this one world's unique materials exists in both, but it's never explored.

It's also a very different book in plot and tone. The nominal plot is that Killashandra is tasked to deliver a load of the crystal she just cut to a world that strives for pastoral naturalism with the native ecosphere and is socially centered around its music academy. The world has a ban on natives leaving the planet, and the

galactic government wants to make sure this is a popular measure and not an unwanted level of societal control; Killashanda's mission to deliver the crystal and repair their crystal organ makes her a good agent to check that out. As you can imagine, there are nefarious doings on the planet that are kicked into the open by her investigation. All well and good, perfectly sound adventure stuff.

But this isn't the real point of the book - the real point of the book is Killasandra learning to love like an adult rather than a youth. The framing sequence goes into some detail on her ongoing affair with the guildmaster, how it's functionally doomed and how she has to give it up, a period of wallowing self pity, then finding a man who is her actual equal (as opposed to the guildmaster, who is 100 years older than her and can read her facial expressions as if by telepathy) and can she and her new love find a way to be together. This has some clumsy bits when viewed with modern sensibilities, but there's nothing in it that you wouldn't find in a romance novel, just with all constantly referenced sex scenes being cut out (and yes, this is two healthy energetic people in their 20's with extraordinary chemistry starting a relationship, so Killashandra thinks with her crotch at several points).

This merging of action plot vs. emotional plot just ended up not jelling for me. The action plot vanishes for stretches, then comes back in a truncated version for the endgame with outside actors coming in to drive the plot and ultimately resolve issues off screen. There was definitely a better book in here that melded the mystery plot and romance plot (Nora Roberts has tons of these) but while the emotional aspect worked the technical one didn't.

Fred Nachbrunn says

Action, Drama, Mystery and Romance

Anne McCaffrey has reached a new high point of literary success with this work.

A page Turner you will not want to put down.

Deborah Ideiosepius says

This was a re-read. It was a re-read to the power of n , where n = 'impossible to calculate as I have been re-reading this book since the 80's-90's'.

Killashandra Ree, after successfully training to be a 'singer' of black crystal in the first novel of the series, has unfortunately lost her claim for the immensely rare black crystal. Desperate to earn enough to get an extended holiday (who cannot sympathise with that?) from the planet Ballybran she cuts white crystal and accepts the assignment thrust upon her to install the crystal in a smashed organ on a distant planet. Of course, when she gets there, she discovers that all is not as it should be on the planet; there are rebels and dissidents and she is caught up in the middle.

While I am very fond of all three of the Crystal Singer books, this is the one I re-read most often. A lot of that has to do with the world of Ophtheria because the time Killashandra spends in the tropical islands never fails to enchant me. I love tropical islands and the author has done full justice to them in this one. The anti-political plot too, I think is quite fascinating and well written. A bit of a comfort book, this one is.

Raquel says

I really liked this one. In the first book, Killashandra is on the annoying side of an immature primadonna aspirant. In this, I found her a much more likable character. She performed some acts of generosity and self-sacrifice in the last book, but in this one, she's again, much more likable. She is much more judicious and has a greater awareness and benevolence for the world outside of herself.

The plot in this was very enjoyable. It's really a mystery novel in space where the last was more space opera.

Glen says

Okay, I must have read this at least a half dozen times. I really enjoy the spunky main character of Killashandra. She kind of reminds me of my little sister. Feisty. Determined. Practical. If you enjoyed the first book, Crystal Singer, you will enjoy this one too. I also like the jabs McCaffrey takes at those who feel it is their responsibility to decide for others what is best for them. It is almost over the top with the symbolism she uses to do it, but it works in the context of this narrative.

L. Stone says

I read the first book and liked it, even though I found it a little dated. But I really can't get behind a book where the heroine falls madly in love with her kidnapper. Seriously, this guy punched her in the face, dragged her away, drugged her to keep her asleep, put her in a ship where he gave her more drugs to keep her asleep, then left her on a desert island with supplies. Then she just forgives him? At first, I thought, yeah, she's just using him. She's gonna get him back and tell him it's bad to kidnap, drug, and abandon people. But no, she's really in love with him. Apparently his world had some bad politics he was fighting so it's all good. It was hard to finish, but I did. I love almost everything I've read by Anne McCaffrey (the bright point of this book was the scout ship!), so I was really disappointed.

On a writing note, I found the book to be a bit meandering and in need of a tight edit. The first one was much more polished.

Alyssia Cooke says

A novel that left me with a huge smile on my face. Very different to the first novel and I wasn't enjoying it any where near as much to begin with but the last third of the book very nearly made this a five star on their own merit. It's been a while since I finished a book with such a sense of absolute satisfaction. To have managed that whilst successfully building a suspenseful and engaging fantasy mystery that doesn't tend towards the soppy that much.... McCaffrey did herself proud.

Abigail says

another hospital reread

Amalia Dillin says

Lars Dahl! So many hearts. And Killashandra has also held up really well between when I first read it as a teenager and now. Love this series!

Peter says

Very readable, moderately recommended.: The second of Anne McCaffrey's books about Killashandra Ree is a pleasure to read although highly predictable and somewhat over-sentimental in places. The fact is that while you may have guessed exactly what will happen next you still want to read on. Unlike many books I could mention you end up caring about what happens to the characters, you can't help it - they are so well written. While Killashandra is hardly intellectually taxing I would still recommend it. Perhaps as a holiday book. It certainly contains the sun, sand and sex to get you into a holiday frame of mind.

Ree says

This had been one of my favourite Anne McCaffrey series and I wanted to do a reread of some of her work. While I love how outspoken Killashandra is and how she stands up to some of the sexism and bullshit she encounters, she is absolutely overdramatic and it is interesting to watch. I enjoy McCaffrey's style and humour for the most part.

It is definitely of its time though. The cover on my old copy is...interesting. And then the subtle comments about LGBT characters (who were all on the side of the villains) and Killashandra's reaction to finding out someone in her escort is bi really started to bother me towards the end.
