



Ruthless

Lexi Blake

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The first in a sexy contemporary romance series featuring the Lawless siblings—from *New York Times* bestselling author Lexi Blake.

The Lawless siblings are bound by vengeance. Riley, Drew, Brandon, and Mia believe the CEO of StratCast orchestrated their parents' murder twenty years ago to steal their father's software program. And there's only one way Riley can find some solid evidence...

Heir to the StratCast legacy, Ellie Stratton hires a new attorney to handle a delicate business matter—and she's shocked by her attraction to him. Over the course of a few weeks, Riley becomes her lover, her friend, her everything. But when her life is threatened, Ellie discovers that Riley is more obsessed with settling an old score than in the love she thought they were building. And Riley must choose between a revenge he's prepared for all his life and the woman he's sure he can't live without...

Ruthless Details

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Author : Lexi Blake

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Suspense, Romantic Suspense, Did Not Finish

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From Reader Review Ruthless for online ebook

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

LIVE AMAZON <http://amzn.to/2b6Thng>

4,5-5 STARS

"Revenge was only part of their plan. Justice was another."

Ruthless was more than good, it was fantastic! At the beginning I was nervous since Lexi Blake is a new author to me! But once I started I couldn't put it down! The characters in Ruthless are complicated and the storyline interesting with mystery and some twists I didn't see coming!

Riley's entire focus is on revenge due to what happened to his parent but when he meets Ellie everything will change. Ellie doesn't trust people easily but with Riley things are different. So once these two start getting closer, Riley wants to protect Ellie but things become complicated.

"You tempt me like no other woman ever has."

I loved the characters and the backstory so much! Ellie and Riley were passionate, intense and hot! I loved their chemistry. Riley is sexy, mysterious, smart and protective. Ellie is sweet and innocent. I loved the Lawless family .

I'm so excited for the next book in the series! Looking forward to seeing what will happen next!

Kate's Corner says

This is my first Lexi Blake book and I can tell that I have been missing out on this talented author. But fashionably late is the way to go.

5 It is time to show the queen that her knight can take care of her Stars.

The beginning of the book was heartbreaking, it was so emotionally touching and just made you want to continue reading even if it was gutting. It sucked me in and with these kind of sentences Four of them. There used to be six.

But Riley just looked at Drew. And knew one day they would be together again. After all, they had a job to do.

How could I not want them to get what they deserved? And root for them all the way.

Three brothers out for revenge. Vengeance. Justice. Retribution. Call it what you want. There will be collateral damage. There will be blackmail, lies, betrayal, sabotage, subterfuge, deception let's not forget misery. But deep down for all of the hurt and the drastic measures they go to above there is one emotion that is the strongest and that is LOVE.

Of the three brothers Drew is the oldest, Riley is the middle brother and the youngest of the brothers is Bran. They have a task to do. Twenty years a plan in the making nothing can go wrong. Pay back to the three people that took everything. But everything will go wrong. Murphy's Law peeps no way around it.

Until.....they find out that there is a fourth person involved in the murder of their parents but they don't know who it is yet. The stakes get higher and higher for all parties involved.

Everything needed has been set in motion to infiltrate StratCast and stop the deal from going through. Riley is the go-to guy when a little seduction is needed. This is the case.... It won't be a hard ship for him and maybe he didn't want to at first but once he saw Ellie Stratton things became complicated.

Ellie Stratton's father passed away, Ellie is about to buy out her father's partner, Steven Castalano the company StratCast. She hires a lawyer for the takeover. Enter Riley Lang he changed his name from Lawless to Lang. For Ellie Stratton is the daughter of Phillip Stratton was dead but the daughter has to pay for the sins of her father.

Riley Lawless and his tight man buns, he is sex on a stick. And is a shark/lawyer and I do not like lawyers there on par with politicians. Alone Ms. Blake making me like the character is an added bonus.

At the beginning it was hard for me to believe that they really had feelings for one another. Although there is an instant attraction there is no insta-love. They don't act on their feelings for quite a while. But their thoughts of one another – hi-lari-ous!

Little Miss Prim and Proper turned out to be someone entirely different than he'd thought, and she had some serious junk in her trunk. –Riley Lang-

Riley Lang and the other dude- whose name she'd forgotten because looking at Riley Lang apparently made her drop a couple of IQ points- Ellie Stratton –

They get to know one another and then Ellie caves I love the way Riley went about it.

We got out on a few dates, see if we like each other. Maybe have a really nice make-out session that ends with me taking a cold shower. Then you decide if I'm the man who can bring you multiple, screaming orgasms."

"Might I also point out that the answer to that last question, the one about the screaming orgasms, is yes, I'm the man." "Hey, at least you're confident"

Everybody is trying to stick a wedge this is such an intricate chess game. And Ellie is way in over her head. Ellie is being attacked from all sides, known and unknown enemies.

He said none of you would ever accept Phillip Stratton's daughter into your family. "Well, we definitely would wouldn't take the other one. I read the write-up on her," Bran said with his head. "Sorry, but your sister's a skank. You're perfectly welcome. You make Riley less obnoxious. He also masturbates way less."

This is war in the boardroom and in the bedroom.

What the Lawless brothers didn't realize is that you can be predators and you can achieve the end goal but there is always a complexity and a fluidness to the situation. Feelings get involved, loyalty is redirected.

She'd realized that her father was a monster as he told her his sins on his death bed and she wanted to make amends where it counted. She has always been alone in the world but she has kept the goodness in her. Her now ex-husband and an affair with her sister. And she isn't bitter or cynical.

Some good memories of Riley's past also come to light. Of when they were a family before everything went horribly wrong.

This is the secret to life, Riley. When someone asks you what you want to be when you grow up, you tell them this." He leaned in, ready to heat this magical secret. "What?" "Happy. You want to be happy."

At the same time their romance progresses the ultimate power play is made by Stephen. He had everyone fooled the evil bastard that he is.

"Good-bye, Lang. You know, you have your mother's eyes." Riley stopped, his whole body suddenly a live wire. What had he said? But he was dragged to the door. Castalano had played them all.

Ellie loses everything but with the help of Riley and his family she'll survive. And she isn't a means to end any more. Riley proves himself. . He could win her back. He had to. And he did.

Mia their sister is also their voice of reason and I loved how they as siblings interacted with one another.

"Don't expect me to keep my mouth shut when I see you do something wrong."

"I don't need you to be my conscience," Drew insisted. "Oh trust me, you do. You all do. And don't act like I haven't done my part. If you didn't have me, Bran would still be in college. Riley would still eat like a five year old. Drew, you would never have gotten 4L off the ground, because you would have named the company after a dinosaur or a superhero, and Hatch would still be sleeping with skanky hookers."

Drew frowned. "I actually still think that MegaRaptor Software would have worked. It screams strength to me."

He would protect her from the fallout. He would keep her safe. She might lose some face, the stock might fall momentarily, but he was being optimistic. He could do this. He could come out of this with revenge and the girl. Yeah Riley you keep telling yourself that. Whatever helps you sleep at night, right?

I am really excited about Bran's book he is my favorite in the series.

Drew will be the toughest one to crack.

I have a friend who loves Lexi Blake and she got declined. As I said the beginning sucked me and I was riveted but at some point it became stagnant and I didn't get bored per se but I was starting to lose interest and I saw a 3 Star review in the future for this book.

But then....

It became absolutely fantastic and it has shot up to a 5 Star review.

I read the blurb for this and thought hell yeah this sounds good. Now the publisher is Berkley and well they are iffy. I requested it and never thought I would get it because Berkley. They have some mumbo jumbo of criteria I don't get but I probably never will. But color me surprised.

This book was the next book to read on my list of all of the ARCs that I've had to read for August. I'm ahead. Woohoo.

This alone makes me want to read Case & Mia's book.

Mia nodded. "And he gets shot a lot, so you should listen to him." "I do not get shot a lot. It was twice, three... fine, I get shot a lot," Case conceded. "I'll try harder to dodge the bullets next time but most of the recent bullets I've taken have been aimed at you, princess. Don't you forget it."

Review can be found @ <http://jerisbookattic-reviewblog.blog...>

Wow okay, I'm impressed. Review to follow

Book received by Berkley Publishing in exchange for an honest review. So now they like me.

Katy Loves Romance ♥? says

4 Stars****

Ruthless was so Intriguing, and a whole new author to me full off a packed out plot that had me guessing the whole way through, I really enjoyed this.

Business owner Ellie is set to be CEO of Stratcast and so very near seeing to her goal. After her father died she's set to take his place. But her father wasn't a nice person and has some enemies to conquer, but she's been in this business from being a young adult and so has worked hard to get where she is, yet the lawless family just see her as a goal to retribution.

Riley lawless, his brothers and sister have set a plan to get the people who have ruined their childhood and although Ellie's childhood wasn't enjoyable, the lawless siblings childhood had it taken away because their

parents got murdered.... Social services made it so they were abused and so they have many bad memories and less happy ones. And because Riley is the Lawyer he's set to seduce Ellie and to find out what actually happened to their parents, why their childhood was ruined and give a purpose to the dark nights they still live with today.

Yet what starts off a a seductive plan becomes more for Riley!!!

What I enjoyed

This is a plot driven read, and although it is sexy in parts, it is packed full of lots going on, working out what's going on characters to get to know. It is sexy and although there was love it was gradual and I suppose less than the theme of the story. The guessing, and working out what was happening kept me on my toes.

Why not 5?

I enjoyed the hell out of this, but the transition from Riley to Ellie needed some adjusting. There wasn't many headings so one line was him and the other her so it was a tad confusing. That could though be me and just me getting to know Lexi's writing style. I will though be definitely reading more by her, because this is a family read, brothers that I'm really looking forward to get to know especially Bran I have a feeling his book will be high on the emotion. And I'll be first in line to read the rest of this series as they come out. I will also need to catch up to Lexi's previous books as I'm new to her work.

That. Is. All

ARC generously gifted in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews and blog posts

Sabrina says

Now LIVE!

*Amazon US*Amazon UK*Barnes & Noble*

I had to wait until my brain stopped screaming "This is the best!" before I could even attempt to write this review. Not only was I super excited to get more of the Lawless family, but I was extremely happy with the story Lexi Blake delivered to us. I loved Riley and Ellie!

Ruthless is the start to the Lawless series which follows Riley, Drew, Brandon and Mia Lawless as they attempt to get revenge on those responsible for their parents' death. When they were kids they never believed the cops had the full story, which was that their father murdered their mother and attempted to kill all of them too. Now that they're older and they have the money to fund their vengeance they're ready to take down those responsible.

Ellie Stratton is prepared to inherit StratCast and take over running the company after her father's death. She hires Riley as her lawyer to get everything prepared, not knowing the danger she's bringing into her

company. Her father was one of the people responsible for the death of his parents, and Ellie unknowingly plays right into the Lawless siblings' trap. But while Riley is working with Ellie, and working against her, he gets to know the woman she is and he's not sure if he can betray her like planned.

Riley, oh Riley. He's my new fantasy man. So ladies, back up because I am prepared to fight for him! He was everything I could possibly want in a book boyfriend. He had the intensity, the sensitivity, the sexiness, and the passion for doing what was right. Just perfect is how I would describe his character. We slowly got to learn about his life growing up after his parents' death and some of it broke my heart, but it also made me admire him for becoming so successful after all of that.

With this book, you didn't just get a romance between two characters, you got this whole world of corporate espionage that kept you in suspense the entire time also. There was a lot happening throughout it, but the book never got to be too much, instead everything that was happening just added to the story to make it better. And woven in between the big Lawless plan was the parts with Ellie and Riley that made my heart skip a beat. The late night dinners at the office they shared, the flirting, it was all just wonderful.

Bottom line, *Ruthless* is a must read. I promise you that you want to meet these characters and you will love at least most of them. Brandon is the more laid back brother and, so far, my second favorite. His story is next so I'm very much excited for that. Drew is the hard character to like, but once I was able to learn a little more about him I changed my opinion about him. I can't wait for his book, because I know there are definitely going to be some surprises he has in store for us. Really, I'm just too excited to even handle this series.

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

Elle says

4* *banging Mr. Lawyer* STARS!!

Review @ Midnight Romance

Lexi Blake is a must read for me. I know her works since **Master and Mercenaries series** (BDSM romance). Lawless series is brand new and can be read as a standalone but I'd advise to read M&M series because of some characters may be make an appearance in the future. Lawless already introduce in From Sanctum with Love (Kai's book) and I'm hooked with this family. Drew Lawless as the eldest and the head of 4L Company along Riley, Bran and Mia. In Dominance Never Dies, Mia Lawless married to Case Taggart. Together, they form alliance to the people who destroyed their family.

The Lawless only has one purpose for life; revenge. Twenty years ago their parents was brutally murdered and the siblings had forced to separate. Now they're back together and Riley was the man who will do the job. As the new head of StratCast., Ellie Stratton hired Riley Lang as her new lawyer to handle the company's matter. Turns out, Riley attracted to Ellie more than for revenge. He believe Ellie is innocent and

didn't mix into his father's sins. This time, Riley has to be her dragon as the one who protect the princess.

Both Riley and Ellie are easily likable. Riley is your typical easy-going man. However, Ellie is kinda awkward in real but quite firm and confident in the office. There is no hate for them. But their insta-love was unbelievable. They're into each other very quickly. When Riley admitted that he liked her, he still on cover and they haven't share anything outside bedroom and work. It's kinda okay for a while. Who doesn't wanna enjoy the hot lawyer? (FYI, the sex scenes more like heart and flowers. Not my cuppa. I prefer the M&M series. LOL!)

Their mundane life is really boring. Also the business talk that I hardly understand. But it was forgiven with the suspense and intrigue within the story. Everything happened so quickly when Riley was blindsided by the enemy and Ellie 'kicked' him. I was amazed with Riley that he managed to control his cool to get Ellie back with him even though she hated him. Their chemistry started to connect when they're open to each other and I enjoyed it. Even there isn't much dirty talk, but Riley's desperation for Ellie really did the romance.

“Are we just kissing, Ellie? I can handle that. I can. I can keep this wherever you want me to, but I need to set expectations right now.”

It would be smart, but she was so far past that. “I want you inside me.”

The family really has unbreakable bond. As the eldest, Drew didn't has much choice but he did everything he could. I think Drew is the ruthless one, because Riley seems more tender like Mia. I loved their interaction especially the jokes. Ugh they're killing me. Moreover, there was Case Taggart! He changed so much since he's with Mia. He's more relaxed than before.

Overall, the conclusion was really amazing. I devoured every chapter when the suspense starts to kick in. Ruthless was well-written and the world building feels real. Sexy, intriguing and dangerous. I already hooked with Drew and Bran. My heart aches for wounded man.

◆ Please visit @Midnight Romance for more reviews! ◆

?Flo? the coffee addict says

4.5 **mindless fun STARS**

First off, I love love love Lexi Blake and especially her Masters & Mercenaries series. When I heard there was going to be a spin-off with the Lawless brothers that was non BDSM/military I was excited and a little apprehensive. I just adore *M&M series* and I was really hoping this new adventure could live up to my expectations. Well, long story short...IT DID!

Ruthless is the first book in the Lawless series and can be read as a complete standalone in regards to the *Masters & Mercenaries series*. There are some familiar characters woven into this world, but it's done in a way where you understand everything, but you might get a little curious about those characters and where they come from. Which in and of itself makes this an excellent gateway drug. *Ruthless* has the same kind of wit, charm and sexiness I am used from Lexi Blake, without being as sexually descriptive or edgy as her M&M books. A nice taste of what the woman can do and you can decide if you want more. Just between us...she is one of my favourites.

Ruthless tells the story of **Riley Lawless and Ellie Stratton**. It's a book about revenge, betrayal, corporate espionage and the two people stuck in the middle of a whirlwind. The Lawless brothers lost their parents when they were still kids and now they are out for vengeance, against the people who took everything from them. It's fast paced, packed with some heavy plot and twists. There is no easy sailing here. The story is gripping, the characters are well fleshed out and truly engaging. Just what I was used to get from Ms. Blake and I can't wait to see what the other Lawless brothers have in store for us. All in all, a well done read and an excellent start to a new romantic suspense series. I'm hooked.

***ARC very kindly provided by publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

Angie - Angie's Dreamy Reads says

*****4.5 STARS*****

Ruthless is a non stop thrill ride, chock full with secrets of revenge and betrayal. It's dramatic and brings some hard hitting feels from the opening lines. Lexi Blake is a smart, seasoned writer, engaging her reader instantly, and easily, in this addictive start to **a brand new series!** I'm intrigued by everything, everyone, and I can't wait to see what's going to happen to Brandon and Drew.

Captivating, the Lawless gang is impossible not to love. A bunch of juicy alpha males who are demanding, dominating, and woo you with big hearts and sweet vulnerable sides. And while *Ruthless* focuses on Riley Lawless, his brothers--Drew and Brandon--are getting books next and are showcased perfectly throughout the first novel. Smart, edgy, and definitely steamy, this series is on a one way street to be becoming something incredible. I loved the first book, loved the drama and intrigue, loved the dynamic between the characters, and I can't wait for more.

Truthfully, I haven't read many of Lexi Blake's books but I have to say, she writes wonderfully. Her characters are easy to connect with and her stories are detailed and vivid. *Ruthless* follows as Riley Lawless--the smooth, charming, and charismatic brother in the Lawless clan--tries to make his mark on Ellie Stratton's world. Riley, Drew, Brandon and Mia--the only Lawless sister--are obsessed with avenging the death of their parents. They have spent years planning a mission to take down those responsible for the harsh

downfall of their lives.

Riley is tasked with infiltrating StratCast and getting Ellie Stratton (the upcoming CEO and daughter of the man who murdered his family) wrapped around his fingers. Their love story is anything but simple, yet it's undeniably sweet as Ellie turns out to be everything Riley is unprepared for.

Ellie hates her father. She knows he was a monster, a cruel, heartless, ruthless monster. But Ellie's been groomed from a young age to take over the company her father ruled with an iron fist and she plans to do that, and do it well. With her father now dead, and his partner Steven wanting to retire, Ellie is in the process of getting everything she needs together. She obviously can't buy Steven's stock, and take over, without legal counsel, so she hires Riley Lawless to make the transition simple.

But Riley comes in with his own agenda, one that doesn't involve making things easy for Ellie. However, one look at the woman he had planned to take down softens Riley and eventually he has to decide between love and revenge.

Full of twists and turns, intrigue, and secrets, this book keeps you on your toes. There is so much happening behind the scenes, so many things that will take you by surprise. Lust, lies, and betrayal, *Ruthless* is a story about falling in love with the enemy. I loved every second of reading about these characters and I fell for each and every one of them. The dynamic, the chemistry, the entire book was just sizzling. And I have to say, I'm so intrigued by Drew, who feels like the dark force in this series, the one brother who desperately needs a woman to bring him to his knees.

Overall, I highly recommend this to readers who like steamy romantic suspense. It's well written. It's definitely addictive. And I am dying to get hands on the next book.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review

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Michelle says

ARC PROVIDED BY PUBLISHER IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW

Intense, sexy, riveting, and absolutely consuming are just the few words that comes to mind when describing any book from Lexi Blake. In *Masters and Mercenaries Series*, readers were introduced to Drew, Mia and the Lawless siblings and so you could imagine my excitement when I discovered that Lexi Blake was writing a whole new series on the Lawless siblings and their quest for revenge and justice for their parent's death.

It might be wrong. It might be completely unprofessional, but she was going to have him. She was going to sink herself into an affair with him and not worry about the consequences. For once in her life, she was going to do something wild, something for herself. She gave herself over, letting go of everything but the feel of those lips on hers."

The Lawless siblings consist of Drew, Riley, Brandon and Mia. Their lives were turned upside down when

their parents were brutally assassinated and murdered. The siblings had to be split off in different foster homes until Drew was old enough to get back his siblings and reunite the Lawless family and their vendetta of revenge on the people who betrayed their parents. Money is the root of evil and money was the reason why their parents were murdered. As the Lawless siblings grew up, revenge fueled their desire for justice.

First order of business is to take care of StratCast and it's CEO Phillip Stratton and his partner. Stratton and his associates were the ones who orchestrated the death of the Lawless parents. Since Phillip is no longer alive, the company will be passed onto his daughter, Ellie who plans to buyout her father's partner. And Riley's objective is to get close to Ellie. We all know the saying keep your enemies closer, well Riley never thought he would fall for Phillip Stratton's daughter.

I'll have you naked. I'll get rid of every single thing that comes between us. I'll strip you and then touch every inch of your body. You might be the boss in the boardroom, but I intend to lead here. I intend to have you every way I can have a woman, Ellie. Once I'm inside you, I won't want to leave."

Ellie was nothing like what Riley would have expected. She was beautiful and kindhearted. She was the epitome of beauty and brains. Riley knew once he crossed that line that will blur his end goal and objective, the task of bringing justice got a whole lot complicated when Ellie Stratton rocked his world. She was the game changer that brought this ruthless bastard to his knees. What happens when Ellie discovers Riley and his siblings's secret?

Ellie needed a place where she could go wild. He intended to be that for her. He would protect her from the fallout. He would keep her safe. She might lose some face, the stock might fall momentarily, but he was being optimistic. He could do this. He could come out of this with revenge and the girl. Because he'd decided he really wanted the girl. Fuck, he wanted her so bad."

In this corporate game of chicanery and espionage, Lexi Blake engages her readers on a suspenseful and passionate journey of love, revenge, and secrecy. **Ruthless** was a story that was layered with so much depth, betrayal, duplicity, and intensity that readers are thrown into a whirlwind of chaos and love. I loved everything about this book from it's cunning characters to the vehement and ardent love of two unlikely strangers. So if you are looking for a book that was somewhat like *Romeo and Juliet* meets *Wallstreet* then **Ruthless** is definitely for you. I seriously can't wait for the next installment as another Lawless sibling is ready to take down the other person who was involved in their parents death.

Review can also be found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages: <http://fourchicksflippingpages.weebly...>Lexi Blake

NMmomof4 says

3 Stars

Overall Opinion: Meh. This is why I'm not a huge fan of suspenseful romances. For what it was -- I guess it was enjoyable. I just need a good balance between the romance and the suspense to enjoy it, and that rarely

happens for me. I, unfortunately, didn't find that in this book either. I felt like the romance was a little too instalove for my tastes, and I just didn't fully understand their connection. The story dragged for me through all of the business drama, but I never felt the need to skim -- mainly because I was truly curious as to how it'd all pan out...so there's that ;). I know some of my GR friends loved this, so it very well could just be me!

Brief Summary of the Storyline: This is Ellie and Riley's story. Ellie is about to be the new CEO of her father's business, and has hired Riley as her attorney in the exchange of some stocks. What she doesn't know is that Riley and his siblings are out for revenge against her now deceased father and his partners that killed their parents, and she just gave them an in. Riley's job is to seduce Ellie and get information out of her, but what he doesn't expect is to fall for her. There are some sexy times and a good bit of suspenseful moments...but they get a HEA ending.

POV: This alternated between focusing on Ellie and Riley in 3rd person narrative.

Overall Pace of Story: Ok. I thought it dragged a little here and there, but I never skimmed.

Instalove: Kind of. Some might not think so, but I didn't fully understand the jump into the stronger feelings.

H rating: 4 stars. Riley. I liked him. He gave good grovel, and made me root for him in earning her forgiveness.

h rating: 4 stars. Ellie. I liked her. I felt bad for all of the stuff she had been through. I liked the way she made the H work for her forgiveness.

Sadness level: Low. I never needed any tissues.

Push/Pull: Yes (view spoiler)

Heat level: Moderate. They have pretty good chemistry and scenes.

Descriptive sex: Yes

Safe sex: Yes. Mentions of birth control and STD status. The H mentions that he had never gone without condoms, but I don't remember any mention of the h's past practices.

OW/OM drama: No (view spoiler)

Sex scene with OW or OM: No

Cheating: No

Separation: Not really

Possible Triggers: Yes (view spoiler)

Closure: This didn't have enough closure for me. I would (reluctantly) call this a HEA. I really wanted a jump ahead into their future as a happy committed couple, but instead I got an epilogue that was focused on setting up the next story. (view spoiler)

How I got it: I got it on loan through my public library (yay!).

Safety: I'd say that this should be Safe for most of the safety gals.
(view spoiler)

Geri Reads says

4.5 stars!

I was coming off a horrible book slump prior to reading this book. I was desperate to end that slump. Enter *Ruthless* by Lexi Blake. From the first chapter alone, I knew I was going to have a winner.

Riley and his siblings waited years for the opportunity to finally exact revenge from the people who killed their parents. Their first mark is Ellie Stratton, daughter of one of their targets. Their revenge starts to unravel when Riley's feelings for Ellie deepens. Suddenly, revenge became messy and complicated, and Riley must choose between his family and his feelings for Ellie.

The plot was fairly straightforward with a few surprises along the way that made me question a few things. What I didn't question though was the connection between Riley and Ellie. The moment they met, their chemistry leaps off the page. I loved how their story started off on the wrong foot and Riley spending pretty much half of the book begging Ellie to take him back. You guys know I love some good grovel, right? Well this book has some of the best.

Another aspect that I loved about this book was the pacing. This book reads fast, or maybe it felt fast because I was thoroughly engrossed by the intrigue, the mystery, as well as the romance between Riley and Ellie. Usually, book one in an inter-connected series spends most of its time setting up the characters and the overarching plot lines and character motivations. While I appreciate those, they tend to get boring. Not in this book.

Lexi Blake sets up the plot and character motivations perfectly. You understand these people even if you don't necessarily agree with them. I am deeply invested in Riley and the Lawless' family, seeking the same answers to questions that they're asking. I can't wait to read more.

If you're in the mood for some sexy, suspenseful contemporary, I suggest you read this book!

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

4.5 Stars

You tempt me like no other woman ever has. I don't understand you and I might never, but I'm going to know you, Ellie Stratton. I'm going to know what makes you smile and what makes you scream out my name."

I don't know how this woman does it, but she manages to write books that do it for me. Every. Single. Time. Being a huge fan of her Masters & Mercenaries series, I've been salivating for more of the mysterious Lawless siblings ever since we first met Mia and Drew in From Sanctum with Love. I mean, c'mon, a mysterious, brooding billionaire software genius and his 3 siblings that are hell bent on exacting revenge on the people they believe responsible for their parents murder twenty years ago? Yes, please, and thank you!

Ruthless is the first book in the sexy and intriguing series. For those that haven't read Blake's Masters & Mercenaries series, don't worry, you won't be lost. But for those that have read Mia's book, Dominance Never Dies, you'll certainly appreciate the cameos here. I know I sure did. But I digress.

So what does this book have? EVERYTHING.

Revenge plot? Check!

Epic grovel? Check!

Lots of sexy times? Check!

Well developed characters and plot? Check and check!

Suspense? Check!

Perfect Saturday night read? You bet your tuhis!

Riley is the middle brother. He barely remembers the night that took their parents, but he knows that his father didn't kill himself. Ever since that night, everything they've done has been a systematic step closer to their revenge. Now they have their sights set on the StratCast and the CEO, Phillip Stratton and his partner, who may be two of the three people they suspect to be behind their parents' murder. Unfortunately, Phillip Stratton is now dead, and his daughter is now running the company. Hiring Riley as the company attorney to oversee the corporate buy out from her father's partner seemed like a great idea to Ellie. But what she doesn't know, is his interest runs much deeper than a mere paycheck.

It might be wrong. It might be completely unprofessional, but she was going to have him. She was going to sink herself into an affair with him and not worry about the consequences. For once in her life, she was going to do something wild, something for herself.

I loved absolutely everything about this book; the pacing, the character development, and it certainly wasn't without plenty of unpredictable twists to spice things up. In true Lexi Blake fashion, there was plenty of intrigue and suspense thrown in to perfectly balance the story.

Ellie starts off as a bit of a wallflower, but man, she really comes into her own towards the second part of the book. While their romance feels instant, it is established through weeks of working together. Ellie definitely doesn't give into the brewing sexual chemistry between them with ease. She thinks things through and I

really appreciated that. I also absolutely loved Riley. He's not quite as singleminded in his revenge plan as his older brother. He knows a good thing when he has it and he knows he wants Ellie for much more than a carefully constructed revenge plan.

This book also had one of the most delicious grovels I've read in a really long time. I'm talking SERIOUSLY DELICIOUS levels here. Like half the book sort of delicious!

But it was also so much more than just a romance. All of the secondary characters are carefully plotted and perfectly developed. Everything and I'm talking everything is effortlessly fleshed out. Even the villains of the story are incredibly well developed, which only hooks you that much more. I loved getting glimpses of Bran and Drew and I seriously can't wait for their books.

Ruthless was everything I could want in a story. It was filled with intrigue and suspense, and enough sizzle to set your kindle on fire. I'm utterly hooked and I can't wait for more of these Lawless siblings. With the little peek we get of Bran's story here, I already know it will be just as good as Riley's, if not better. This author can do absolutely no wrong in my mind. If you haven't read anything by her yet, you're seriously missing out, and Ruthless will be the perfect book to start with!

BEFORE READING

(view spoiler)

ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review

Find me on:

SueBee★bring me an alpha!★ says

LIVE! | AMZ US | AMZ UK | B&N | KOBO |

LIVE! I AM SO EXCITED FOR THIS NEW SERIES ABOUT THE LAWLESS SIBLINGS!

Stand-alone book 1

Release: **August 8, 2016**

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Blurb:

The Lawless siblings are bound by vengeance. Riley, Drew, Brandon, and Mia believe the CEO of StratCast orchestrated their parents' murder twenty years ago to steal their father's software program. And there's only one way Riley can find some solid evidence...

Heir to the StratCast legacy, Ellie Stratton hires a new attorney to handle a delicate business matter—and

she's shocked by her attraction to him. Over the course of a few weeks, Riley becomes her lover, her friend, her everything. But when her life is threatened, Ellie discovers that Riley is more obsessed with settling an old score than in the love she thought they were building. And Riley must choose between a revenge he's prepared for all his life and the woman he's sure he can't live without...

Books in Lawless series are stand-alones, but most enjoyed if read in order:

Book 1: Lawless - Riley & Ellie

Book 2: Satisfaction - Brandon & Carly

Book 3: Untitled

Book 4: Untitled

Chantal ♥? says

Ok where do I starts with this review here?

Some spoilers ahead please proceed with caution.

I guess, I will start with the good.

The hero Riley!

LOVED HIM HE WAS JUST TOO SWEET!

It starts out with action and his parents being killed and his family being ripped apart. He lost everything and was dropped into a nightmare of evil Foster care with the family from hell. He grows angry and the need for revenge becomes his sole propose.

He and his siblings had planed to get their revenge thru the daughter of their parents killer Ellie Stratton
Quote " Ellie Stratton had lived a perfect life on the backs of his siblings pain, his parents' death"

Her father and his partner had stollen a code from the hero's father that enabled them to grow their company. Now the true villain of the story is obvious from the first Ellie dead father's partner, Steven Castalano and his bastard son. He killed, manipulated and master minded all of wrong doings in this story.

Riley does not know Ellie well and he makes a mistake in distrusting her and trying to play her.

But he really makes up for it here.

He did a complete 180 after he gets to know her.

Quote "She was utterly lovable...She was always kind, always loyal..."

Honestly, HE DESERVED BETTER THAN HER!

Now the bad!

Ellie is the heroine of this tragic misunderstanding.

She has got to be the dumbest smart person I have ever encountered in book form.

First, she is the quintessential tragic heroine who has been betrayed by her husband and her sister. You feel sorry for her here as you know the hero is out to harm her as well.

For me however this quickly changes as I see she basically allows others to hurt and use her. I don't like that at all. She is able to forgive her sister and her ex-husband for cheating her out of her company's shares and 10 million dollars. She allows them to come and see her (to ask for more money after she gave he ex 10 million and her sister screwed her over by selling her shares to the enemy) and she had the hero's family try to protect them.

REALLY???

However, she is the most unforgiving bitch to the hero as he made an error in judgement (he really did not even carry his revenge plot here at all) but she could not forgive him? He had a month marriage and that was all. WFT! I can go on about this but really I thought she was just too stupid!

Honestly, you would think she would be able to see how her "friend" Lily was manipulating and playing her

along. (Hello,She was Fucking the evil monsters son).

Ellie trusted Lily but NOT the hero Riley, who did EVERYTHING to try to make her happy.

ALSO, she is NOT a good CEO HERE!

She trusted the wrong people knowingly.

Ex: her husband she knew was not her one but instead of making him sign a prenup she just lets it go!

Ex: she was signing an agreement she did not read at the beginning. Etc, etc, etc.

I will not give away more of the story here but to me she was a fail heroine. She was too easily manipulated and forgiving of everyone but the hero.

Hero's best line;

"If you can't ever love me again then I'll be the best friend you've ever had". Ahhhhh! The feels!

Heroines best line;

"Hey, we're married now so I can let my freak flag fly, it's all sweatpants and ponytails and kidnappings after the wedding." Cute and funny here.

Overall I am glad I read it but it's not a keeper for me here. I have no idea what will happen to the other brothers in this series as they seem to have stories as well.

Maybe I will check them out but I don't think so.

It was just not worth it for me.

3 stars all for the awesome hero and the clueless heroine ruined the book for me here.

Safety: totally safe, no cheating, no drama, condoms at first then she was on the pill. They are not Virgins she was married before and he has had other lovers.

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

VENGEANCE

?v?n(d)?(?)ns

Punishment inflicted or retribution exacted for an injury or wrong.

Vengeance is all the Lawless siblings have carried with them for twenty years. Having lost their parents to murder and being forced to grow-up apart. It's time to put their plan for justice into motion. Unfortunately one of those guilty parties has died, leaving his daughter at the helm of his company. If they can't get to Phillip Stratton himself, Ellie Stratton will have to do. Enter Riley Lang (Lawless) the goto charmer of the Lawless clan. He works his way into becoming the company lawyer for StratCast, and then he charms his way into Ellie's bed. What Riley never planned on was falling for the enemy's daughter and when all the lies and deceits are brought out into the open, will Riley lose the one thing he has finally found that is more important than vengeance...

I *ADORE* this author. Miz Blake can simply do NO wrong in my eyes. The Master & Mercenaries series is one of my all time favorite series. When I heard that she was starting a new series loosely connected to the M&M world, well let's just say this little chicky was doing the Carlton dance all over my apartment.

Now to be honest the setup for this book isn't one of my favorite scenarios. I'm not real fond of the whole "hero deceiving and seducing the heroine as a means to an end" Mostly because I spend the whole time with a knot in my stomach waiting for the other shoe to drop. That said. I KNOW that this author is going to give a grovel to remember. Her heroes can be assholes and screw up MAJORLY, but they don't hold back the begging for forgiveness. This book had one of the *BEST* grovels I've come across in a *LONG* time. Basically half the book is spent with Riley making up for his colossal fuckup. Don't even get me started how awesome Ellie is. She isn't this doormat that just falls at Riley's feet after a token "I'm sorry - I love you" he has to work at it, and work hard.

"It might be wrong. It might be completely unprofessional, but she was going to have him. She was going to sink herself into an affair with him and not worry about the consequences. For once in her life, she was going to do something wild, something for herself"

On top of all the aforementioned awesomeness, we have a fabulously layered suspense plot with fantastically developed secondary characters. Each and every one right down to the baddies are intricately layered and well developed. I can't WAIT to read Bran and Drew's books. I'll admit I wasn't really sold on Drew for a good portion of the book, but man did he grow on me. He is going to fall, and fall HARD. Of course one cannot forget the sexy times, they were both plentiful and smokin hot, but didn't overshadow the plot.

Overall this was another **FANTASTIC** read the likes of which I have come to expect from this author. Two **HUGE** thumbs up from yours truly...

Janie says

I really liked this one. Riley gives the best grovel of any H ever. And so he should. Ellie was an amazing h. She was so kind and loving and looked at the world through rose colored glasses. Riley realized pretty early on what he was doing was so wrong. He did everything in his power to help Ellie when the time came and did it more selflessly than I thought was possible. The secondary characters were amazing too. I can't wait for Bran's story. I am a little worried about Drew's but sometimes the more resistant they are, the harder they fall. I hope that's the case in his book. This book is totally safe. No OW/OM drama at all. That was one of the best parts. I've said it before and I'll say it again. It shows an author's talent and creativity to come up with drama other than that tired old trope.
