



The Hardest Fight

Amy Vastine

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There's no backing down this time.

Lucy Everhart expected her opposing counsel to be a slick, soulless corporate lawyer. Who else would represent developers intent on turning Chicago's Safe Haven women's shelter into condos? But she never imagined it would be Dylan Hunt. Clearly, he's no longer the idealistic young man she fell for in law school. This is Dylan 2.0. The man who let her go without a fight five years ago—along with his passion for social justice, apparently. He may have compromised what he believed in, but Lucy hasn't. Dylan has no idea what kind of fight he's in for. But then again, neither does she.

The Hardest Fight Details

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From Reader Review The Hardest Fight for online ebook

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: Chicago Sisters

Kathy says

Good story with some substance to it. I enjoyed reading it and like the characters. Dealt with some tough choices and the consequences of them. 3rd book in the series but worked as a stand alone.

Content: Clean

Christine Antosca says

My entire review is on my blog. Please take a look at it :)

<http://christinebookreviewcorner.blog...>

Gina says

When Lucy sees old flame Dylan at a legal meeting over a property she has an emotional interest in, sparks fly. Years earlier, while still in law school, the two had been inseparable, destined for the altar and a happily ever after. But for some unknown reason, Lucy broke away from Dylan, leaving him miserable and determined to rebuild himself into a new man--a man Lucy doesn't trust or particularly like. Lucy is a fighter, willing to risk her life for the residents of a battered women's shelter in Chicago. But reuniting with Dylan will force her to risk so much more: she'll have to risk telling him the truth. An excellent story that will touch the reader in so many ways.

Amanda R says

Thanks to Harlequin and NetGalley for the book in exchange for a honest review.

Lucy knew someone was coming to look at Safe Haven to purchase it but she never expected so many people to come with them and for one of those people to be Dylan Hunt. It's been five years since she last saw him and she isn't happy about seeing him now.

Dylan knew that Lucy would be there, he did his homework. What he didn't expect was to still have feelings for her. She angry that he's there but he doesn't know why she broke up with him five years ago. Now that he has seen her again he knows that he has to get to the bottom of this, of why she left him.

Lucy has her secrets and I don't want to get in to it because it would spoil it for you. I found with all of the sisters, they were SUPER uptight. They didn't want to deviate from whatever plan they had set up in their minds. She is one of those people that feels like she can handle things on her own and doesn't want to burden anyone with anything. I had a love/hate feeling towards Lucy. I didn't understand why she was so angry at Dylan if she was the one that broke things off with him. Dylan was a good guy but he didn't stand up for himself. He was a nice guy to a fault. I also wished for more at the end. It just seemed to end. We got to see in to the lives of Kendall and Emma. Lucy's was just the present and no more. Leave the author love in the form of a review!

J.R. says

I think this is my favorite of the Chicago Sisters stories. Maybe because there are some parts to Lucy I completely identify with, and maybe a part of this book hit very close to home. Probably both, plus the story telling talent that Amy Vastine has - that's a bonus.

Lucy is strong willed - fights from her heart - and yes, feels the need to be right. A lot, but hey, who doesn't? Right?

I thoroughly enjoyed how Vastine told us the story of one of Lucy's "clients" without getting into too much detail that it detracted from Lucy's story, but just enough to bring emotions bubbling up inside me about jerk husbands and the accurate thought process of an abused woman.

Lucy's reactions to her illness I thought were pretty straight forward and spot on. You can never assume someone is going to react the way you would in any given situation. Everyone has their buttons, their insecurities. Parts of themselves they want to protect. Parts of people they love that they want to protect. Even though Lu is flawed, and jaded, and probably made a few bad choices along the way, I happen to, for one, have enjoyed that aspect of the story, since - all of us are flawed, whether we like it or not. It's how we deal with and learn from those flaws that makes us who we are.

She came through and saw how to love again, and how to let herself be loved. I was so heartbreakingly happy for her for choosing that path in the end.

You will love love love the characters that Vastine introduces in this one. Like Dylan, and his elderly neighbor slash BFF, his grandson, Dylan's family - and talk about flawed. My favorite, nick-name giving ambulance medic was back of course, providing me with some comic relief, I adore Charlie to the end of time.

This entire series will own my heart for a long time to come. These sisters may fight, and even keep things from each other, from time to time, but they never forget, they're sisters. And they love each other.

Thanks Amy!

Anita says

Like a good Heartwarming, this book was clean, thought provoking and a happily ever after.

Lucy's had some hard things happen; she's made things harder for herself. For the most part I liked Lucy's character. I guess I had a hard time deciding who she was. She was incredibly strong and good. She was whiny and feeling sorry for herself. I realize what I am describing is just a normal person, but it was a bit of a roller-coaster and not all the time was I sure I liked the ride.

Dylan I liked. I felt that although his character was good and kind at the beginning of the book, he faced things and continued to grow. I especially loved that his relationship with his mother added a greater

maturity.

All the supporting characters were well done as well.

This book is a little more thought provoking than straight up romance. It has a message that I think we all need.

Rating: 4 Stars

Content: Clean, kissing, mild violence

Source: Netgalley

Kate Vale says

Part of the Chicago Sisters series, Lucy Everhart may be the oldest sister, but she has yet to come clean with her family about why her previous love affair with Dylan Hunt crashed and burned five years ago. Anyone who saw them together concluded they were perfect for each other. But since they split, they've gone in different directions. She is now legal counsel for Safe Haven, a women's shelter, which is struggling to stay open. He has joined his mother's high-powered legal firm, which helps the wealthy stay that way.

When Dylan represents a party offering to buy the building housing Safe Haven, Lucy sees red. How can he do this? Dylan is puzzled why Lucy reacts so personally to his quiet declaration that the offer he's presenting is fair. Not great, but fair.

How each of them deals with the sparks that result each time they have to meet gradually scrubs clean the layers that have kept Lucy's secret for all this time. Thank goodness things work out well in the end, though not without putting the reader through almost as much angst as the characters had to endure. Enjoy!

Books and Spoons says

Very well written story, that flowed nicely, keeping the interest through the book.

Two very important, serious issues were presented in the story, both domestic abuse and breast cancer. The fear of the unknown future, possible steps that need to be taken, and the uncertainty of everything, is palpable.

Dylan fast came one of my favorite heroes. He is truly loyal, solid, trustworthy, and kind person. His beliefs and motivations are good, and if the worst fault he has, is feeling too deeply, I let him have it. I loved how he got a totally new insight to his parents, whom he hadn't had a great relationship.

Lucy was not easy to like. Some of her reasoning and actions were off the chart. She was stubborn to the fault, often spoke in a rude manner without having all the facts presented. Her anger towards Dylan was unreasonable, you can't be mad at someone cause you left them, and asked them to leave you alone, and they do.

The patience and forgiveness Dylan has in his heart is nothing short of amazing.

After all the secrets come out, and they have a chance to work on the relationship, it takes an emotional road to get there. That part of the story was a kind of redemption to Lucy, I found some understanding towards her and her behavior.

Very important issues mixed with a second chance romance, and couple crazy families, are the makings of this emotionally charged, heartwarming tale

Lola says

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

I really enjoyed the first two books in this series and while this book also was good it was less good than the first two in my opinion. Lucy always was my least favourite sister of the three and I hoped that this book would change my opinion, but it didn't. I still disliked her and that made this a hard read. I did enjoy the book, Amy Vastine knows how to write romances and the flow was nice and the writing style, but the characters and romance just didn't work for me. What I liked most about this book was seeing the family interactions. Kendall and Emma, the two main characters of the previous two books, make frequent appearances and it was fun to see how they were doing and still getting part of their stories and happy endings as well as Lucy her story.

So Lucy is a character who I didn't like. I tried, but there was very little in her personality that I liked. She basically blames her ex-boyfriend for "letting her go" and not "fighting for her" while she broke up with him. And she's a bossy, aggressive person who can say harsh word and lie and make you believe it and I just felt like Dylan hadn't done anything wrong and Lucy didn't have anything to blame him for and it was just so frustrating seeing her be angry at Dylan while he was the nice guy who did what she asked of him and got nothing in return for it beside heartache. It should have been his decision as he nicely points out eventually and she took that away for him. It was his decision to make whether to stay with her, not hers. And grr this point just annoyed me to no end. Lucy is a pretty strong person who tries to force her beliefs on others. And while I admired that she fought for what she believed in I also thought she took it a little bit too far. Throwing away people their chips and mentioning it every time someone ate something what bad things were in it. Okay I get it she's vegan, but that's her decision, I didn't like her pushing it on others.

I am not sure what to think of Dylan one the one hand I think he got the worse end of the deal. Lucy broke up with him and he never got to hear why. He lived five years not really living and still loving Lucy and then when they meet each other again they are on opposite sides. In the end ofcourse it turns out well, but I think he did some nasty things as well. He used his skills and people knowledge to try and convince them to sell why he knew how much it mean tot Lucy. Ofcourse it's business, but I couldn't believe how he could to that to the women he loved. I also though it was frustrating how it kept being mentioned how he could read everyone, but not Lucy. Ofcourse at the reader we get's Lucy their point of view and do understand her and it was just annoying that Dylan couldn't. It just made his "ability" seem less worthwhile and less realistic. What also bothered me was that he had big dreams, but he didn't seem to care enough to actually chase them, he just stays were he is and doesn't even try to change things until towards the end of the book when he get's a sudden insight in his mother (who is also his boss) and talks with her.

I just didn't feel the romance. It's a weird combination of a second chance romance and an enemies to lovers romance. And I don't like enemies to lovers romance as they feel unrealistic to me and most of them I read so far I just don't feel the romance. Lucy was very hostile towards Dylan up until almost the end of the book. Dylan was still crazy in love with her, but she made it clear she wanted nothing to do with him. And she made that pretty verbally clear. She was nasty and said hurtful things and they fought more than they maked out. Ofcourse while she does says all those nasty things and that she doesn't want to do anything with him, she is actually still in love with him as well. I didn't like how she lied to Dylan about how she felt, just because she couldn't deal with things. The truth comes out towards the end and they solve things, but it was

too little too late. I never felt they had something between them. There are a few sweet scenes, but those were rare and the best few were at the end and at that point so many nasty and hurtful things were between them I saw no way they would make this work, but they did. They did it work, but it didn't work for me. I just didn't feel it.

The side characters were what makes this book shine. This author knows how to make the side characters part of a story and make them come alive. The Everhart family is pretty amazing, I loved how they are all there for Lucy even when Lucy keeps pushing them away, they are there to help there. Kendall has started her own family and we see more from her and the kids. And Simon and Jeremy were adorable. Eugene is probably my favourite new character of this book, he is Dylan's best friend and after what he has been through I admired how he still continued to live and enjoy his life and even care for his grandson. I thought it was pretty amazing how he managed that. There is a conversation towards the end of the book that illustrated just how much he went through and how much it still hurts and I felt so sad for him and for what he lost, but also admired him for how he went through life after all that. Dylan and Eugene their relationship reminded me a bit of Max and Charlie their relationship, they are best friends and neighbours and are there to help each other out.

To conclude: this is the last book in the Chicago sister series and while I enjoyed it, I thought the first two books were better. There are some great scenes and sweet moments. My favourite thing about this book was seeing how close their family was and seeing the sisters interact with each other, this time from another point of view. I also liked hearing how Kendall and Emma were doing. On the other hand I just didn't like the characters in this book, both Lucy and Dylan weren't likeable in my opinion and it was hard to enjoy the book fully because of that. I didn't feel the romance and it felt like they were fighting more and hurting each other than falling in love again or growing closer. It just didn't work for me. I would recommend this series to everyone who loves a good contemporary romance about a close family where each book features a different sister, it's a great series and I am glad I got the opportunity to read these books.

Mer says

I don't know where to start, I thought Lucy was stupid for what she did, but she was also selfless and a little insecure. I'm glad my idea of her changed in this book, she seemed like a really really tough gal in "The Better Man", I have to say I wasn't very fond of her back then. My heart went out to her and she became my favorite of all the Everhart sisters, I have to admit that I even cried at one point.

And Dylan.. such a rarity these days, I couldn't believe he was still in love with her after everything and all this time.

This is one book I'll will read again & again. I absolutely loved it!

Veronica says

The only reason I read this book to completion is I liked Dylan and I was avoiding my adult responsibilities. I did not like Lucy from the time she got them thrown out of the first basketball game. Also if you break up with someone, tell them you don't love them, and then tell them to leave you alone, you do not get to be mad that they didn't come after you. I'm sorry not chasing after someone who told you to leave them alone is

called respecting boundaries and being an adult. To top it off, Lucy's whole reason for breaking up with Dylan was because she had cancer and "thought it would be best." I have a hard time with stories with a cancer diagnosis in general but the whole cancer scare cliché at the end was just too much.

Angie says

A great story.

Megan says

I'm so sad this series is over! Not only is the city setting refreshing, but Amy Vastine has such a good handle on group dynamics, on interesting family dynamics, and on creating communities around her characters, I do genuinely feel sad that there'll be no more checking in with the Everharts and everyone surrounding them.

The best part of these books has been that the bad decisions--the mistakes--that the characters make are understandable. The characters aren't perfect, and that doesn't make them any less deserving of love. Vastine takes pains to depict her characters' mindsets and to not justify the choices made from their small, scared selves, but to still illustrate the why behind it, and the struggle for them to grow from there. This wasn't a perfect book, and there were things that raised my hackles, but there's so much interesting character goodness going on. I liked both crusader Lucy and the more placating Dylan a lot.

Also, Lucy finally figured out that Emma's been impersonating her in order to get free ice cream, and I laughed out loud. So even though this book did make me tear up, there was that.
