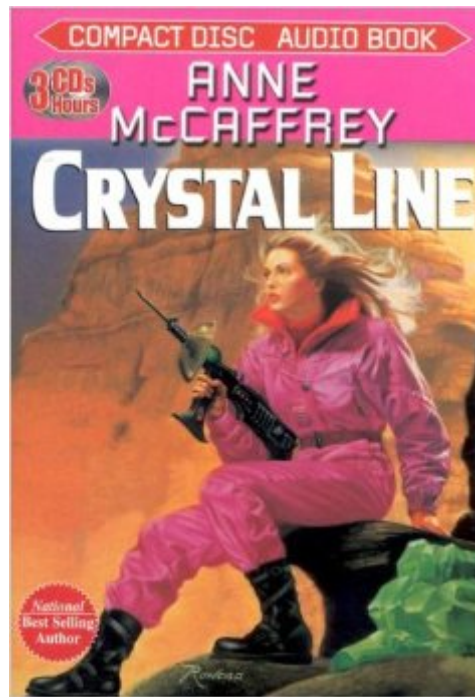


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# Crystal Line



## Synopsis

"A treat for long-time McCaffrey fans, a good read and a satisfying look at one of the most haunting facets of the crystal singers' profession." LOCUS When Killashandra Ree joined the mysterious Heptite Guild, she knew that she would be forever changed. Crystal singing brought ecstasy and pain, near-eternal life...and gradual loss of memory. What she hadn't counted on was the loneliness she felt when her heart still remembered what her mind had forgotten. Fortunately, someone still cared enough to try to salvage what was left of Killashandra's mind. But she would have to learn to open herself--to another person, and to all her unpleasant memories. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #4,704,586 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

I read McCaffrey when I want to be comforted by the presence of basically decent people. The plots don't matter to me much and the attempts at true sci-fi technology are something to be skipped over as quickly as possible (eg. the workings of a Hive ship.) For that reason, I have also enjoyed McCaffrey's non-Sci-fi books, in particular "A Stitch in Snow". The Crystal Singer series is my favorite sci-fi trilogy and Crystal Line is my favorite of the three books. In Crystal Singer, we have the usual angry and mis-treated teenager who strikes out on her own and is attracted to the domineering macho types. In Killashandra, we have a woman who has matured enough to change her taste in men. But in Crystal Line we have one of the very few "middle-aged" (I know she's actually several hundred years old according to the plot) heroines in sci-fi. Her decisions about what

she will do with her life, and who she will do it with, are long over. But she still has decisions to make about how she will deal with both the choices that she has made and the things that life has done to her.

I was less than inspired by the first two Crystal Singer books. Killashandra was a fun heroine, but not too appealing, and her adventures were somewhat...silly. However, I hate leaving loose ends, so I started reading "Crystal Line"...and was quite pleasantly surprised! Oh, the adventures here are still rather irrelevant. Killa and Lars could have been doing anything, that's not really the point. The point is, in THIS book, the profession of Crystal Singing, the joys and triumphs it brings and the hazards of the job are finally explored, and it's...haunting. Lars is sweet, though he still doesn't do much for me. Killa, however, finally stops being the diva and faces the past she struggled for so long to suppress and has to find what her heart is searching for. Through the course of the book, several loose ends are tied up (it's recommended that the reader not wait too long between reading "Crystal Singer" and "Crystal Line"), and the ending is...perfect.

Overall an interesting book. Always fond of the shell people. Wish she had covered more on the FM studies and results of Lars' recruitment and skipped the tropical island lover subplot which felt like it was almost lifted from Killashandra if not Rowan.

Anne McCaffery makes clear pictures of the characters, events, and locations in her stories. I feel like I could find my way around. The crystal singers' descent into memory loss and paranoia is believable and sad. The effects of the symbiotic are an interesting twist in the life and work of the crystal singer. The love story of Killashandra and Lars was delightful.

What an adventure for both Killasandra and Lars. His undying love for Killa was heart wrenching and romantic. While she was losing ever detail of her memories. What a twist to bring them together again.

Last of the Crystal Singer series, this one wraps up the story of Killashandra Ree. Easy to read in McCaffery fashion, very entertaining and a delightful conclusion. Highly recommend this classic sci-fi story.

Given that I devoured everything Anne McCaffrey wrote during my teenage years, I'm absolutely

certain I must have read this before, but if so it certainly didn't stick. Upon re-reading, I can see why. Killashandra spends most of the novel in what comes off as a petulant sulk for reasons that make little or no sense if it's been a while since you read the previous two novels, and the action is more like a stitched together series of episodes than an actual plot. The goal seems to be to move Killa emotionally from Point A (near-fugue) to Point B (happily ever after), and while McCaffrey manages it, the progression is hardly what you could call elegant. While not terrible by any means, this certainly is not one of the author's better novels, and is probably best left to those who just can't stand not to round out the trilogy by reading the last book.

While Crystal Line is NOT my favorite book in this trilogy, it is still a good read. It is great to go back to Ballybran and cut crystal with Lars and Killashandra. My biggest problem with this book is that there are some inconsistencies/errors in it that were seemingly missed in the editing. The plot seemed a little lacking in my mind and the story jumps around a bit. I also missed some of the favorite characters from the first two books who are now dead or incapacitated. I found the sections where Killa is suffering from severe memory loss difficult to read. All in all I did enjoy the book -- it's great to spend more time with old friends on Ballybran. If you have read the other 2 books (Crystal Singer & Killashandra), don't miss this one.

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