



Against the Fire

Kat Martin

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You can't fight what you can't see. And Gabriel Raines can't be sure just who's setting the fires in his new real-estate development. When two fires hit back-to-back, he knows it's personal, but any number of competitors or ex-employees could be the arsonist.

The police suspect Angel Ramirez, a local teen who's been in trouble before. But Mattie Baker, a volunteer at the Family Abuse center, just can't believe the kid she's been working with would go back to his delinquent ways.

Determined to convince Gabe that she's right, Mattie must get close to him and find out who's putting their neighborhood in jeopardy. And just as the arsonist's flames continue to burn, they find a heat developing between them. It might just turn into a full-fledged fire...if they can survive long enough.

Against the Fire Details

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Author : Kat Martin

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From Reader Review Against the Fire for online ebook

Hope Frost says

An exciting, suspenseful tale set in Dallas, you will hold your breath as each fire brings even more danger for Mattie and Gabe. I thought I had the fire bug picked out within the first few chapters. So many twists and turns. Finally Dev (the younger Raines brother) steps in with his own theories and adds more suspects to the pile. A definite page turner, I am counting down the days to Dev's book, *Against The Law*

Mary Gramlich says

AGAINST THE FIRE written by Kat Martin
Book #2 in the Raines of Wind Canyon Series
01/11 - Mira - Mass Market Paperback, 416 pages

You always get burned when you play with fire but sometimes the heat is passion.

Gabriel Raines is a tough native son of Wyoming turned Texas transplant no matter what way you looked at it. He grew up tough from neglect and bullying; did his time as a Marine and faced his demons on the battlefield; and ran a successful construction and renovation business. But Gabe was no match for the sassy little slip of a woman named Mattie Baker. They met under terrible circumstances and never one to believe in coincidences but Gabe thinks a miracle may develop from this disaster in his life.

Someone is torching his construction sites and when a young man who Mattie is counseling is falsely accused her path collides with the rock hard Gabe and she is going to make him change his mind or else. He quickly realizes that accusing this boy is the wrong road to be traveling down but any road where Mattie goes he just might have to follow. She goes out of her way in her career as an architect and volunteer and trusts so few people that when Gabe comes on too strong her sense of flight kicks in. Gabe is a man used to getting what he wants so the chase is on even though it is derailed by another fire and another construction site burned to the ground. The apparent fact that these fires are personal, not random makes everyone jumpy but Gabe also wants to protect Mattie and do a little pouncing perhaps of his own.

Gabe and Mattie search for answers while the arsonist is getting more aggressive and the attacks more vicious. Gabe has some people angry with him as everyone does but he can't think of anyone, including ex-soldiers that carry this kind of grudge. Women may have been scorned but did they take their vengeance this far in seeking pay back, Gabe was not buying that simple answer.

The nights are lighting up with Gabe and Mattie and he is wearing down her defenses even though she likes playing some cat and mouse games with him and has a very unusual secret she is keeping from him. Mixed signals are driving Gabe crazy but not having Mattie full time in his life, sleeping in his bed and planning a future together is just not what he wants to think about. Solving the crime and sending the arsonist away forever sounds better and then he and Mattie can hopefully have a life – plans are great aren't they?

Love this 2nd book in the series it was captivating, thrilling, scary and romantic which is a great combination. You really see so many suspects and no one that fits the criminal profile so when it all comes together you as the reader are completely shocked which is just as it should be. The back story with Mattie's friend is so sweet and having Gabe's brothers involved make it all the more well-rounded. Thanks to Kat

Martin for a knock down great book.

Suzanne Barrett says

Against the Fire is book two in the Raines of Wind Canyon trilogy and is the story of middle brother builder/developer Gabriel Raines and architectural designer Mattie Baker.

Mattie suffers scars from being raised by a mother who struggled to provide after her husband died and left her unprepared to earn a living. Mattie also had a devastating affair and pregnancy that has left her determined not to place her trust in any man. She has to achieve and provide for herself, no matter what. This theme runs throughout the book, even at times one wonders when she's going to realize Gabe isn't trying to run her life and is exactly what she needs. But I'm getting ahead of myself...

Mattie also has a friend who is a victim of home abuse. She knew, and said nothing, a fact that still disturbs her, which is why she volunteers at a family service center. There, she has become friends with a young Hispanic boy, Angel Ramirez and his mother, and she's done a lot to help encourage the bright young man to achieve his dream of college.

Gabriel, ex Marine, has worked up from humble construction beginnings to own a sizable construction/development business in Dallas. When arson hits one of his partially renovated projects, the suspect turns out to be Angel Ramirez, and he comes in contact with Mattie who is insistant Angel had nothing to do with the fire. Gabe is instantly attracted to Mattie, but she rebuffs him. He feels there is more to Mattie than her prim demeanor suggests and he'd like to find out. A second arson occurs at another of Gabe's projects, and a vindicated Angel offers to help find answers on the street. But someone doesn't want those answers to surface and Angel lands in the hospital. Mattie and Gabe, who now have discovered their mutual desire for hot sex, have joined together to find answers to who is behind the attack on Angel and the fires at gabe's work projects.

Also in the plot is a touching story about one of Angel's friends and the budding romance between Mattie's best friend Tracy and Gabe's foreman and best friend Sam.

As in the first book, Gabe's brothers enter into this plot as well. One senses a strong spirit of love and trust among the handsome and sexy Raines brothers,

Again, Kat Martin has provided a story with lots of plot amid lots of sex—a little much for my preference, but if non-stop sex and sexual thoughts are yours, then this might be the series for you. Certainly it is well written and suspenseful. I am liking this author's strong storytelling and look forward to book three in the series.

Cheri says

Lovin these Raines men!

Christina says

11/2017

Pheonix Fanfiction says

My thoughts and feelings while reading:

0.0% Excited for this one - an ex-military hero! :D I love military/law enforcement heros (past or present)! :D :D <3 <3

9.0% **Smart lady.**

Yep she's definitely smart - cant wait to see where this goes :) The case has me really intrigued already :) and Im really looking forward to seeing more of Mattie and Gabe :)

11.0% **Her job was all she had to keep her going, the only thing that kept her from total despair.**

Oh poor Mattie :(

13.0% **not quite certain himself it was a good idea.**

Yes she's different to what you normally like but sometimes different is good Gabe! :) <3 besides what youve had before never lasted! :)

15.0% **He chuckled, appreciating her honesty.**

Me too! I cant stand mind games - honesty and straightforwardness is sooo much better!

18.0% **It was the one time Mattie allowed her inner self to surface.**

Oh yay! I can see where this is going - so excited

20.0% **Gabe couldn't breathe. This was the Mattie he had imagined, the woman beneath the layers of drab clothing. The woman Mattie had kept hidden until tonight.**

<3 <3 <3

21.0% **"I plan to kiss you all night, honey, in places you've never been kissed."**

Okay this is hot!! <3 <3 (hotter than anything in the first book - i think <3)

22.0% **Fine, then he would leave her alone. He'd never had a problem with women. He didn't need one who didn't want him.**

No! Fight for her Gabe, show her she doesnt need to be scared! Show her you two were meant to be together!

26.0% **"Sam did. He said he wasn't interested in a one-night stand. He said if I wanted to go out to dinner sometime, he'd like that.**

Oh yay! I love Sam!! Awwwww - hope we see more of these two! <3

33.0% **This thing with Mel was getting out of hand.**

Yeah it is... I hope nothing else happens - Im getting a bad feeling about him!

37.0% **Jackson**

<3 Jackson and he is def a google whiz haha <3

42.0% **I like you, too, Tracy Spencer. Which is exactly the reason I'm not taking you to bed. At least not tonight."** Her lips turned down in a pout. "What is it with you, Sam? Don't you want to make love to me?" Beneath the table, Sam reached for her hand, pulling it over into his lap. He was sporting a raging hard-on and had been since he'd seen her in the doorway of her apartment. "What do you think?"

<3 Sam!

44.0% **I love your hair," he said, brushing a soft kiss on her shoulder.**

And i love you Gabe! <3 <3 I love that you wont let Mattie run or pretend! <3

45.0% **What is it?" Gabe asked softly. "Tell me."**

Awwww <3 Gabe!!!! Tell him Mattie, you can trust him!! <3 <3

50.0% **She shot him a glare. "That's blackmail!"**

Yes it is! With good and bad intentions ;) haha <3 Gabe!

57.0% **Might be.**

I knew it - I had a feeling!! :D :D

60.0% **The thought brought an unexpected stab of regret. Which meant she was doing exactly the right thing.**

Oh Mattie! You know whats really happening - stop trying to fight it! <3

62.0% <3 the snippets of Jackson - I love the relationship between the brothers! <3

64.0% **Then my plan is actually working.**

Oh yayayayay! I love Sam and Tracy! I love that we get to see quite abit of them! <3

70.0% **It took an instant to recognize the lie.**

At least you recognize it now you just need to give in! Stop fighting it Mattie! <3

73.0% **Tracy was working through her problems. She was allowing herself to fall in love. But Mattie couldn't imagine ever allowing herself to become that vulnerable.**

Yay! <3 Tracy! You can do it too Mattie - for Gabe you can do it!

76.0% Okay, hopefully this will show Mattie she has to fight! Otherwise I have no idea what will!

77.0% Thank god! I hope to god its not too late! <3

79.0% Awww <3 <3 Sam and Tracy! <3

Swearing at me isn't going to change anything. Take care of your wife and daughter.

haha <3 Jackson! <3

82.0% **He cleared his throat. "Can we go into your office?"**

:O I was not expecting that!

83.0% Oh Mattie - I love your reason! I just hope Gabe does too! <3 I think he will - at least I hope so! <3

87.0% Oh yay, Thank God! Im actually squealing! <3

90.0% Good spot Mattie - I agree! I think I know whats coming n I know Im not going to like it!

91.0% **Smoke was everywhere now, stinging her eyes, making her struggle to breathe.**

:O Seriously, my heart is in my throat right now!!!!

93.0% **Her eyes found Gabe, but he was already disappearing into the darkness. And Mattie was terrified she would never see him again.**

Gabe nooooo!

95.0% **He took in his surroundings:**

I love that he's prepared n cautious! <3 a marine - Past and present!!!!!! :P

96.0% Nooooooooo!

98.0% **Holly Raines**

YAY! I love that shes now a Raines! <3 <3

99.0% **Gabe's breathing halted. "Tell me this isn't a joke." "No joke."**

Awwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwww! <3 <3

100.0% "I LOVED this book! <3 Mattie n Gabe were awesome! I loved them, I loved the secondary romance (<3 Sam and Tracy!), and the case was amazing! <3 I cant wait to start Dev's story - Im really loving this series! <3

Virginia Campbell says

"The Raines of Wind Canyon" is a romantic suspense trilogy from Kat Martin featuring three semi-reformed bad-boy brothers. The Raines brothers endured a difficult childhood, and each overcame their obstacles in a different manner. While they are very close, they are also very strong individuals. "Against the Fire", the second entry in the series, is all about the middle brother Gabriel and his fight against an unknown enemy bent on setting ablaze all that Gabriel has fought to achieve. A former military man who later made a fortune in the construction business, Gabriel is big, tough, and rough enough to take on all comers. However, he meets his match in a petite, auburn-haired architect named Mattie Baker. Their paths cross when one of the children from the family crisis center where Mattie volunteers is suspected of the arson fire at one of Gabe's construction sites. For reasons of her own, Mattie prefers to stay far away from men, especially one as attractive as Gabe. When he breaks down her defenses, and pulls her into his life, she is conflicted about her feelings for him. Gabe falls hard for Mattie, and wants more from her than a casual relationship. As things heat up between the two of them, the arson fires begin to take a heavy toll on Gabe's business world and his peace of mind. The Raines brothers stick together no matter what, and Gabe gets plenty of help and support from his younger brother Devlin, and his older brother Jackson. The danger of an enemy hell-bent on his destruction makes Gabe determined to keep Mattie safe, but she eventually shows him just how strong she is as a woman. The two of them work together to solve the mystery of the freaky fire-bug, and they realize that they have a love to last a lifetime. When their two hearts and minds join as one, things couldn't get hotter!

Review copy provided by Amazon Vine

Samantha says

Kat Martin jams a suspense filled story in Against the Fire. The story is the second book in the Raines of Canyon Wind trilogy. Gabriel Raines is running a successful construction company. He has several properties under his belt but one night he receives a call that one of the properties is set on fire. His luck is changed and he has to figure out who the arsonist is before they can do further damage.

Mattie Baker is called down to the police station because a teenager (Angel) she mentors is accused of setting a building on fire. She is determined to prove his innocence and she get a little help from Gabe, who believes that the teen is innocent as well. Once they prove that Angel is innocent, a series of events occurred and forces Mattie and Gabe to track down an arsonist.

I have to first commend the author on keeping the suspense going in the story. I got so caught up in figuring out who was setting the fire. With that being said, the romance slipped in the book. I couldn't connect with Gabe and Mattie like I normally do with a hero and heroine. It is hard to understand Mattie because she has a shell up the entire time which to me didn't make sense because her past failed relationship is just not enough to keep everyone at arm's length. She became quite stiff and undesirable in my eyes. Gabe is a total hottie and I loved how he kept pushing Mattie.

The side romance with Gabe's best friend Sam and Mattie's friend Tracy is a great addition to the story. Sam has to reign Tracy in his own way and show her that he is a man that sticks around. When she finally sees the truth, it was endearing and sweet. A great way to get two love stories in one!

I finally can't wait to see what is in store for Dev! He appears to be the love them and leave them type and I'm sure his woman will knock him off his feet.

Tricia Douglas says

another good story; quick read; good characters

jenjn79 says

The first book in this series was a bit lackluster, but I thought this one had a lot more spark to it (no pun intended). There's a lot more depth to the story and it was just more engaging.

Series Note:

Second book in Martin's "Raines of Wind Canyon" series about 3 brothers who had bad childhoods but turned their lives around. I wouldn't necessarily say you need to read the first book first.

Summary:

Gabriel Raines is a successful real estate developer in Dallas whose buildings are suddenly going up in flames. The cops find evidence of arson and suspect a local teen with a history of burning buildings. But Mattie Baker, local architect and shelter volunteer, knows the boy couldn't have done it. In order to prove it, she'll team up with Gabe to help find the real culprit.

In doing so, she puts herself in danger because someone wants to hit Gabe where it hurts. They've got a

vendetta against Gabe that they'll put paid on no matter what the cost. Gabe is baffled. He doesn't know anyone who'd want to hurt him. And to make things even more confusing, the sparks between him and Mattie are impossible to ignore. But getting Mattie to give in to the chemistry between them is not easy chore. By the time all is said and done, Gabe hopes to be free from the arsonists and to have Mattie by his side, permanently.

Review:

Compared to the first book, the suspense angle of this book is so much stronger. Martin does a really good job of developing the plot and keeping the reader engaged in all that's going on. I wouldn't put the story on the same level as a full fledged romantic suspense...like that of a Karen Rose whose stories are suspense with enough romance to make it a romance...it's more of a romance with a nicely developed suspense plot to go with it. But it was a well done aspect of the story. It was pretty well written, logical and interesting to read. It kept my attention in the story, unlike the plot of the first book.

The romance is pretty good as well. I really liked Gabe. He came from a rough beginning but really managed to make something of his life. Plus, he comes around as just an all around nice guy. And the patience he has for Mattie definitely ups his good-guy factor. As for Mattie...I mostly liked her, but she did get frustrating with all her hang-ups. At times it feels like she overblows things in her life and the reasons she's pushing Gabe away seem not enough. But on the whole, the romance was pretty good.

For those of you who read the first book and found it to be a bit blah, I think you'll find this one much more readable. Looking forward to the last book in the trilogy.

Dee says

3.5 Stars.....Better than a 3 but not quite a 4 :)

Susan says

Very good book with excellent suspense and good romance. Gabe overcame a rough childhood and has become a successful development and construction businessman. When one of his projects is torched by an arsonist, a young teen with a previous record is accused and arrested. Mattie is a successful architect and volunteers with a local Family Abuse Center. When a teen she's been working with is accused of arson, she's determined to show he's innocent.

I loved the initial meeting between Gabe and Mattie. She's passionate about her belief in Angel's innocence and that gets Gabe's attention. Because of his own past, he's willing to give Angel the benefit of the doubt. There's an immediate spark between Gabe and Mattie that he is interested in pursuing, but she is wary. Mattie avoids entanglements with men and devotes herself to her work and her volunteering. Her father passed away when she was young, leaving her and her mother with little to live on, convincing her that it is better to be self sufficient than relying on someone else. Then the man she was engaged to deserted her when she was pregnant, reinforcing those beliefs. She's attracted to Gabe, but reluctant to get involved

When Angel is cleared of suspicion he wants to help find who is targeting Gabe and ends up getting badly injured. Feeling like they're responsible, Gabe and Mattie decide to do some investigating of their own. Constant proximity to each other has the sparks burning brighter and feeling beginning to develop. Gabe hasn't been much interested in relationships and permanence in the past, but the more time he spends with

Mattie, the deeper his feelings go. But Mattie's fears have her trying to keep some distance between them. I liked Gabe's patience with Mattie's fears, but he also wasn't above pushing a bit to get her where he wanted her. Mattie slowly realizes that she has fallen in love with Gabe, but trusting him with her heart is something she isn't willing to do. It isn't until their lives are in danger that she's ready to give him everything.

The suspense of the story was excellent, with the attacks on Gabe's properties escalating throughout the book. There were multiple suspects, all of whom had motive, and it was interesting to see them sort through them all. The fires start to take a heavy toll on Gabe's business and his frustration is obvious. He also became very worried about Mattie's safety as the attacks got more intense. I really liked seeing the help and support Gabe got from his brothers, especially Devlin. The final confrontation with the arsonist was intense and very scary.

I also enjoyed the secondary romance between Mattie's best friend Tracy and Gabe's foreman and best friend Sam. Tracy has her own fears thanks to an abusive childhood, and doesn't plan to ever marry. She has no problem using men for physical pleasure, but doesn't trust them. Sam is a really sweet guy who takes the time to show Tracy the respect he feels she deserves. He slowly shows her what real love is and that they can have a future together.

Crystal ♥ RBtWBC says

Gabe Raines is an ex-marine who grew up on the wrong side of the tracks in Wind Canyon, Wyoming with his two brothers and an alcoholic mother. Now owning a successful construction company, he's a long way away from being referred to as one of those "No account Raines boys." Living the life as a prominent bachelor, Gabe wasn't looking for a relationship but enjoyed the occasional sleep over with a lovely lady. When one of his construction projects is set to fire he runs into good-looking Mattie Baker, an architect who regularly volunteers at a family help center. He can tell right away that she is not going to be just another easy conquest. Never having to chase a woman before, they usually chase him; getting Mattie to even see him again is going to be a challenge he looks forward to. The circumstances they end up spending time together under however are not ideal and definitely dangerous. An unknown arsonist seems to be gunning for Gabe and the heat is turned up, in more ways than one.

Another sensational read from author Kat Martin in her second installment of The Raines of Wind Canyon series.

Against the Fire deals with real-world issues such as abuse, neglect, sexual harassment and loss. It was a very moving story and well paced with good dialogue and world building. I loved Gabe right away but it took a while for me to get into Mattie. She had very cold characteristics until towards the end when she finally started showing some heart. She isn't into 'macho' men and considered Gabe one. And because of her father's death and her mother's struggles afterwards she is of the mindset that the only person you can rely on is yourself, and never a man. Mattie eventually realizes that Gabe isn't like any other man she has known but by this time it may be too late.

This is a great novel that demonstrates how a person can heal and move forward from a violent past and a bit of a tearjerker towards the end. Against the Fire is also filled with mystery and suspense, some action when we meet the villain face-to-face, heart warming romance and Martins classy love scenes. The story comes to a climatic conclusion that I absolutely loved and I am very much looking forward to the last novel in this trilogy, Against the Law, Devlin's story.

? Sassy ~ Amy ? says

Well...

This is the second brothers story. He's a builder, whose buildings are being claimed by an arsonist. The first suspect was a young mexican boy who frequented a family center where a woman helped him be dismissed as the suspect... Just your basic Guy meets girl on a fluke & man are they meant to be together, but the girl is resisting because of some crappy past man who ruined her potential love life... While they try to find the bad guy.

Not much to say. These books don't seem to be on a really deep level, so it's not really intense. ZThere is a second romance that happens during this book & I kind of liked that one better than the main one.

It was good & I will read the rest of what I have.

Linda says

At First Gabe Raines Thought The Kid Angel Set His Remolding Project On Fire, But It Was Proven To Be A Professional Job. Gabe Felt Sorry For The Teen And Was Glad He Was There At The Police Station To See A Whirl Wind Spit Of A Woman Barreled Through The Doors Saying Angel Was Innocent.

Mattie Baker Volunteered At The Family Recovery Center In Addition Of Being Head Architect At Dewalt, Greeley, And Associates Designs. She Had Come To Know Angel And His Family And Was Convinced The Teen Was Innocent. She Was Determined To Prove His Innocence Even If She Had To Catch The Arsonist Herself! Then Angel Was Badly Beaten And Left In An Alley And More Fires Started.....

Book Two Of The Series Is Gabriel Raines Story The Middle Brother An Ex-Marine. Gabe Never Thought Love Would Come His Way Until A Firey Red Head Came His Way And Rocked His World! I Can Hardly Wait To Read Dev, The Youngest Brother And The Handsomest Of All Threes Story!
