

All's Fair in Love and Law Book Reviews

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This is book four of a series and I usually don't like to start a series in the middle because I feel like I am missing some of the events that that would fill me in when things are mentioned that happened previously. I read the "Kudos for K M Daughters" before I started reading the story and wondered if they were build-ups. When I finished reading the story, I went back to the "kudos" page and agreed with the descriptions there. Romantic Suspense, crisp dialogue, believable characters, hard to put down, balance of action and drama are some of the comments and I agree with all of them. It is a well written story.

The prologue sets the stage describing a man with big problems, Wow, is he a psycho or what?

Patrick Sullivan is a policeman who meets Charlie and is immediately attracted to her; the feeling is returned. Instant hot, filled with lust, attraction describes them. Then he finds out she is a defense attorney for the "most prestigious law firm in Illinois". Uh oh he's a cop and she is a defense attorney, they are on opposite sides in the courtroom. Overcoming their differences adds a lot of conflict to their relationship.

Italicized portions keep interrupting what is happening between Patrick and Charlie. These descriptions get more and more intense and sadistic. The serial killer likes baseball bats. You can read for yourself why he likes them. It makes me gag just to think about him and the bats. UGH. Oh, and talking about the ugh factor; the description of Charlie eating her rare hamburger "blood tinged, juices leaking onto her hands" totally grossed me out.

The descriptions in this story of food, of the Chicago scenes, and others made me feel like I was part of the story. Food descriptions made me ravenous (well not the hamburger description) I had to get up and go to the refrigerator and find a snack.

Other characters are described in almost as much detail as Pat and Charlie. Senator Morgan needs to have some manners slapped into him. Shirlee, the hooker who escapes the murderer, and her son Lincoln become more than victims, they are 'real' people, not just secondary characters in a story.

I am not a reader of this kind of suspense usually, but once I started, I just had to continue. I don't know that I would read All's Fair again, its violence is more graphic than I care for, especially as late night reading; but I do want to read the three earlier books in this series.

<http://seriouslyreviewed.blogspot.com/2011/03/all-fair-in-love-and-law-by-k-m.html?zx=74ad3836ae81014>

All's Fair in Love and Law, The Sullivan Boys, Book Four
K. M. Daughters
Romantic suspense
Available from The Wild Rose Press
December 2010

Defense attorney C. J. 'Charlie' Demarco has a reputation with the Chicago police Department, and it's not good. Excelling at her job is a mark of pride for her even if she does get stuck with some nasty clients. Too often she's able to get the defendant off on a technicality dealing with bad paperwork from the police. Newly appointed Police Captain Patrick Sullivan really wants to dislike her. Seems he can't get her out of his mind even with a serial killer on the loose.

The sisters who write as K. M. Daughters definitely seem to know a lot of things about families as they prove yet again in this fourth book of the Sullivan Boys series. Aside from the warmth emanating from the whole Sullivan clan this novel is filled with spine tingling suspense. Villains aren't usually very nice. This one is almost demonic in the pleasure he takes from venting his frustrations.

Charlie's and Patrick's families are a welcome respite from the evil we see perpetrated by the villain. The joy they give and take with and for one another no matter what hard times they live through is a real pleasure to read about. But always lurking in the background is the reality of what people can do to others when they have no boundaries preventing their evil. Character building and dialogue drives the book making it a hard one to put down. This writing duo is excellent and I highly recommend all of the books in this series.

Overall rating:
Sensuality rating: Very sensual

Reviewer: Dee Dailey
March 18, 2011

<http://theromancestudio.com/reviews/reviews/allsfairdaughters.htm>

"Story you can't put down, Lifetime Keeper"

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Review by Kathleen Clare (Rutherford, NJ USA)
March 23, 2011

“Five Hearts From The Romance Studio”

"Defense attorney C. J. 'Charlie' Demarco has a reputation with the Chicago police Department, and it's not good. Excelling at her job is a mark of pride for her even if she does get stuck with some nasty clients. Too often she's able to get the defendant off on a technicality dealing with bad paperwork from the police. Newly appointed Police Captain Patrick Sullivan really wants to dislike her. Seems he can't get her out of his mind even with a serial killer on the loose.

The sisters who write as K. M. Daughters definitely seem to know a lot of things about families as they prove yet again in this fourth book of the Sullivan Boys series. Aside from the warmth emanating from the whole Sullivan clan this novel is filled with spine tingling suspense. Villains aren't usually very nice. This one is almost demonic in the pleasure he takes from venting his frustrations.

Charlie's and Patrick's families are a welcome respite from the evil we see perpetrated by the villain. The joy they give and take with and for one another no matter what hard times they live through is a real pleasure to read about. But always lurking in the background is the reality of what people can do to others when they have no boundaries preventing their evil. Character building and dialogue drives the book making it a hard one to put down. This writing duo is excellent and I highly recommend all of the books in this series."

Reviews by Pat Casiello
March 23, 2011

“Entertaining Read!

I was so thrilled to nab the next book in The Sullivan Boys series by K. M. Daughters. I've enjoyed all the previous ones, and couldn't wait to open this.

Imagine my surprise and dismay when it begins with the announcement that one of the family members has died in a car accident (off screen), and the family is struggling to pick up the pieces. I was horrified, and have to admit that I closed my eReader and put it down for a while. How could the authors DO that to me?

Once I recovered from my shock, I started reading again. I'm sure there was a reason behind the death, thought I'm not convinced that the story relied on it, and I know that things like that happen in real life, but I mourned his loss like he was my own friend. And

you know what that means? It means the authors are skillful enough to completely wrap me up in their world and in their characters.

This story doesn't revolve around that death. Instead it's about the newly promoted Captain Patrick Sullivan and his attractive nemesis, defense attorney, Charlie Demarco. Her job is to get her clients off the hook, no matter what, and she's very good at her job. Even so, Pat can't help but be attracted to her. She's gorgeous (and he meets her the first time before he knows who she is), she's smart, she's funny... she's perfect all rolled up in a great package, if not for that pesky job.

To make matters worse, there's a serial killer on the loose.

So, they have this push/pull relationship with each of them on the other side of the line. Still, they manage to fall in love despite that, until something comes up to tear them apart.

I admit, I'm struggling to write this review. I love the Sullivan family, and K. M. Daughters' writing is tight, strong, descriptive and just well done. But ...

But I really struggled with Charlie's character. I understood that she needed to work to pay off the debt she incurred on her family's behalf, but I just couldn't believe that she'd willingly get criminals off the hook. I couldn't help but think that working anywhere else doing anything else (even if she couldn't be a lawyer) would have been preferable because how do you live with yourself when you have to do something so contrary to your beliefs on a daily basis? It really made it difficult for me to like her and to understand how someone like Patrick Sullivan, with his strong set of morals, could set aside her job as though it really didn't matter. It mattered to me. She redeems herself, of course, or she wouldn't be our heroine, but I still struggled with her choices at the start.

Even so, the rest of the story was strong enough for me to accept her at face value, try to like her and keep on reading. As with the other K. M. Daughters' books, the mystery was secondary to the romance. It was still strong, and interesting, but the romance was at the fore - which is just fine with me.

Patrick is a woman's dream: handsome, strong, trustworthy, sexy, thoughtful. I thoroughly enjoyed watching him fall in love. His determination to solve the serial killer crimes is fabulous, too. Really, aside from a bit of temper, he has very few flaws. And he comes with a great family.

Truly, it's the characters that make this story (and the other books in the series) fabulous. I know them all, each individual, and am thoroughly wrapped up with them, which is why I mourned the death of the one who died. The authors have the knack for vivid, three-dimensional characters and I'm a sucker for a character driven story.

So, if you're looking for some wonderfully written romances with a hint of mystery and populated with plenty of great folks, you won't go wrong choosing the Sullivan Boys series by K. M. Daughters. I'm a solid fan and recommend them all.

Originally posted at The Long and Short of It Romance Reviews”

Reviewed by J. Thomas "The Long and the Short Of It Reviews" (USA)
February 2, 2011

“Characters that have depth and substance and a well-crafted storyline.....

Cops and lawyers generally mix like oil and vinegar. Not so in the new romantic suspense ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND LAW. This new romantic suspense stops just short of a battle of the sexes when Chicago land heats up, pitting hot shot defense attorney C.J. Demarco against newly appointed police captain Patrick Sullivan. Authors K.M. Daughters tease the reader with building sexual tension during the sometimes frustrating courtship of two people previously spurned in trust and love.

Pat Sullivan's interest is piqued by the violet-eyed beauty singing on stage while taking his twin nieces to a local amusement park. The following day, she turns out to be the courtroom shark ripping his detective apart on the stand. Unable to let it go, they wage battle over beers and darts while the sexy tension builds until it threatens to consume them both.

Pat and Charlie both know their fair share of loss and pain. On the heels of losing his brother and brother-in-law, Pat struggles to keep the police force afloat and his large and loving family supported as they deserve. Charlie, having recently transplanted to Chicago from the East Coast after a disastrous relationship, fears love again and clings to her two constants: her twin and her work. Her work often clashes with his and, as the manhunt for a killer escalates, could imperil those they love.

With characters that have depth and substance and a well-crafted storyline, authors K. M. Daughters create an enjoyable suspense tale with enough romance for the reader to stop, pause and sigh contentedly. Book four in the Sullivan Boys series, ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND LAW finds the proverbial scales stacked in favor of both romance and justice.

Reviewed by Jenn for The Romance Reviews

“This is the 4th in the Sullivan Boys series. Despite not having read any of the others, this one wasn't hard to pick up. Pat Sullivan is the new police chief. Charlie is the lawyer who gets off criminals on a technicality. She's the last person he expects to fall for so heavily. As the case heats up, so do things between them.

A definite page turner, Daughters bring you a gripping story, keeping you on the edge of your seat while reading. The suspense is as enthralling as the growing romance between the characters with well defined personalities, including flaws, who have a life of their own. I shall definitely be looking for the other books in this series.”

5.0 out of 5 stars 4 1/2 Teacups From Happily Ever After Reviews, By K.M. Daughters - Clare's Review
December 23, 2010

“The Sullivan Boys Are Back!

I learned this was a series after reading Capturing Karma and was so taken in by the Sullivan Boys that I had to read the other books to see what happened before. Once you get to know the family, you're hooked and in love with these guys. There is so much suspense, action, humor and romance it's hard to put the books down. These books are perfect for a mini-series for television and I personally would love to see the Sullivan's in action on the screen. Keep writing KM Daughters, you have a captive audience and do an excellent job. I love reading your books.

Reviewed by Judith Cook
November 15, 2010

“The perfect blend of romance and suspense is what you'll find in All's Fair in Love and Law!

The senseless death of their brother-in-law, Mike Lynch, has left the Sullivan boys reeling. Still coping with the death of their brother, Jimmy, they are pulling together to help their sister Kay deal with the loss of her husband as she slips into depression.

During an outing with Kay's twin girls, Patrick Sullivan, a new captain at the Chicago Police Department, comes face-to-face with a woman who gets his body tingling all over. Little does he know he'll see this woman again all too soon--in the courtroom?

C.J. Demarco, also known as, Charlie, is a shining star of a defense attorney at Schotz, Pearson and Freemont. When she gets a perp off on a technicality, Patrick's department isn't looking too good and he has to answer for it to the media. But he has much bigger issues to deal with. Someone is brutally killing prostitutes and dumping them in the trash in the city's alleys. The Garbage Man Murderer case is going to take all of Pat's limited resources to nail; not an easy task considering the recent budget cuts.

Despite working on seemingly opposite sides of the law, Charlie and Pat can't deny their attraction to each other. When Charlie is set to defend a high-profile case, Pat can't believe she would be involved in trying to get such a creep off. But Charlie isn't about to reveal why she does the type of work she does or the reason getting too involved with Pat scares the hell out of her. Their budding romance is threatened. And for Charlie, one mistake could be a fatal one.

I have loved this series from the get-go and each book keeps drawing me in. The Sullivan Boys series blends intriguing plots, complex characters, and loads of conflict to keep you turning page after page.

In All's Fair in Love and Law, a new Sullivan brother takes the spotlight. Patrick is definitely the type of hero every woman has been waiting for. Strong, sexy, and with a deep sense of right and wrong, Pat isn't the kind of guy to abuse the law. He hasn't exactly been looking for the perfect woman, but she finds him, and he's totally captivated by the alluring defense attorney who is part teddy bear, part barracuda.

K.M. Daughters proves over and over again that they have mastered the art of storytelling. I can't put one of their books down, despite the late hour, despite the fact that I'm facing an early morning with my kids, despite knowing I'll be sitting at my desk gulping caffeinated soda the next day just to stay awake.

The perfect blend of romance and suspense is what you'll find in All's Fair in Love and Law!"

Reviewed by Cheryl C. Malandrinos "johnnycat15" (Western Mass)
November 12, 2010