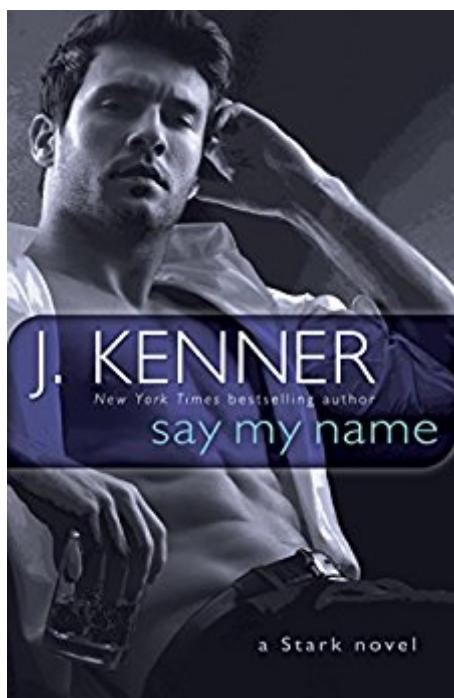


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Say My Name: A Stark Novel (Stark International Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author J. Kenner kicks off a smoking hot, emotionally compelling trilogy that returns to the world of her beloved Stark novels: *Release Me*, *Claim Me*, and *Complete Me*. *Say My Name* features Jackson Steele, a strong-willed man who goes after what he wants, and Sylvia Brooks, a disciplined woman who's hard to get--and exactly who Jackson needs. Other books in the trilogy include *On My Knees* and *Under My Skin*. And don't miss *Take My Dare*, a Sylvia and Jackson novella!

I never let anyone get too close--but he's the only man who's ever made me feel alive.

Meeting Jackson Steele was a shock to my senses. Confident and commanding, he could take charge of any room . . . or any woman. And Jackson wanted me. The mere sight of him took my breath away, and his touch made me break all my rules.

Our bond was immediate, our passion untamed. I wanted to surrender completely to his kiss, but I couldn't risk his knowing the truth about my past. Yet Jackson carried secrets too, and in our desire we found our escape, pushing our boundaries as far as they could go.

Learning to trust is never easy. In my mind, I knew I should run. But in my heart, I never felt a fire this strong--and it could either save me or scorch me forever.

Say My Name is intended for mature audiences.

Praise for *Say My Name*

"Readers who need more of Kenner's racy, sizzling Stark novels will delight in this new series, set in the same decadent, lavish world. . . . Kenner has crafted a hero whose compassion is remarkable, and who is strong enough not only to apologize and to change, but to offer her the kind of love she wants and needs, as well. . . . Fans of dark, intense and emotionally scorching romances will surely adore this series opener."--RT Book Reviews

"It's a heady mix of love and intrigue, and Kenner continues to deliver a knockout experience that made me long for the next book even as I was more than satisfied with this story's ending. To say more would give too much away, and I encourage everyone who loved the original Stark trilogy to read *Say My Name* to find out what's there for themselves."--The Romance Evangelist

"J. Kenner has given us one hell of a story with this start to the Stark International series. And if anyone can give Damien Stark a run for his money, it's Jackson Steele."--Cocktails and Books

"If you enjoyed the Stark novels, you are going to love *Say My Name*!"--Reading Keeps Me Sane

"J. Kenner's best work to date. . . . The pull between these two is off the charts. They have this intense chemistry that pretty much makes their sexy times go through the roof! . . . It was great getting to see Nikki and Damien again. . . . Even though I know them from their series, they seem fresh. . . . J. Kenner knocked it out of the park with this one. Five-off-the-charts-hot-stars!"--About That Story

"J. Kenner never fails to provide a gripping and passionate story. *Say My Name* takes you to the edge and then pushes you

over. Not that I was expecting anything less, but Jackson Steele is the perfect addition to the Stark series. . . . I cannot wait to see what unfolds next. . . . More Jackson! More please."--Obsessed with MyshelfFrom the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Let me start by saying J. Kenner is one of my favorite authors. I fell in love with her writing when I read the Stark Trilogy. At that time I read books and not e-books. I swore I would never read digitally and wanted to continue to read holding a book. What changed my mind since I am typing this review on my Kindle? Well, the Stark Trilogy novella was only available digitally. I couldn't and I mean couldn't not read it, so I borrowed my teenage daughter's kindle. That began my digital reading and one click fetish. She ended up gifting me her kindle for Christmas . Best gift ever! So, why did I tell you all that? The two reasons are...that is how wonderful the author's writing talent is since she changed my mind and got me to read on a screen and the Stark Trilogy set my expectations high. I was worried these characters wouldn't measure up to Nikki and Damien. I should have known better than to worry about Ms. Kenner's ability to craft strong characters, a

fabulous storyline and to weave emotions and hot erotic sex through the written word. The emotions and sexual heat bleed through my Kindle screen with each page. We met Sylvia Brooks in the Stark Trilogy. She is Damien Stark's PA. She has secrets that leave her guarded and scared of letting others close. She doesn't share her abusive past with many. She has the opportunity to expand her position at Stark International with a development project that is her vision. It meets with some glitches and may need to be halted. Her only option for salvaging the development project is getting Architect Jackson Steele to take on the project. The problem is she left him five years prior without much of an explanation and he is still angry. Not only is he angry, but wants revenge against Sylvia. Will he even talk to her, let alone work closely with her? Jackson aside from being an award winning architect has his own secrets and demons to contend with and haunt him. He keeps them hidden, but he isn't unaffected by them. What isn't hidden is that he is sexy, alpha, loyal to the core and drop dead hot in bed. He is truly likable and quite lickable. The sex scenes between these two are incredible! I don't want to spoil the story for you. What I will tell you is that I couldn't put it down. Lunch was skipped, laundry delayed and take out necessary for dinner since I couldn't stop reading. I kept saying, "just one more chapter, just one more page" and I didn't stop saying it until I reached the cliffhanger ending. Then I screamed, "No, I need more now!" at my kindle. I just can't say enough good things about this story line. I am anxiously awaiting *On My Knees*. I was given a complementary copy by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

I am sure that my review and opinion is very much in the minority. The story had a lot of potential but as it was written, the story just was not believable, the relationship between Jackson and Sylvia was not believable, character development lacked depth. While the character of Jackson was likeable, Sylvia not so much. The sex scenes just lacked heat and believability (compared to The Stark Trilogy and the novellas that followed). As a result I rated the book at 3 assigned a sexy score of 2. To say I was disappointed all around, is an understatement. I will be re-thinking whether or not I want to continue with the Stark International series. I have to say that I can't believe that the same author wrote this book, based on how well she wrote The Stark Trilogy and the Stark Novellas that followed.

Wow! I did not see the ending bombshell coming but I'm ready to pick up the next book. Julie Kenner does a great job of developing characters whose secrets are peeled away layer by layer. I actually wondered if the bombshell was true earlier in the story by clues dropped here and there. I was excited to see I was right but it has opened so many questions now for me. My only negative

about the story in my opinion and it's just something minor, was Sylvia's meltdown took forever to complete. I found myself skimming to get through it. But it also made her past serious and that it truly effected her in the present tense. I love the way the characters are written. I don't know if I trust or hate Jackson and I know at times Sylvia felt the same way. I'm still not sure I trust him at the end of the book but I do like what he did for Sylvia even if he did get in trouble. Like true Julie Kenner style, this story is full of hot scenes and intense romantic acts between the characters. You get a good sense of the characters feelings and how they feel about each other. And the characters are not totally revealed. There is much more to come I'm sure.

Not really sure how I feel about this book. It's not bad but it's not as good as I expected from this author either. The beginning of the book is slow so I had trouble motivating myself to finish the book. It starts to pick up about 40% into the book and the plot gets more interesting. One of my struggles was I found it hard to believe some of the plot. I was really disappointed in Sylvia agreeing to have sex with Jackson: I felt like she allowed Jackson to treat her like a whore for a resort project: REALLY?! It also seemed farfetched that Jackson would risk his hard earned reputation for revenge over an affair that happened 5 years ago and only lasted one weekend, again: REALLY?!!! There is a surprise that is revealed at the end of the book, but I guessed what it was about half way thru the book, so the revelation of Jackson's secret is anticlimactic. I think I am going to buy the next installment to see what happens to this couple and to see Damien's reactions to the situation. I enjoyed reading the Stark series so I hope the 2nd book is better.

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