



## Surrender

*Joan Johnston*

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**Surrender** Joan Johnston

**A sizzling contemporary Western romance, where power, money, and rivalries rule--and love is the best revenge.**

Taylor Grayhawk and Brian Flynn are two old flames forced together under perilous circumstances. Taylor, a corporate pilot, has been burned by men - including Brian - in the past, and has given up on the possibility of any kind of happily-ever-after. Brian, a firefighter, is a recent divorcee, so heart sore and gun-shy that he is unlikely to ever fall in love again. But when this pilot and this smoke jumper are caught fighting a raging wildfire arm-in-arm, they're forced to leap headfirst into the flames, and hopefully make it out with their hearts still intact.

## Surrender Details

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Author : Joan Johnston

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## From Reader Review Surrender for online ebook

### **Tonya Lucas says**

Wow, what a book!!!! When I think Joan Johnston couldn't deliver more in a series, she reaches in and pulls out more storylines than I could have ever imagined.

Taylor Ann Grayhawk (TAG, as Brian calls her) and Brian Flynn's story was outstanding, I've waited an entire year for this book.

Will they emerge from the fiery inferno that crashed their twin otter plane over Yellowstone. It's just beyond your wildest dreams what actually happened to Tag and Brian. Harrowing-heart stopping disaster.

Ms. Johnston continues to deliver the deception, revenge, and spiteful twists, as one would expect in her BitterCreek novels.

Can these "King's Brats" and those "Awful Flynn Boy's" find common ground from two revengeful father's still feuding over the past?

Angus has finally found a way to take King down for good, but will his revenge also take down their children's legacy and destroy their future happiness?

The best King's Brat book yet!!!

Phenomenal!!!

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### **Lori D says**

Second chances don't come around too often, but in this story it does for Taylor Grayhawk and Brian Flynn. Thrown together after years apart and a lot of water under the bridge, Taylor and Brian are forced to work together at what they do best. Taylor, a corporate pilot and Brian, a firefighter are fighting a raging wildfire and the fire in their hearts ignites. There are so many emotions in this tale. Being in a constant danger, there is love, romance and the best of all hope that they will be able to make it out alive.

A faced paced story that will have you turning the pages quickly to find out what happens. Be warned you will not be able to put it down once you start. In the wonderful style of Joan Johnston, you will be drawn into the emotions of the characters and rooting for them until the very end. Don't miss this great book and all of the Bitter Creek Series.

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### **Lorraine Oliver says**

Surrender by Joan Johnston was a great read, it had everything! The Greyhawks and the Finns are known enemies that have neighboring ranches, the two owners have been enemies for years. This caused the 3 Greyhawk girls and the three Finns to take up the war and trick and tease each other, pull pranks and just be ornery-all six of them. This is the story of Taylor Greyhawk and Brian Finn.

After spending a brief time as boyfriend and girlfriend in high school, Taylor stays away from Brian Finn. She has gotten engaged 3 times and broke the engagements all three of them. Brian Finn got married, but has been divorced for a year, when this book takes place.

Brian is a smokejumper firefighter, it is his life. In the last year Taylor has flown a twin otter plane and has dropped smoke jumpers over many forest fires. They both have seen each other for the last year but neither

one has made any overtures to talk to each other.

There is a bad fire raging over the mountains and forests and Taylor has to fly a bunch of smokejumpers over the fire and get them low enough to jump. They all make it out except Brian, and he refuses to jump and leave Taylor as both her engines have caught fire from a huge fire gust that hits her plane, and the plane is going to go down. Taylor has no parachute and does not want to risk Brian, she flies over the fire but he will not jump until she jumps with him using one parachute-his! As Taylor gets more freaked out, Brian grabs her and jumps out of the plane with her.

What follows is a absolutely grueling time for both of them, and they have so many things happen to them, have to ward off an animal attack and go underground to survive the fire, and they do not believe they will survive. They have hardly any food and water.

They finally make it back home after Brian's brother and Taylor's sister find them with no time to spare! They are both in bad shape, and neither knows if they will ever get back the love they lost.

Read this book and find out what happens, and see if there will be a second chance for love! I gave this book 5\*\*\*\*\*stars. I loved all the angst, the danger, the never ending plot twists and most of all the love these two characters have for each other.

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### **Debbie Oliphant says**

2.5 Stars

I've read a few books from this author and looked forward to reading the ARC that I received, however, I was lost around a third of the story. I really wanted more of Taylor and Brian's story as the beginning started so intense but shifted to another storyline which was distracting. This was all over the place and I found myself losing interest.

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### **J. W. Garrett says**

“Revenge is an act of passion; vengeance of injustice. Injuries are revenged; crimes are avenged.” –Samuel Johnson

Firemen, smokejumpers, and bears... oh, my. Yep, we have fireman Brian Flynn, his pilot and ex-girlfriend, Taylor “Tag” Grayhawk, flying into the smoke and flames in order to deposit smokejumpers near a raging forest fire. After releasing their jumpers, they circle the drop zone, to ensure the firefighters landed safely. A sudden and freakish fire tornado snuffs out her twin engines and they have to jump in order to save their own lives. Now stranded on the ground, they find themselves surrounded by a blazing inferno. Utilizing all his firefighting knowledge and skills... Brian, along with Taylor, will have to depend on each other in order to survive.

This was a story about love, forgiveness, survival, and discovering what you truly want in life. However, what could have been a beautiful love story was completely overtaken and crushed into the ground by a strong thread of bitterness, hate, revenge and a longstanding family feud. There was also a congested list of

additional characters, brothers, sisters, and cousins, that made up this series of Bitter Creek Novels. Two of the couples were featured in previous books in this Grayhawk vs Flynn feud series: Sinful: Delta sergeant Connor Flynn and Eva Grayhawk. Pub 4-28-15, and Shameless: Pippa Grayhawk and Devon Flynn. Pub 12-29-15

“My family has existed in eastern Kentucky for as long as there are records. If you’re familiar with the famous Hatfield-McCoy family feud back in the 1860’s, ‘70’s and ‘80’s in the United States, my family was an integral part of that.” –J.D. Vance

Although this can be read as a stand-a-lone, you will soon figure out that the story is a continuation and several of the characters have been featured in previous books. There are actually several books [different threads] in the Bitter Creek Novels and one thing stands out that is common to all of them. It seems that these people cannot get along with anyone, or themselves. There has to be something in the water. First, in this corner we have the Blackthorne vs Creed feud. Next... and in this corner, we have the Blackthorne vs the Grayhawk feud. And then we have the current Grayhawk vs Flynn feud. These guys are fighting over anything and everything. We are talking about century-old feuds... opposing dynasties and family rivals between scions. Dang, the books float back and forth between western, modern, and Regency time periods.

I have decided... I am not even going to attempt to start at book one and make my way through this mess. I don’t know how many books there are for sure as they stopped numbering them at seven. However, I did find at least eight more books with the name Bitter Creek on them. As I read the book blurbs and the reviews... they all are full of bitterness, revenge, feuding and hate between which ever family is fighting at the time. There are bastard children coming out of the woodwork years later and causing all manner of mayhem. There are bitter divorces, Romeo and Juliet type of romances and marriages, and children of the yours, mine and ours type with no love for themselves, their parents, or anyone else.

I don’t want to read love stories where the lovers are twisted and hurtful to each other. That is just wrong. Why are these people in love with someone that hates their guts... only to fall into bed with them the next minute... and creating an unexpected pregnancy? The cognitive dissonance is maddening. I see one thing, I read another, and yet... the story suddenly turns and twists and everything becomes clear and they love each other and will have their HEA. Only after the author has wrung out every last emotion that the reader has left. Whew!

Rating: MA: Mature Audience: language, graphic sex. I volunteered to read this and the views expressed are my own. I thank the publisher and NetGalley for the opportunity to read this and write a review.

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### **Kim Vanravenswaay says**

First Brian and Taylor have to survive before they can surrender. The obstacles that they have to go through were horrible. And written so well that I could feel their despair. So I gotta tell you, I wanted to shake Brian a time or two after they were rescued. Maybe he would have came to his senses sooner.

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### **Sissy's Romance Book Review says**

Surrender by Joan Johnston is book 11 in the "Bitter Creek" Series. This is the story of Taylor Grayhawk and Brian Flynn. I thought this was easily a stand alone book. Taylor and Brian had been high school sweethearts but they ended up moving on to other things and people. Now time had brought them back together but each have changed and learned harsh lessons. This was a really nice second chance at love.

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### **P.e. lolo says**

An interesting story about two people who at one time many years ago were a couple only to break up. Brian Flynn went on to marry someone and divorce and Taylor Grayhawk wonders why they broke up. Today though as they are flying together and after the hot shots have jumped out. She is wondering why he is still in the plane. After a few awkward moments they have no time to hash out the past when the storm takes a sudden turn and the plane is going to crash. With the fire and the wind she is hoping she can just put it down somewhere. After the crash and Taylor taking care of Brain's injuries they find a cave to spend the night in. From it is a matter of survival and also reliving the past and the why it ended between them years ago, and could they get back together again. While all of this is going on. The fire is still raging, then people realize that they are missing and start a search and rescue for them. Of course just when Taylor thinks everything is going good between them they are found and because of his injuries he is flown out. Now she is left with doubt and what might be, still she wants to see Brain but not knowing what is waiting for her at the hospital or if he will remember anything is scary. What will happen between them and will there be a them? Read this good book and see what happens. The author also does a good job in the writing about survival in the woods. I received this book from Netgalley.com I gave it 4 stars. Follow us at [www.1rad-readerreviews.com](http://www.1rad-readerreviews.com)

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### **Hannah says**

#### **ARC REVIEW**

King's Brats #3, Bitter Creek #11. Three years! That's how long I've been waiting for this book to come out; waiting to find out what happened up on that mountain between Taylor and Brian. Oh, but this book was so much more than I thought it would be, so worth the wait. This is probably one of the few drama based almost soap opera like Contemporary Romances I like. But unlike soap operas this series has HEAs it just has the endless drama with different people and not the same poor people over and over again, and if it does it doesn't completely ruin their HEA except for maybe Cricket and Jarrett, they were my favorite couple and that was just mean even if it did turn into some really good books down the line. Anyways I digress. I have missed maybe four books in the entire series and having read most of the books I don't know if this would be good for a stand alone, for this the first two books in the King's Brats part of the series should be read; they are all connected with an overall story arc.

The Greyhawks and the Flynn's and been feuding for years, but for a brief couple of months Taylor Greyhawk and Brian Flynn were happy. They were secretly dating until Taylor's insecurity broke them up after that it was prank war between the King's Brats and those Flynn Boys. Years have past Brian is a firefighter and smoke jumper and Taylor has become a pilot. In the latest wildfire Brain is filling in for Taylor's spotter before he jumped when the fire flares up and damages both engines on the plane. Brian and Taylor have no choice but to jump together. Only nothing goes right once they land Brain is attacked by a bear fleeing the fire and the cave the plan to seek refuge in gets closed off by a fallen tree before they can

bring in all the smoke jumper equipment Brian pushed out the plane before they jumped. They are trapped in the cave for a few days, in that time Brian and Tag, as Brian calls her, have plenty of time to talk about the past and what happened and what went wrong.

In the meantime Aiden and Leah aren't giving up on their siblings and continue to search even after everyone else has given up. In their search you discover they have a secret of their own and since they are alone Aiden feels it's the right time to sort it all out, in other words apologize and beg forgiveness. Tag and Brian after the fire has finally passed discover another way out of the cave and start to walk, unfortunately the wound Brian got from the bear has become septic and they in a race against time to find help before he dies. While Brian is sick with fever he admits everything to Tag and she reciprocates. But getting out of the woods is only the start of their problems they have a whole new batch of different problems once they get rescued.

Overall, the first part of this book was so intense and edge of your seat. People who are about to die always find it easy to communicate and finally reveal feelings they couldn't otherwise express, that's exactly what Tag and Brian did only when they got rescued they became shut off again, one because of families and another because they're silly, well they have reasons and it does lead to some good drama, heartbreak and steamy make-up sex. I can't wait for the next one. I've been a fan of Joan Johnston for almost two decades and I never get tired of her writing.

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### **Wendy Keel says**

WOW! SURRENDER is book 11 in the Bittercreek series from author Joan Johnston, however it can be read as a stand alone title. Just be warned that once you find this series you'll be eager to read the previous titles, I know I am. SURRENDER is the story of former lovers Taylor Grayhawk and Brian Flynn. Taylor and Brian are facing a challenge, surviving a wildfire with no idea if help is coming. Reading this book will tear at your emotions, there is hope, love, romance, steam, and danger. I found myself unsure just how things would turn out. It's one of those stories that is so very realistic you can feel yourself becoming part of the story. The characters are well written and believable, the story itself is engaging and so very realistic. Fans of smoke-jumpers or fire fighters are in for a roller-coaster ride. Both Taylor and Brian have been burned by love in the past and find it hard to trust but their life and death situation makes it clear that sometimes they have to trust in someone else. But once the danger is over will they be able to hang on to those feelings or will old doubts and questions about the future lead to more separation?

I found this story to be hard to put down and deeply engaging. The story is fast paced and keeps you on the edge of your seat. You will find yourself going from signing to tearing up to laughing out loud to feeling so glad you read the story. I'm eager to read previous titles in the series and to read the next story! Write faster Ms. Johnston! Highly Recommended!!!!

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### **Jessica Robbins says**

For complete review check out my blog at <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogs...>

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### **Michelle says**

Joan Johnston has always been a go-to author for me when I need a solid, dependable read. She knows how

to tell a good story with characters that seem very real. I was very intrigued by this book based on the description, even though I'm not usually a fan of reunited lovers storylines. I was not disappointed.

I almost felt like I was reading two different books. The first half of the book was a gripping, tension-filled adventure of survival. Taylor Grayhawk and Brian Flynn have a history. The Grayhawk and Flynn families have been feuding for decades, stemming from a long ago argument between the two family patriarchs. Neighboring ranches meant that Taylor and Brian had plenty of exposure to each other over the years, including an ill-fated teenage romance. They are thrust back together when the plane Taylor is piloting goes down in the middle of a forest fire.

Their situation is beyond dire and Taylor is forced to rely on Brian's firefighter experience to help them survive. The near-death experience forces them to put their past aside and work together to find a way out. I absolutely loved this part of the book. The way the author described everything about the crash, the way they fought for survival, and their subsequent rescue was exhilarating. I loved the way they worked their way through their issues, both past and present, and allowed their feelings to be rekindled.

The second half of the book chronicled Brian's recovery from the injury he sustained during their ordeal. There was a lot of push and pull between Brian and Taylor.... one minute they are feasting on each other with their eyes, the next they are pushing each other away. There were also a lot of side stories having to do with their respective families. I liked how Ms Johnston incorporated Aidan & Leah's story into this book, but I felt a lot of the other issues could have been left out or not taken up so much space .

I haven't read any of the other books in this series, so I feel like I might have missed out on some of the back story. I feel like I might have had a better grasp of the Grayhawk and Flynn family dynamics if I hadn't started with this one, and I would have been able to appreciate more the way the two families resolved their differences.

Overall this was a great read.... I just wish the story had kept up the same level of intensity and emotion throughout the entire book.

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### **Kimberly says**

Taylor Grayhawk and Brian Flynn has a past, and even though it was back in high school, they are both still harboring feelings for each other. Their chemistry roars back to life like the flames they escaped, not knowing if they will survive, they find comfort in each other arms. But, will facing a life or death situation bring them closer or tear them apart forever? Read and see!

This is the first book I have read from this author and I really enjoyed it. There is a lot of action and adventure with some steamy chemistry to make it that much more enjoyable. There is also another love story going on between one of Taylor's sisters Leah, and one of Brian's brothers, Aiden that adds another element to the story. There is a kind of Hatfield and McCoy thing going on between the families that complicates things considerably. All in all it's a good read and I will definitely be reading more from this author.

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### **Viper Spaulding says**

Strap on your parachute, because your heart will be free-falling in this action-packed romance. Part second-chance, part feuding families, part survivalist - this book has it all, right down to surprises, family drama, and secrets unveiled at exactly the most inappropriate time. Taylor - Tag to Brian - is flying the smoke jumpers into a dangerous fire, with Brian staying on board as her last-minute spotter. The fire is out of control, forcing an emergency evacuation that nearly kills them before they even get close to the fire. The first part of the book, how they survive the fire, how they readjust their relationship during this intense time, and how they are rescued, is simply amazing to read, gut-wrenching in its honesty and realism. But after the rescue, just when you'd think things would get easier, the real drama begins and their hearts are tested almost to their limits.

These two really have all the cards stacked against them, so much that even they start to believe there's no chance it could work out. Everything seems to be trying to keep them apart - their family, their recovery, their own insecurities - throughout their roller-coaster relationship.

We also get a few side stories about the romances and marriages of other members of the Flynn and Grayhawk families, which only add to the overall story without making the reader feel like they've missed anything by not reading other books in the series.

Tag and Brian are soulmates in the truest sense, and their HEA is hard-won and heartwarming. I thoroughly enjoyed every page of this captivating book. I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this book through NetGalley.

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### **Veda says**

Where to start, the excerpt for this book, tells us that Taylor is flying the plane, Brian Flynn is a smoke jumper, but on this day he is the spotter, when something goes very wrong. The plane is going down, now the question is what happened to Taylor and Brian? Did they get to the ground safely? Are they trapped by the fire? Who is going to look for them, family wise? Well yes they get out of the plane, that in itself is an adventure. Yes, trapped by fire, for the rest of the story you have to read the book.

This story is the continuing saga between two very rich powerful families. The father's hate each other, and the children are caught in the middle. The children are now adults, and love is in the air. The conflicts and the past rear their ugly head, but will love be enough to overcome the past. Lots of things in this story, I wasn't expecting. Good research on what a smoke jumper goes through. I love the story, was it kept up most of the night reading it.

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