



Dirty Games

HelenKay Dimon

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Sometimes, to get what you want in business or in love, you have to get your hands dirty. Luckily for Finn and Justin, dirty comes naturally.

Finn Drummond is the baby in a family of sharks—which means he’s worked twice as hard to make a name for himself. After learning the tricks of the trade from his brothers, Finn’s just as ruthless and dominant. Out in the field, his appetites are legendary: for success, for money, for women and men. But when supplies from Drummond Charities go missing, Finn has to partner up with the smoldering ex–Army grunt who’s always challenging his authority—or giving him mixed signals.

Justin Miller wanted his attraction to Finn to be mutual, but the cocky brat always had a girlfriend. Who could blame Justin for trying to move on? Despite their history, they’ve got to work together to figure out who’s been derailing their humanitarian work. But after Justin and Finn are thrown together against gunrunners and kidnappers, their simmering chemistry turns explosive. Turns out, Finn knows how to handle himself in a crisis—and in the sack. Justin only hopes that hot sex is enough to persuade this spoiled pretty boy to do the right thing.

Dirty Games Details

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From Reader Review Dirty Games for online ebook

Jennifer?Pher? says

Bummer.

I was looking forward to Finn's story. I don't know what I expected from the baby of the family but I feel like I didn't get it. I don't feel like I ever really got to know Finn truly.

Justin. Justin. Justin. I just never really warmed up to him to tell you the truth. He was really angry and carried that to the bitter end it seemed. I didn't like it. I was over it. Let's move on. I wanted Finn to move on and that is not how a romance should read.

I did like the action and the adventure.

Overall I am enjoying this series, I feel pretty invested in it even if I'm not loving it.

One more brother to go!

ARC courtesy of Random House Publishing Group-Loveswept via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

Justin Miller works for Alec Drummond's organization in the Middle East, in the area of Morocco, where being with a man is punishable by death so he guards his emotions even more strongly than he normally would—especially when Alec's brother Finn is around, and Finn has just arrived for a visit to the camp to investigate shipments that have been tampered with.

Justin has had a crush on Finn for years but never acted on it because Finn is wealthy and Justin is just Justin—a poor boy who succeeded in the army until a rescue went bad and when he reported the factual circumstances, he found himself on the outs. And he believes this will continue to happen to him time and again—put himself out there to help or befriend others and they will eventually turn on him. To be honest, as a reader, I was pretty disgusted with him long before the midpoint of the story. Poor me, poor me, ad infinitum. He was a drama queen and a princess of emotional non-commitment.

Finn, on the other hand, is a sexy, smart, ambitious character who wants Justin, despite Justin's fears and outright animosity toward him. In fact, Justin is still angry that he saw Finn with a woman six years before. Why didn't Finn tell him he was bisexual? Um...one wonders how Justin, a supposedly mature director of this high risk center that aids those in need can be so immature when faced with the man of his dreams. I digress. Finn was a very likeable character and there were many times I wanted to reach into the pages and give him a push to quit trying to get through to Justin. Though Alec's younger brother, Finn was much more well-rounded in his personality, not as tough guy all the time, and certainly deserving of a life commitment from a man of his choice.

Justin was probably one of the most emotionally immature main characters I've ever read and was constantly misinterpreting statements made by his lover. Always questioning his own thinking and actions related to Finn. And worse, constantly making a decision to face what they have and confess his feelings and the need

he's had for the man for years but then as they start to have the conversation, they either jump into bed or have an argument and Justin decides not to say anything. Honestly, this became stressful to read. The emotions expressed by this man made it seem as if Justin was a romance novel heroine from the fifties—not a mature adult male in the 21st century.

I think if the author had trimmed some of the repetition, cut back a bit on Justin's repetitive emotional loop that was repeated way too many times, and didn't keep throwing the men into sex when they were supposed to finally discuss the emotion behind their actions, I may have liked the story more. It felt as if there were about a hundred pages too many in this book—repetitive thoughts and actions, many scenes just a rehash of previous ones, and this emotional drama of Justin's? Honestly, I was close to DNF on this one. Thankfully, the mystery was good, the secondary characters terrific, and the action scenes, the high risk situations, and the flavor of the area were all a draw to hold my interest.

Fortunately, some people enjoy self-inflicted angst, drama queens, and lots of on-page sex. If so, this one might be perfect. And though second in the series, it can be read as a standalone.

****2.5 stars****

ARC provided by the publisher through Net Galley in exchange for an impartial review.

Fabi says

I have really enjoyed some of HelenKay Dimon's books in the past. In particular, Mr. and Mr. Smith, is one of my favorites. I like how she adds a real story to her romance novels. The romance is set in a mystery or a thriller or some other type of plot which always makes the story more interesting to me.

Dirty Deeds is book 2 in her new Dirty series. It can be read as a stand alone, but like all books in a series, there is some background revealed in book 1 that is only mentioned in book 2. I don't think missing book 1 would have a big effect on enjoying book 2.

This is a good story. It has strong elements. Justin and Finn are solid characters. The situation they find themselves is riveting.

Justin heads a refugee camp on the border between Morocco and Ceuta. He works for Drummond Industries. Finn Drummond is one of the three brother owners. When shipments start to go missing or fall short, Finn heads to the area to help solve the mystery.

Justin is a loner. He's been dealt some tough hands in life and now prefers to keep everyone at arms length. Only his best friend, Oliver, knows of his secret, years long crush on Finn. Justin is determined to keep Finn at arms length to protect himself from any possible heartache.

Let the fireworks begin. :-) Man, Justin could be such a jerk! Finn seemed to have the patience of a saint.

I enjoyed the story. However, I thought that too much of it was "told" instead of "shown". There was a lot of information dump that prevented me from connecting with the feelings I needed to invest in the plot. I also had a bit of a problem with the POV changes. I often didn't realize when one man had stopped talking and the other had taken up. Some switches were so abrupt that I got confused as to who was talking/thinking.

It has the makings of a good story but the execution is lacking polish. It made it difficult for me to truly connect with each man's struggle. However, I did enjoy reading Finn's story and now I'm curious if Griff, the other brother, is next.

Review ARC graciously provided by the publisher via NetGalley

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

1.5 stars

I actually didn't like this book *at all*, but I'm trying to focus on the positives over here.

If you like emotionally stunted characters and books with tons of back-and-forth and repetition, this is the book for you.

I guess my pact to focus on the positives has wavered a bit...

I haven't read much from HelenKay Dimon because I'm not a romantic suspense fan, but the cover of this one looked enticing, so I decided to give it a go.

I'm all for tortured characters with difficult pasts, but Justin really tested my patience. I felt like he was playing silly games for the entire story, and the relationship between him and Finn would take one step forward and then two giant steps back.

Painful dialogue full of hurtful words and jabs (something I don't like in real life OR romance) didn't help things. Just a lack of chemistry, a lack of emotional development from the characters, and a story that failed to wow me. Bummer.

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review

~Mindy Lynn~ says

3 Stars!

I was anticipating this book because I really liked Finn in the first book, *Dirty Deeds*. Unfortunately it did not live up to my expectations.

Finn is trying to prove himself in the business and being the youngest has made him want it more and work even harder to achieve his place next to his brothers. So when a problem arrives with their shipments he takes it upon himself to fly out to try and fix the problem. Only he isn't the brother they are expecting and Jason lets it known he isn't the one he is wanting to help fix the issues. He's pretty hostile towards Finn and continues his hot and cold behavior throughout the book to the very end. I didn't enjoy the back and forth. I

didn't enjoy all the tantrums Jason continued to throw like he was more of a angsty guy in his 20's instead of a grown ass man. All the miscommunication really put me off and kept me from enjoying the story.

I am still intrigued by the 3rd brother and look forward to his story.

****I RECIEVED AN ARC FROM NETGALLEY AND THE PUBLISHER IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW.****

Natalie says

This action/adventure plot was very good and included an enemies to lovers trope, with Finn and Justin trying to determine where, how and why supplies for a refugee charity went missing and who might be involved. Expecting Alec, Justin is upset when Finn arrives to investigate instead, as he's had a crush on him for years, but believes Finn is straight. But they've rarely even seen each other over the six years, so not much of a past together. Naturally, Justin immediately gets mean and insulting, throwing Finn's wealthy background in his face. I mean, how else do you let someone know you're attracted to them? Finn's no pushover though, and proceeds to dig into the matter.

The action was entertaining and suspenseful and the setting was pretty fascinating, near the border of Morocco, where it's also dangerous to be gay or bi. The author explains more of that in her endnotes. Some of the geography and sights were quite detailed and enhanced the story's mood. However, Justin's interaction and dialogue with Finn was annoying, Justin treating him to antagonistic rhetoric several times over. To me, the background and reasons given weren't enough to support the bitter attitude he clung to. Finn didn't show very well in some scenes either, since I would expect him to be much more verbally reactive to Justin's comments than he was given in the dialogue. The hot and cold lasts until the very end and the romance part of this story wasn't solid enough, lost in the hostility.

I focused on trying to figure out whodunnit, with a lot of misdirection and suspects involved, so the culmination was exciting and the perpetrator unexpected. The gunfights, explosions and car crashes broke up the MC's emotional battle often enough to keep the pace moving and retain my interest in discovering answers. It does stand alone, so it isn't necessary to read book 1 but it's always helpful for continuity. If embattled lovers are your jam, and you like action adventure, this book might be one for you.

An ARC was provided by the author, publisher or promotional service and I have chosen to publish a fair and honest review for Jessie G Books Reviews blog

Alisa says

I didn't care for this book as much as the first. I wasn't sure happy with the way Jason treated Finn. Overall it was a decent romantic suspense.

****ARC provided through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review****

Hollis says

In all my previous reads by this author (two, I think? both sorta connected) I enjoyed the chemistry and connection between her characters and relied on that element to carry a story, or plot, that I either didn't enjoy or couldn't follow all the way through. But DIRTY GAMES broke that trend; I really disliked the characters, and their conflict, but at least sorta enjoyed the more straight forward plot surrounding hijacked supply chains and arms weapon distribution.

"Let me get this straight. You thought we'd fuck and I'd become nicer?"

"No, because it was sex, not a miracle."

Okay, I didn't dislike all characters, but Justin? We were still dealing with his jump-to-conclusions, act-like-an-asshole, shtick riiiiight up to the 94% mark. I shit you not. The back and forth over this attitude, this distrust, when he was the one more emotionally invested in the potential for a relationship with Finn, youngest of the billionaire Drummond brothers, was just.. painful. Frustrating. Irritating. Excruciating. He one hundred percent ruined this whole read for me.

"Believe it or not, I'm not interested in impressing you."

"Good, because you suck at it."

The mystery surrounding the culprit double-dealing, stealing from the company and supplying forces with weapons, though, was handled well. Lots of red herrings, but like other aspects to the story and characters, there was a lot of repetition that dragged things out. There were a few funny lines hidden amongst the brutal bickering (and it **was** brutal, full of not-cutesy arguments) but it really didn't feel like the characters acted their age; and definitely didn't act as would befit their experiences or positions. Honestly, the whole read was a bit of a slog for me.

While I've never **loved** these books, after yet another experience of mixed feelings -- and then some -- I don't think I'll be continuing on with this series.

1.5 stars

**** I received an ARC from NetGalley and the publisher (thank you!) in exchange for an honest review. ****

Wendy says

When I read book 1 in this series, one person stood out for me and that was Finn, so I was really looking forward to reading his story !!

I was very excited jumping into this one but when I did.... I got so confused...

I didn't understand what was going on, and it felt like I was thrown into the middle of a story and missed the beginning... Maybe I should have read book 1 again before starting this one, but since it hasn't been that

long, I didn't figure it necessary....my bad.

So it took me some time to really get into this one....

Finn, is the baby brother of the family but that doesn't mean he is any less sharp. he is called in, when supplies from Drummond Charities seem to disappear...and guns seem to turn up. Being called in, also means having to work with Justin, who has always disliked him for no reason at all. Which is a pity, because Finn really likes Justin ;)

Justin has always been attracted to Finn, but ever since he was confronted with him and his girlfriend... those feelings have changed to annoyance.... Annoyance and frustration because the man he wants turned out to be straight....

Those of you who have read book 1 already know that Finn is bi and it's also in the blurb ;) So when Finn's sexuality becomes clear to Justin...all bets are off :P

Once I got over my confusion, I started to enjoy my read, but Justin.....ughhh the push and pull was starting to drive me crazy !!!

Now don't get me wrong, I did enjoy reading this one, but I think I liked book 1 a bit more. Very curious about the last brother though ;)

My reviews are posted on DirtyBooksObsession

Apolishedreader says

3.5 stars

I really liked Finn. I liked that he was determined, honest, smart, strong, trustworthy, loyal and caring. I was not as impressed with Jason for just about all of the book. He was hot and cold, self-serving and self-preserving, frequently at the expense of Finn. I get his reasoning, but I really feel that he was making poor decisions and hurting Finn purposely all without really making proper amends.

Aside from Jason and Finn's unwillingness to stand up for himself emotionally against Jason, the story was a

good one. The suspense and action were constant. I like this series and the unusual company dynamics of the Drummonds. (unusual to me). I enjoyed the mystery in this book more than I did with book 1.

I loved the setting of the story and Dimon does a great job of bringing the area to life.

Finn eventually taking a stand for himself gave me life, Oliver helping Jason get his head out of his ass proved, yet again, that Oliver is an A+++ human being. He is also a cutie pie, emotionally mature and I would love his story. While catching up on Alec and Gaige made me happy, I could have kicked Alec in the butt.

Netgalley ARC

Maria Rose says

Dirty Games by HelenKay Dimon is the second story in her LGBTQ romantic suspense series Dirty. It's a fast paced and action packed story with a sexy romance between two acquaintances who find themselves looking for more.

Finn Drummond, the youngest of the Drummond siblings has had to work hard to make a name for himself. He's decided that the charity arm of the company is where he wants to make his mark, and sets out for Morocco, and a refugee camp that they fund. There have been some missing deliveries recently, and the camp leader, Justin Miller has put in a request for help. Finn's determined to help discover what's going on behind the scenes.

Justin had been expecting Finn's older brother Alec to show up, not the sexy, handsome man he's had an inconvenient crush on for years. When he first met Finn, Finn had a girlfriend and Justin had slotted him in the 'not available' category, believing he was straight. As it turns out, Finn is bisexual, as evidenced by his not so concealed mutual attraction to Justin. Justin and Finn begin a heated affair, one that they have to keep under the radar due to laws in Morocco against homosexual activity, not to mention that Finn is technically Justin's boss. But when accidents keep happening around Finn and his life appears to be in danger, will it draw them closer or push them apart for good?

I've been a fan of HelenKay Dimon's romantic suspense novels for a few years now (I'm particularly fond of the Holton Woods series) so I always look forward to reading a new release from her. This one has a particularly current storyline, with a relief camp for refugees in Morocco on the border with Spain's autonomous city Ceuta dealing with a humanitarian crisis. The setting is well described, including trips in the local countryside to Tangier, and what life is like in the camp. Finn is there to investigate missing food and aid shipments, ones believed to be stolen and traded for arms shipments. Determining who is responsible and why is the focus of much of the story with Justin and Finn constantly finding themselves in danger as they get closer to the perpetrators.

While the action plot moves along swiftly, I didn't find the romance between Finn and Justin to be as compelling as I'd hoped. I really enjoyed Finn's character in the first in the series, Dirty Deeds, but I didn't find a lot of chemistry between him and Justin here. Justin is reluctant to share his real feelings about Finn with him, and while there are some steamy sex scenes, I wasn't as sold on them as a couple. Still, I was glad to see them get their happy for now ending (as much as can be had in a country where their relationship is forbidden) and the action kept me turning the pages. While this one isn't my favorite, HelenKay Dimon remains one of my go-to authors for romantic suspense and I'm hoping there will be a story for Griff Drummond in the not too distant future.

This review also appears at Harlequin Junkie: <http://harlequinjunkie.com/review-dir...>

A copy of this story was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for review.

Alex says

Just like the first one.

It was a fast read and I really enjoyed it.

I wanted to punch Justin more than once but... I totally gets abandonment issues so I can't be to harsh on him here!

Finn was really adorable and the suspense was good. I had my doubts about who the "villain" was until the end and I like it like that.

Justin is pinning over Finn for over 6 years but as when he first met him, Finn had a girlfriend, he deduced (wrongly) that Finn is straight, off-limit then... Plus he's his boss, more off-limit...

So he fantasizes from afar and let all his frustration unleashed the few times their path crossed...

Finn don't understand Justin. He thinks he's HOT!! But all this anger toward him... He doesn't get!

The miscommunication between these 2 goes on...

Justin is super aggressive toward Finn and Finn is seriously a saint... Until the misunderstanding about Finn sexuality is out... And then...

Between bombs, kidnapping attempts and finding who's stealing medicine for weapons...

So. It was good.

Again Justin's hot & cold behavior was super annoying but, his issues are mine so nothing's wrong here.... ;)

I guess, we will have the third brother's story but we haven't seen him yet. Very mysterious.

I loved Oliver. Hoping he gets a book!

Zoe says

Fast-paced, smoldering, and exceptionally suspenseful!

Dirty Games, the latest novel in the Dirty series is an action-packed, steamy tale involving the determined, feisty, youngest Drummond brother, Finn and the serious, ruggedly handsome, snarky Justin as they reluctantly work together to solve the mystery behind the missing humanitarian aid shipments.

The writing is clear and crisp. The characters are hot-headed, relentless, and stubborn. And the plot sweeps you away into a push-pull storyline filled with tension, deception, danger, political instability, arms dealing, red-hot chemistry, sexy times, and violence.

Overall, Dirty Games is an enjoyable, entertaining, passionate read and even though I preferred the first novel in the series, if you love romantic suspense this won't disappoint.

Thank you to NetGalley and Random House - Loveswept for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

All my reviews can be found on my blog at <https://whatsbetterthanbooks.com>

Caz says

I've given this a C+ at AAR, 3.5 stars

I've read and enjoyed a handful of HelenKay Dimon's romantic suspense novels, some of them m/f, and some m/m, so I know pretty much what to expect from her; a fast-paced, energetic and steamy story that is perhaps longer on action than it is on romance – which is exactly what I got. **Dirty Games** is the second book in her current **Dirty** series of m/m novels, and like the others in this series, it reads like the written-down version of an action movie or TV show; the leads are gorgeous, the action is almost non-stop, the scene changes are snappy, and there's little time for introspection – and I suspect the degree to which you enjoy it will depend largely on what your expectations are at the outset.

Justin Miller is in charge of the on-the-ground operations of one of the charitable organisations run by Drummond Enterprises, the multi-billion dollar agricultural business run by Alec Drummond and his brothers, Griff and Finn. Justin, a former soldier, is ferociously driven and dedicated – nothing goes on at Drummond Charities' Morocco camp without his knowledge, and he has recently noticed a series of irregularities in shipments in and out which have become a major source of concern. He has his suspicions as to what might be going on, but it's not something he can – or should – deal with alone, so he has asked Alec to travel to Morocco from his base in Germany so they can work out how to tackle the issue. Unfortunately for Justin, however, it's the *wrong* Drummond brother who steps out of the black sedan that arrives at the camp. Alec has sent his youngest brother, Finn, in his stead, and that's something Justin is most definitely not prepared for.

Ever since he first set eyes on Finn Drummond six years earlier, Justin has been unable to get him out of his mind. Good-looking, sexy, funny and warm, Finn is *six foot one of walking sex* – except that he's straight, and in spite of that one brief time years earlier when Justin wondered if Finn was flirting with him, Justin knows nothing can happen between them. Even so, having the object of his deepest desires and oldest fantasies within touching distance is likely to drive Justin up the wall and distract him from the big picture – trying to get to the bottom of the missing shipments, incorrect manifests and incomplete deliveries of food and supplies.

Finn – who is actually bisexual – hasn't exactly been unaware of Justin over the past few years either, but the guy radiates such dislike whenever they've met that Finn has kind of consigned his attraction to the other

man to the ‘never gonna happen’ pile. Still, it’s not long before Finn realises that at least part of Justin’s antagonistic behaviour towards him is due to his attempts to mask an attraction Finn is only too happy to reciprocate and act upon.

I love a good enemies-to-lovers story and this certainly had the potential to be a good one, but while Ms. Dimon has crafted an intriguing and suspenseful plot, the romance is less successful. The author has chosen an interesting setting for her story; the small strip of land close to the border between Morocco and Spain is rife with political and humanitarian problems and Justin has to walk an often precarious line to maintain the status quo. So when it becomes apparent that the missing shipments are most likely being sold/exchanged for arms, there’s a danger that the whole operation could be asked to leave the country. Justin and Finn are desperate to prevent that – so many people in the area need help and have nowhere else to go – so they must work together to find out who is behind the scheme. And with Finn being targeted by those running the arms trafficking ring, time isn’t on their side.

With Justin and Finn thrown so much together, it gives them time and opportunity to indulge in plenty of steamy sex (although they have to be careful as they’re in a country where committing homosexual acts carries a heavy penalty), but while Finn is ready to let Justin into his life and commit, Justin is carrying a chip on his shoulder the size of Wales, and instead picks fights with Finn at almost every available opportunity. Whenever it seems as though a conversation he doesn’t want to have is approaching, Justin retreats behind his emotional shields and throws Finn’s privileged upbringing and status as a member of one of the world’s wealthiest families in his face – and quite honestly, I wouldn’t have blamed Finn for telling Justin where he could stick it.

The suspense plot is the most successful part of the book – it’s interesting and fast-paced (although I did have to ask myself how many times Finn could be attacked and injured and still keep walking!) but unfortunately the romance is not well developed and I found it really hard to believe their relationship went any deeper than the physical. Justin’s pissy attitude continues until almost the very end of the book when he finally, FINALLY realises he’s been an arsehole, apologises to Finn and asks for another chance. Lucky for him Finn is such a great guy, but Finn’s warmth and generosity are such a contrast to Justin’s bad-temper and tendency to lash out when his emotions threaten to become involved that it’s difficult to believe their relationship will go the distance.

I did enjoy reading **Dirty Games** and it delivered what I expected for the most part; a suspenseful plot, action and steam – but it didn’t convince in the romance department. If you’re following the series, you might want to pick it up, but the lack of a believable romance means I can’t quite recommend it to romantic suspense fans in general.

Julie (*Happily Ever Chapter*) says

Full review to come (closer to release day)

* I received an ARC of this title via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own. *
