



Against the Law

Kat Martin

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The most unsettled of the "no-account Raines boys," Devlin Raines has long been protecting his heart from injury. But his latest case - and client - forces him to lay everything on the line...

At thirty-two Dev is "mostly retired" from Raines Investigations, content to run operations from his sprawling Arizona home. But Dev has never been able to say no to a beautiful woman, so when Lark Delaney comes to him for help, the former U.S. Army Ranger from Wind Canyon gets back in the game.

Lark is sexy, successful and dedicated to tracking down the baby girl her sister gave up for adoption. It should be a straightforward case, but it's not long before Dev uncovers a shady adoption ring and worse—the child's parents have been murdered and the little girl has been taken.

As the case grows dangerous and Lark needs him more than ever, Dev can't ignore his growing attraction for her. He also can't trust his judgment with women or the emotions he's long-since buried. But there's a chance, if he gets this right and saves Lark's niece, that he'll end up saving himself, too.

Against the Law Details

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From Reader Review Against the Law for online ebook

Holley says

The hero was a little whiny (waaa, some girl broke my heart so I'll just play the field forever so no one else can waaa). But the heroine was right up my alley. A sexy, successful woman who is fulfilling a promise to a deceased sister. I also love that there are some characters that have mixed characteristics (bad and good). I look forward to the next book.

Crystal ♥ RBtWBC says

I am a big fan of Kat Martin and have read every single book she has put out but this one didn't really do it for me. It was a good read and completed the trilogy of the Raines brothers nicely but it didn't hold my attention like the first two, *Against the Wind* and *Against the Fire*.

Lark is a well-known bag designer with her life all planned out, but when her sister passes away asking just one thing from her Lark's world gets turned upside down. She must fulfill her promise and find her niece that was given up for adoption at birth. She hires Dev, an ex-Ranger and owner of an investigation firm, to help track the little girl down. Dev has commitment issues with women after being left by his fiancé just days before their wedding he has been bed hopping ever since. He's the typical rich playboy. When Lark shows up he reigns in his instant attraction though because he has one rule; you don't mess around with clients. But Lark wouldn't mind a no-strings-attached romp in the sheets and makes her feelings known. A back and forth battle between them insues; about sex, feelings and the danger surrounding them. A simple job to track down adoptions records turns into a take down of a hokey adoption agency and a battle with drug lords that lead them across the Mexican border.

Against the Law starts out slow and we don't see any action, romantically or otherwise, until around the middle of the book. But once the action hits it continues until the end and there were quite a few twists. The chemistry between Lark & Dev was intense, though Dev resisted it at first. Neither of them is looking for a long-term relationship which adds another rut in the road for these two. Again though, you have to make it to around the halfway point of this book before it get's interesting and you can connect with them. Individually though, I didn't feel there was enough depth to the their characters, especially Dev, who I was looking forward to.

Also, the brand name dropping was overused. Every time someone pulled a phone out it was a iPhone or a Blackberry; "Scroll through the contacts on my iPhone," "Take a picture with my Blackberry," ect. Over and over again.

The romance and outcome was predictable and some aspects lacked realism because whatever Dev needed was conveniently dropped in his lap; back-up, weapons, information. Great world-building though and some of the side characters were pretty interesting. We might even see some stories from them later on. We also see small bits from the other two Raines brothers, more towards the end.

I would recommend *Against the Law* though if you have read the previous two books in the series, just to wrap it up, it was enjoyable but I have read a lot better from Mrs. Martin.

Lauren says

Against the Law

3 Stars

Similar to the first two books in the series, the basic premise has potential but the execution is poor with overly descriptive and redundant scenes.

Lark and Dev have tangible chemistry and there are, thankfully, no fade to black scenes as in book #2. That said, neither character is particularly likable. Dev is afraid to commit and constantly muses over the possibility of being with other women while Lark comes across as flirty and also mentions the possibility of having sex with another man. Their relationship is based almost solely on sex and their HEA is not believable.

The plot starts out well with the black market adoption ring. Unfortunately, this storyline is underdeveloped and plays out far too quickly. The book then goes off in a completely different, and unrealistic, direction with megalomaniac drug lords, rival cartels and special forces operatives taking over.

In sum, this series is nothing special and the secondary characters who will be the focus of future books are not that interesting.

Mary Gramlich says

AGAINST THE LAW written by Kat Martin
Raines of Wind Canyon Series, Book #3
02/11 – Mira - Mass Market Paperback, 409 pages

Can true love help you forget the past and start on a new future?

Lark Delaney is fulfilling a promise to her late sister to make sure the baby her sister gave up for adoption is being well cared for. She hires Raines Security to help with the search and once she meets, its owner Devlin Raines she knew the mission was going to be a success. Devlin runs his business and never fraternizes with a client but when Lark walks in the door all bets are off once the case is solved or maybe even sooner. Both Lark and Devlin know the pain of shattered childhood dreams and relationships that have not worked out so they are in this for the short-term and think they have their eyes open and hearts closed – great idea on paper, bad idea in reality.

It looked easy enough to find a child but the adoption turns out to be bogus, the agency a fraud and the parents who adopted the baby are drug cartel money launders. Devlin and Lark go on a roller coaster ride to rescue Chrissy who is the only person left alive after the bad guys get to town and wipe out an entire household but keeping Chrissy safe is not going to be easy. The bad guys keep coming and when they break into Lark's home and take Chrissy again Dev goes into full Ranger mode calling up friends and making sure everyone including Lark is locked and loaded for a trip to Mexico on a little recon mission.

Lark proves to be a determined, tough woman and someone Dev knows he shouldn't be falling for but is. They both fight any attraction and even during the most harrowing times they still reach for one another without a thought to long-term love. However, when the mission is complete and everyone back to their life will normal exist without the other in their life?

Loved this series and each one is more suspenseful and exciting than the last. Devlin is the youngest of the brothers but the toughest for sure. He and Lark really shake off the past and work as a team well as if they were made for one another! Ms. Martin knows how to write romance and suspense keeping you on your toes

with such well-written text you think you are with them on their adventure.

Anita says

WOW!! This is the best of The Raines of Wind Canyon yet. This book has passion, suspense and it just keeps you on an emotional roller coaster.

This is the story of youngest brother, Devin. Dev is a rich, hot, former Ranger who was dumped three days before the wedding by bitch, Amy. He can't get past that. Lark was sent to him by his former Ranger buddy, Clive, to help her find the 4 year old her sister put up for adoption. This should be simple, right? Wrong. The journey these two take is scary and very real. I think that is what makes this such a great book - it could so happen, or not. Anyway it was a great plot and an awesome book.

Paraphrodite says

I'd give the Raines brothers trilogy a solid 3.5 stars.

Pheonix Fanfiction says

My thoughts and feelings while reading:

0.0% Excited for this one - another ex-military hero! <3 Dev's interested me in the other books - I want to know more about him! Hope he doesn't resist Lark too much in this book :) Excited to start this one! :)

2.0% **The favor of working with a gorgeous brunette—even if she was a hundred-eighty degrees from his usual type—didn't seem like too much to ask.**

Yh well your usual type hasnt worked out so well has it Dev! And we both know you're dissatisfied with all these hookups!

5.0% **For an instant, he imagined those long legs wrapped around his waist, imagined cupping that amazing ass in his hands as he drove into her.**

<3 So hot - hes not going to be able to resist for long! I hope not anyway! :)

7.0% **The next few days were going to be a whole lot harder than he had thought. He shifted against the bulge beneath the fly of his jeans and fought not to smile at the pun.**

Haha you might be able to fight the smile but I cant! haha <3

12.0% **Town's wife left him when his pro-football salary took a nosedive. He isn't very trusting of women."**

:(I hope we have a book about Town :)

19.0% **She sauntered toward him, lightly brushed against him as she passed. "Too bad you don't mix business with pleasure." Without looking back, she turned and sashayed back down the hall. Dev watched the sway of that great ass and silently cursed Madman Monroe.**

Haha go Lark!! <3

20.0% **He might have his own set of rules, but so did she, and there was nothing to prevent her from having a little fun at his expense.**

Yeah I totally love Lark! <3

24.0% I LOVE this case! I think it's gonna get a lot more complicated soon though! I also love Dev and Lark - I cant wait to see more of them soon :) <3

“She’s definitely that and a whole lot more.” “I meant the case,” Jackson said,

Haha we can see where Devs mind really is! Haha :) and yay Jackson!!! <3

29.0% **Turning her head into his chest so she couldn’t see the horror around her, he walked past the nanny out into the hall.**

Awwww I love Dev! <3

30.0% **But as he watched them together, saw the love in Lark’s pretty face, an odd feeling settled in his chest.**

<3 <3

33.0% **Till then, taking her to bed would have to wait at least a few more days.**

I love how a couple days ago he wasnt taking her to bed at all! haha <3

37.0% **Chrissy peeked around Aida and her lips curved into a smile. “I’m getting a lot of new friends.”**

Awwww! <3 Chrissy! She's soooo cute! <3

38.0% **The smile Dev cast Steve’s way looked downright wolfish. “Why don’t you use my office,” he suggested. “Lark, you know where it is...just down the hall from my bedroom.” Her eyes widened. Dev’s tone made it sound as if she’d been sleeping there.**

Looooo! I LOVE JEALOUS DEV! <3 <3

39.0% **On the other hand, she refused to put Chrissy in the same situation she had been in before, with a family who mostly ignored her. Or at least, since Chrissy rarely mentioned them, it certainly seemed that way.**

Hmmm her family doesnt seem that nice :(Im loving Lark though! <3

40.0% **Jesus. He was hard as granite, filled and near to bursting, and he hadn’t even gotten her out of her clothes. “God, I need you,” he said, aching and so stiff he throbbed with every heartbeat.**

Finally!! SO HOT!! <3

41.0% **Don’t move” he warned. “I’ve been waiting too long for this” She cupped his face between her hands and kissed him couldnt resist just a little wiggle. Dev hissed in a breath. “Naughty girl. You’re asking for trouble. Youd better watch out.” Oh she felt naughty all right. And hot. So incredibly hot. She wiggled again arched up to take more of him. “Dammit!” Dev drove deep kissed her hard as he lost control**

<3 <3

42.0% **She managed a wobbly smile. “Goodbye, Devlin Raines.” Something moved across his features. “Goodbye, Lark Delaney.”**

:’(:’(

44.0% **“I’m already a father. I’d like to be a father again—but I don’t want to rush things too much.”**

Awww I love Jackson! I love getting to see glimpses of these amazing Raines brothers! <3 <3

45.0% **He wasn't about to break that vow. Not now or anytime in the future.**

Oh Dev! Lark is not Amy - no where near!

I've been so busy the last few days I've not had time to read :(Im hoping to get lots read tonight and tomorrow though :) Im loving this book - wish I had more time! Stupid RL! :(

hmmm..currently at 70% but Im going to give the audio book a try now. Ive never read a book like that but Im curious.. Thank god for a 30 day free trial :)

Oh maybe not :(Its american not UK :(

47.0% **Just do as I say**

Oh no no no no! NOOO!

50.0% **"She shot one of them, Town." His mouth curved into a ruthless half smile. "Lark killed one of the bastards."**

Good - Go Lark! I <3 that Dev's not hesitated to be there for her! <3

52.0% **It made sense. All of the men in the group were ex-soldiers. They were proceeding as if this were a military operation. To them it is! I <3 that these men are all going after Chrissy! <3 their loyalty to one another is amazing! <3**

57.0% **She nodded and moved away from him, giving both of them room to breathe. Still, the air in the room was thick with sexual heat and she wondered if making love wouldn't be easier than trying to deny the hunger they were feeling.**

I love the tension and chemistry between these two! <3

58.0% **For some reason Cantrell has captured my attention - I hope we get a book about him! :)**

She flicked a glance at Dev, saw Montez watching her, saw the moment Dev realized it. "Forget about it," she heard him say. "That goes for all of you."

<3 LOVE IT! <3

61.0% **"Chrissy. My name is Chrissy...Delaney."**

Aww! I love Chrissy!

63.0% **Devlin Raines had branded her as his and she would never get over him. She belonged to him and no other man would do.**

<3 <3

65.0% **"Jesus, I've never met a woman I want the way I want you."**

<3 I love that, Dev! <3

67.0% **"I'm going. I'll find a way to get there if I have to walk every step of the way."**

<3 go Lark! <3

70.0% **Chrissy's eyes remained solemn. "Are you my mama now?" Lark swallowed past the lump in her throat. "Yes, sweetheart, I am." "That's good. A little girl needs a mama." Lark hugged her tighter. "That's right, she does."**

Awwwwwwwwwwwwww! <3 <3 <3

75.0% As much as she wanted to deny it, Gracie was right. Dev and the others weren't the sort to settle down. Or even to fall in love.

With the right woman, they would!! Don't give up Lark!

77.0% She watched him walk away, his strides long and confident. On the surface, he looked like an average man, but she thought there was a core of steel beneath his every-man facade. She wondered if she would see him again and smiled, somehow certain she would.

Awwwww! Im glad about Emilio and Gracie - they seem great for each other! <3

78.0% "Chrissy seems to have a lot of uncles lately."

Yep and I LOVE it! <3 <3

79.0% It isn't too late, he told himself. If he was careful, if he set things on a more even course, he could protect himself.

Oh Dev! No you don't need protecting from Lark, she's not going to hurt you! :(

83.0% She could feel it. And looking at the tight set of Dev's jaw, she was sure he could feel it, too.

Oh no, what's going to happen!

85.0% She looked at him as if just hearing him say it turned her on. Jesus, it sure as hell turned him on. "Don't look at me like that unless you mean it. Because I'm so wired right now, I could take you all night long and still not get enough."

<3 Dev! But I wanna know what the hell is going on! What is La Guerra up to?!

88.0% One thing she knew. Losing Dev Raines was going to be the hardest thing she'd ever done.

Oh no :(my heart is going to break, I know it! :(

89.0% He came with a rush, a release so fierce his head fell back and he clenched his jaw to keep the primitive cry locked in his throat.

<3

91.0% Haha I love Jackson and Gabe! <3 <3

93.0% But now he knew the difference, knew what a real woman was. "Town!" Shouting for his friend, he pounded down the hall.

Yessssssssss! :D <3 <3

95.0% "You said the don called you on your way over here."

Oh thank god you remembered that! <3 <3

96.0% He swallowed, glanced away. When he spoke, his words came out softly. "I want to say it. I want to say it so much it hurts. But I'm afraid. I'm scared of what will happen if I do."

Oh Dev how are you so perfect! <3

98.0% All of them were married to beautiful, talented women, and all of them were well-loved. And deeply in love with their wives.

<3 the Raines! <3

99.0% "Besides," Sarah said, "about halfway through the ceremony, he looked a little misty-eyed himself."

Aww! I <3 that! <3 <3

100.0% Awwwwwwwwww! Loved it! The case was amazing, Chrissy was awesome and Dev n Lark were incredible! I cant wait to read the other books in this amazing series! <3 <3 <3

Christine Seybolt says

Former U.S. Army Ranger, Dev (Daredevil) Raines has been hurt one time too often by inconsistent women. After his fiancé leaves him for another man Dev is devastated and gives up on love. Deciding its time to cut woman lose and use them for what God entailed them for. No strings attached are Dev Raines motto and he is sticking to it.

Dev built a new life in Arizona creating a successful security business, Raines Security. Dev has a demanding job and that is exactly how he likes. His life is pretty easy breeze being able to pick and choose the jobs and clients he wants. But lately he's been felling a bit adrift. He is thinking about maybe taking on a new client when in sashays one of the sexiest woman he has ever seen. Even though all the bells and whist blow for Dev not to take her on as a client he can't help but agree to help her locate her sister's child.

Lark Delaney doesn't have time—literally. She made a death-bed promise to her younger sister to find her baby and make sure she is in a good home. Mutual friend, Clive (Madman) Monroe says Devlin Raines of Raines Security is the man to get the job done. Perfect. She'll finish packing her late sister condo, find her niece and make sure she has a loving and caring family only then her promise will be fulfilled. And Lark will be able to go back to California where her design company. Nothing prepared her for the chemical reaction she would feel on first sight of meeting sexy Dev Raines. But this is business and she doesn't need her hormones or emotions getting involved Lark has enough on her plate.

After reuniting with her four year old niece, Chrissy Lark is suddenly an aunt and a mother having just witnessed the brutal slaying of her adoptive family. Back home in LA with Chrissy Lark tries to start her life and routine back at work designing couture hand bags for her company LARK bags. But thoughts of a blue-eyed devil with a magic touch that gave her one explosive night replays in her mind.

One night while Lark and Chrissy lay sleeping assailants break in kidnapping the little girl. Lark shoots-to-kill and makes her mark as one man lies dead on her floor. She knows no one better than Dev Raines that can help her track down her little girl. They join forces and head to Mexico where the meet up with Dev's friends from his Ranger days to plan the rescue of four year-old, Chrissy.

Racing against time to find the little girl and bring her home Dev and Lark will fight with everything they have to bring her home. Danger at every corner, heartache and heartbreak just a breath away but neither Dev nor Lark can deny the powerful connection that draws them together. In a time of devastating peril can these two find a common ground that will never shift and keep their lives forever entwined and stable?

Accolade:

4 ½ quills! Ms. Martin has struck the mother load in her AGAINST series. AGAINST THE LAW is her third installment in the series and by far the most powerfully intense romantic suspense with its charismatic characters, a story line that defies gravity with enough endorphins and adrenaline driven that even the Die Hard series can't hold a candle to this brilliantly written series. Ms. Martin is a true mistress of the written word that never disappoints her readers.

Melissa says

This book was a lot more plot driven than were the first two in the series. What I really found ironic here is that Devlin is supposed to be the playboy of the Raines brothers, but he had fewer steamy scenes than they did. It was fine with me though. The fast paced, well-researched, and interesting plot is what is what kept me wanting more. This is definitely my favorite of the three!

Jennifer Blouch says

I was looking forward to this story because I loved the first two, and I loved Dev's presence in them. The story line was good, and kept me turning the page. I didn't feel the chemistry between Dev and Lark as I did with the couples in the first two books in the series. I also felt the timing of the steamy scenes was inappropriate. Lark's choices just didn't sit well with me. She was much too concerned with Dev when she should have been a mess about her daughter. The epilogue was very scattered and forced. I still enjoyed the book, but overall it was a disappointment compared to the first two.

Cheri says

I think I liked Devlin's story the best but they were all good. Now I find out that KM continued this trilogy into a series. Looks good to me!

JoAnne says

This was book 3 in the series and is Dev's story. Lots of action due to a drug cartel, murders, kidnapping, rescues, romance and love. Takes place in AZ, Los Angeles, Mexico and Wyoming. Lark and Chrissy get under Dev's skin no matter how he tries to fight it. Reunited with the other Raines brothers and their families plus meet up with Dev's team to help right wrongs and get Chrissy back. Nice closure and a happily ever after. The epilogue tied up all the loose ends but left the door open for more action in future books in the Against series that I can't wait to read!

jenjn79 says

Of the three books in this series, this one fell in between. The first book was a little flat, and I enjoyed the second book quite a bit...this one fell in between the two.

Series Note:

Third book in Martin's "Raines of Wind Canyon" series about 3 brothers who have bad childhoods and who grow up to make good of their lives. I don't think you have to read them in order, but it may help.

Summary:

Devlin Raines is the owner of a successful private investigation company, but these days he's mostly retired and only works on cases that really interest him. When Lark Delaney shows up on his door, at the recommendation of a mutual friend, he's intrigued. Lark's sister recently passed away and on her death bed, her sister asked Lark to find the baby girl she gave up for adoption when she was 16 and make sure she was okay. Lark is determined to complete her sister's dying wish, and make sure her niece is in a safe and loving home. So she goes to Devlin and asks for his help.

As the two begin investigating, it becomes clear that the adoption was less than legal and that they really need to find the little girl and make sure she's alright. Things go from bad to worse when they discover the girl's adopted parents murdered by a ruthless drug lord, but the girl miraculously alive. Lark takes charge of the girl, but it isn't long before the child is kidnapped as revenge. Lark and Devlin will do anything to get her back. And all the while, they try to fight the strong chemistry between them.

Review:

This story had a lot of potential to be a great story. The characters are interesting, the plot potential great, and the romance solid. I was expecting this to be a really interesting story, but it didn't quite live up to my expectations. Mostly because of the plot and how it all worked out.

I really liked the premise...Lark wants to make sure the baby her sister gave up for adoption is okay after her sister dies and she asks Dev to help. Great potential there. And it starts off well as she digs around trying to find out what happened to the baby and find out it was an illegal adoption. I was interested in that part. But then things start to go kind of commando. Bring in a ruthless drug lord, a kidnapping, a trip to Mexico, battles with drug lords while making deal with the drug lord's rival, guns and death and all that...and it gets to be a bit much. I really could have done without all the drug lord stuff.

The romance was fairly decent, though. Lark is a pretty interesting character, a well-known purse designer and Dev a bit of the enigmatic Alpha who has never gotten over being dumped by his fiancée. They set off sparks between them right from the start, but Dev doesn't mix business with pleasure, nor does he do relationships anymore. But the two can't resist each other. It's a pretty good romance. I didn't love it, but I did enjoy it.

Martin also introduces some supporting characters that she says she hopes will be spun-off into a second series. I'd probably read it. And you also get some time with the characters from the past books, which is nice.

I think those of you who have been reading this series and enjoying it will probably like this book.

Ann says

Great book there were spots that made me cry and spots that I was happy as ever keeping me on the edge of my seat

Susan Ross says

Even though I enjoyed the book there were a couple of things that troubled me. When Chrissy gets kidnapped, Dev and Lark seem as concerned about having sex as they are with finding Chrissy. Although sex would be a good stress-reliever, their sexual tension went beyond that, and I just found their obsession with the sex perplexing when a child has been kidnapped and is possibly being sexually abused (she's saved in time). I think this is what bothered me most about the book.

Then there's Dev's fixation on his broken relationship resulting in his fear of marriage. This miraculously changes within a 15 minute encounter with his devious ex-fiance.

The couple that manipulated people into illegal adoptions, and started this whole scenario, get off scot-free.

However, I liked the action and the sex (inappropriate as it was, in some sections of the book).
