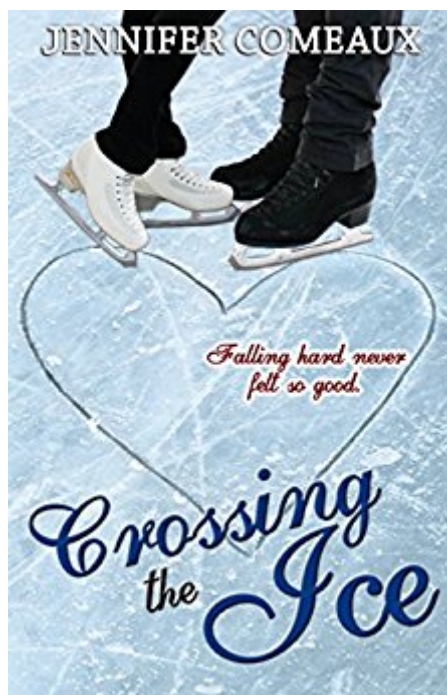


The book was found

Crossing The Ice (Ice Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Falling hard never felt so good. Pair skaters Courtney and Mark have one shot left at their Olympic dream. They vow not to let anything get in their way, especially not Josh and Stephanie, the wealthy and talented brother and sister team. The heart doesn't always listen to reason, though. The more time Courtney spends with sweet, shy Josh, the harder she falls for him. But they are on opposite sides of the competition, and their futures are headed in opposite directions. Will their friendship blossom into more or are their paths too different to cross?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I went into this book with no expectations, but hopes for a fun book with a romance I could ship. I got all that and more! This book was sweet and charming and proves that sometimes winning is about more than what happens on the ice. Despite barely being able to remain upright while ice skating, I've always been more than a little obsessed with the sport. From watching it religiously during the season to watching my favorite ice skating movie *The Cutting Edge* (Which I saw in the theater as a child. Yes, I'm dating myself.) I love all things ice

skating. I'd had my eye on Jennifer's earlier series, *Edge*, for quite awhile, but just never got around to reading it. When the opportunity presented itself to review an audiobook copy of the first book in her new season, I jumped at the chance. I'm so glad I did, too, because I enjoyed every minute of it. Courtney was easy to relate to and like. She was sweet and dedicated to her sport. She seemed a little younger than the early-20s I have to guess she is, but I didn't find that to be an issue. A lot of times, when kids are in a competitive sport like ice skating, they're pretty sheltered to the rest of the world, so it wasn't all that unheard of for them to come off as younger than they are. I never particularly cared for Courtney's partner, Mark. He was just a little too self-centered for my liking. He wasn't a bad guy, but he couldn't hold a candle to Josh. (NOT that there was a love triangle in this book. There wasn't.) Josh was quiet, shy and charming. The exact opposite of his snobby sister Stephanie. The romance in this book was super sweet. I loved the pace at which things developed between Courtney and Josh. There's something adorable about a first love like this and I was completely addicted to it. Courtney and Josh had a ton of chemistry and a lot of similar interests, but they had to be cautious to hide their friendship, and then more, from the other people in their lives. There was a lot going on with the competition, the coaches and Josh's family. What they had was just for them. In addition to a lot of smiles and laughs, I definitely got a little teary-eyed during this book. The narrator, Emily Stokes, was perfect for Courtney's character. Her sweet voice, and the way she was wrapped up in the story, made it even better for me. I actually looked forward to being stuck in (some) traffic so I could spend more time listening to her. Her pacing was great. I didn't love all of the voices she used, but when she was voicing Courtney, I was hooked. There were some odd pauses in the audiobook, particularly at the end of chapters, but I didn't find them all that bothersome. The first time it happened, I was taken by surprise. I thought my iPhone had frozen or something. But I soon learned it was just part of the book. Overall, I thought *Crossing the Ice* was an enjoyable audiobook. I'm excited about how this story started out and I will definitely keep reading to see what happens next, especially after finishing the bonus epilogue! I'm also planning to go back and read the *Edge* series. I might know how everything turned out for Em and Sergei, but I feel compelled to get the whole story now. I received an audiobook copy from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Comeaux writes about figure skating with an accuracy that is unusual and welcome. The skating parts of her novel ring true (other than the fantasy of the U.S. having pair teams that skate together longer than two seasons and have international success...but skating fans will appreciate that as a great hope for the future). Training, scoring and competitions are represented accurately. But the

rest can leave a lot to be desired. Courtney's character is bland, as other reviewers have pointed out. Unlike the female voices in her previous series (Emily and Aubrey), she is not developed with her own quirks, interests or much of a voice. Her skating partner, Mark, is an entirely undeveloped character. This is a huge misstep and those who read Comeaux's previous series know she can do better--Emily's partner Chris was not an empty prop. In the reality of competitive pair skating, partners have to have a real connection and have endless time together. It is not quite believable that Mark is entirely in the background of Courtney's existence. Josh's sister and skating partner, Stephanie, is also a completely one dimensional character to the point that it is unbelievable. Showing some vulnerability in that character would not only make her more believable, but would make Josh more real--there has to be a reason he can live and work with his sister other than sharing the same DNA. My biggest reason for giving the book only two stars, though, is the endless make out scenes between Courtney and Josh. Even though the characters are adults, the scenes read like a YA romance and are tedious. While their friendship is well developed, once they actually kiss each other, the entire relationship begins to read like a hormone drenched 15 year old's fantasy. I also found the ending exceedingly predictable.

When I read a Jennifer Comeaux book I know that I can count on reading a sweet romance, and that was definitely the case here. I loved reading about Courtney now that she's all grown up. Courtney first appears as a minor character in Jennifer's first series, though you don't have to read those books to understand *Crossing the Ice*. Courtney and her skating partner Mark want nothing more than to go to the Olympics, so it's incredibly problematic when their rivals (Josh and his sister Stephanie) come to skate at the same rink, under the same coaches. Of course it's even more problematic when Courtney enjoys Josh's company much more than she's willing to admit. Courtney and Josh are very sweet together. I liked that Josh is the shy guy, hanging back and being friends with Courtney at first, despite his feelings for her. It fit with his character so completely. His inaction when it came to the relationship and his life choices wasn't always appealing, but it was so completely him. Courtney, on the other hand, is more of a "go getter" type, willing to fight for what she wants. The two of them have some very sweet scenes together, and I loved where they ended up. As always, the skating parts of the book were so well done. I honestly don't know much about skating at all, but reading about the sport through Jennifer's writing makes it jump off the page so that you can almost picture the routines in your head. Jennifer also

excels at making readers feel what her characters feel. You celebrate with them, and so too you feel their disappointments. Crossing the Ice is a great story full of characters who I'd love to read more about. If you're looking for a cleaner New Adult read that focuses on the characters lives and choices just as much as it does the romance, I would suggest you pick this book up. Crossing the Ice is a sporty, sweet romance that I would not hesitate to recommend.

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