



Against the Mark

Kat Martin

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The perfect murder is a work of art

In one catastrophic instant, Haley Warren's estranged father was taken from her. She never got the chance to reconnect with him, so now she's doing it the only way she's got left: by proving the explosion that killed him was no accident.

When Tyler Brodie, the provocative and handsome P.I. hired by Haley, discovers that her father was investigating a suspected art theft, he knows his death is no coincidence. After all, tens of millions of dollars worth of stolen art could motivate a thief to go to any lengths—including getting rid of anyone poking around where they don't belong.

As Haley and Ty get closer to the truth, the truth gets ugly: Did Haley's dad know too much...or was he in on the take? And although Ty's a consummate professional, he's having trouble focusing on the facts of the case, and not the figure of his gorgeous client. The two are determined to get to the bottom of the case, even if it means they die trying.

Against the Mark Details

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Author : Kat Martin

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From Reader Review Against the Mark for online ebook

Anita says

Dark and extremely sexy. I never thought Ty Brodie's story would be like this. In previous books, he was portrayed as a good ole Texas boy, smart, but laid back. Real different characterization in this book. Kat Martin has really stepped it up a notch for this new series and I really like it. In Against the Mark think The Thomas Crown Affair, only Thomas Crown is an art thief and a murderer.

Haley Warren's insurance investigator father is killed in what looks like an accidental boat explosion. His wife, Haley's step-mother, believes otherwise and Hailey comes to L.A. from Chicago to investigate. Ty agrees to help as a favor to Haley's great-aunt. The L.A. police are no help, they have ruled accident and it is going to stay that way, even when violence is erupting all around Ty and Haley. Not only bullets, but very hot steamy sex also. Ty has real feelings for Haley. Haley tells herself she only wants to solve her fathers murder and go home to Chicago and her nice scheduled life. She doesn't believe in love or happily ever after, and Ty is the supreme babe magnet, how can he be happy with just one woman.

Kathryn says

I found this book by looking up the genre suspense. I guess this is more of a romantic suspense but I still couldn't get into it. I found it kind of creepy the way the man, Ty, kept leering at and thinking lascivious thoughts about the main character, Haley. Nothing romantic in that. Also, everything was just a little too perfect. Haley was a cute perky blonde, with dimples no less, from a well to do family. Ty grew up middle class but now was very wealthy. They each just happened to know the perfect person to get done what they needed.

Pheonix Fanfiction says

0.0% Starting this today at some point :) I enjoy these books once I start but am always nervous to start one :/ I'm looking forward to some romantic suspense though n am also trying to get through my series started books released shelf haha :D

3% **Ellie suggested, the twinkle in her eyes warning him he had just stepped into another of her traps.**
Haha I think I know what Ellie's thinking :)

9% **I think Johnnie and I might try to start a family next year."**
I love that we get to see snippets of the other couples and where they are in their lives :D

15% **"I knew it! You can tell me you aren't the least bit interested, but I've known you too long. If he looks as hot as your sketch, I think you ought to take him out for a spin."**
I like Lane - hope we see more of her :) Im liking this so far! Im intrigued by the case n looking forward to seeing what happens between Ty and Haley :D

18% **It's just...with men, it's always been disappointing, so I figured, maybe—"Disappointing,**

huh?" Something shifted in his features, changed to a look of determination. "Why don't we see?"
I think Ty's going to change that! :)

19% Since he wasn't much good at lying, he might as well tell her the truth. "Because you were the woman I wanted. I wasn't in the mood for someone else."

Oh wow! I think I may have fallen for Ty with that one sentence! I LOVE a man who tells the truth straight up - no pretence! <3

21% Not a woman. She shouldn't have been so relieved.

Stop trying to deny the inevitable :) so intrigued by this case n Im really starting to love Ty and Haley :D

23% She fought to stay conscious but her vision was narrowing, fading in and out. "Haley..." she whispered. "Haley..." Then her eyes rolled back in her head, and the world spun into darkness.

Oh my god! I wasnt expecting that - I dont know why I wasnt I just wasnt :(

26% "In general. He's the kind of guy who gives men a bad name." "He's abusive?" "Just dishonest. In a way that's damn near as bad."

I seriously love Ty's attitude! I love that he doesnt lie!! :D <3

29% We parted friends." "Were you in love with her?"

I seriously love how upfront and candid Ty is! <3

35% When she sobbed his name, he followed her to release, his whole body tightening, his head thrown back, his jaw clenched against the rush of pleasure.

That was hot! :D <3

39% someday you'll meet someone who can make you think of the future instead of the past." Lane made no reply, which was a reply in itself.

Oh poor Lane :(Hopefully we'll see her get her HEA - Maybe in this book or another? :D

42% Ty tipped his head to where Haley disappeared down the hall. "She's hands-off, you understand? She belongs to me. Anything happens to her, you and I are going to have a problem."

Aww protective Ty! Im loving Ty! :D <3

45% Besides, the property was fenced, and there was a perimeter alarm so she should be safe enough. ... I dont like this - it sounds like foreshadowing! :(

46% His chest tightened. Baby, I'm on my way.

Im really loving Ty!! <3 <3

49% "I'm still running on adrenaline. I'm pissed, and at the moment, I'm not the nice guy you were in bed with before. If I take you now, it won't be making love. It'll be hot, hard fucking. Is that what you want?" Heat and need rolled through her. She understood what he was feeling. The restlessness, the tension, the leftover fear. She looked up at him. "That's exactly what I want." Ty stepped on the gas.

I'm seriously starting to love these two! :D

50% He kissed the top of her head, thinking of the things he had told her, things that were part of the darkness inside that little by little was fading. "I'll be there from now on," he promised, though he wasn't sure how long that would be. All he knew was his demons were gone and that Haley had been

there when he needed her, had matched him in his passion. “You’re something,” he said. “You know that?”

Yep I definitely love these two! :D <3

53% “It does matter. And now that I’ve met you, I’m not sure what normal is anymore.” Bending his head, he very thoroughly kissed her. “We need to ride this out, darlin’, see where it leads. Nothing in life is ever a sure thing.”

Oh Ty!! IM LOVING YOU! I love how honest you are!! <3

56% Haley gave him a slow, sexy smile. Bending down, she bit the lobe of his ear. “I’ll think of something,” she whispered. Ty hissed in a breath as his blood began to head south. “Not good enough.” He pulled her down on his lap and kissed her. “I’ve got this fantasy— It involves you and the arm of my sofa. That’s what I want.”

Im definitely enjoying these two together :D Im loving it atm :D

60% “Oh God, oh God, oh God.” She pressed her face into his shoulder, shaking so hard he could hear her teeth chattering

Oh god! I was not expecting that!!

63% What else had happened that her mother had never bothered to tell her?

Ohhh Im intrigued? Loving the case in this as well - so curious! :D <3

66% She didn’t mean to stare at him, but she couldn’t seem to look away. There was something compelling about him. The remoteness in his eyes, his guarded expression said he was a man with secrets. She found herself wondering what they were.

I know Dylans book is part of the spin off series - please say its with Lane! Please! <3

71% Her chin inched up. “I told you that from the start. My life is in Chicago. Everything I’ve worked for is there. My family, my friends. And even if that weren’t true, you and I would never make it.” “Why the hell not?” “For the same reason it didn’t work with my mother and father. We’re just too different.”

Oh Haley! :(I hope whatever Betty-Jean knows will change Haleys mind - her and Ty are perfect together! <3

75% After they’d argued, he had realized his feelings for her ran a whole lot deeper than he’d wanted to admit. Hell, the truth was, he was more than half in love with her. But Haley’s feelings for him didn’t run that deep. If he let himself get any more involved, he was going to get hurt. He had to be careful, keep things on an even keel.

Oh Ty :(Im really loving this book - glad Im home/on holiday atm so I have a little bit more time to really sit down and enjoy it! :) (even though I have loads of uni work to do - Ill deal with that when I go back :D)

80% "Finish it," Stephan said, and hung up the phone.

:O oh no! I thought that was too easy especially with 20% still to go :(

87% Thanks to Haley, Ty's dark mood had lifted. She had a way of reading him, knowing just how far to push, how to tempt him back from the edge.

I LOVE that Haley can beat the dark mood back for Ty! :D <3

92% “Get out of bed,” Ty said. “Both of you. Do it now.”

This case is so good! Im loving it! :D <3

93% **Ty flicked a glance at Haley and both of them grinned.**

I wanna say it's finally over but a small part of me is worried coz theres still 7% to go :/ Please say its over n Im just being paranoid!

95% **Haley got up from her chair, leaned over and hugged the woman her father had loved. "Thank you, Betty Jean. Thank you so much. I'm glad my father found you."**

Yes! Go Betty-Jean! :D <3

98% **Looks like this is finally over.**

Finally! :D <3

100% I really enjoyed this book! I loved Ty and Haley :D Im debating between 4 stars n 5 right now! Wish we could give half stars - Ill have to think on that a while :) but the case was really intriguing and I enjoyed seeing Ty and Halley fall in love :D

Ann Keller says

What a great movie this would make. I've never read anything by this author before, but I think I'll be tracking down more of her work.

James Warren was killed in an unfortunate boat explosion, but was it an accident or murder? His daughter, Haley, has to find out. What evolves is a tale of danger and intrigue leading from the theft of several priceless works of art to a talented forger and the men behind the heist. It's anyone's guess who is on which side of the law as the stakes grow ever higher. This one kept me perched on the edge of my seat as I attempted to figure out whether Stryker would remain genuine to the end. I had my suspicions all along!

Dani C. (Paulette's Papers) says

I am actually not a big fan of Romantic Suspense. In fact I usually avoid these kinds of books. Since being introduced to Ms. Martin's Raines of Wind Canyon series I have changed my mind. She has such a wonderful way of writing that her books just capture my attention and have the perfect amount of yummy romance and interesting suspense.

The characters in Against the Mark really left an impression on me. We have Haley Warren who had a fallen out with her Dad when he divorced her mother and married another woman. Now it is too late to make amends with him because he died in a boating accident. Only his new wife doesn't believe that and has asked for Haley's help in finding out what did happen on that boat.

Then we have Tyler Brodie. Once I realized that he was a Texan, well that made him just as close to perfect as a male character can get. When you add in that he is a retired military and is just one of the most decent guys out there, well that just did it for me! I just loved how he acted towards Haley and how from the very beginning he treated her feelings for her Dad with such respect.

Even though this is book #9 in the Raines of Wind Canyon series, it like the rest of these books, it can be read as a standalone. This is wonderful because I can take my time to read the books I haven't had a chance to get to and not feel like I have missed out on any crucial details. Of course, as always, I am looking forward to the next book in this entertaining series!

Holley says

I liked the characters although I was a little annoyed by the cameos of couples from previous books and the shameless plugs that went with them. I did read this out of order since I started with the three Alaska books in the series when I took a vacation there. Good drama and tension for a romantic suspense novel.

Pam says

This is another great addition to the Raines of Wind Canyon series and I have enjoyed these stories from the beginning. This book has the right amount of suspense, romance and heat to satisfy any romantic suspense lover.

Ellie Stiles is good friends with Ty Brodie and several others that are associated with the private investigative firm that Johnny Riggs started and she has a niece, Haley that needs some help. Haley's father's wife called and said that she does not believe his recent death was an accident.

James Warren died three months ago on his boat, the engine exploded while he was taking it out of the slip. James worked on investigating an art theft several years ago and he had recently been looking into it again. He received new information and believed he could solve the puzzle, but unfortunately someone got to him before he could bring his findings to the police.

Haley has traveled from Chicago where she works at an art museum to Los Angeles with some trepidation. She was estranged from her father because of her parent's divorce and his subsequent marriage to Betty Jean so she is not sure what she can do but is ready to help. As they dig into what James was working on, they realize the danger that surrounds them and that someone will do anything to stop them from finding out about the stolen art.

I love this series, the romance and suspense are so well blended that they are such fun to read. The characters in this story are intriguing and interesting as they investigate the death of Haley's father. Haley is a likable character and you can really feel how sad she is because of the lost opportunity of reconciling with her father and now it is too late and even though she wants to hate her step-mother, Betty Jean is so likable that she can't help but enjoy her company.

Complete review at: [Ramblings from a Chaotic Mind](#)

Copy from publisher through NetGalley for an honest review

Dianne says

Tome Tender is hosting the Against the Mark Interview & Giveaway August 15 - 22!

One Winner will have the choice of either an e-copy or a print copy of **AGAINST THE MARK BY KAT MARTIN!**

Haley Warren turned her back on her father when he divorced her mother and married the woman he was having affair with. When he is killed in an explosion, a plea for help and her pangs of guilt lead her across the country in search of what really happened. Haley hires Tyler Brodie, a handsome and charming Private Investigator who uncovers a possible series of valuable art thefts that her father was investigating, and it may cost her her own life when she gets too close to the answers. To make matters worse, Haley must deal with the evil woman who stole her father, probably, she assumes to spend the millions he spirited away from his first marriage.

Isn't that enough to deal with? Thanks to her parents' fine example of an unhappy marriage, Haley doesn't even believe in love and has never experienced an honest and open, loving relationship. Enter Ty, and with each touch or look, there is a feeling like an electrical charge that passes between them, except that Ty is quite the ladies' man, and his phone rings constantly with calls from "old" girlfriends, further strengthening Haley's resolve that relationships are not possible. Back to the art thefts, millions of dollars are at stake and Ty and Haley are not about to give up, even with bullets flying all around them! Will they get to the bottom of her father's death? Was it really related to the thefts? Was it an accident or was it murder? Can Ty convince Haley that lasting, monogamous love is possible? Especially when his old flames keep reappearing?

Against the Mark by Kat Martin is fast, and I mean FAST-paced. It holds all of the emotional tension of a good mystery/thriller as each layer of the mystery is uncovered and the cast of thugs and financial schemers start coming out of the woodwork! The supporting characters were wonderful, and in a fabulous twist, one character, a huge, muscular and shaved-headed bodyguard, gave me one of those "didn't see that one coming" moments! Haley was too cynical and harsh too often. Ty was most definitely a charmer, but his harem of female followers was a bit much for a man reputed to be so wonderful, kind, loyal, honest, etc. I seriously wanted to shake some sense of compassion into Haley and then tell each and every female who called for Ty and his "special talents" that he was NOT going to call them back. Period.

So, what does this tell me about **Against the Mark**? I must have gotten more involved than I thought!

An ARC edition was provided by NetGalley & Mira in exchange for my honest review.

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Amazon / Barnes & Noble

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Barbara says

Brodie Cousin

Great book. Threw a little twist at the end. Part of the Brodie family. Liked the three brothers series...which was WOW!!!!

Cheri says

So sad that this is the last book of this series. I really enjoyed each and every one of them. Each one had a great plot and awesome characters.

Bea Charmed says

Eh, it was okay. It took me months to read it; it was easy to put down and not pick up again for days or weeks. When I picked it up, I had no trouble diving back in where I left off. The romance was quick but more or less believable while the mystery was a little too complicated. This was my second book by Martin and neither one wowed me. I doubt I'll read more by her.

Barbara Ann says

If you are already a fan of Kat Martin's romantic suspense novels, then you will not be disappointed with *Against the Mark*, the latest upcoming release in *The Raines of Canyon* series. Even though I have only read one other book in the series, I had no problem jumping into this book and getting immersed in the featured romance and murder investigation into an art theft ring.

Martin has written a well-developed suspense plot that complements an equally well-developed romance between Ty Brodie, an easy-going country boy from Texas and Haley Warren, a somewhat uptight socialite from Chicago. Because of his friendship to Haley's great-aunt, Ty agrees to investigate into the supposed accidental death of Haley's father three months ago. Although the attraction between Ty and Haley is instantaneous, their romance develops at a slower, more realistic pace.

Ty is an all-around great hero. He's handsome, confident and as a former special ops Marine, he has the skills and experience to handle himself and protect Haley in dangerous situations. His charisma, integrity, and openness with Haley make him swoon worthy. What I like best about Ty is that he is always honest with Haley, and he doesn't play emotional games. He never withholds his feelings to leave Haley (and me as a reader) in a state of perpetual angst.

It took a while before I really warmed up to Haley. However, she is a dynamic character who experiences the most change and emotional growth over the course of the book. At first she struck me as superficial, a woman who places too much importance on money and appearances. Even Ty is initially put off by her

attitude. Yet, as more and more of Haley's backstory is revealed, I realized that her perceptions have, to a large degree, been skewed by her mother's ideology and values. Although she may have started the investigation into her father's death out of a sense of guilt, I do like that Haley refuses to stop probing into her father's death even when the level of danger intensifies. It is when Haley puts her step-mother's well being above her own feelings that I started to appreciate her as a heroine.

Haley hasn't had much experience with men or with being in love. She really doesn't understand all the hoopla about sex until she kisses Ty. He awakens a side of passion and sensuality within her that no one else ever has. Their physical relationship paves the way for them to connect on a much deeper level. Ty is not perfect. He has a dark side that emerges whenever he's engaged in dangerous, adrenaline-pumping situations. Instead of being pushed away, Haley knows exactly how to deal with and calm an edgy, angry Ty. Unfortunately, Haley's insecurities and single-minded attitude about marriage creates unnecessary complications and emotional pain in the latter part of the book.

Martin has created a believable plot about art theft, and I enjoyed learning more about the intricate process of creating a forgery. The mystery behind Haley's father's death becomes clear early in the book, and the tension and suspense build as Ty and Haley find themselves in increasingly greater danger as they work together to uncover and capture the mastermind behind the recent stolen art. I found the scene where police are led to the ringleader somewhat anticlimactic, but, just when I thought I had resolution figured out, Martin shakes things up so that the outcome was not as clear cut as I expected.

The supporting characters all play a meaningful role in facilitating the plot and they add texture and liveliness to round out this fictitious world Martin has created. Moreover, the spark between Ty's cousin, Dylan and Haley's best friend, Lane has been ignited, and now I look forward to their future love story.

I received an ARC of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

PepsiGirl says

I liked this story though it started dragging after the second attempt on her life. I mean seriously how much drama can one woman cause. And she wasn't very nice to him either. But of course Ty had his tongue on the ground wiping drool off his lip. I guess looks are everything and she still acted rude and pretentious around him. Ty finally breaks down her defenses and sweeps her off her feet, well yes he did, he was fine and knew how to use his hands, in military, (what were you thinking?) and they finally start their emotional rollercoaster of a relationship. She was a nightmare at intimacy and avoided any serious discussions. Whenever Ty was worried about her getting hurt, (because, face it, if anyone was going to get shot at or kidnapped it was her) wanted to talk about their relationship she would tear off her clothes to distract him. Worked everytime, and then she would tell herself that she loved him, but she never told him. She was constantly bringing up the fact that as soon as this is done (the case) they were done and she was going back to Chicago because her job was so important. I really had to force myself to finish it. The ending wrap up was farfetched with them paragliding by night onto the ground of a millionaire's estate which they just happen to have the floor plan to, and solve the case. Sure, why not, anyway it was way too easy for me. So after they think it's all over Ty basically begs her to stay and does the whole shebang of telling her he loves her and he wants to marry her and the whole nine yards, she does her dramatic running away crying, "It will never work!" he says "Because you don't love me?" and she respond with "No, because I do, my mother loved my father and look what happened to them!" Okay, first of all Grow Up!!!! Are you twelve? Still using her parents to excuse her

stupidity. Ugh!! After she gets advice from a real woman she has an epiphany. Well, thank God, I could have given her a 2X4 up the side of her head to wake her up just as easily. I mean seriously, didn't care how they got their HEA at this point. You think it's over, No!!! unfortunately We have one more chapter of Haley getting her self knabbed by the bad guys that the police failed to keep in jail, technicality, of course. So Ty has to be her hero again, Giving it three and half stars because of Ty, I think he deserved better.

Cruth says

[But he really doesn't tell Laine he's a Dad. A problem I had with their book, reinforced by this lead in. (hide spoiler)]

Leslie says

I loved this book. I couldn't put it down. Then again I love all the books in this series. But this one and Against The Sun have to be my two favorites.
