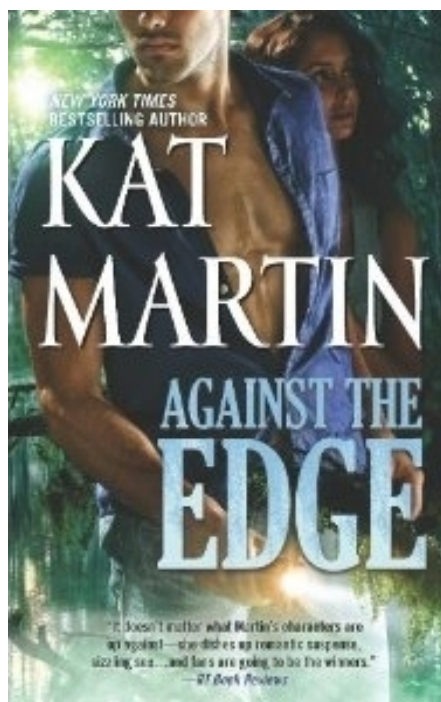




Against the Edge

Kat Martin

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A child he's never met. A danger he's never known.

Deep in the humid, rank heart of the Louisiana bayou, a survivalist group has something that belongs to former navy SEAL Ben Slocum: his son.

That he's a father is news Ben Slocum was not expecting. But once the initial shock wears off for the confirmed bachelor, he takes in the rest of what social worker Claire Chastain tells him: that Sam is in the custody of an abusive degenerate, that they've disappeared...and that Ben is now the child's only hope.

As Ben and Claire band together to track the two down, their concern for the boy draws them closer, each fighting feelings there's no time to explore. Because when their search takes them too close to Sam's abductor and his cohorts, the danger hits home-the son he's desperate to save, the woman he's desperate to love... Ben's got one chance to take back what's his, and in one gunshot he could lose it all.

www.**KatMartin**.com

Against the Edge Details

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From Reader Review Against the Edge for online ebook

Marianne says

Suspenseful plot. Well written. Some cliches, but not so much as to annoy. Like this series

Jennifer Blouch says

This series is my current favorite and I can't stop reading them. THIS story was very special to me. The extreme tenderness in Claire struck a chord for me. Ben's willingness to do anything, anything for his son really touched me. This story was so sweet.

Janeiowa says

Ms Martin writes superb romantic suspense. This one will keep you on the edge of your seat with her complex storyline and well-drawn characters.

Teresa says

One of the better books I've read in this series! I quite enjoyed the chemistry between Ben and Claire. I also liked that the story had some good ups and downs and kept my interest as Ben and Claire navigated through a sea of bad guys to find Ben's son. I have one more book of the series to read and hoping it's as enjoyable as this one!

Anita says

I love the Against the series. I have not read a bad one yet and I have read then all to this 8th book. Great plots and hot romance. Although, they do seem to be a bit on the formula side, they are still great books and provide the escape I read for.

Clare has come to Ben to get his help to find Sam, who was kidnapped by a real bad dude his mom was sleeping with before she died from breast cancer. Sam is also the son Ben never knew he had. Ben is mad as hell that Laure never told him he was a father. Laura had her reasons. Ben agrees to find Sam and keep him. Clare also wants to keep Sam. Ben and Clare have a hot time, but Ben does not want anything long term with any woman, even Clare (thank you, Laura). The plot twists and runs on the danger element clear to the end.

Darla says

I really enjoyed this book, I liked sweet, passionate Claire and strong, protective, but emotionally shut down Ben. It was a total make up for all the other previous, badly done "delinquent" daddy themed books I had

read. Neither character was overly foolish and they both seemed believable to me. I loved how as soon as Ben found out about his son, he was all in and ready to track him down and bring him home. I loved how despite how uptight Claire appeared to be she stood on her own and wouldn't back down from a fight. I liked the journey they embarked on, where they got to know each other along the way and build a small bond, not only for the little boy, but themselves also. I will say that I didn't like how quick the other issue that popped up this book regarding an ex of Claire's got resolved, like all of a sudden, that small side storyline wasn't so important to expound. Past that blip, the only real regret I think I can muster is that this is like number 5,6,or 7 or something in the series. I'm usually a big stickler about reading books out of order, but I don't usually like starting a series when I am so many books behind, but I really wanted to read this story and get a feel for the author's style of writing. I wasn't anticipating that I would really enjoy the book so much, but now I see I might have to go back and eventually read the other books in the series as well.

Book Binge says

Those of us who have read the books in this series know that the heroes and heroines are gritty and plucky people who have taken the challenges of life, some of them quite extraordinary, and have woven them into the warp and woof of their lives. For a Navy SEAL, life is seen through a very specialized set of lenses. These individuals are prepared to deal with just about anything and no matter how challenging. Yet finding out that one has a child about whom they were completely ignorant has to be one of those moments for which no one is truly prepared. It would seem that Ben has met his emotional match and added on to that defining moment in his life is the knowledge that the son he never knew is in a situation that could mean either his death physically or the death of everything that little boy held dear. He's been kidnapped in order to make him a gift to an older sister who has always wanted a child. And he is being inducted into a counter-culture anti-government cult that is mostly family and whose life is firmly rooted in the hidden places in the Louisiana Bayou.

This is a suspenseful, action-filled novel that pitches the extraordinary skills of a highly trained Navy SEAL against the wiles of people who have made a life out of staying hidden, whose lives are raw and built around satisfying the basic human urges, whose loyalties are all tied up in family and a determination to have everything their own way, no matter how many others outside their lives they hurt or destroy. The reader is given a clear sense of Ben's awe at being a father, his horror at finding out what has happened to this little boy, the sexual tension that develops between him and Claire, the disregard of the sensibilities of a little boy as Sam is introduced to the raw realities of living with people who don't really care about him, and the sort-of maternal urges of an older woman who can never really take the place of his dead mother. Readers will be introduced to a life that is so very foreign to the way most of us live, one that is absent of the finer nuances of loving and caring and respecting the value of other human beings. And this author doesn't back away from giving readers the full jolt of what being a part of this cult means for a little boy who has grown up so far in a modern setting and is now taken back into a lifestyle that is about eating and sleeping and sex and all else that is fulfilling basic human urges without any of the stuff that makes for a life full of meaning.

I make no bones about the fact that I have really enjoyed the novels in this series and have found all the characters to be interesting in their own right. Once again Ms Martin has crafted a story that is unique in its own way, filled with people who are capable of keeping the reader glued to each succeeding page, and whose presence in the story enlarge the context in a meaningful way. No one is there that shouldn't be there. And Ms Martin writes with an economy of words, making each word and sentence weighty with added feeling and information, moving the reader relentlessly through the story. That's as good as it gets.

Readers who like a gritty story mixed in with a sizzling love story will love this book. Are all the characters to my liking. Heck no! But they all seem to belong and that's what made this story really OK for me. I think

it's a novel that will probably draw me back again in the future just as has others in this series. And I happen to believe that any book that can withstand a second reading can't be all bad.

I give it a rating of 4.25 out of 5.

This review was originally posted on Book Binge by Judith.

Ann Keller says

Awesome book by this author! I love the perfect balance of suspense and mystery. The characters are gritty and raw at times. She really did her research on this one, too. Very true to life.

Pheonix Fanfiction says

These are my thoughts/feelings while reading this book:

0.0% Hopefully starting this tomorrow :) Looking forward to it :D

Haven't actually had time to start this yet :(life has been really really hectic the last couple days but I should def have time to start this tonight if not tomorrow for sure! Just wanna read! :(

4% When she had come to Houston, she hadn't been sure Ben Slocum would help her. But then she saw his face as he looked at his son for the very first time, and she had believed nothing would stop him from finding the boy.

I think I'm gonna love Ben soon enough – he's not only a SEAL but now a father who's gonna do whatever it takes to get his son back (who he's never met!) He sounds PERFECT – cant wait to see more of him! :) <3

10% Riggs grinned. "We're off to Hawaii, my friend. I've been promising Amy. We're leaving first thing in the morning."

Awww it's nice to see Johnnie and Amy again :) <3

18% The boy's sweet, smiling face popped into her head and her heart pinched. She should have pressed harder for custody, should have found a way to keep him with her. She should have told him how much he meant to her. She had failed him so badly.

I love how much Claire loves Sam! <3

20% "He's not mine, but he's someone's. I couldn't just leave him there. I'll take him to Claire. She'll know how to handle it."

Aww I love that Ben did that! :) <3

21% At least he had Pep. The only friend in the world he could trust.

Oh Sam! :(That's so not true :(

22% Three times eleven is thirty-three." Claire rubbed her arms as if she felt a chill. "Does it say what the six means?"

Oh wow didn't expect that – this case is interesting! Haven't seen too much between Ben and Claire so far but I'm interested to see what happens next between them! Enjoying this so far :D

24% **"I don't think I could get my fill of you in just one night." He didn't usually say things like that. It sounded too much like a commitment, but it was true.**

I love that! That was one hot kiss! <3

28% **She didn't remind him not to call her angel. She was beginning to like the way it sounded when he said it.**

Me too Claire! :D

30% **Her eyes widened as her gaze moved lower. "It's not my fault, angel, if the way you're looking at me is making me hard."**

Haha I'm starting to love these two – hope we saw more things like this! Although I don't think they're gonna be able to resist each other much longer! :)

31% **"God, I want you," he said against the side of her neck, his teeth grazing her skin. Goose bumps rose wherever he touched. "I need you, angel."**

Ben is so hot! <3

32% **It was a wet dream come true. A woman who wanted ten-shot-tequila sex. Sex with no memory at all of what had happened. No morning-after regrets. He wondered why it bothered him.**

Because you want more with Claire – Its why youre so conflicted over her Ben! I'm really starting to love these two! :) <3

37% **"What the hell are you doing here?" She knew the voice**

Oh shit! :(

38% **Pain ripped through him**

Oh god! I wasn't expecting that! :'(

44% **He waited for the little voice that told him he'd gone straight off the deep end, but the voice never came.**

Because you haven't! Claire isn't Laura – you can take the risk again! <3

46% **"None of your business," Annie said, and Ben grinned. All three women just stared. "What?" he said. "You don't grin," Annie said. "You're the Iceman."**

Love that he grins now Claire's in his life! Love the girls talking! :D <3

47% **She couldn't miss the teasing glint in his incredible eyes. He was enjoying this—far too much. Well, two could play the game.**

Go Claire! I love seeing them like this! :D <3

48% **I should have known better. Fuck it." Ben shot up from the sofa, but Claire was also on her feet.**

Oh Ben :'(but you cant blame Claire for thinking that :/

51% **He made love to her with the same sweet tenderness, exposing the vulnerable side of himself he rarely allowed her to see.**

Oh these two! <3 Cant wait to see the rest of their story unfold – I'm loving them atm! I'm falling hard for Ben! <3 <3

57% **"Yeah, it's a regular five-star. Nothing but the best for my woman." Claire looked over at him, and he realized what he'd said. She wasn't his woman. She didn't belong to him.**

Awww BEN! I love that he never realised what he said! <3

59% **"If I take you tonight, it won't be easy. I'll be rough and hot."**

Soooo hot!! <3 <3

He didn't apologize for his roughness. She didn't want him to. The tiger had broken free of its cage, and he was amazing.

That was so fucking hot! <3

65% **"You got me. I want you. So does Claire." A look of hope filled eyes as pale as his father's. "Is Claire really here?" Ben nodded. "She's the reason I knew about you. She loves you, Sam." Ben didn't say more, but Ty could read it in his face. He loved the kid, too.**

Aw! I so cant wait to see more of Sam and Ben! (and Claire! :D) <3

67% **"You don't think they'll come here, do you? You don't think they'll come after Sam?"**

I feel foreshadowing! :(Especially as we're only at 67% :(

68% **She just hadn't known how badly it was going to hurt. What a fool she had been. Ben was the Iceman. He might be a good dad to Sam, but he was hell on women.**

Oh Claire! Maybe Ben was just shocked :/ I hope they get a chance to talk properly soon and that Ben doesn't over react!

69% **Claire Chastain wasn't going to walk away. Not like Laura had done. Why the thought struck him he didn't know.**

Yes you do Ben! <3 really love this book now :) <3

71% **"Welcome to the family, such as it is." Sam looked up at him in confusion. "We're all a family here," Annie explained**

Aw! Love this family! And they are def all family – there for each other no matter what! <3 <3

73% **Down the road, he'd get past his confusing feelings for Claire, and they could be friends.**

Oh Ben! :(You're breaking my heart – stop fighting it! :(

75% **"That's the irony," Sage said gently. "I think Ben loves you very much." "He's sick over what happened," Annie added. "He can't work. He can't think. He's focused his entire attention on Sam just so he won't have to think about you."**

Oh Ben and Claire :(they're hurting my heart :(You tell her! Explain to her what Ben really meant!

She sagged

Oh god! I didn't see that coming?! :(

82% **It doesn't get any deeper than marriage, buddy. But it did. Love was the dangerous part and he wasn't marrying for love. He was just being practical. The plan suited him perfectly.**

Haha you keep believing that Ben! You know the truth deep down! You just need to stop being scared! <3

"You think that's funny, huh? I'm trying to teach you to shoot." "It isn't my fault. Well, not exactly." "It's exactly your fault," he teased. "Now let's try it again."

<3 I really love these two – just wish they could really talk! That Ben will realise that love isn't a bad thing! <3 <3

85% **Jake grabbed his shoulders and shoved him hard against the outside of the house. "All right, goddammit, you love her. You've said it. You've accepted it. Now get your fucking head on straight, and let's go find her and your boy."**

Go Jake! His family need him to stay in control! <3

90% Claire thought of Ben and her heart squeezed. Dear God, even if he found them, she wasn't sure he would be able to get them out without getting killed.

Don't underestimate him Claire! His woman and son is in there – Ben will do whatever it takes! <3 <3

91% AWWW! I love Sam and Ben so much! <3

93% When Troy brung the boy here, he said he didn't have no kin. Sam was the son I never had and I wanted to keep him. I didn't know he had family till Troy brung him back and Sam told me. I'm glad you come for him."

I kinda like Aggie – shes not a bad woman just brought up in a different way but she doesn't wanna hurt anyone :)

94% That's the way I feel, Claire. What I need to know is how you feel about me.

Finally! It took nearly losing her but he finally told her! I love Claire and Ben so much! So glad I could finally get lost in their story! <3

100% 4 stars! It took a while to get into but I totally fell for Ben and Claire! I think it took me a while to get into coz I couldn't get lost in it! But when I finally could I loved being able to sit for hours with Ben and Claire (And Sam of course :)) They were perfect! <3

Katie_la_geek says

For some reason I put off reading this book for a long time. I have had it for about two years now and have only just gotten around to reading it. I am not sure what it is exactly that made me reluctant to read this book. Every time I picked it up I put it down again without even starting it. Finally, I managed to pick this up and start reading it and I am glad I did because I ended up liking it.

Kat Martin did a great job of creating this tense and steamy romance. It was well written, had depth and had an interesting storyline outside of the romance, the characters were pretty good too. I thought her world building was good and the pace well kept. This book managed to keep me interested from beginning to end which is more than I can say for a lot of other books I have read lately.

I liked the characters. Ben was a good guy, the second he found out he had a child he was instantly ready to take on that responsibility and change his life style. He was cool, calm and collected, often thinking with his head instead of his heart which was great considering the circumstances. He (mostly) treated Claire well, he wanted to protect her but let her make her own decisions even if they put her in harms way. However, when it came to the romance he was sometimes careless with Claire's feelings which ruined him a little bit.

I liked Claire too. She was an independent woman who wasn't scared to stand up for herself. She loved Sam, Ben's son, fiercely and although the romance was important to her it was never as important as Sam. She was prepared to move heaven and earth for the boy and I felt like if she had too she would have walked away from Ben without a second thought if it would have been best for the boy.

The romance was good and there was plenty of chemistry between Claire and Ben. They fell into bed pretty quickly but it wasn't quite an insta-love so I didn't mind so much.

There were a couple of aspects of this book that I was not a fan of. Although I liked Ben I wasn't a fan of the

chapters from his point of view. There were only a couple and they changed the whole tone of the book. They jolted me out of the story and it took me a while to get back in afterwards. I also thought the extra storyline about Claire's ex was unnecessary. It just dragged the book out longer than it needed to be and didn't really add anything story wise.

Other than that I enjoyed this one. I will definitely pick up more books from this series and author.

Cheri says

Another great one for the series. I only have one left to read and then I will mourn the loss,lol!

Ally says

Against the Edge is the eighth book in Ms Martin's Raines of Wind Canyon series and as usual I just jumped straight into Against the Edge and I had no problems with jumping in with an already established series as judging by Against the Edge each book has different characters that don't always connect with the previous books other than a mention of other characters and such.

While I liked Against the Edge I had some problems with believing in the romance between the main character's Ben and Claire. I just didn't feel that spark on the page like I normally do between the characters which made the budding relationship between Ben and Claire really hard to believe.

That happens for me more often than not in romantic suspense novels I find. That because the storyline is rushed or because it's meant to be set in a short period of time, that believing that two characters can connect that quickly just doesn't work for me and has become a bit of a pet peeve for me when reading romance books!

Other than that the story was all right. It didn't wow me or make me feel that I needed to take a few days to recover from the storyline because it was so amazing or because it was so rubbish and I need to restore my faith in reading, it was just an ok read.

Overall, I don't think I'd read another book in the Raines of Wind Canyon series {although this was the last one} but I think I would read something else of Kat Martin's so long as it wasn't a romantic suspense.

First line: "His head was pounding."

CC says

[
Opens up with heroine meeting him on his front porch as he is taking the obvious walk of shame from a

Maggie Shanley says

I read this one all the way through but I really did not like the story or the main characters much. I found it to be very sexist and just didn't enjoy this story of Ex-Navy Seal Ben Slocum, the child he never knew about and the revenge kidnapping. Did not feel believable...

Amber Daulton says

This is the first book I've read from Kat Martin and I've heard a lot of good things about the Raines of Wind Canyon series. This particular book, however, didn't live up to the series hype in my opinion. While it was a good story with a good plot idea, I think this novel would've been better as a novella since it dragged on for me.

***** SPOILERS *****

The first half of the story was repetitive. The main characters, Ben and Claire, are working together to find Ben's missing son, Sam, and though they're attracted to each other, they keep saying they shouldn't sleep together because it could affect their work relationship and they might not find Sam if they're fighting/distracted by one another. Again and again with this, and then—not to my surprise—they sleep together and everything between them is fine. Well, of course, everything's fine. This is a romance book. Anyway, Ben and Claire travel all over the American South and Southwest, talking to people and eventually finding the boy. But that's not the end. Nope, there's a drug subplot with Claire's pushy ex-boyfriend. Claire doesn't want him back but she keeps giving him mixed signals and it drove me crazy.

I understood Ben's macho persona and why he carries on with women and refuses to love. It's the typical plot – the woman he loved betrayed him years ago and he can't move on and love again. Don't get me wrong, I like this kind of plot and it worked for the story, and he gave Claire a chance but then he kept backpeddling and pushing her away. I wanted so badly to reach into the book and slap him, yet Claire wouldn't leave. I just didn't think Claire was a strong female character as Ben (the author) kept telling the reader. She stayed under the pretense of caring for Sam, which I understand since she loves the child, but the romance of the book just didn't seem real to me. Yet it was enough to make Claire move away from LA (where she lived) to Houston (where he lived) without talking to Ben about what she wanted and needed from him. As of that moment when she moved, they were just having a fling, there was not commitment and nothing serious between them yet she just moves to be closer to him and Sam.

I enjoyed meeting the secondary characters that are from the previous books in this series. I'm interested to learn more about them but only if I can find more of the Raines of Wind Canyon books at the library (which is where I got this one).

For a Harlequin book, I was surprised by the typos. Besides a few obvious misspellings, there were three instances when the wrong name was used in the sentence. That's distracting and shows poor editing.

All in all, I liked the story but it had potential to be a lot better.

3 Stars.

Disclaimer – I found this book at the library. I am a reader. I am not paid or compensated in any way, shape or form for this honest review. I will not change or alter this review for any reason.
