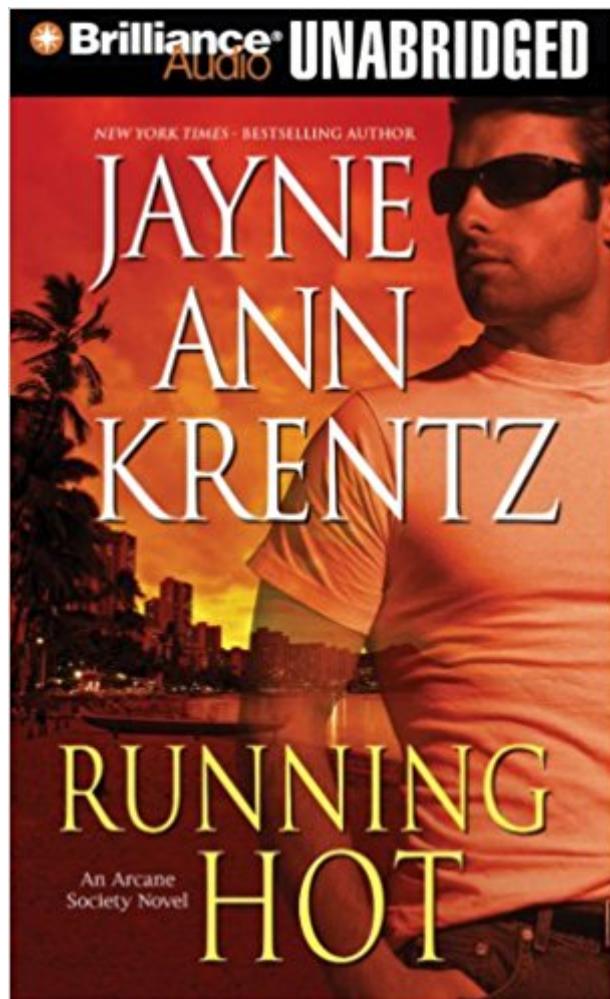


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# Running Hot (Arcane Society)



## Synopsis

Ex-cop Luther Malone, lifelong member of the secretive paranormal organization known as the Arcane Society, is waiting to meet Grace Renquist. Hired as an aura-reading consultant in the quest for a murder suspect, sheâ™s got zero field experience. Sheâ™s from tiny Eclipse Bay, Oregon. Sheâ™s a librarian, for heavenâ™s sake. As for Grace, sheâ™s not expecting much, either, from Malone, who walks with a cane and isnâ™t so good with a gun. Nice rÃ©sumÃ© for a bodyguard. But even before they reach their hotel in Maui â€“ where theyâ™ll be posing as honeymooners â€“ Grace and Luther feel the electric charge between them. Problem is, they need to remain vigilant day and night; because it soon becomes clear thereâ™s more going on here. Rogue sensitives â€“ operatives for the underground group Nightshade â€“ are pouring into the luxury resort as if thereâ™s a convention. Grace recognizes those dark spikes in their auras. And she understands how dangerous these people can be...especially with those para-hunters at their sides. As Grace knows all too well, if you donâ™t control your powers, your powers will control you.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A heroine who can see dark energy flashes in a villain's aura and a hero who can squelch villainous thoughts before they're put into action go to paradise to find a murderer, but find love, sex and a nest of drug-enhanced evildoers instead in Krentz's latest Arcane Society novel. Librarian Grace Renquist and ex-cop-turned-bartender Luther Malone, both members of the centuries-old Arcane Society, join forces when the psychic investigative agency Jones & Jones hires Grace, with Luther

as her bodyguard, to find a killer in Hawaii. Luther quickly realizes Grace is not your normal paranormal, but their hot romance is put (briefly) on hold as they learn that Nightshade, drug-fueled supernatural baddies, are after the same murdererâ "as is the lethal psychic hunter La SirÃ"ne, an opera diva with a killer voice. The plot is fast, steamy and wildly entertaining even if it defies credibility. Krentz fans will enjoy this outing and appreciate the teaser that readers have not seen the last of this power couple. (Jan.) Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Luther Malone should have known that even an â œeasyâ • assignment from Fallon Jones would haveÂ a few unexpected twists. Not only did Jones expect him to work with a complete novice with no field experience, but also Maloneâ "TM's new â œpartner,â • Grace Renquist, isÂ a librarian! Itâ "TM's true,Â she worksÂ in the Bureau of Genealogy at the Arcane Society, but Grace knows her talents at aura-reading are every bit as good as Maloneâ "TM's paranormal gift, and she is determined to prove her professional worth whileÂ on assignmentÂ with this ex-cop with a limp, a fear of guns, andÂ attitude. Of course, the one thing Jones fails to tell either Malone or Grace is that while they conduct a secret investigationÂ in MauiÂ to searchÂ for a possible murderer, they are going to have to pretend to be married. Combining a superbly matched pair of protagonists,Â wonderfully original secondary characters (including a deliciously self-absorbed diva villainess with a â œkillerâ • voice), and a cleverly constructed plot, best-selling Krentz works her usual literary alchemy and creates another irresistible, paranormal-flavored novel of sexy romantic suspense to add to her much-loved Arcane Society series (Sizzle and Burn, 2008). --John Charles --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

RUNNING HOT is the fifth book in the Arcane Society series. The Arcane books are stories regarding people with paranormal talents. Arcane is in danger from insiders who have created an organization to enhance the natural paranormal talents for criminal purposes. The Arcane books cover three time periods: historical (Amanda Quick), contemporary (Jayne Ann Krentz), futuristic (Jayne Castle). Each book and time period can be read independently, but they work together to give an overarching story that is more satisfying than the individual parts. A new reader, however, can pick up any of the books. RUNNING HOT is the story of Luther Malone, an ex-cop, who is twice-divorced and after having been shot needs a cane. His paranormal talent is seeing auras. He also has a hidden variation where he can influence the auras of other people thus giving them a little push in the direction Luther wants. Luther lives in Hawaii and gets an assignment from J&J (the

Arcane's investigation agency) to escort a librarian to a Hawaiian resort to help look for a murderer. Luther doesn't expect the little old librarian to be Grace Renquist, a sexy, young woman with secrets. The two are instantly attracted to one another and share a similar talent. Grace also sees auras, but she can use it like a fingerprint to identify someone and profile them. Grace also has a secret ability. She has used her talent to kill. Luther and Grace are damaged people. They have both been deeply hurt and are alone in deep ways. This is the story of how they build intimacy with one another and build a family that neither has had. There is an exciting plot dealing with Nightshade (the conspiracy within Arcane), but the heart of this story of Luther and Grace finding one another. This is a book where the balance between the romance and the suspense is well done. I loved the secondary characters as well. Even the villains are interesting and have some personalities that were interesting. This is one of my favorites of the series.

I already have the hard cover of this book, but now have a copy on my Kindle, too. I've gotten e-book copies of many, many of JAK, Jayne Castle and Amanda Quick books I already own. The stories and characters are so enjoyable I find myself re-reading many of their books more than once or twice. This book does not disappoint. Strong characterizations, a welcome short visit and connection to some of my past favorite characters in other JAK books, also. I love these threads of connection. It's almost like picking up the phone and talking to friends or family. Of course, the characters keep telling me the same stories, over and over. But then, so do some of my actual friends and family.

When Grace Renquist is sent on assignment for Jones & Jones, it's supposed to be a simple in and out mission. Go to Maui, identify a suspect by his aura, and go home. Even so, Luther Malone, Waikiki bartender and J&J agent, is sent along as a bodyguard, just in case. Suddenly Maui is teeming with high-level Nightshade operatives, not to mention two different contract killers, in a plot that leads all the way to the Governing Council of the Arcane Society. I just loved this book! Grace is such a different type of heroine, and she and Luther have both been damaged in different ways. They come together fast (and hot), but the sense of emotional connection is there from the beginning. It's clear they're perfect for each other and that Luther has no intention of letting her go now that he's found her. I found myself sniffling a bit as Grace realized she'd found a home with Luther and his band of fellow survivors -- and when we finally learn the truth about Arizona Snow (from Eclipse Bay). This one's a thrill-ride. I couldn't turn the pages fast enough.

I loved the characters and the story line! I also loved the idea of a group of people brought together with a common need for family and love. This is Jayne Ann Krentz at her best.

**REVIEWER'S OPINION:** I had a tough time deciding between 4 and 5 stars, but somehow I ended up with 4, which fits my definition of "really liked it." The author is using a standard formula, but it works well and is entertaining. There were many lines that had me chuckling. The two main characters are neat. I liked their back stories and their developing interactions. I also enjoyed the author's video clip about the book on her website: krentz-quick dot com.

**STORY BRIEF:** This is author's 5th book about the Arcane Society, humans with psychic abilities, called sensitives. Grace and Luther can read other peoples' auras. They each have an additional ability. Grace can see more detail about the person's personal life and past activities than Luther can. Luther has a hypnotizing effect. He can use his powers to calm down the other person, put them to sleep, or make them want to talk or do something. Grace and Luther work for the Jones & Jones agency. The agency wants Grace to go to Maui to look at the aura of someone suspected of killing three women. This is her first field assignment. Her past work for the agency has been as a research librarian. Luther is assigned to act as her bodyguard. While in Maui, they discover several high-level sensitives, who've enhanced their talents with an illegal drug and are criminally dangerous.

**DATA:** Story length: 337 pages. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: 4. Total number of sex scene pages: 11. Setting: current day Caribbean island, Hawaii and southern California. Copyright: 2008. Genre: romantic suspense with a psychic twist.

**OTHER BOOKS REVIEWED:** For a list of my reviews of other books by this author, see my 4 star review of "Sizzle and Burn" posted 2/09/08.

**BOOKS IN THE ARCANE SOCIETY SERIES:** By Amanda Quick, set in Late-Victorian England: Not read by me.

Second Sight (Book 1) The Third Circle (Book 4) The Perfect Poison (Book 6) By Jayne Ann Krentz, set in current day U.S.: I have read all three of these, my ratings and review dates follow.

White Lies (Book 2) 3 stars. 2/09/08.

Sizzle and Burn (Book 3) 4 stars. 2/09/08.

Running Hot (Book 5) 4.5 stars. 1/06/09.

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