



Taken by Fire

Sydney Croft

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HIS MISSION WAS TO DESTROY HER.
BUT DESIRE GOT IN THE WAY.

A product of genetic manipulation, Melanie Milan shares a body with her malevolent sister, Phoebe. A sleek, blond predator with a heart of pure darkness, Phoebe puts their body through the wicked underbelly of sex for thrills—when she's not igniting her pyrokinetic skills for an evil organization bent on taking over the world. Melanie rarely gets out to play—much less fall in love. But that changes when rival ACRO agent Stryker Wills shows up, with a mission to terminate the woman who torched his partner.

An operative with rare abilities, Stryker soon realizes that the woman he's about to kill isn't the murderous fire starter he's been hunting. But he does want her. Melanie, with the power to ice anything in her path, is heating things up in ways that are setting fire to his blood. As long as Melanie stays in control, she is his best ally to bring down her sister and stop hellish havoc from being unleashed. Walking a tightrope of longing and hate, Stryker and Melanie begin to understand that true power lies in sweet surrender to each other, to the flames between them, to the erotic adventure that's joined their hearts and abilities to become their salvation—and perhaps the world's.

Taken by Fire Details

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From Reader Review Taken by Fire for online ebook

Kathleen says

OMG! OMG! OMG! OMG! The ending of this book/ series was the best ending I have EVER read. Fantastic, phenomenal, Amazing, I am totally floored. The team of Sydney Croft did not leave me hanging one bit. They ended this series wrapped with a nice tidy bow leaving me completely satisfied.

Now I'm sad because yes it's over but it went out with a bang.

OK, now that I'm done with all that let me just say that if you have not read this series and you like your romances action pack, with really cool hero's and heroines that have special abilities like the X-Man series and LOTS of scorching hot love scenes in everyone I urge you to give this series a try. Out of the 6 book's in this series only one fell short for me and I still enjoyed that one too. I must say that yes, you need to start at book one and work your way to the end to truly enjoy this series.

I must again thank my friend Tiffany for recommending this series to me years ago, THANKS TIFFANY :) I hope your enjoying book 6 as much as I did.

Awilk -never sleeps- says

A great ending to a wonderful series.

valee says

Oh boy, what a fantastic ride this series was, and what a perfect ending for it. **I loved EVERY freaking page of *Taken by Fire*. This book was definitely the master piece of the series, totally exceed every other book in it.** The ACRO series was outstanding and so different from all the other series in this genre.

This book was just sublime, and it finally gave us a closure to all that had been developing since book 1, a flawless closure by the way. It just couldn't have gone any better than it did. **I freaking cried with this book, which is something that hasn't happened to me with a book since so long I can't even remember the last time it happened.** So many truths get revealed, so many lives get at risk, and the plot just couldn't help to get even better than what it already was... So how are we suppose not to ADORE this book? If you guys liked the previous books in this series you're gonna LOVE this one. This series has been growing on me with each new book and after the last couple of books I just got addicted to it, but nothing had prepared me for the amazing time I had reading this last book. PERFECTION. Sigh, I just wish this series didn't have to end but it really was the perfect ending and another book would just ruin that. So I will congratulate both authors to be able to realize the perfect timing to finish it.

In this last installment we get to read about Stryker and Phoebe/Melanie. I must admit I had been dying to read about this 2 characters for way too long, I just adored them both since we met them in the previous books. Both characters are amazing on their own, from their personalities to their reactions. But together they are even better, they had a great chemistry. Then we get to read about Dev and how he finally got his well deserved HEA. We also get a little glimpse of every single character we met in the previous books. **Again --> excellence, that's what we got form this book. So be ready for a lot of drama, action and romance.**

This book has everything it needs to keep you glued to the chair. Sigh. I'll miss this series so much, it really had something different from all the rest, which was what I adored the most about it. I just know I won't be able to find it anywhere else. 10 points for originality.

~~~Heather S.~~~ says

Fan-freaking-tastic!!! This series got better and better with each book!

Sharon ∞🐾 is an emotional book junkie 🐾∞ says

4.5 stars

For the first 85%, I would have only given the book 4 stars but the last 15%? OMG definitely 5+ stars. The last part was so good and so emotionally draining. Definitely a good way to end the series.

But back to the beginning....this, of course, is the story of Stryker and Mel who met in the last book in the Amazon when Mel's other half, Phoebe, killed Stryker's friend. Stryker has been on the hunt for Phoebe and finds Mel instead.

Stryker and Mel are just so sweet together even if it takes Stryker a while to realize it...understandably. And Poor Mel....she's been through so much and hasn't really been able to experience much. I loved that Stryker saw that and did things to remedy it. The food thing was so cute! And the icicle scene? wowza!

So being the last book in the series, there is the wrap up with the big baddie and his gang and there's updates on all the other couples. Lots of good stuff and some stuff was a bit contrived but had to be in order to get all those HEA's!!

Great series...a bit heavy on the sex, and the sex is right up front and in your face but at least there is some romance!

Best line:

"F*ck Disneyland. Because all in all, ACRO was the happiest damned place on earth."

Wendy says

What a great series and fantastic ending to wrap it all up. So, so good!

~V~ says

4 1/2 stars.

I have SO thoroughly enjoyed this series! They're HOT, probably more on the erotic side than a typical pnr,

action packed and suspenseful...everything that i LOVE in my books! This one, for me, was just as great as the rest of them...it started pretty much where the last one left off..with Stryker on the "hunt" for Phoebe for having killed his best friend. The whole dual personality/twin storyline was great..Phoebe was pure evil!..and Mel was the sweet "twin" ...it was interesting to hear how those two came about...and very sad for Mel..how she'd been treated by her sister and father all her life. We were, once again, given a very yummy hero in Stryker! I really liked him with Mel...he started out on his mission with only one thought..to kill Phoebe...but once he realized that Mel was for real...and really had no involvement in his friend's death..he became very protective of her and i loved that, especially since she'd pretty much been alone all her life! Those two were great together!

I also thought we were given pretty good closure for Dev and Gabe and Annika and Creed, although i do wish we could have had a little bit more time w/ those two couples....and i liked being able to "catch up" w/ couples from past books..whether they showed up to join in on a mission or we were just given a verbal update. There were even a few moments in this book that i felt were pretty emotional, for all couples involved...but like someone else said...(view spoiler)

I'm actually very sad that this series is over...it's one i always looked forward to! :(Here's hoping that the talented writing team of Stephanie Tyler and Larissa Ione will collaborate again in the future, as Sydney Croft, to bring us either an ACRO spin off series or something else equally as exciting as this series has been!

Stacey says

What a fantastic read!!! *Taken by Fire* is the final installment of the ACRO series, and I am very sorry to see this series end.

I don't normally write reviews with spoilers but this one can't be written without spoilers.

This series started out a bit rocky for me. I mean come on, a dude who constantly needs to get himself off during a storm or he could die?! And of course he stumbles upon a woman who is oh-so-happy to help him out! LOL!! Yes, the first book was cheeserrific, but the subsequent installments just kept getting better and better as we learned more about ACRO and its soldiers and its number one nemesis Itor.

Most of the time I looked forward to the side-stories within the books. Most specifically Dev and his personal drama with Oz and Gabriel or Creed and Annika. This time around we didn't have much of those back-stories, just enough to close up the loose ends. And I was OK with that. The main story of Stryker and Melanie/Phoebe rocked and rolled (pun intended ;)) so much that once I got into the story I put all other stuff in life aside and couldn't stop reading.

Yes, Stryker did seem to fall for Melanie VERY fast, but hey, they all do. And of course he fell HARD!! Constantly worrying about Melanie's well being, his own inability to completely trust her and wondering where her next threat would come from, whether it be Itor, her sister Phoebe or his own fellow soldiers of ACRO.

Melanie certainly grew a set just in time. Recognizing the fact that she would never truly be free of her sister she came out of her shell and lived in the moment knowing she was mostly going to die in the end. She fought hard to protect Stryker, who was the first person since her mother, to give a damn about her. Knowing Itor for the sick organization it was, she did every thing in her power to help take it down. I'm glad she was able to get her ultimate wish, unfortunately at cost others lives.

Dev...what a complex and lovable, tough-as-nails character with the heart of a teddybear. I think his love triangle with Oz and Gabriel was sewn up pretty well. Although the scene around 80% was a bit far-fetched. But, this is erotic PNR and anything can happen! ;) Just glad he and Gabriel were able to come to an understanding and be happy and Oz was able to see the love of his life was in a good place before saying good-bye.

Creed and Annika, my absolute favorite couple in this entire series. Loved that Creed is a sensitive romantic goth while Annika was a smartass, immature bad-ass. They both grew and matured throughout the series, especially Annika and I was very happy to see their baby safely born. I about lost my shite when Annika was shot and decided to go to heaven to be with her mom and dad. Not that I was disappointed with her decision, but because I couldn't believe the whole thing was happening.

Thank goodness for Faith and Wyatt...again another far-fetched 'we've come to save the day' moment but **HELL YES! Faith and Wyatt saved the freakin' day!!!!** For a bit there, like the last 15% of the book, I didn't think I'd get all my happy endings. Yes, I was completely sucked into the story and too busy wiping away tears and blowing my nose to stop and think that surely the authors wouldn't kill off a couple heroines...everything will work out in the end. Thank goodness it did!!! I would have hated to throw my kindle across the room!!!

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

4.5/5:

For this last installment in the wonderful ACRO series, I'm going to do a little different format for the review. By now, we all know that this is the final showdown with the big bad Alek, head of Itor, and the book had 3 storylines going, our lead couple Stryker and Melanie, Annika and Creed and finally Dev. This review will focus on the characters, their place in this book and the overall series.

Stryker & Melanie

I've been looking forward to Melanie's story for quite awhile and it doesn't disappoint. Melanie shares a body with her sister Phoebe. They are not split personalities, but 2 separate individuals, who have to share a body. Only one person can come out at a time and they are total opposites. Phoebe, to put it very mildly is a total crazy psychopath. She's an agent with Itor, Alek's daughter and wants nothing more than to see ACRO and especially Dev go down in flames. She hates Melanie with a passion and is just a horrible person. Her talent is fire, whereas Melanie's is ice and when Phoebe's in control she's out for blood. Melanie is the sweetest person and has been trapped in a life she desperately wants out of. Phoebe has so many enemies that when Melanie is in control of their body, she can't leave the house for fear of those enemies mistaking her for Phoebe. She has her gift of turning everything and everyone into blocks of ice, but beneath that, she's not a fighter. She longs for a normal life, one with a husband, kids, a career, but with having to share a body with Phoebe she can't risk having any of that. Phoebe would destroy any life Melanie tried to make for herself out of spite.

Enter Stryker. He's out to get Phoebe who killed his partner and when he finally catches up to her, its Melanie he faces. It takes him quite awhile to reconcile the fact that they are 2 very different women and

while he's falling in love with Melanie, he still wants to end Phoebe. Melanie teams up with ACRO in the hopes of finding a way to keep Phoebe from taking over permanently. Dev wants to use her to help bring an end to Itor, and I wanted Melanie to just be happy! It's a tough road for Stryker and Melanie, Phoebe does her best to ruin everything for between them and have I mentioned that she is 100% evil? There's one scene specifically that shows the length that Phoebe will go to ruin Melanie. I don't want to spoil the scene, but the total sum of everything she does in that moment shows how full of hate Phoebe is. It was a hard scene to read, and makes it clear that Phoebe has no conscious, no care for anyone if they stand in the way of what she wants.

Stryker and Mel go through a lot of angst, and I wondered throughout most of the book how it was going to be possible for their relationship to work. They're a great couple to cheer for and as is the case in all the previous ACRO books, sex plays a huge role, not only with how it's needed to counter the agents extraordinary abilities, but what starts out as sex by necessity turns into so much more.

Creed & Annika

Hands down, they are my favorite ACRO couple. At one time, I longed for them to have their own full book, but it's almost better that we got their supporting storyline running through the entire series. We had Oz's vision coming to the forefront in this story and their ending was so emotional and perfect, I couldn't have hoped for anything more for this couple. Thinking about where Annika was at the beginning of the series to now being on her way to motherhood, committed to Creed, having a family that includes Dev, she's come a long way. It made me laugh to read about her waddling around when we're so used to her running around and kicking ass.

Annika eyed the couch and then decided that if she sat, she'd be turtled and never get up again.

Creed goes through the emotional wringer in this one. He worries about Oz's vision of Annika, his child's birth, things that happen during the final few scenes and finally losing someone who's very close to him. If ever a couple deserved an HEA, it's Creed and Annika.

Dev & Gabe (& Oz)

Gabe has stuck by Dev through quite a bit, even when Dev couldn't and wouldn't give all of himself to Gabe, he still loved him and waited. Waited for that time when Dev would finally be able to move past the loss of Oz and open himself up to finding love again. Oz played such a wonderful role in this story and was the driving force of finally giving Dev closure and bringing Dev and Gabe together for good. The path was rocky, as it always is, but in their final scene I had tears threatening to fall and was cursing Oz for making me grab the tissues! Dev deals with so much pressure running ACRO and worrying that each decision he makes could lead to being the wrong one for his agents and with Gabe and eventually Melanie, he's found a soft place to land. He's only ever longed for love and family and in the end he's surrounded by it, more than he probably ever hoped he would be. It's of course not easy getting there for him and those around him, but if ever a guy needed some happiness, it's Dev.

While this story focused on Stryker and Melanie and their relationship, the final showdown with Alek and Itor didn't disappoint. We get to see all the ACRO agents in action and they all come out blazing with their special abilities. I also love that we get a really nice final scene, giving us a little bit of info about where each of our favorite ACRO couples are, their families and perhaps if Larissa Ione and Stephanie Tyler ever give Sydney Croft a chance to spinoff or continue this series, we may have met the next generation of ACRO agents by books end.

The Smex'in is off the chart, good.

The MC and SCs are very cleverly built. Their personalities burst off the pages. Itor is the exception. I want to know more about him.

In this book I found, MF & MM & MMM, loving. And ALL were pretty HAWT, especially Dev and his love(s) scene.

Mel/Pheobe & Stryker

Creed & Annika

Devlin & Gabriel.....Oz. ♥?

This book made me love Creed and Annika all over again. Because for a while thier angst frustrating me.

Thier is angst, but it balance well with the good.

I guess, one could say the MCs are Mel/ Phoebe,.. (for some people....not me though) the concept of Mel/Phoebe just boggled my brain a bit. But, it grew on me and it was uniquely cute. I'm glad they got thier man there love story was touching.

Now, what I loved most about this book.

Everybody was in this book!!!

And, that's why reading series. To get a glimpse of somebody I love *swoon * Dev....

And, if I'm lucky I find more people to love. And that's always a huge plus, but, dang that was so sad, I love the kids with the super powers , especially Remy's and Ender's♥?

So, this is my second read....and, man oh man, the second read is better that the first, because I missed my guys, the first time I read this I had read them all at once, and for me that's not necessary good.

~Re-Read for Book 7 ~1/15/15

Kim O says

I wish I could give it more than 5 stars. The book was just FANTASTIC. Without a doubt, one of the best books I've read this year. However, it is bittersweet because it was the last of the series, but Sydney Croft went out with bang. All the past characters were included and I remembered how much I adored the ACRO world. The guys are hot and alpha and the women have strong personalities and know how to hold their own when it comes to kicking some major ass. I cannot recommend this series enough to anyone who enjoys reading paranormal with lots of action and HAWT lovin'. Because of this series, I have become huge fans of Larissa Ione and Stephanie Tyler and my wish is that they find a publisher willing to work with them and that their collaboration continues with future series.

Ami says

4.5 stars

This is the last book in ACRO series, and it needs to come with a **WARNING**: m/m/m scene present. I know it might not sit well with some people. I read m/m romance religiously, but still I think that kind of warning is a must, right?

Oh, and also WATCH OUT FOR SPOILERS EVERYWHERE ON THIS POST ^_^ . I cannot help myself.

Okay, after get that out on the way, OMG, this one ROCKS so BAD! It's probably my second favorite after Seduced by the Storm. For me personally, it is probably due to:

(1) It is basically focus on ONE main couple: Stryker and Melanie. Unlike book #4 and #5 where the secondary couples sort of sharing the spotlight as well. Oh, there is some side story of the continuous life between Dev and Gabe as well as Creed and Annika, but the portion of their love story feels just the right amount (we'll go to that later).

I think the story of Melanie, who shares her body with Phoebe, is just unique and engaging. Mel's personality is so different to Phoebe, it's like comparing day and night. Mel has this innocence flair with her, a kindred heart, while Phoebe is a cunning bi*ch. So I totally enjoy the process of Stryker, trying to separate the two, then realize how Mel is her own personality (despite sharing body with Phoebe) and falls in love with the girl with ice ability. There are some tender moments between the two as well as some teasing times that bring smile to my face (like when Mel creates an ice dildo!). I love every minute of reading them together.

(2) Devlin FINALLY moves forward in his relationship with Gabriel. And it's just about darn time!! I don't like Dev keeping Gabe's at arms length. The young man might be trouble-maker in the beginning, but I believe he understands Dev just like Oz did. Plus Gabe shows that he is as important as any ACRO agent with his ability. So Devlin saying "I love you" to him just makes me happy like a little girl. The m/m/m scene (which involves Oz, in one supernatural way) doesn't disturb me as much because Oz is a part of Dev, just like Gabe is now.

(3) Annika has her baby. And she says "yes" to Creed's proposal *sigh*

(4) All of the ACRO agents that appeared in the previous books are present, and it wraps the story nicely. Love the ending, feels peaceful, and content, and at the same time, a sign that life moves on for ALL of them.

My only complaint related to the story, I think, will be the climax part. I think the death of Alex, Itor's leader, is a bit anticlimatic. I sort of wanting a HUGE scene over it :p.

I can't believe there will be no more books *pout*. I hope this is not the ending of Sydney Croft's writing though (please, Larissa, Stephanie, keep working together!)

Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

4.5 Stars

This review was posted at Under The Covers

SOME SLIGHT SPOILERS

I am so sad to see this series end. It really doesn't have to! There are still so many stories that they could create! Please, please, please! Or maybe write a spin-off series??? Something!! That's the end of my fangirl moment.

Taken by Fire is mainly the story of Stryker. He has such a cool power, he can affect basically earth, so watch out you don't piss him off or you may cause an earthquake! He is assigned to kill Melanie/Phoebe, the chick with two personalities that killed Akbar in the forest at the end of the last book. He watched as his friend burned in front of him, so this mission is personal for him. He wants to squeeze the life out of her!

Except once he finds her she explains to him about her dual personality. Can he believe her? There are actually two people living inside her body thanks to an Itor experiment, Phoebe is the bad one, and Melanie is the good one. Phoebe is out most of the time and has abused Melanie for a long time. Phoebe is the Itor agent, Melanie doesn't know anything. They each have a different power, Phoebe is fire, Melanie is ice. And yes, they find out that she's Alek's daughter (head of Itor), which of course makes Dev change his plans and decide to just bring her in, not kill her. (view spoiler)

She needs sex to recharge her powers and when they find themselves in a situation where he needs her to get them out of a bind, he is the only choice for sex. After that first time, which was rough, she admits that even though her body might've not been, she was actually a virgin, and yes, Oz's prediction comes back to mind *"You will marry a virgin."*

He quickly starts developing feelings for Melanie, and after those first few rushed times, which were still pretty hot, there's more of a connection between them. Can I just say that even though this book was just a tad less creative in the sex department, at least with the main characters, they still had some hot scenes. They joined the mile high club and almost brought down the plane with both their powers; the back of an SUV after playing and training with her powers; he sits down at the kitchen table to have dessert *THUD*

So yeah, I liked the main characters in this one. I felt bad for Melanie, I hated Phoebe she was a total bitch! And let me warn you, Phoebe does get a little rough and there might be some scenes where you can't believe they went that far with what she was allowed to do, but that was still ok with me.

Now let me get to my favorite characters of ACRO. In every book, Creed&Annika and Dev&Gabe&Oz were also reason enough for me to keep reading. Their side storylines are amazing in my opinion. I did feel a lack of Creed and Annika in this book, we didn't get a lot of time with them and I missed them. Annika is pregnant, Creed is stressing out about Oz's vision that she would die if she has his child, Annika is pissed at Stryker for sleeping with Akbar's killer. But we didn't see a lot of Creed/Annika time.

Dev... He was my favorite character in this book! He is so intense, emotionally raw and devastatingly hot! Gabe is actually more the romantic and wants more from Dev than a booty call. Dev has to learn to cope with that and to give Gabe what he needs while still dealing with the takedown of Itor and his newly found sister(s) in ACRO's custody. Some of the best sex, and almost sex scenes in this book are Dev & Gabe's. Oh.My.Gawd!!!!!! HAWT! That's all I got to say. You have to read it! And yes, there is a threesome in this one! Oz gets to have a body for just one night!!!! *THUD*

The last two or three chapters of this book had me in tears... constantly. I cried for everyone! I'm tearing up again now. It seemed like there would be no resolutions or happy endings for anybody, and my heart was breaking. It was a great ending! Full of emotion, full of action. The ACRO family is all there. But I still don't want it to end! I can't let go!

Favorite quotes:

"I'd miss my own crowning to be the King of England to be with you." - Stryker

Because he's yours, Oz whispered in his ear, even though he remained where Gabe could see him across the room. Always was - I just kept him safe for you.

"We're all a bunch of goddamned heroes." - Stryker

"You be safe out there, Gabriel. You hear me?"

"Yeah, I hear you. I think I finally fucking hear you," Gabe whispered in his ear. "When I finish, I'm going to fuck you into the mattress."

Jen ~The dreamer~ says

Please tell me this isn't the end....seriously.

I love this series, mainly because I'm a huge X-Men nerd so add that and hot, amazing, sexy characters who mostly gain their powers by having earth shattering orgasms, you've got one happy camper.

I'm guessing this is the last book since it answered a lot of questions and ended some fantastic story lines. *sigh* I did sob through the last 50 or so pages.

The writing is awesome, which isn't surprising considering who's behind the books. This is one series I would wait in line for, I just enjoy the rawness and action. I'm not your typical girly girl who is into a book for the romance. I want not only heated romance but give me, action, violence, angst, conflict, comedy, drama, horror, and this series gave it all! Nothing like the smell of napalm in the morning, right? *wink*

Dev is an amazing character who had my heart from the go. The dynamics between him and Oz, Gabe, Marlena, Annika and anyone else is just right on. He's the perfect leader for ACRO, he's strong, loyal, fair, just, intelligent, I could go on and on about him.

Annika and Creed's story was by far my favorite and I was so happy they were a part of every book. Creed is not only delicious physically, but his heart is 10 sizes too big!! He and Annika were made for each other, literally! This book really caused me some emotional damage though with these two, I'll leave it at that.

The Pheobe/Mel story was interesting as well. I love "merged twin" idea and darkness versus light. Stryker and Mel's story was heart wrenching, and beautiful. I also think they are two of my favorite characters.

Again, I really hope this isn't the end. My inner nerd is dying for more!
