



# Cross Island

*Santino Hassell*

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## **Cross Island** Santino Hassell

*Originally scheduled for publication in July 2018, this edition was cancelled prior to its expected release date.*

Attorney Clive Baptiste lives life at arm's length. Never quite making friends, never keeping a boyfriend, and never letting his personal life interfere with his work. But things go sideways when a high-profile civil suit lands him in the middle of a stalker's crosshairs. Clive doesn't want or need a bodyguard, even if that man is the gorgeous and brooding Victor Quiñones—who is also on the outside of the close-knit group of queer friends Clive withdrew from long ago.

Clive is a difficult client, but Victor understands the reasons for the icy lawyer's guardedness all too well. Deeply closeted due to his own tumultuous past, Victor hides his anxiety and insecurities behind his scarred face and muscled wall of anger and insolence, making himself the black sheep of a group he secretly yearns to belong to. Like Clive, it's easier for him to pretend he doesn't mind being alone.

Forced together, they develop an unlikely friendship that grows into a smoldering attraction. After being out in the cold for so long, neither man can ignore the fire between them. But with the stalker closing in, the distracting blaze may come at too high a price.

## **Cross Island Details**

Date : Published by Riptide Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Santino Hassell

Format : Paperback 279 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance

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## From Reader Review Cross Island for online ebook

### Claude says

This is such a shame Santino Hassell. I didn't want to believe that you did such incredibly horrible things. Your writing is so unique, so beautiful that I just wouldn't believe God gives YOU that gift. Such a shame. Really. I'm so disappointed. Many people are. I didn't even know you but I thought that someone who can write like this can't be that bad. This 5B series is one of the best thing I've ever read. I was one of the first people to buy every each of them. I live in Paris man. You're writing was loved in Paris. A thousand miles between us but I was so in love with your books, your characters man!!!. Raymond, Nunzio, Oliver, Caleb...all of them, all of these guys are beautiful to me. I'm so mad at you right now. So mad. You do not have the right to mess up their stories like that. When I opened my goodreads count 2 days ago, I was so horrified by what I saw, many people giving your books 1 star...I was like wtf girls? Then I read the riptide message this morning and I understood. I understood and I'm so disappointed, so mad at you man. I was in love with your books before reading them!! ? Adrian in the Barons! One of my favorite characters ever. Why did you do this really ? Our love, praise was not enough for you? How with such a talent, your soul can be so dark? Your characters are so genuinely good. All of them. Good people. I don't wanna believe this. I don't wanna thought that I wouldn't really appreciate the end of 5B or The Barons. I'm mad. So deeply mad. They were my boys and you took them for me. You took them. I hope you'll regret it everyday of your life. Because today you've lost more than money , you've lost a community, a bunch of people who loved you and that is the worst thing that could have happened to you and JAIL. Because of all of these stories are true, you deserve a good time in prison boy. Raymond ??? Aiden ??. Such a waste. My heart is really broken.

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### Leyna says

Update 03/09/2018

<http://riptidepublishing.com/a-statem...>

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Nope, because

<https://ingloriousbitches.wordpress.c...>

[https://www.goodreads.com/user\\_status...](https://www.goodreads.com/user_status...)

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### Mak says

Not rating due to Santino Hassell's despicable behavior. Below is a statement from one of SH's former publishers. There is also a thread here at GR if you want to find out more.

<http://riptidepublishing.com/a-statem...>

## Our Statement on Santino Hassell

Regarding the author writing as Santino Hassell:

We have spent the last two days focused on the allegations against Santino Hassell of misrepresenting, gaslighting, lying, insulting, and emotionally manipulating members of the queer romance community. Upon reading the dozens of corroborative stories, and viewing a number of screenshots in support of these allegations, we have terminated our relationship with the author. All upcoming contracts have been cancelled, and all existing titles are being pulled from distribution as we speak. We will be issuing refunds for all pre-orders of Santino's titles; please be patient with us, as this process may take up to a week.

In the past months, we thought we were doing the right thing by, in good faith, standing up for an author who we were led to believe was being unfairly attacked. We apologize for our part in unwittingly contributing to the harm of the community we hold so dear.

Please note that Riptide did not, and will not, block anyone on any of our social media accounts; this is a rumor. However, in response to Santino's allegations that reviewers for one particular blog were engaged in a campaign to doxx, harass, and smear him, we removed those reviewers from auto-approval on NetGalley and the identified blog from our blog tour rotation. For this we are deeply sorry. We have personally apologized to them, and would like to do so again here in public.

In addition, our Editorial Director, Sarah Lyons, did block people on her personal Twitter account. She has already unblocked them and apologizes for not listening to everyone who was asking legitimate questions about the issue.

While we were working on the best information we had at the time, we cannot reiterate enough how sorry we are for any hurt we caused. To this end, we would like to offer a \$5 credit to anyone who has purchased already-released Santino Hassell titles through Riptide. To receive your credit, simply email [info@riptidepublishing.com](mailto:info@riptidepublishing.com) with your Riptide account username or email address. Again, please allow some time for the requests to be filled, as we anticipate high volume.

Once again, we apologize for any harm our actions or inactions have caused.

Sincerely,

Rachel Haimowitz, Partner

Tal Valante, Partner

Sarah Lyons, Editorial Director

Amelia Vaughn, Marketing Director

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## Josy says

Catfishing and abusive behavior toward members of the LGBTQA+ community

<http://riptidepublishing.com/a-statem...>

For evidence:

<https://thesaltminers.tumblr.com/post...>

<https://thesaltminers.tumblr.com/post...>

<https://thesaltminers.tumblr.com/post...>

<https://twitter.com/sweetsakuradoll/s...>

<https://twitter.com/i/moments/9707166...>

[https://www.goodreads.com/user\\_status...](https://www.goodreads.com/user_status...)

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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### **R\_Lena says**

[https://www.goodreads.com/user\\_status...](https://www.goodreads.com/user_status...)

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### **Jen Drummond says**

I am unwilling to support this author in light of what has been revealed.

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### **Cleo says**

I don't know how to rate this. It was a satisfying wrap up to the 5 boroughs series. I decided to finish the series despite my reservations about the author. And now I feel done.

Like the previous book, it reminded me both what made me a fan (interesting characters with great chemistry and banter) and what made me lose patience with the series and the author (everything with QFindr just feels like alt reality, which is jarring in a series that started out so gritty and realistic).

The storyline bringing the two MCs together required a big suspension of disbelief for me, but the emotions between them felt real. And I really liked that both of them had satisfying character arcs and they both had to change to make their relationship work.

The epilogue was pretty perfect - the series ended with a party attended by all the MCs from previous books. This sort of series epilogue can often annoy me, but this was pitch perfect - it was fun to read about everyone and see that their respective HEAs didn't erase their respective characters.

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### **monika says**

You don't deserve my time, my rating, my money, because

<https://ingloriousbitches.wordpress.c...>

[https://www.goodreads.com/user\\_status...](https://www.goodreads.com/user_status...)

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## Be-ya says

This is the second book i liked from the series. I love the tension and intensity of it all. I guess I'm really into books where characters are isolated fr others and there's this sense of... Finding solace with each other? I didn't like the epilogue though. Clive being friends with Michael again just didn't sit well with me.

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## Clare says

Rating/Review/Desire to Read removed following revelations about the author Santino Hassell. See links for further details.

<https://riptidepublishing.com/a-state...>

[https://www.goodreads.com/user\\_status...](https://www.goodreads.com/user_status...)

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## Alisa says

This is going on the "Not enough money in the world to make me read this book shelf"

It's too bad, I was waiting for Clive's story.

publisher's statement in regards to author's alleged abuses

<http://riptidepublishing.com/a-statem...>

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## Marlobo says

Pre-ordered on January 14, Pre-order cancellation requested. on March 6 and cancelled on March 07.

[https://www.goodreads.com/user\\_status...](https://www.goodreads.com/user_status...)

<https://ingloriousbitches.wordpress.c...>

<https://twitter.com/i/moments/9707166...>

Statement from Riptide: <http://riptidepublishing.com/a-statem...>

Summary of all this sham/fraud/catfishing: <https://thesaltminers.tumblr.com/post...>

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## Rita says

That cover is gorgeous. The story though? Not bad but not great either, the lack of proper editing shows. Just as Clive and Michael get their closure, so do I, so I can finally put the past to rest.

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**Sali Mes says**

Never ever gonna read.

<http://riptidepublishing.com/a-statem...>

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**Alias Mathews says**

Nah.

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