



## Lay Down the Law

*Carsen Taite*

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## **Lay Down the Law** Carsen Taite

Peyton Davis is part rancher, part federal prosecutor, and all Texan. Strong and steady, she's known for keeping her cool in every situation, but when she meets the beautiful and accomplished heiress to the Gantry oil fortune, she falls fast and hard. When she learns her new assignment is to investigate the Gantry family's business, her entire belief system will be tested.

Lily Gantry leads a privileged and protected life and she has no idea it's all about to blow up in her face. What she does know is that the striking rancher she met at the Cattle Baron's Ball has the potential to steal her heart. Will she feel the same way when she finds out Peyton Davis's investigation threatens not only her family's fortune, but the very foundation of her identity?

## **Lay Down the Law Details**

Date : Published April 21st 2015 by Bold Strokes Books (first published April 19th 2015)

ISBN : 9781626393363

Author : Carsen Taite

Format : Paperback 264 pages

Genre : Glibt, Lesbian, Mystery, Romance, Lesbian Fiction, Lgbt, Crime

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## **From Reader Review Lay Down the Law for online ebook**

### **Kristy Drexel says**

This book drew me in right from the first chapter It was an intense story and kept me guessing throughout the whole story. I'm excited to see where I he author goes with the main characters in the next book

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### **Diane says**

Great series!

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### **Alena says**

ARC

Solid piece of lesfic. Likeable, well-developed characters coming with their own sets of family issues. I really enjoyed reading about both their families and their world.

The last third was exciting and fast paced legal thriller material, but unfortunately it was also very rushed. A story and characters that were so carefully developed at the beginning really deserved more. An extra shame as Taite is a capable writer who could have done more with this story. It seems sort of unfinished, and I generally don't like that about individual titles of a series. They should still feel complete on their own.

I enjoyed it while reading it, but the sudden ending kind of soured it for me.

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### **Joc says**

This is a fast-paced exciting read but it is much more about the mystery and crime than it is about the romance. Peyton and Lily spend remarkably little time together and most of what happens is parallel journey rather than one of unity. I'm trying to decide whether to read book two or not because I don't feel Peyton and Lily's story is over and the blurbs of the subsequent books don't allude to them at all.

I had hoped that this series would be like Radclyffe's Honor series in that there is a central couple with each book dealing with another couple but keeping the original couple in the limelight while continuing the crime story.

As is stands, it has a good premise which will be interesting to follow.

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### **Lexxi Kitty says**

This is my fifth work I've read by Taite, and fourth book.

My favorite of the bunch still remains the first, the short story I'd read in that 'Girls with Guns' book. Which is strange, in its way, since that had actually been a short story that is both chronologically and by publication date, something that had occurred after the Luca Bennett trilogy.

This book here is not actually the fifth work I'd started by Taite, though. No that would have been 'Above the Law'. Which I only realized after I'd read 12% that I didn't have a clue what was going on - because I was reading the second book in a series. So I paused my reading of that second book.

Dale Nelson is in the first book, but is very much something of a side character. Important, but I'm not sure that I'd even put her up to even third most important in the book. No the two most important would be those with points of view. That would be Peyton Davis, and Lily Gantry.

Peyton Davis is an assistant USA attorney (AUSA). A US Attorney is president appointed (as in USA President), and is the chief federal law enforcement officer within their jurisdiction. An Assistant USA Attorney is not president appointed and could be among as many as 350 AUSAs who work for a particular US Attorney. Peyton grew up on a ranch in north Texas, and wandered off to college and law school before joining the government as a AUSA in Washington DC. The book opens with her return to her hometown as a local AUSA.

She's back to head up a task force focused on a Mexican crime cartel. Even before she can get herself settled, and before she is even supposed to report to work for the first time, Peyton is called in to visit a crime scene. A trailer full of dead bodies. The mystery part of the story has begun.

Lily white - adjective meaning 'pure or ideally white. Without fault or corruption; totally innocent or immaculate'. I'm not sure what Lily Gantry's birth name had been, it might have even been Lily. But it hadn't been Gantry, and, to put it crudely, Lily's coloration is a topic of concern for her personally. In that her family are all quite pale in coloration. She? She's quite a bit darker, brownish. Definitely not 'lily white'. For she was adopted into the family. A off-spring of a woman from Mexico had been adopted into the oil rich Gantry family. She sees her parents as hers, they've treated her as such, and, other than the obviousness of her 'difference look', she's their daughter, even if not by blood. Not that everyone in the extended family, or, for that matter, others in her class (specifically one Virginia Taylor - but then the Taylor's are also in the oil business, and rivals with the Gantry oil company - they probably would not have been best friends anyway).

Lily has been out of the country until about six or so months before the start of this book. She's highly educated with a degree in engineering, and with several patents in alternate fuel sources.

Peyton and Lily circle each other, and something of a budding romance begins . . . before it abruptly and rudely stops. Is interrupted. Some words that convey this idea. Interrupted by events. For, as noted, Peyton is a AUSA. Head of a task force. And her first taste of that case lead her to a crime scene involving a trailer filled with dead bodies. A trailer that is later found out to be owned by Gantry oil. In and of itself not a 'interrupting' type of event. I mean, they had reported the trailer stolen. No, it's the part where this revelation that the trailer is Gantry owned, lead to Peyton learning that there's a case currently being worked on in her office against the Gantry family. Kind of puts a different twist to a budding romance, hmm?

I've read books before where two circle each other, even if they shouldn't, because of 'cases being worked on'. But this one has an interesting twist on that theme - Peyton and Lily were circling each other before

Peyton even learned of there being any case that may or may not involve the Gantry family.

So - that's going on. A mystery involving a Mexican cartel, a Texas oil business, and a budding romance. Plus, not yet mentioned, a big old 'family issue' taking place within Peyton's own family involving her family farm and her family. Her dad has health issues, and the oldest son has taken it upon himself to take charge. Despite the fact the mother is still there and technically is the owner of the place. And despite the fact that his ideas do not mesh with family heritage and desires. So, that's in there as well. Family drama circling both of the main characters.

Oh, and one last bit - I'd mentioned that Lily was adopted, well that is a theme in the book as well - and more than just the part wherein Lily is browner than the rest of her family. No, there's also this 'family trust' issue that comes up in the book, and certain potential 'issues' that crop up.

An enjoyable book. The Dale character is kind of thin, though has some meat - but as mentioned, she might star in the next book, but isn't even third most important in this book. Peyton and Lily seem well formed.

A good solid four star book.

May 27 2016

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## **Velvet Lounger says**

Posted as the first of a new series of Lone Star Law crime/romances Lay Down the Law uses Ms Taite's excellent courtroom experience and sets up a new legal hotshot.

Peyton Davis returns to her childhood home to find the family at loggerheads, her father in decline and the ranch looking unkempt. While trying to deal with all the changes that have happened while she has been a main Justice in DC, AUSA Davis is also dropped unceremoniously into her new job as taskforce leader chasing Mexican drug cartel.

Her instant attraction to the stunning Lily Gantry at the Cattle Baron's Ball seems to be a beacon of light in an otherwise fairly heavy homecoming. But the Gantry family have issues of their own. Southern belle Lily is being bullied to sign an odd codicil to her trust fund, and increasingly wants to go in search of her birth parents. As the story unfolds their attraction becomes more of a problem than an escape and the plot lines come together into one big problem for Peyton Davis to unravel.

As always Ms Taite writes strong legal thrillers with a good mix of romance, action, crime drama, and insider knowledge. Her writing is well structured and edited, easy to read and enjoyable escapism. I will admit to some disbelief in the amount of time the new AUSA spent away from her taskforce at critical moments, it did seem a little unrealistic and allowed rather obvious mechanisms in the plot

Peyton is a great new Justice with strong morals and obvious intelligence. The Davis family is intriguing with a whole history to explore as the series unfolds, unusually matriarchal – Peyton's relationship with her brothers gives an extra layer of tension and her mother is a woman to be reckoned with. Peyton is often between her desire for justice and her love of the land – opening up an ongoing personal battle for her to manage.

Lily is a delightful character, determined to break out of the constraints of a 'princess' lifestyle, she wants to

earn a living, contribute to the community and explore her own past, all the while balancing her social obligations, her inbuilt good manners and her love for the adoptive parents.

Casen Taite BioI love Carsen Taite's books – Courtship and Switchblade were two of my favorite reads last year. When I heard a new one was in the pipeline I was really excited to get hold of it. But this one fell short. The first 85% was good and I was enjoying the build, the crime plot is complex and interesting, the family life adds a great backdrop and added drama, and the romance was struggling enjoyably. But the last 15% or so was a complete let down.

Without giving spoilers the ending was rushed in the extreme, the crime was suddenly cracked, Lily's family mystery abruptly solved, while the Davis family drama was left hanging despite its obvious tie in to the main plot. It maybe that the various lose ends will be picked up in the next book, but this just felt unfinished, as if a word count limit had forced the author to miss out a couple of chapters. While this might not have been the deepest of crime romances it was an enjoyable read and offered the tantalizing thought of a series to come. The ending left me extremely unsatisfied.

(publisher review copy received)

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### **Ty says**

3.5 stars, only because the ending was super abrupt. I think this is part of a series, so I get the need to leave some loose ends. But the book should still be able to find some natural conclusion.

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### **Mirtha Siblesz says**

#### **Well done!**

This was a very suspenseful story! The characters were very well developed and the plot was as intense as it could be from start to finish. I feel unresolved about what will happen with Peyton's family and the ranch issues and her brother Neil. Looking forward to the next book in the series.

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### **Lex Kent says**

3 1/2 Stars. Lay Down the Law is the first book in a newer series for Carsen Taite. Based in Texas, you're dealing with characters from the social elite and law enforcement to Mexican drug cartels. The two main characters are pretty likeable, except I feel like I have not really got to know them yet. The characters are not very fleshed out. I'm hoping that will change in future series books. The action and "crime" part of the book was pretty good. There was a lot going on so it's keeps you turning the page. The problem is I think all the crime and action, took away from the romance. The characters have so much craziness going on, they don't have time to be in a relationship. Because of these outside factors, the romance went from luke-warm to "I love you, were gonna raise children together" ...What, where did that come from? How are we suppose to believe that's where they are after two small dates? It's a bit of a pet peeve, of mine, when Lesfic romances jump like this U-haul stereotype. Anyway, I still have hope for this series. Hope that the next book with fix the problems of this first one. I

would recommend this as I think there was enough action to make this book an enjoyable enough read.

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### **Milkiways says**

Started really well and rushed towards the end. This book could have been much better than it is now with little more magic with words. Wasn't an awesome read like Carsen Taite's other books but definitely no disappointment either!

Rating: 3.5/5

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### **Penny says**

I was really invested in the family drama of both the main characters. The plot was fairly structured, the pace was going on well, the romance part was exciting with the whole "falling for the enemy" thing. This book had everything to be an incredible legal thriller. That is.. up until the author rushed with everything in the end, giving a few forced and unbelievable explanations or, worse, didn't giving any explanation at all.

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### **Tq says**

Great read! Carsen will keep you intrigued and turning pages. Love the main characters. Couldn't put it down.

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### **Heinerway says**

Quite interesting story but... the ending is way too rushed and leaves many, many questions unanswered.

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### **Loek Krancher says**

**I love it. What a great story.**

Two totally different worlds, drama, action and a awesome love story. I feel that there will be a sequel because not everything is told. I hope that this will really happen and that we do not have to wait too long. Great job Carsen Taite.

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### **Amanda says**

I feel as though I need to start this review with a disclaimer. I really like Carsen Taite as an author. I enjoy almost every book I read of hers. I purchased Above the Law and Lay down the Law at the same time. I

usually devour her books. Start the book and stay up all night to find out what happens type of book. This book was not that book. I feel as though the relationship was rushed even for two lesbians. They really didn't know one another, and I can't imagine how they were attached at all to one another. I just didn't much care for the romance, and the mystery/suspense wasn't enough to keep me entertained. For me this was a bust, and what usually takes me one day I spread out over several while reading other bits of entertainment in between.

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