



Big Cypress Crossroads

Bren Christopher

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From the deep swamps of the Everglades to the glittering night clubs of South Beach, Miami-Dade police detective Scott Chandler is hot on the trail of the drug running cartel that killed some good officers in a firefight and left him with a steel rod in his leg. The last thing he expected to find was love in the form of a seemingly innocent wilderness guide--a guide who inexplicably knows more than he should.

Noah Taylor lives for the wild backwoods, spending days camping alone and only returning to town on the weekends to lead kayak tours through the dark waterways of the Everglades. But when he finds the remains of a ritually sacrificed body hanging from the twisted limbs of a mangrove tree, his life's going to change in ways he can't possibly predict--or can he?

Now Scott must untangle a web of deceit while struggling with his passion for Noah. Because loving him is easy. But trusting him could be deadly.

Big Cypress Crossroads Details

Date : Published August 2nd 2011 by Loose Id, LLC

ISBN :

Author : Bren Christopher

Format : ebook 169 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Fantasy, Paranormal, Mystery, Suspense, Adult Fiction, Erotica

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From Reader Review Big Cypress Crossroads for online ebook

Three Crow Press says

Three Crow Press Review by amaadhatter

Noah Taylor lives deep in the Everglades, coming out on the weekends to lead curious tourists through the beauty of the Everglades. He unexpectedly comes across a hanging body in the Cypress trees and a mystery unfolds as to why the body is there and who put it there.

Scott Chandler is a detective with the Miami-Dade police department, shot in the line of duty and just recently allowed back in the field. He's been following a large drug cartel and the trail leads him to the Everglades and to Noah. The two men end up working together and it's not just the mystery that unites them.

Noah has had dreams since he was young and it wasn't until he met Scott that he realized that he'd been seeing Scott in those dreams. The two fall in love but is it enough to solve the mystery and can Noah keep Scott safe from what he sees happening in the dreams?

I liked this book, for the most part. The mystery was intriguing and I loved the description of the scenery, it made me want to go down to Florida and see the area for myself. Noah and Scott's relationship was nice to see too, though it was faster than I like to read. I know with books, you have to move things along but I wish there'd been a bit more of them trying to get to know each other.

There were some things that bothered me though. The fact that Noah never really told Scott his involvement in things, especially since he loved Scott. Noah always seemed to have some kind of ulterior motive and that at times, he was using Scott for his own revenge. Yes, he did finally tell him but it was only after Scott had to drag it out of him. Also, I can't see Noah being allowed to be such a large part of the investigation. Going off and doing things on his own, I could believe that, but not with the police allowing him in so close. Scott's attitude towards things irritated me also but not as much as Noah's.

I did like getting the glimpse into Santeria. It wasn't the stereotypical thing that you see for the religion, it was more real and that was nice to see for once.

Overall, I give this book 3 stars. The mystery was good and for the most part the characters were good. I would've liked to have seen a little more of a build up between Noah and Scott but that could just be me.

Reggie says

This was a nice read. I would recommend it to anyone who liked *The Long Way Home*. It has the same feel to it. The paranormal aspect is a little more down played in this book, but handled very well. I wouldn't say it is a have-to-buy read, but if you are feeling the need to read a Detective and the Psychic story this would be a good option. There were a lot of words spent on the smut stuff, it was a little IKEA for me. I just skimmed, so the book still worked well for me, no problem.

I also liked that the Everglades were made a part of the story. Very fun.8)

Mtsnow13 says

I mostly liked this story due to the atmospheric elements of the locations. The author did a very nice job of describing the Bayou as well as the Everglades. I could almost feel the air and smell the decay. And the tiny amount of paranormal was something I'd expect with the Bayou.

Any time there is a hardened detective, and a remote location with a handsome young guy, well, there has to be some kind of sparks, right?

For a fairly short story, there was a lot of detail and good closure. A nice comfort read with a feel-good ending.

Don Bradshaw says

Reviewed on Hearts On Fire... <http://heartsonfirereviews.com/>

Noah Taylor lives as a wilderness guide back in Big Cypress Swamp in Florida. Pretty much a loner when he isn't working, Noah is plagued by nightmare visions of what will happen. He stumbles across a slew of dead bodies out in a crossroads in the swamp and his peaceful seeming world is toppled. Detective Scott Chandler is working to shut down a major drug cartel in Miami when he is sent to check out the bodies in Big Cypress across the state. Noah and Scott hit it off but Noah isn't quite letting all the truth slip out about his involvement in the drug war that's brewing.

I have to admit that I bought this book primarily because I live in Florida and have spent time in Big Cypress Swamp. Ms Christopher did a wonderful job in detailing the swamp and the feel of the area even though she did make it seem that Miami and Big Cypress were near each other. I took an instant liking to both Noah and Scott. The two men made a great couple as they were almost opposites right down to where they lived. The drug war was set up well and was interesting especially with the Latin and Cuban Santeria influences which are high in the southern end of the state. The story read easily and there were some interesting twists and turns in the plot. Noah's psychic ability added interest as did the way that Ms Christopher slowly revealed just how far Noah was involved in the drug war. The presence of a strong woman as a secondary character in the guise of Chief Hanahan was refreshing. The author left some room for the reader to use their own imagination and sense of justice which was chancy but worked well right before the HEA ending. Give this book a try if you're in the mood for some natural beauty and a dose of shoot 'em up action.

Vio says

A suspenseful and thrilling story, the investigation through the everglades is tense and fraught with danger. Noah and Scott on constant guard, wary of putting complete trust in each other. A lot happens to keep it interesting, the psychic theme adds to this mystery, and the sex was swoony. I loved it. A fabulous and sexy romance, recommended.

Karen says

Murder, mayhem, sex, drugs, more sex, rock & roll...what more could a girl ask for?

Apparently this girl needed a bit more to take this from ok to really freakin' good.

Noah Taylor is a tour guide in the Everglades and when he's not guiding tours he's off camping alone and finding dead bodies. Hey, everyone needs a hobby, right? Scott Chandler is a Miami-Dade Police Detective and along with his partner he's tracking some series bad guys who lead them straight to Noah because conveniently, or not if you're the bad guys, Noah finds some of them dead out in the Everglades.

For me this was shaping up to be a seriously good mystery/thriller with a strong romance between our two MCs. So what went wrong...first it was the insta-love between Noah and Scott. I tried, I really tried but I just wasn't feeling the love especially when it seemed like every other page Scott was finding out something that Noah was keeping from him.

I was to say the least amused by the conversation that presumably justified the whole insta-love issue...

"I think I'm falling for you. I know we've just met, but..."

"That's how it works. You meet someone. You fall in love. Then you get to know them." Noah shrugged.

"That's what Mama says anyway."

"Really? Well, she seems like a smart lady."

"It has to be that way," Noah explained earnestly.

"Nobody's perfect. If falling in love didn't come first, no one would ever get together. The love is what gives you the patience to overlook each other's flaws."

"Is that right? I don't think I've heard it described quite that way before." Scott sounded like he was trying not to laugh. Noah didn't care. Love worked the way it worked, and it didn't matter what Scott thought of Mama's theories.

I have to admit that while this is in some ways pretty flawed logic at the heart of it there is a sentiment that even I can't argue with and that's the fact that 'love works how it works'.

The relationship between these two men seemed to me to be more a case of instant attraction. Definitely a very strong attraction and one that quickly evolved into something stronger as events tested both of these men and what they believed they felt for each other. Most of all the ending really saved this for me because it didn't turn into an 'all is forgive magic moment'. I liked the process that Scott went through in order to decide what it was he really wanted and what he was willing to do to get it. It worked for me and left me feeling like there really as potential for a true relationship between these two men, once that would be based on more than just good sex.

Overall 'Big Cypress Crossroads' was a good read, not great but definitely good with some entertaining moments and I'm not in the least sorry or disappointed for having read it.

Kimberly says

Excellent book...I loved the characters. Well written...it drew me in and kept me interested. Once I started reading I couldnt put it down!

SueM says

An interesting M/M romantic suspense novel that was more than I expected it to be - characters that are humanly flawed, a touch of psychic abilities and a plot that had a few twists to raise it above average. I found the pacing just a bit uneven at times to keep it from 5 stars, but I will certainly look out for more novels from this author.

Betryal says

Everything I look for in a story was in this one book. Amazing action and story line plot. It did it for me from page one.

Edina Rose says

3.5 stars. I wish I could give more stars to this book because it is really good, but I can't.

It is about a cop (Scott) and a mountain guide (Noah) who fall in love while working together at bringing down a drug cartel.

Scott is a detective who was shot in the leg during a fight with some drugs dealers. Many of his colleagues died during the fight and he is now limping and needs to use a cane. Now he can't rest until he gets the drug lord himself. He should rest, according to his boss and his partner, and he has been assigned to desk duty. But Scott won't listen to them. He is on a mission.

Noah is an apparently innocent and simple mountain guide living in a small town. But the truth is more complex. He lost his childhood lover Kyle to a drug overdose and has sworn to take his revenge on the people who drove Kyle to hard drugs addiction. What can he do? He is no cop, he is no big strong boy, but he has promised on Kyle's grave that justice will be done. Just like Scott, he is a man on a mission.

The mystery plot is interesting, with bouts of magic, spiritualism, paranormal stuff. The romance between the two heroes burns hot. There is no coming out or homophobia theme here. Everybody is out and everybody is accepting. The focus is on discovering the head of the drug cartel AND discovering the real Noah. I was surprised, really surprised. The mystery surrounding Noah is well done, and little by little his real role in the whole operation appears, though it is not until the end that we finally learned everything and the last bits are stunning!

I would have given more stars to this book but I only gave 3.5 because of Noah's attitude.
(view spoiler)

This book is good. It made me think a little bit of Mexican Heat, the masterpiece Laura Baumbach and Josh Lanyon collaboration created, but only because BCC is also about bringing down a drug cartel.

Elsbeth says

Loose Id really loves to give the wrong impression with their book descriptions. This book, I had no problems with, but others might disagree.

For one, there is a huge age gap, and usually I have a problem with that, but in this it kind of fit. So instead of the surly thirty something Glades guide, I got a matter of fact early twenties recluse.

It still worked, but it wasn't what I expected.

So it starts off with Noah, a young man with hidden depths, finding a sacrificed dead body in the Glades.

This find, leads him, and Scott a police officer from Miami Dade in to a whirlwind romance of lust, mystery, near death experiences, and finally love.

I have to say, this book had an ending that I haven't seen in a while.

I LOVE endings like this, where you get slapped in the face with a twist that you just didn't see coming.

So all in all, even with a misleading blurb on the back, this is a must read for all mm enthusiasts!

Mandi says

3 stars. Good story but I never really warmed up to Noah. Everytime something happened, Noah knew or had something to do with things. I thought Scott could of done better.

Jaime says

I really enjoyed this book, it had everything I look for in a romance!

Vicktor Alexander says

I will be honest, my sole reason for getting this book initially was because of its location. South Florida. Cypress and Miami Florida. I felt at home in this book for that reason (you know because I live in Lakeland, Florida?) However, as the book progressed I began to realize that I made a good call not only because of the books location but also because of the characters and the plot.

So the book starts in Big Cypress. Noah, the tour guide has stumbled upon something and knows that he must take pictures and take them into the police. When he arrives there he sees Scott, a man that he's been dreaming about, who is a detective working on a case that leads him to Big Cypress. It's instant attraction for the two men, even though it does take them a few days to act on those feelings. But once they do?

YOWZA!!! Make sure you have cold water on hand when reading their steamy sex scenes. One was my favorite and it was so good that I was trembling myself when the scene was over, wrung dry, and panting (oh yeah, it was THAT good).

Noah assists the Miami Police Department with the case and it doesn't take long for them realize that while Noah isn't lying he is definitely keeping things from them, from Scott and I found myself groaning in frustration every time the man was admitting something else that he'd kept from the department. There was a lot of shooting and oh joy! Bren describes what types of guns are used! (Hey I'm a Army vet, cut me some slack) There were a lot of deaths to some people that really deserved it and Bren really gives the reader a

look into the seedy underground world of the drug trafficking that takes place in Florida's night life capital, Miami.

I was pleasantly surprised to see an accurate portrayal of a Santeria cleansing ritual (Santeria is a religion practiced by many Hispanics and Blacks in Southern Florida and in other parts of the world, it's a really fascinating religion that was brought over from Africa-but I digress) and I commend Bren for accurately portraying aspects of the ritual without divulging such a sacred moment.

I grew frustrated with Noah by page 200 and wanted to slap him so he would just tell Scott everything, but that frustration led me to feel his emotion all the more when all of his secrets were revealed as well as his motives behind them.

"The Epilogue Whore" was satisfied by the way this book ended. Although there was no epilogue or even a glimpse into the couple's future, when the book was over I was satisfied and didn't need any more. I enjoyed this book, not sure if I'd read it again but I would recommend it. I probably would have finished it sooner if it hadn't been for my back going out, but it was very pleasant to read as I lay up in bed.

Ami says

3.5 stars

The first paragraph of the first chapter draws me in: the description of the corpse hanging from the mangrove tree. I think that is the best thing about this book. The description of the backdrop the Glades is well written. I can imagine the place, with the green water, and the trees. I also like the idea of paranormal element here, how Noah sees things that happened in the future in his dreams. Seems to fit perfectly with the aura of the Glades.

Mystery/action wise, it's also engaging, as Noah inserts himself to help Scott to investigate the war between drug cartels that leaves bodies everywhere. I like the addition of the Santeria rituals, it also fits perfectly with the backdrop of the story.

What I don't like is Noah's behavior of keeping his true reason behind him helping Scott. In a sense, it makes me questioning whether he likes Scott or just sees him as a device to get what he wants. I'm not truly sold with the relationship that way. There is HEA though and I hope off screen, the two will work on that trust issue.

I'm sure the sex scenes are hot, but truth be told, I skim most of it after the 3rd sex scene. I'm just not in the mood of reading sex scenes at the moment (go figure!), maybe just one or two scenes. When the third comes only in Chapter 5, I decide I can just skim it and focus on what happens outside the bed :p
