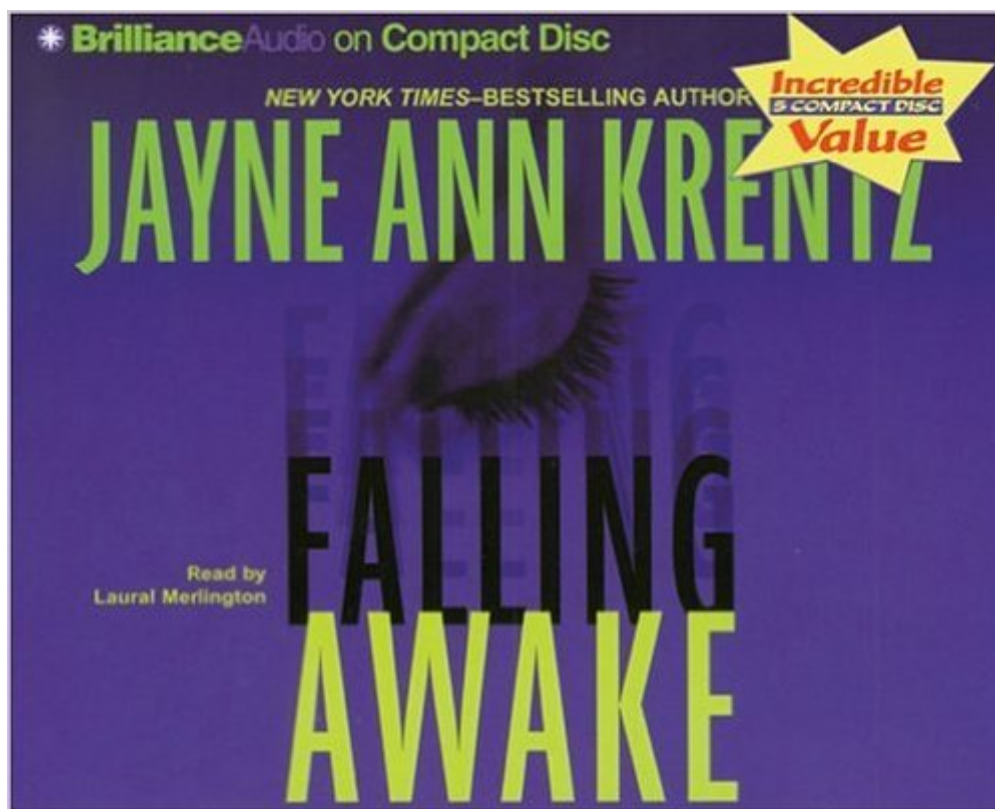


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# Falling Awake



## Synopsis

A red scarf. A roller coaster. A tidal wave of blood. Isabel Wright spends her days at the Belvedere Center for Sleep Research analyzing the dreams of others. Dr. Martin Belvedere, a pioneer in the field, recognized her unique talent for what he calls Level Five lucid dreaming - and rescued her from a dead-end job at the psychic dreamer hotline. It's satisfying, lucrative work, but it can be emotionally draining at times. Especially when one of her anonymous subjects, known only as Client Number Two, captures her imagination through his compelling dream narratives. Secretly, she thinks of him as "the dream man." Client Number Two's real name is Ellis Cutler. A loner who learned long ago not to let anyone get too close, he works for a highly classified government agency with an interest in the potential value of lucid dreaming. And he has just been ordered by his boss to make contact with Isabel, who's been fired after the sudden death of Dr. Belvedere. Heading to California, he pushes his own fantasies out of his mind, determined to maintain a professional relationship with the woman who reads his dreams, the mysterious figure he has come to think of as "the Tango Dancer." But when they meet in the flesh, the dream becomes real enough to touch. And a waking nightmare begins - when a suspicious hit-and-run leads them into a perilous web of passion, betrayal and murder, and forces them to walk the razor-thin line between dreams and reality. . . .

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Isabel Wright analyzes dreams at the Belvedere Center for Sleep Research. Her work is very high level and no one is privy to what her work actually entails. She has the uncanny ability to not only

interpret dreams but correct things that go wrong in them. She currently only has two clients, but she has been helping them since she has been at the center. The dreams that she has been working on disturb her, and she secretly has a crush on one of her clients that she only knows as Client #2. When Dr Belvedere is found dead, and his son takes over the center, he fires Isabel thinking her type of work is frivolous and against the reputation he wants to build at Belvedere. Client #2 is Ellis Cutler. He has used Isabel's talents to solve police cases that are unsolvable, and has recently relocated to California to be near Isabel. He feels the same connection to her, as she does to him. When he finds out her employment has been terminated, he decides to get close to her in order to bring her on with his former employer. Ellis wants Isabel to help him solve a murder, and doesn't hesitate to use her to do it, but when Isabel becomes the next potential victim, he vows to protect her. When Ellis and Isabel discover that Dr. Belvedere was indeed murdered, the need to solve these mysteries becomes paramount. I thought that the chemistry was lacking between Ellis and Isabel. It was not written to be very believable for two people to fall in love in their dreams in such a short time, and so I wasn't buying the story from the beginning.

This is a good (but not great) JAK novel. All of the wonderful writing that one expects from her is present, and the book is well plotted and extremely well researched. It may lack a little of the magic of her best work, but it is still a very good read and better than most of the books in this genre that you will find on the market today. I would have liked a somewhat stronger heroine, and the book does start out a little slow. These are minor considerations; the really fascinating dream research more than compensates for these small lacks. Definitely recommended.

I enjoy most books by this writer but I think this book is one of her best to date. I loved the characters and the direction Ms. Krentz took them into. Fun Story!

As other reviewers have said, this is one of JAK's finest - several story threads, woven together in an tight, unexpected way, with plenty of her signature humor and intelligent dialog. Other reviewers have ably described the plot. Although the Publisher's Weekly editorial says the story is 'based on psychology that defies reason', I suggest that JAK has pushed the bounds of believability no more than any good writer. In fact, on page 215, JAK lists several dream research authors - all of whom can be found on ! If you enjoy JAK, or Jayne Castle, there's no reason not to add this to your library.

Lucid dreaming is the ability to control one's dreams and be able to find answers to questions and

problems that one can't obtain when awake. Isabel Wright, a level five dreamer, works at the Belvedere Center for Sleep Research where she analyzes the dreams of other lucid dreamers. When her boss dies and his son takes over, he fires Isabel who intends to be a free-lancer. He doesn't realize until it is too late that without her work, the company will go bankrupt in a few months. He is determined to lure her back to his company. One of Isabel's anonymous clients is Ellis Cuttler, an operative for a black ops organization; he believes lucid dreaming can help solve murder investigations. His director orders Ellis to do whatever it takes to bring Isabel into the operation. Ellis and Isabel have dreamed about each other for months before they even met and an instant attraction flares to life as soon as they do meet. The road to happiness is bumpy because someone is gunning for Ellis and doesn't care how many innocent victims get killed in the crossfire. Jayne Ann Krentz has written another fantastic romantic suspense novel that will satiate her myriad of fans who eagerly looking forward to the next tale as the author always scores a five on a five star rating system; *FALLING AWAKE* is no exception. The support cast is as quirky as ever and the protagonists are thoroughly likeable and effortlessly to care about. The action is fast paced with plenty of action scenes but characterizations are not neglected. Each key person in the *FALLING AWAKE* is a three dimensional individual whose motivations are easy to understand. Harriet Klausner

I totally agree with the other reviewers! I won't rehash the story (they did a fine job). Suffice it to say, it's a must read. One of her best. Enjoy!

Romantic suspense with a touch of the paranormal is the basis for the newest Krentz novel. Isabel Wright has finally obtained a job that taps into her ability to "read" dreams. One mysterious client of Belvedere Center for Dream Research is becoming an integral part of Isabel's dreams. When Dr. Belvedere dies, Isabel is fired, and must scramble to get herself from the brink of financial ruin. Enter Ellis Cutler, sent by a super secret government agency to bring Isabel into their realm. The two combine forces to find the rogue agent who attempted to kill Ellis and who wants to take over the agency. Usually I'm captured at the very beginning of a Krentz novel, this one didn't get me from the start but gradually it won me over. If you haven't read a Krentz novel before, try one of her others, unless you're into the paranormal.

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