



Under a Crescent Moon

Mercy Celeste

Download now

Read Online →

Under a Crescent Moon

Mercy Celeste

Under a Crescent Moon Mercy Celeste

Murder, mystery, sex and magic. It's just another typical night under a crescent moon...

New Orleans Police Detective Taylor Campbell has done his best to leave Xander Cooper alone. Years ago, he joined the Army to get away from the temptation of the younger man. But a series of murders around Xander's restaurant has Taylor running scared. And when he happens upon Xander holding off a group of thugs, his honour is forgotten.

Xander Cooper fell in love with Taylor when he was a teen. Now an adult, he's waited and watched and hoped that Taylor would one day see him as more than a little kid meant to be avoided. He didn't expect murder to bring Taylor to his bed. For Xander, giving Taylor his heart is easy. Letting him in on the family secret is another thing all together.

He didn't expect that Taylor would have secrets of his own. Secrets that make a little thing like Xander being a witch seem tame...

Reader Advisory: This book contains scenes of violence, rough sex, mild BDSM, dubious consent and cheating.

Under a Crescent Moon Details

Date : Published October 25th 2013 by Total-E-Bound Publishing (first published October 24th 2013)

ISBN : 9781781844939

Author : Mercy Celeste

Format : ebook 195 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Erotica, BdsM, Contemporary

 [Download Under a Crescent Moon ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Under a Crescent Moon ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Under a Crescent Moon Mercy Celeste

From Reader Review Under a Crescent Moon for online ebook

Susan65 says

Yet another surprise hit for me from Mercy Celeste. Why am I still surprised by her writing? She knocks my socks off all the time and I'm still surprised each and every time I read her books. I think I can now firmly place this author on my auto-buy list. I love the fact that she isn't afraid to go down and dirty, get into real life issues, and doesn't sugar coat the romance and all the issues that come before it. Life is not a fairy tale and I love when I find an author that doesn't pull her punches.

With that said, isn't the cover sweet? Yeah, he's adorable and that face fooled me big time. I was expecting rainbows and unicorns with a cover that pretty but let me tell you, you can not judge a book by it's cover. You've been warned.

Xander and Taylor were raised together after the death of Xan's parents. Taylor is about 5 years older and eventually joins the army to escape his attraction to the too young Xander. However, he comes back changed and doesn't give Xander the time of day, until Xan finds himself in a pickle. The fun begins there.

This story is all over the place. I was so sure I knew what was going on but then whammo, the plot changes and I'm sitting back reeling. Wondering how the hell did I get from point A to point B...and loving every freaking moment. Obviously this story has moments that some will find objectionable, but me?, I live for the conflict and complications that make the happy ending so much more rewarding at the end.

And complications and conflict are abundant in this not so sweet book. It has its sweet moments, but you have to prepare yourself before the issues are all resolved. I honestly do not want to give anything away. Uncovering each aspect of the secrets hidden in Xander's and Taylor's lives is what makes this story so great. I had no clue what I was in for, but trust me, it is worth the ride and if you can handle a little shock here or there in your reading, then you will enjoy this story.

Reviewed for Heartsonfirereviews.com

Dre says

2.5 stars. The story wasn't bad, but I hated the characters. I don't honestly know that Xan and Taylor like each other, even once they decided to have a real relationship. They supposedly loved each other as teenagers, but I don't understand why they were so awful to each other through most of the book but kept sleeping together and why Xan kept letting Taylor off the hook. Maybe if I'd gotten a little more of what happened when they were teens before it jumped into them having sex then being mean to each other, things would have made more sense?! And Aunt Eula drove me nuts when she took Taylor's side. I don't understand why Eula and Taylor said he tried to explain Lenora and the baby to Xan, but he wouldn't listen. I don't remember him trying to explain. I do remember Taylor changing the subject and not wanting to talk about it. And if he did try after Xan moved on the Grimaldi, well then it was too little, too late anyway. I just don't understand why two people who've been so awful to each other would ever be together.

Kristina says

I first heard about Mercy from one of the M/M FB pages I follow and when I read the synopsis for this book I was instantly intrigued. I love books on Magic and the M/M genre always sucks me in but when I saw it was set in NOLA WOOOOEEEEEE it was an insta-buy. I read it in around 5 or so hours and I could not put it down.....which could have been bad as I run a booth in a flea market and well you know sticky fingers.

Xander was such a great character. Had the traumatizing background every good character has, and it drew me to him. His Description made him appealing and his abilities made me drool (In Jealousy). But with everything he has to go through makes him an even stronger character.

Taylor, Hmm a fan sitting in his corner rooting for him....I was not. while I understand the reasoning behind everything he did, still made me want to grab him by the collar of his shirt and shake him and say "WHAT THE HELL IS GOING THROUGH YOUR HEAD!"

All side characters were all amusing mostly the Great Aunt and the Cook.

I didn't find much with the book that I didn't like, it was fast paced, descriptive, and everything I could want in a stand alone novel. I find I cannot wait to pick up another Mercy Celeste book.

Macky says

Wowser! Its books like this that make me glad I'm a VIP member at TEB. I've just read a Mercy Celeste book recently that I couldn't put down, so as soon as I saw I could get this on early release from them, I was on it like a car bonnet!!

I think my tastes are definitely changing because as I've said before I'm not one for oodles of angst or over the top drama but I think Mercy is casting a magic spell over me because this book has über angst, BIG misunderstandings and dark drama coming out the wazoo... And I absolutely loved it!

Once again she isn't frightened of taking you out of the norm by throwing you into a plot filled with violence, dub con, BDSM, cheating, murder, secrets and lies and whatever else you can chuck in to make this as far away from your common or garden romance as you can get, but at the same time there's this magnetic pull surrounding Xander and Taylor which oozes chemistry, charisma and the most delicious simmering sizzling UST, which leads to some awesome hot love scenes filled with dramatic passion and lust. I can guarantee that there will be times when the actions of both MC's will have you tearing your hair out and stomping your feet but that didn't stop me from wanting the two of them to make it together... Warts an' all. I suppose it could be a book that you either love or you don't but I know its going to have a lot of fans and I'm one of them!

Then there's the paranormal side of the story involving magic and witches that I thought fitted perfectly into the scheme of things, especially as its set in New Orleans with its mysterious, magical atmosphere that you automatically think of when the place is mentioned.

Whatever you end up thinking of it, I've just sat and read all day, with few interruptions to finish this book.

Awesome!

Kimberly says

I read this book in one sitting. That's right. One sitting. There are not many I do that for or get invested enough for. But what can I say. I want to be Mercy when I grow up.

This book took me on such a roller coaster of emotions that I wasn't sure if it was going up, down, around, or totally off the rails. I'm happy to say it did all that and more. The characters, all of them, were rich, the plot intricate, the place, well, N'awlins is very familiar to this southern gal, and the sex off the chain. There's humor, tension, and enough emotion to choke you. If you only read one M/M book this year, I highly recommend *Under a Crescent Moon*.

Kazza says

Full review at <http://ontopdownunderbookreviews.com/...>

I'm glad I have the GIFS I do because I'll tell you this, **it is one hell of a messed up ride**. Such drama, such chemistry, such aggravation, such passion. It is not going to be for everybody but I loved it all!! Remember a little book called *Beyond Complicated*? Well, this is its fucked up sibling.

No...it's not. It's *Mercy Celeste*.

Did you see the warnings? Oh, I did. Definitely heed them.

Trio says

This was absolutely excellent. Every time I read a book by Mercy Celeste I think I know where she's going and she come up with these amazing plot twists that completely surprise me. It is such a pleasure to read her books.

The characters in this one were so original and I loved the way their stories intertwined. Great supporting characters too, and a fun little mystery. Just a great read all around.

Simsala says

My history with Mercy Celeste`s books so far - 2 stars, 3 stars and a DNF.

I made the mistake to ask a friend for suggestions because I was bored and couldn`t find a book to read(!). She suggested this book together with an evilly laughing smiley. I just thought "why not, maybe it got better, it has been a while since I read the last book by Mercy C."

It didn`t get better, it got worse.

A badly written, badly edited (if at all),and - in my opinion - incredibly silly story.

Four things are needed to read this book:

- suspending disbelief
- nerves of steel
- keeping the mind firmly in the gutter
- deactivating every functioning brain cell that might be able to pipe up and dares to question content and characterisation

142 pages of wading through molasses - one step forward, four steps back.

A neverending circle of the same whiny, nonsensical thoughts and dialogue from the two MCs - ad nauseum. It must have been hard work to come up with characters that contradictive. Jesus H. Christ...

There was kitchen towel-swishing/fingertips-burning magic involved, but why?

To add to the "New Orleans-feeling"? Same as the Cajun-dialect thrown in here and there, and numerous references to local food. (That actually made sense. The Crescent Moon is a restaurant)

I felt absolutly nothing of the special charme that makes New Orleans.

A good editor would have thrown the `magick` out at first glance, the paranormal part added nothing to the story just fuel to the sillyness of it all.

A serial killer - pulled out of the box when needed - a murder investigation that was amateurish at best. Secondary characters right out of a Disney movie. Pseudo-rough sex-scenes in flowery language with countless "fuck me`s" - I couldn`t read them anymore after the third round, gave me the skin crawlies! 24/7 lifestyle D/s coming out of nowhere. And of course a cute baby and many, many personal secrets thrown in for good measure.

A lot of stuff for a novella and it was a glorious mess!

I won`t mention the godawful attempt at writing a credible romance here, it was painful to read. The HEA was the last straw - a sugar-overdose that put every Harlequin romance to shame.

Whoever has the time and energy can read the 32 status updates that led to this review. I just want to forget this crap as fast as possible.

Stacey says

DNF...3/4 through...way too much crappy angst for me. Started off great, before all my interest was sucked out by a magical vortex of unnecessary drama. What's up with the mystery wife we only hear about in passing but never get even a whisper about in cheating Taylor's thoughts??? At this point I DON'T CARE-- I'm out.

Mary Wallace (Madam Aus) says

I need to preface this with O. M. F. G.

I have spent the first hour of today and four hours of last night reading this book at the expense of some stuff I should have been doing, but I HAD to read it, just had to. This author has been on my "Give preference over ALL non essential and mundane occurrences except for breathing" list, there are only a few on it but she has been there since the first book I read of hers. This book will not be for everyone, this is a given, it has to be, because Mercy Celeste is an author who constantly challenges all your preconceived notions of what makes us want to love these sexy, vulnerable, multifaceted and many dimensioned main characters.

I love her writing it is honest, raw, frenetic, laid-back, laconic, sarcastic and rollicking all at once and you can hear the storyteller in your head reading it with just the right inflection and tone. The alternating 1st person viewpoint is easy to follow and highlights certain aspects of the story which could be overlooked in the more traditional single POV. It works for Mercy and it works for these guys. With Mercy I always feel like I have been taken through the wringer sideways, upside down back-to-front and inside out, (This is a GOOD thing believe me) and this lived up to EVERY expectation I went in with. (I know that can sometimes backfire, having expectations going in and it has bitten me in the butt with other authors but I can't seem to help it.)

Xander and Taylor are people who make good and bad decisions for all the right and wrong reasons and deal with and suffer through the consequences. There is what some would consider cheating on more than one front, violence, dub consent, a paranormal thread, tension, a serial killer and misdirection and a few attempts to give me MORE grey hair. I loved and disliked BOTH MC's at different times, yet understood and empathised ALL of the time, even when I was angry at them. Sometimes when a book gets all angsty it can be one sided and we all know that's not how it plays out. I love that we see from all different sides the emotional roller-coaster that these two men go thru (and take us with them giving us those scary front seats, with nothing to hang onto)

SO if you are not afraid to challenge yourself to see that EVERYONE no matter how flawed deserves a HEA then this book is for you. In fact it is a must read.. And just in case anyone was questioning my integrity, I paid for my copy, I read my copy, yes I am a friend of hers through social media, and yes if I didn't like it or something about it, I would have said so, I take any recommendation I make VERY seriously and would not like to be a hypocrite and lead you astray.

[[FYI Its amazon release is next month sorry about that, but it is available if you have VIP account at Total-E-Bound (which is easy to do even I did it)]]

Rhys Ford says

Fantastic book. A high energy, tense, sensual book that blends mystery, supernatural and plain down and dirty smexy.

Mercey Celeste knocks it out the park with this one.

Jenn says

New Orleans Detective Taylor Campbell has been in love with Xander Cooper for many years, but ran away at the age of nineteen because his attraction for then fourteen year old, Xander concerned him. He's returned to New Orleans and stumbled upon a series of crimes that might affect Xander. Xander is guarded and worried of falling again for Taylor and he's discovering and exploring secrets he's scared to name.

I don't even know what to say about this book. It was all over the place and that saying "throw in the kitchen sink" would apply for the plot, the characters, and the dialogue. You have to cast away any plausibility and get past a ton of flowery language. Not to mention the abundance of sex scenes.

I don't understand why the paranormal aspect was there, either. I didn't feel that it added anything to the story, and seemed in use at completely random times. A character appearing from the grave to ask for a favor, a character escaping cuffs in a non-threatening scene, etc. I'm also a bit weary of all of these New Orleans stories centered on witchcraft, vampires, and things of the like. It's SO played out. It doesn't feel fresh and I didn't really get the vibe of the city, which is strange since I live near New Orleans.

The characters came across SO whiny, too. They just went round robin with blame, hissy fits, immature actions, and never just spitting out the truth. Non-stop fights about the past, the present, the future. Throw in sex scene after sex scene with dialogue such as this:

"You're so beautiful right now," I whispered against his mouth. "Pleasure flushing your skin. Your eyes gone dark and hungry."

...and I want to claw my eyes out.

Then there was the BDSM in the book that, for me, came out of nowhere, and that's really all I can say about that. It made me uncomfortable, and I can read BDSM no problem. Lots of people may like it, may find it oh-so angsty, and be fine with it. It wasn't 'wrong'; I just didn't feel I had a solid lead into it.

But not only did you have this BDSM throw in in the middle of the book that confused me, it was tied in with some car thief thug, who somehow managed to grab the interest of one of the characters. You also had murder, which one of the characters was RIDICULOUSLY accused of initially, and some post-traumatic stress, terminal illness, a baby and lots of riches and you have me scratching my head and utterly frustrated.

Not for me.

Becky Condit says

Please leave comments on Josie Goodread's 5 sweet pea review at <http://mrsconditreadsbooks.com/index....>

The sheer strength in his hands as he held me to the bed had me breathless. Wanting. Oh fuck, cuff me again. "Yes." "Yes what? Give yourself to me. The way you want. I'll be that for you. Yes what, Xander? Say it." "Sir. Yes. Sir." My body screamed in sheer agony, waiting for him to claim me. I wanted him to force me, or deny me. "Make me hurt. Please."

Under a Crescent Moon by Mercy Celeste is, in my opinion, one of the best books she has ever written. Its angsty and intense, full of drama, guilt and rage, raw with the added impasse of danger leaching from every page. I lapped it up, and I still want more.

Xander Cooper and Taylor Campbell are star crossed lovers, soul mates who can't quite get on the same page. They grew up together after Xander moved in with his Aunt Eula at the age of 13 when his parents died in the 9/11 tragedy. Taylor was the son of Eula's housekeeper. Taylor ran from Xander and joined the army as soon as he was able, and even though he's back he is still running, until the night he rescues Xander from the thugs who want his vintage car, and a little piece of him.

Only problem with resurrecting the attraction they both share is Taylor isn't really able to commit, has responsibilities and commitments that Xander is oblivious to, responsibilities that come between the two men at every turn. Xander in his disappointment, feeling betrayed and used turns to the rough side of New Orleans in an effort to wipe Taylor from his mind. When their worlds collide in crushing mayhem can they work out a way forward, or are they destined to always be apart?

Mercy Celeste has a way with words that blends characters with chemistry and passion with stories of drama, intrigue and raw emotion. I don't think there's another author like her in the m/m genre right now. Her books tend to come with warnings for the faint hearted, but my view is if you need to read the warnings then don't read her books, but then you'd be missing one hell of a ride. The warning for this book is cheating, and yes technically we do have cheating, Taylor isn't free to be with Xander, but it's not really cheating and 3/4 of the way through the book it's all explained in a plot twist which left me satisfied, and quite proud of the way Taylor behaved. He did the right thing, the best thing, it's a pity he didn't talk to Xander, but hell we can't have everything now can we.

Xander is a complex character. He runs a restaurant in New Orleans, spending most of his time in the kitchen cooking, and is quite content until Taylor comes back into his life, Taylor who ran out on Xander when he was 14. Once the two men get involved it becomes a disaster of epic proportions. The plot is complex and almost impossible to review in any kind of proper logical way but Mercy pulls all the loose threads together, almost with magic, leading to a perfect ending.

The story is told with alternate POV's, which I loved as it gave me insight into both men. The secondary characters are wonderful, especially Aunt Eula, Esmeralda and Hector. I even loved Dominic in the end.

I adored this book, it's a long read at 88,000 words and perfect for anyone who wants to sink into a story which consumes them. Don't be put off Mercy's books by warnings, romance can be messy, we don't live in a chocolate box world of neat relationships and love can be a tricky, and a glorious wonderful beautiful mess, just like in Under a Crescent Moon.

Don't miss this book, you'll only pick it up eventually and go 'now why didn't I read this sooner!'

K says

I loved the book, I love everything m/m that Mercy Celeste has written. I just don't understand what the other reviewers that basically just tried to throw this under the bus, are talking about. Yeah there was a little BDSM, so what. Oh you weren't told about it beforehand? Again, I say so what!! It is fiction, it is a fantasy, it is not real. If other reviewers did not like it due to that or the little bit of paranormal added into the storyline, then don't read it. Chalk it up to, well that one didn't work for me, and move on. How do you justify writing a review that is mean and ugly and downgrading another person who has spent hours writing something and researching to give others enjoyment. If you didn't like it why not just say nothing at all. I was raised and taught, if you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything. There are a few out there that should have used that philosophy. With that said I'm going to tell you how I saw the book.

Zander lost his parents, at the age of 13, to the horrific disaster called 9/11. He came to New Orleans to live with his aunt and he met Taylor, the housekeepers son, who was 18. He became something of a brother figure to him, wanting to follow him around, go places with him. To Taylor, Zan was a pain in the butt. Over time those feelings began to change and Tay started see Zan as the beautiful boy he was. To avoid suspicion of his true sexuality and to keep from crossing the line, Tay went into the army. Zan knew why he done it, it just didn't make it any easier to accept. At 14 and Taylor's age of 19, he was already infatuated with him big time.

Now at the age of 25, Zander works and co-owns The Moon, which is his aunts restaurant. One night at closing, Zan runs into trouble and Tay is there to rescue him. He follows him home and finally, after all these years, Tay kisses him and all feelings come to the forefront. This is where the book takes off for me. Zan loves him so much and just wants Taylor to return his love and reciprocate his feelings. Tay does love him but he has some problems in his own life, unbeknownst to Zan, that he needs to settle first. Of course Zan doesn't understand his rejection bk he doesn't know the whole story as of yet. He hooks up with another guy, a known troublemaker and thief, but he just wants someone to love him. Yes there is a little angst at this point, but if your invested in the book, there should be angst and anticipation of what's to come. There is a little BDSM also but nothing that should be so shocking to your senses if you have read any romance m/m or m/f at all. Thru this Tay has to help him and he cannot hide his feelings anymore. Yes there was sex, hot sex, but it did not overtake the book as someone else insinuated. I want sex, and plenty, in my books I'm reading. Mercy, without a doubt, can write some of the best, most passionate, heartfelt, intense sex scenes I have ever had the pleasure to read. I want that connection between the MC's and she delivers every time. There is a little paranormal in the story, but it does not overtake the book and it's not really the focus. It just adds another element to Zan making him all the more special and unique.

I want to say, buy the book, read for yourself, you won't be disappointed. However, obviously, some people were. If you want to read a love story between m/m characters with passion and hot sex, a little BDSM to spice it up, a little paranormal for extra appeal, then you should not be disappointed bk that's what you have here. Zan is a beautiful, loving character and Taylor is his soul. Don't let me or others persuade you, read it for yourself. But please, if you don't like it, don't dessimate the writer bk it didn't match your taste buds. If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything. Thank you Mercy for another spectacular read. I cannot wait until Southern Scrimmage3 is released. HOT HOT! So good.

SheReadsALot says

Oh who am I kidding?

(LOL seriously, I do love good tea)

Well...well...well.

If you don't know this by now, I love me some Mercy Celeste. Hard. She likes big, strong, sexually capable, Southern men with sexy drawls and sexier biting habits during sex. *growls* I lap that up like manna from heaven. Oh yes I do!

However, if there are issues in a book...I call 'em like I see 'em. And, honey, this book...it's got them. When stripped down to basics, "Under a crescent Moon"...it's standard Mercy Celeste fare with two crazy in love guys that fall for one another but not without a bucket full of angst along the bumpy ride toward love. They have hot sex and some major damage happens, it's entertainment.

Realistic? Hell no. Plus...this is paranormal/urban fantasy...so definitely not.

Now let's add the entire luggage set of drama and tropes so I can get to my review.

Xander is a twenty five year old virgin who lives with his rich eccentric aunt Eula and staff, one house servant/butler/father type figure of sorts -Hector and maid/motherly figure/mother of the other MC, Mrs.Campbell. Xander is an orphan and has lived with his aunt since 9/11 when he was 13 years old. He's been in love with the maid's son, Taylor since he was 13 years old. Taylor is five year older but no impropriety happened because Taylor removed himself from the situation by joining the military. So we have the "loved you for years" theme which I adore in fiction. And the virgin theme, love that too.

Oh and Xander and his aunt, they're witches. But not much detail went into the paranormal theme (wish it did but Mercy Celeste's twist on witches was different).

Things start off a little wonky, in fact if I rated the first 10-15%, it'd be some where in 2-3 star range. I pushed through and of course the sex kicked it into interesting territory.

But this is Mercy Celeste, so things cannot go smoothly.

45%...the story does an unexpected 180 degree turn in WTF-land?! The mild BDSM (I hesitate to call it that, purists will not enjoy it, just FYI)...totally unexpected especially since neither MC hinted to any sort of kink predilection.

There's drug use, dubious consent...I just didn't understand the need. But it happened and both MC struggle throughout the rest of the story keeping secrets from one another, one refusing to say 'I love you' when it is so obvious that they do. Once I thought I got a sense of the main characters', they did something to add to

this *dramaclusterfuck* that is their lives'

And the ending...it was also a dump of tropes where I questioned the need for going through all of this angst and drama.

I do like when the couple breaks up, they try to be with someone else and find that they actually belong together. But the struggle to get to the HEA...both men needed a kick in their butts a couple of times.

And if you're on the fence due to the cheating warning, it's really not cheating. (view spoiler) Technically on paper...yeah but in reality...no.

You won't need a diagram to follow along with the multiple plot twists. But there are a lot of themes working against each other...hell there's even an 'out for you' theme thrown in at the last minute...

Luckily, I like crazy shit like this.

If you're a newbie to Mercy Celeste...this should **not** be your first choice. This story is not as tight with the plot lines. This is more for a seasoned Mercy Celeste reader or a MM romance reader who like hot messes served with a scoop of cray-cray.

My rating: 3.5 STARS
