



## Triple Cross

*Kit Ehrman*

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Although 23-year-old barn manager Steve Cline doesn't expect to stray far from the horse world, he has enrolled in a private investigations course and is working on the final project. But when his father, racehorse trainer Chris Kessler, invites him to Louisville on a two-week, all-expense-paid vacation that will culminate with the running of the Kentucky Derby, how can he refuse? Except, it isn't really a vacation. Kessler has a Derby runner and needs a reliable fill-in when one of his employees is injured.

With only two horses to care for, the workload is light, and Steve decides to get that class project out of the way--a simple records search. But the very act of initiating the project triggers a chance encounter that plunges Steve into the world of the ultra rich. A world where greed and revenge and ambition drive some men to commit unspeakable acts amid the pageantry and glamour of thoroughbred racing.

In quick order, Steve finds himself the prime suspect in a murder investigation and the target of brutal thugs. From the relative security of the backside to the Derby festivities that transform downtown Louisville into Party Central to the opulence of a Lexington horse farm, Steve deals with his own personal demons and strained relationships as he attempts to stop a murderer before a power play culminates in shattered dreams and a bloody triple cross....

## Triple Cross Details

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Author : Kit Ehrman

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# From Reader Review Triple Cross for online ebook

## Grey853 says

This is the fourth in the Steve Cline series. TRIPLE CROSS is set during the two weeks leading up to the Kentucky Derby. Steve's dad has a horse running in the race, so Steve is there to help him.

Steve is also taking a course in detective work and as part of that he picks a person at random to research. When he does so, he stumbles on a major mystery when the woman disappears and is later found murdered. Steve is roughed up and robbed, his room tossed, and is then chased all around the city by men who think he has information they want.

It's obvious that the author has a firsthand knowledge of the city of Louisville. The streets, the Derby festival, the restaurants, and Churchill Downs are all spot on with her descriptions.

It's another wild ride for Steve as he works with the police to find the killer/killers.

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## Greg Rothenberger says

An engaging read, especially if you live in the Louisville, Kentucky area, but not one of my favorites. If you're not familiar with the area (or the Kentucky Derby), you may frequently be lost.

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## Denise says

I really enjoy this series- a mystery with a horsey side!

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## Adam Watson says

I feel compelled to offer some preconditions on this review. The worst thing to do, of course -- making excuses before you've said word one about the text itself. But here goes.

First of all, I don't naturally gravitate toward mystery genre books. Now, I'm a sucker for a sci-fi or horror genre book, cliches and all . . . but mystery cliches cause a lot of eye rolling for me. (There's several in *Triple Cross*, but they come with the territory, so I can't find fault for their use.)

Second, I know nothing about Ms. Erhman's other books, and in fact, I haven't read the first three of this series. If I had, perhaps I would have had a deeper affection for the characters and an overall more positive view of the book.

Last, I picked this up solely because I'm from Louisville, and was interested in how closely this replicated

some places around the city. In fact, I first heard about the book from John and Ricardo, owners of the Rocking Horse Manor, when my wife and I stayed there recently. When I found out both they and the B & B show up in this novel, I was curious, so I picked it up and plunged in.

I was underwhelmed. If it wasn't for my desire to see if John and Ricardo would show up again, it would have been hard to get past page 200. Ehrman obviously has done her research; her mastery of the jargon of horse racing, oil drilling and 19th century architecture is obvious. The problem is, unless you have a glossary on hand, it's wasted on the reader. A few context clues or paraphrases would have helped me out, especially with the horsetalk, but perhaps by #4 of the series Ehrman expects that you're either on the train or you're not getting on in the first place. But even assuming *I'm* just dense, the dialogue seems unrealistic. It may further plot at times, but otherwise seems present only to show Ehrman's expertise. For example, why would a oil company executive use so many technical terms when telling about his drilling processes to the protagonist, who is clearly a non-geologist? Wouldn't it make more sense for Steve to shake his head and beg the exec to put it in layman's terms (for the readers' sake, at least)? Later, another character gives a great and accurate description of the Rocking Horse Manor architecture, but it fails as a character moment (or a revelation of info tied into the plot, for that matter) because it reveals nothing personal. If he said that his pappy owned one just like it, or it showed he cared more for structures than people (if, say, he ogled the staircase instead of a leggy blond walking up it), then it would be worth it; otherwise, it's just an encyclopedia entry. All that said, I admire a writer who at least cares enough to visit the places she writes about in order to get the details right.

As for the mystery itself, the story seems to plod along until 2/3 through, when a chase scene (with the Derby Festival's Balloon Glow as the background) kicks the story into an enjoyable gear. (Ehrman is a good action writer, both in suspense and detailed imagery -- frankly, I wish she had more of it.) In the end, it was these last 100 pages of the book, the deft inclusion and accurate portrayal of Louisville highlights, and Ehrman's obvious research/knowledge of the horse world that shows her writing skill.

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## Leslie says

While the horse details were dead on, for the most part, and other details were well researched, I personally didn't care for the story. I have read two of Ehrman's titles and simply can't warm up to the main character. I don't search out mystery novels but I do horse related novels. I'm going to have to say I'm skipping on this series from here on out. Also, I have a pet peeve about language and the use of more than necessary, in my opinion, trash talk.

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