



# Evidence of Desire

*Lexi Blake*

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## Evidence of Desire Lexi Blake

**A fast-paced contemporary romance that sizzles from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Order of Protection* where passion for the law isn't the only thing heating up the courtroom.**

Isla Shayne knows she's in over her head. As former all-star linebacker Trey Adams's personal lawyer, she's used to handling his business dealings and private financial matters, not murder charges. She needs to find an experienced criminal attorney who speaks her client's language. David Cormack of Garrison, Cormack and Lawless is exactly what she needs in the courtroom--and the only man she wants in the bedroom.

For David, taking on the Adams case means diving back into a world he thought he'd left behind and colliding head on with tragic possibilities he's in no mood to face. There's a reason professional football is in his past and no matter how close Isla gets to the truth he intends to leave it there.

But long days working on the case together lead to hot nights in each other's arms. As their feelings grow, the case takes a deadly twist that could change the game between the two lovers forever.

## Evidence of Desire Details

Date : Published January 8th 2019 by Berkley

ISBN :

Author : Lexi Blake

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Romantic Suspense

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# From Reader Review Evidence of Desire for online ebook

## Geri Reads says

Unfortunately, this book just didn't take. I tried to push myself to finish because I've enjoyed much of Ms. Blake's books in the past but this one felt flat and uninspired. I didn't feel that much chemistry between David and Isla either and the mystery didn't capture my attention.

DNF.

*ARC provided by the publisher*

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## Sarah says

Isla Shayne is the family lawyer for retired linebacker Trey Adams and his family, she's used to helping them with business deals or purchasing property but when Trey is accused of murdering his wife she is in completely over her head. She knows Trey is innocent but with the evidence stacking up against him she needs help and there is no criminal attorney she can trust more than David Cormack. As an ex player himself David has a unique perspective on the health issues that Trey is battling and he will do whatever it takes to get his client the help he needs but unless they can figure out who the real murderer is Trey is looking at a life behind bars.

**Evidence of Desire** is the second story in **Lexi Blake's** Courting Justice series and I enjoyed it even more than the first book. The chemistry between Isla and David was great from the very beginning and I liked how open they were about the attraction they felt. There are no rules against them dating so they fall into a relationship very quickly but although they have very strong feelings for each other David has a reason to keep Isla at a distance. I have to admit the relationship did move very quickly, I would have preferred a slightly slower build up, but I liked them as a couple and thought they suited each other.

As far as the murder mystery went I had a very good idea who my main suspect was from very early on but I was wrong about their accomplice and hadn't guessed the whole story so the book did manage to surprise me. I also found it really interesting learning more about Trey's traumatic brain injury and how it affected his personality, it made life so difficult for his whole family but I loved the way his wife stood by him and how strong they were as a couple. That made it all the more heartbreaking that their story ended in tragedy though. I also liked that we got to catch up with the previous couple Win and Henry and I have a feeling I'm going to love Noah's story which I'm guessing will be up next.

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## Astrid - The Bookish Sweet Tooth says

Ahhh Romantic Suspense at its finest. I can't repeat it often enough: Lexi Blake is one of the best if you're in the mood for this genre and want a unique plot.

Isla loves contracts, business agreements and negotiations. When former football superstar and close friend and client Trey Adams is under investigation for killing his wife Portia, former NFL player now criminal defense attorney David Cormack is her best bet. He knows the dangers and sorrows of somebody living with chronic traumatic encephalopathy better than anyone - he may be facing this disease in the future, too.

See? Totally unique. I love this storyline so much. CTE is an actual disease and the author did extensive research on the issue professional athletes may have to deal with.

When David meets Isla he makes one major mistake. He totally underestimates the woman, who seems to only see the good in people. It almost seems like he thought her to be a bit of a pushover. But if she sets her mind to something she believes in she becomes a single-minded warrior princess who won't take no for an answer.

**"See, this is where you've underestimated your opponent, Counselor. You see my kindness and kind of gooey middle and think it's weakness."**

David and Isla fall for each other very fast but I totally bought it. He struggles for most of the book with the decision whether to make a go of a serious relationship - what if he has CTE? I had to remind myself a couple of times that fear isn't rational and that he will understand ultimately that there are no guarantees in life but he did try my patience a little bit.

**"You want some guarantee that life is going to turn out like you want it, but that's not the way it goes. Do you intend to spend the rest of your life without love?"**

Other than that he was a sweet and sexy man.

Isla's kindness and gentleness and her steely spine make her one of my favorite heroines of all the books by Lexi Blake I've read so far. When her strong will makes an appearance the sass comes out to play as well and I had so much fun with her giving it straight to her man and telling him to get his head out of his ass.

**"Taking care of each other through the good and the bad and the desperate is what family does. And if you don't see that, then maybe you aren't the man for me. I don't know. I'm going to sleep on it."**

I loved the suspense which isn't really a surprise to me. There are some twists and turns in typical Lexi Blake fashion, which had me reconsider my theories a couple of times.

Evidence of Desire is a worthy and excellent addition to the Courting Justice series. I was thoroughly entertained and immersed in the story and loved every word of it. I think it was even better than the first book. Now, it seems like we've met Noah Lawless's love match and I think she'll give him a run for his money if I'm right. I can't wait to get my hands on it!

**Any family raised by Isla Shayne would stick together. And if the darkness came, she would be the light.**

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Take a romance, wrap it around a mystery, season it with adventure and serve it up with information about a disease few know anything about, and you have the delicious concoction that is Evidence of Desire.

While most of Lexi Blake's books tend to center around people cobbling a family around them, this one deals more with keeping a family together in the face of major adversity.

Attorney Isla Shayne has lost her own family, but she considers Portia and Trey Adams' family hers. When Portia is horribly murdered and she finds Trey with the body, she knows he didn't do it, despite the fact he is suffering from CTE, a disease that causes its victims, usually athletes, to slowly lose their minds. She calls in David Cormack to defend him against possible charges of murder.

In working with David, she finds a spark she has never had before and the two quickly fall in love. But David, a former pro football player is concerned about his own future-not only is he a possible candidate for CTE, but his father has Alzheimer's. His fear of being a burden to his family causes him to draw back from Isla at a critical point. Can she convince him that the good years they will have together will offset any possible pain in the future? And solve the mystery of Portia's murder, keep the ambitious DA off her back at the same time?

This book, the second in the Courting Justice series, brings back characters from the first book, as well as featuring ties to the Masters and Mercenaries series. There are hints of Blake's trademark snarky humor, but overall this is a serious book dealing with serious issues in a sensitive manner. However, the author leaves you feeling warm and fuzzy about the characters and the story. A must-read for mystery fans!

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## **Nerdy Dirty & Flirty says**

Amazing freaking romance here!!! The main characters were my favorite part. David and Isla were a couple I loved reading about.

From the very first moment this story started, I was hooked on these characters. David with his confidence and swagger despite his fears for the future. Isla with her quiet strength and huge heart. They were so amazing as individuals and yet so perfect together.

The story itself was also great. There was mystery, danger, and oh so much romance. The relationship might have developed under intense circumstances, but from the beginning it was written in such a way that the foundation of the relationship still felt strong.

Overall I loved this book and highly recommend it and the whole series.

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## **The Romance Book Disciple (Samantha) says**

Evidence of Desire is book 2 in the Courting Justice series but it stands alone. I enjoyed this one much more than book 1-I thought David and Isla were more enjoyable and relatable characters for sure!

Isla is a lawyer to the stars-she helps them with things like wills, business deals, and real estate. When one of her clients is accused of murder, she knows she needs to bring in a great criminal defense attorney. Enter David Cormack from Garrison, Cormack, and Lawless. David is a former pro athlete turned Harvard educated lawyer and agrees to help Isla defend Trey Adams, another former footballer who is accused of killing his wife.

CTE, or Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, and its devastating effects plays a huge role in the story. Trey suffers from it and you get a glimpse into what life was like for him and his family. David is terrified he might end up with CTE as well. It invades his thoughts DAILY. David's fear might seem a bit premature or excessive, but I think lots of people experience some type of fear like this-cancer runs in a family and you become paranoid about getting cancer for example. Isla is the opposite-she isn't afraid of any illness and never lets it stand in the way of those she loves. Her fiancée died from leukemia and she stayed with him. Trey Adams is a close friend and she has never given up on him, even when he doesn't remember her. David and Isla have an instant lust for each other, but quickly realize its more than just lust. David's fears get in the way though; while this pushing away trope is annoying, I do understand his feelings. He can't fathom subjecting someone he loves to a life like Trey's family endured. So, irritating and dumb, but understandable.

Isla is one of my favorite heroines because she isn't afraid of her soft side. She doesn't pretend she can handle everything and be badass. She pukes when she finds the body. She cries when she is upset. She knows when she is in over her head and asks for help. I love this type of heroine because she is real.

Evidence of Desire was a great story beyond the characters, too. David and Isla are trying to figure out who killed Portia Adams: was it Trey? Could it have been an intruder? Can they trust Trey's memory at all? Throw in the fact that Isla is now the executor of the Adams' estate and you have 2 pissed off Adams children! The mystery is well done and while I figured out the major part of it before it was revealed, I didn't see the secondary reveal. Blake writes great suspense and very sexy romance, and Evidence of Desire is one of my new favorites!

POV: 3rd

Tears: no

Trope: lawyers, coworkers, widow

Triggers: none

Series/Standalone: standalone within an interconnected series

Cliffhanger: (view spoiler)

HEA: (view spoiler)

Buried Lies by Kaylea Cross, SEALs Honor by Megan Crane, Death is Not Enough by Karen Rose,...then

you will probably like Evidence of Desire!

## Evidence of Desire

See full review on [The Book Disciple](#)

### Mindy Lou's Book Review says

This was a pretty captivating story from the beginning to end. I loved Gabe and Isla but it was also Trey and Portia's story that had me riveted. You really feel like you get two love stories in one. Sadly, one ended in tragedy but it was still very beautiful. I almost wish we could get a book on Trey and Portia, that's how much their story intrigued me.

Due to the nature of what happens right in the beginning, we get a whole host of side characters and each one played a big role to the overall story. Each character drew a reaction out of me, good and bad. This had a "who did it" theme and while I suspected right away who it was, I was still drawn in to the whole investigation. There was also a reason to the crime and that one stumped me at first.

As for the main couple, I loved David. He had a fear that threatened his relationship with Isla but the way Isla handled it made me completely ok with his resistance. When he wasn't resisting, he was pretty alpha with her and I like that in my heroes. Isla was just an all around nice woman. Some may have viewed her as weak but she was just a caring person. When she needed to fight, she fought.

I really enjoyed Evidence of Desire and would recommend to pretty much any reader who wants a good love story and a good puzzle to solve.

## Shayna says

[illegible]

It's David's turn for his happily ever after and OMG...it was PERFECTION! He was protective and demanding and oh so charming from the very start. Talk about a SWOONY ROMANCE, my friends! Isla Shayne was a pretty incredible heroine. She was strong and bold when she needed to be, but she also showed a vulnerable side and that spoke to the alpha side in our beloved hero. They both know loss. They both know pain. But together, they found something strong enough to leave their ghosts in the past. Their chemistry, in and out of the bedroom, was intense and passionate. There was sparks from the very start and the connection

grew from there. With every turn of the page, my blushes turned a deeper shade of pink, but I just could not put it down! This was an outstanding love story full of passion, suspense, and romance! I can't wait to see what's next for this series!

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Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2V6fRPk?>

B&N: <https://bit.ly/2HXflaH?>

iBooks: <https://apple.co/2qTxjJo?>

Kobo: <https://bit.ly/2qVKSas?>

Google Play: <https://bit.ly/2qUvj3w?>

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## **Chris C - A Midlife Wife says**

Great story with a nice twist at the end that was not expected.

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I have read many of Lexi's books in the past several years so when I picked this one up I knew I was in store for a treat. But what I didn't realize is how beautifully she can blend a romance with a suspenseful murder mystery.

This story has so many positive attributes. I love David's character. He has a wonderful soul and is not afraid to show his feelings and support. Isla is also an amazing character. Her heart and soul is just so kind and amazing. She also has that spunk and fire like a mama bear. Together the pair is a force to be reckoned with.

This is a story about lawyers and one of their cases. So we do get a bit of the gore factor and the authenticity of dealing with a true crime story. The romance is heated and the friend support characters are tight and fun.

This is a part two of a series and I did feel a bit out of sorts when it came to the supporting characters as I really didn't know who they were. However, I didn't feel it detracted from the story much at all.

I truly enjoyed the story and loved the link to pro sports and the attention to detail! With the plot twists and the beautiful romance, it was so easy to get caught up into this book.

Lexi Blake brings her fabulous talent to life with the rich detail and emotional connections we crave in our characters. Evidence of Desire is a great read!

\* copy received for review consideration

full review- <https://amidlifewife.com/evidence-of-...>

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## **Michelle says**

*ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review*



A deliciously sexy suspenseful romance!!! Oh Lexi Blake, you have done it again with your latest release, **Evidence of Desire**. Without a doubt, this book is off the richter scales when it comes to heat, passion, intensity, and conflict of interest. With her strong bold characters, Blake pulls in her readers in with this story of David and Isla. With many layers and her intricate prose, Blake will have you totally smitten and blushing like crazy and all at the same time keep you on your toes with her added layer of suspense. So if you are looking for a romance that weaves excitement and intensity then look no further than this sizzling read.

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### **Lana ✿❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️✿ says**

I've been eagerly anticipating the second book in the Courting Justice series. I really enjoyed the first installment and I was itching for more of these sexy lawyers. Unfortunately as much as I wanted to love this book, I just never connected to the story or the characters. At first, I was eager to turn the pages. And then somewhere around the 25% mark, it all began to lose sizzle for me and I began to get bored. The characters felt two-dimensional and held no spark for me. I couldn't feel any chemistry between them and as such, struggled to connect to the romance. The one thing that kept me turning the pages was the suspense and that unfortunately took a predictable turn at the end with a twist I guessed from the very beginning.

I adore all things Lexi Blake, so I'm super bummed this one didn't work for me. I wanted so badly to love it, but sadly the only emotion it managed to drag out of me was sheer boredom.

*ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review*

**Find me on:**

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### **MRIDULA says**

A romantic suspense, 'Evidence of Desire' is a perfect mix of steamy romance, law stuff and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (which is an actual disease the athletes suffer from).

Isla is an attorney. Her world is full of contracts and business negotiations. This is why she contacts David Cormack (a criminal defense attorney) when her client and former football superstar- Trey Adams is charged with murdering his wife-Portia.

The spark between David and Isla is instant, and they pursue their mutual attraction (the falling for each other happened quite fast, but seemed legit), along with solving a murder mystery. The case details and the

court proceedings are pretty intense throughout the book and it all looks so neat and organized (basically I wasn't confused one bit).

CTE, being an actual disease was written quite precisely. The immense amount of research done by the author helped support the plot and the characters, making it more intense and gripping.

Lexi Blake has once again delivered a powerful story, with characters who are gentle and kind, and characters who are mysterious in a freaky way. 'Evidence of Desire' is more than just a romance novel, it is entertaining, heartbreaking, and engrossing.

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### **Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

LIVE AMAZON :<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07...>

5 stars

I have to say that I enjoyed this one even more than the first book! From the first pages I find myself hooked! In my opinion it would be better if you read the first book before you read this one.

I loved the characters and especially David. He was exactly what I was looking for in a book boyfriend. Isla is also great and I really liked them together too.

This story has a little bit of everything I like, an intense romance, suspense and drama! Another fantastic read from Lexi Blake!!

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### **Bookgasms Book Blog says**

Good lord, give me a sec to get my heart back in rhythm after finishing up *Evidence of Desire*. Man, that was some suspenseful romantic suspense right there . . .

In trying to keep Trey Adams out of jail, Isla Shayne hires David Cormack, who's known as one of the best defense attorney's in the US. He's ruthless and thorough and will fight to defend his clients at all costs. But he's also one of the most amazing and handsome man Isla have ever met.

David's desire is to just do his job. Work is his focus—always has been. And nothing and no one will get in the way. Until Isla. Isla is everything David never truly knew he wanted in a woman. She's smart, sexy and perfect for him.

But solving the murder and keeping Trey out of jail takes precedent over feelings—even those between Isla and David, well, until they just can't keep those feelings to themselves anymore. Which makes David even more determined to find the true killer and keep Trey out of jail.

I couldn't get enough of the romance blooming between Isla and David. They were in denial for quite some time—and then they just couldn't deny it anymore. Even when David tried to put up his walls to “protect” Isla, she wouldn't let him build them—she smashed each one down. And I couldn't help but root for her to finally convince David to take a chance on their love.

I can't wait for more in this fun, sexy, smart *Courting Justice* series. So looking forward to Noah's story! ~ Missy, 4 stars

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## Dianne says

Lexi Blake has done a wonderful job of combining romance with a murder mystery filled with tentacles of suspense. Who murdered the beautiful socialite and dedicated wife? Was it her mentally unstable husband, a famous, former athlete suffering from debilitating illness caused by head trauma?

Isla Shayne, the Adams's family personal lawyer and David Cormack, former football player, turned high-power defense attorney must piece together what really happened or an innocent man may go to jail. On the way, these two will find a connection of the heart, but can they find a future together when one of them fears becoming a burden?

Fabulous characters, great suspense and an ending that I never saw coming! Get your romance and a strong mystery all under one cover in **EVIDENCE OF DESIRE!**

I received a complimentary ARC edition from Berkley!

Series: Courting Justice - Book 2

Publisher: Berkley (January 8, 2019)

Publication Date: January 8, 2019

Genre: Contemporary Romantic Suspense

Print Length: 352 pages

Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

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