



Primal Instinct

Janie Crouch

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A killer stalks the city streets, and one FBI agent is determined to bring him down in Janie Crouch's Primal Instinct.

On the crowded streets of San Francisco, a serial killer watches and waits. Known only as "Simon Says," he lures his next victim while the FBI grasps for answers. Desperate, they turn to Adrienne Jeffries. Adrienne has an uncanny talent for getting inside the city's most dangerous minds. But first she'll have to get past FBI agent Conner Perigo. Skeptical of Adrienne's abilities, Conner begrudgingly enlists her help...unprepared for the powerful attraction that could jeopardize their focus. With little time, and everything to lose, they must work to find Simon's next victim—before he does.

Primal Instinct Details

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Author : Janie Crouch

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From Reader Review Primal Instinct for online ebook

Cindy ~ SnS Reviews says

Debut author Janie Crouch brings a fresh twist to the table in this thrilling suspense. The FBI has been chasing its tail trying to find any clues on the killer called Simon Says. It's due to this that FBI agent Conner Perigo boss sends him and his partner to bring in an outside consultant that used to work with the FBI 10 years ago. She was named the Bloodhound for being able to close cases that no one else could. Conner doesn't believe in psychics and feels going to ask her to help them is a waste of time.

Adrienne Jeffries was only 18 when she helped the FBI find killers. But it didn't take long for her to have a breakdown and retreat to a quite farm raising horses. Adrienne doesn't have the typical psychic abilities – she is only able to feel when a person has malicious intent and can then see through their eyes and feel and hear what they are thinking. I thought the scenes where she was connecting with an angry/evil person were so powerful you could almost feel through the pages what she was going through.

I was pleasantly surprised throughout this book not only with the suspense part of the book but also with the humor. Every time I read Special Agent Jackass I cracked up. I enjoyed this book and hope that someday the author will write about Adrienne's sister's who it seems also have some type of abilities but were only briefly mentioned. Looking forward to seeing what's next from this author.

??Trea says

I'd never heard of this author before now, and having received a newsletter offering a copy of the second book in the series, I thought I'd go back and read this story before that one to see if I would like the author's style. While this was a good enough story, there were some holes in things that made it difficult for me to truly enjoy it.

Adrienne Jeffries was a bit of a unique heroine, but also a bit of an unlikable one. Descriptions of her abilities weren't accurate, nor was her ability actually given a name, and thus was not believable for me. She held herself aloof for much of the book, so her romantic feelings weren't as believable either.

Connor Perigo was a complete jerk, so it was hard for me to believe his transition to love interest. In addition to that his ability to dampen Adrienne's ability was never explained, which left more questions than answers.

The suspense plot didn't feel fully developed, and I would have liked to see more in the killer's mind. I do have to give the author credit here, because what was there of the suspense was actually very entertaining, full of twists and turns.

Seeing as how this was a first effort by this author, I am definitely willing to give her a second chance and see if she hones her craft any more than this.

Angie Elle says

*****This book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.*****

I really enjoyed this book. I thought the premise was unique, and the characters were likable.

When FBI Agent Connor Perigo meets Adrienne Jeffries—the FBI's secret case-solving weapon from years ago—he is surprised to see how young she is and none too happy to let her in on the details of his latest case. Connor is skeptical from the beginning, wondering what 'special abilities' she has that led to so many criminals being apprehended. And how someone who helped capture so many criminals could just walk away and not look back.

It's not long before Adrienne makes a believer out of him, making Connor even more curious about her past with the FBI. When he sees the toll the job takes on her, he starts to understand why she walked away.

Connor and Adrienne's chemistry leapt off the pages from their first meeting; I loved how they went head to head from the get-go. Adrienne's determination surprised Connor, as did her willingness to help despite the toll it took on her.

I really enjoyed the pacing of the case as it unfolded. I thought it was interesting to read, and the suspense kept up until the end.

The love scenes were a bit too 'fade to black' for me, as I like my steam! And while I definitely felt Adrienne and Connor's connection, I think their relationship progressed just a bit too quickly to be believed.

I thought the killer was easily identifiable, but again, this wasn't confirmed until the end of the story, so I was kept in suspense in that respect.

All in all, I really enjoyed this book and will definitely read more from this author; I think this was a really great debut novel. If you enjoy Criminal Minds, I think this book is for you!

BBMoreB ~ says

In Primal Instinct by Janie Crouch, FBI Special Agents Connor Perigo and Seth Harrington are on the hunt for a serial killer, known only as Simon Says. With no leads, frustration mounts, and the decision is made to bring in a consultant, an outsider, to generate a profile. Chief Kelly has a specific profiler he wants them to recruit. He warns that she is will be reluctant to assist, but they are to use any means necessary to gain her cooperation – including blackmail.

Adrienne Jefferies, the Bloodhound, quit the FBI eight years ago but during the two years she was employed by the bureau she was accredited with assisting in the closure of unprecedented thirty-seven cases. However, she was naive about the personal cost of using her gift so hastily. The author put a lot of complexity into this character – I would love her to see her play an active role in future books.

Connor is skeptical of Adrienne's, as she refers to them, freakishly awesome, crime-fighting superpowers. As a veteran FBI agent, he knows that solving cases takes hard work with a smidge of luck – not that woo-

woo psychic shit. He balances the complexity of Adrienne's character with his unpretentious wit and confident charm.

As a debut novel for author Janie Crouch, I was pleasantly surprised by how thoroughly everything was contained. While the plot is not 100% original, she twisted it just enough to make it unique. This romantic intrigue has incredible dialogue, vivid descriptions and the secondary characters were well supported.

This review also appears on Harlequin Junkie.

Disclosure: This book was provided to me free of charge for the sole purpose of an honest review. All thoughts, comments, and ratings are my own.

Sarah says

For being a freshmen book form Crouch I must say it was very good and I am looking forward to more. Maybe even Adrienne's sisters stories?

I really enjoyed Conner and Adrienne's story. The suspense was there and I was toying with who I thought the killer was I loved the plot twist that just added a little bit more to the story that a lot of new author's don't put in their books so that was a nice addition. I am looking forward to more from this new author who made an impression with her first book.

Books and Spoons says

The heart raising and nail biting suspense of the story keeps you guessing, with unexpected twists and turns. The spooky paranormal abilities of the heroine to sense and hear evil thoughts, while questioned and distrusted by the hero, shows spine-chilling accuracy in the cafe scene.

The romance and attraction in the story is convincing and sweet. The characters are engaging and enjoyable, their chemistry obvious and charming.

The author has a pleasant flow in the story, spiced up with witty, humorous, and entertaining dialog. Absolute pearl!

Sallyann Phillips says

I loved it!

Primal Instinct was more than your average romantic suspense, and was definately a page turner from start to finish.

Connor Perigo is an FBI agent working on a serial killer case, and he's sent to aquire the help of Adrienne Jeffries who is not quite what you'd expect.

Adrienne has an ability that allows her to get inside the head of the serial killer, but it doesn't come without it's drawbacks.

Connor, your very male law enforcement agent, and your next book boyfriend, is of course very skeptical. He doesn't believe in any hocus pocus, only in what he can see for himself.

It doesn't take long for Adrienne to prove herself to him, but can her ability help them before the killer finds his next victim?

The plot was well contrived, and very convincing.

The characters well fleshed out and real. The emotional rollercoaster between the two swinging from amusing animosity, on to caring protection, and finally to love.

At one point Adrienne says she has two sisters with similar abilities, and I have to say I hope the author gives them books of their own. I'd really like to see who they end up with.

Linda says

Adrienne Jeffries has a secret 'gift', if you want to call it something, and the FBI is need of it. Again. Connor Perigo and Seth Harrington are recruited to bring her back in so she can help them find a serial killer. They have been working on the case for over ten months with no leads when their boss orders them to find Adrienne.

I am the first to admit that 'Romantic Suspense' is not easy to write. The reader needs to be given enough information about the killer/criminal plot/mystery to pull him or her in without going overboard on graphic details. At the same time you need an interesting hero and heroine with *believable* backgrounds so the reader can identify with them. Great chemistry is a plus. Lastly, correct pacing is imperative. Clues are necessary but you don't want them to stand out.

I know this is Ms. Crouch's debut story and, for the most part, it is good. (view spoiler) I think this author has some talent that should only get better the more she writes. A side note: she introduced the idea of two sisters which may or may not be developed into other stories.

Dawn ♥ romance says

I really enjoyed this romantic suspense with lots of fast paced exciting action and an interesting plot. The relationship and bad guys character were both creative. It's hard to tell more without spoilers so I'll just say this was an overall good book. FBI agent Conner is ordered to bring Adrienne into a serial killer case he is working because she has special abilities to get into the minds of evil criminals.

Toni says

Adrienne has a gift. She can see into the mind of a killer. But her visions come at a great price to her health. So when the FBI come a calling asking for her help, she finds that her talents don't work when she needs them to.

I found the whole concept of this book intriguing and hope that they revisit these characters at a future time. I could see this type of thing becoming a series. I am definitely a fan of this one. This was book two in the Janie Crouch marathon I had in December. Definitely worth it. Check it out if you loved shows like Unforgettable or The Profiler.

I paid for this book with my own money.

Elie Bridge says

A fantastic debut book! Rich characters and escalating suspense mixed with killer romantic attraction. The entire book is a roller-coaster ride. A definite must read!

Mei says

A good book with a nice story.

I have a small complaint... I know that this is a Harlequin, but I would have liked it better if the part of the psychopath were more developed.

Here we have descriptions like "terrible things" etc, without actually get to know what those are.

On the other hand, the part where her abilities are is good and interesting!

The dialogue between Adrienne and Conner is great! I liked those humorous interludes that balance really well with the rest of the story.

I also enjoyed Adrienne's personality. Her ability to remain a really nice person with all the bad stuff going on in her head.

Conner too was a decent guy, even if Adrienne calls him Agent Jackass in the beginning. :D

Cassandra says

This book was amazing!!!! It was a thrill ride from beginning to end. I recommend this book for anyone who loves intrigue, and maybe even a little romance. This is one book you won't want to miss!!!!

Coral says

Plot: 4/5

Characterisation: 3/5

Prose: 4/5

How much I enjoyed it: 3/5

Sheryl says

BRILLIANT DEBUT!!! Loved everything about this story ESPECIALLY Conner aka Special Agent Jackass >.<

