



Playing Dirty

HelenKay Dimon

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As an elite Alliance agent—the joint undercover operation of MI6, the British Secret Intelligence Service, and the CIA—Ford Decker lives for the adrenaline. But when he befriends sexy property manager Shay Alexander in hopes of finding her cousin, a known national security threat, Ford crosses the line, getting to know her better . . . in bed.

After being burned by her last relationship, Shay wants to take things slow. Yet she can't keep her hands off the drop-dead gorgeous hottie who's moved into her apartment building. So when Ford's identity as an undercover agent is exposed, his betrayal cuts deep. Shay never wants to see him again, but Ford can't let her go, not when her life is still in danger. He will sacrifice everything to protect her, then be prepared to walk away from the only woman he's ever loved, even if it breaks him.

Playing Dirty Details

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Author : HelenKay Dimon

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary, Suspense, Contemporary Romance, War, Military Fiction

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From Reader Review *Playing Dirty* for online ebook

Izy says

ARC generously provided by the publisher via edelweiss in exchange for an honest review

Rating~ 3.5 stars

Ford Decker/Adam Ford is on a undercover mission to find the man that has a stolen a deadly toxin with no cure. He is the leader for the team Barvo of the Alliance agency. Ford left the CIA and joined the Alliance after his partner was murdered. Her really doesn't like the boundaries messing with his operation and has problems with authority.

Shay alexander is a property manager for her uncle. Unknown to her, her genius cousin is the one who stole the toxin. She recently found that the guy she had been dating was only getting close to her to get close to her uncle for his money and status.

Ford was supposed to keep a watch on Shay not get in bed with her or have a relationship with her but he couldn't help himself. He really liked her. For Shay, it was only supposed to be a fling because of the fiasco with her but now months later Shay wants more than Ford disappearing but doesn't know how to tell him.

I did think Shay was a bit naive in the way that she saw all the signs yet ignored them believing Ford what he said especially after she visited his cando a couple of times and saw the state of it and because of what happened with her ex. She should have shown a bit more mistrust.

The action part of the book was quite heavy in the book because of which the romance suffered a bit but it was ultimately ok since that part kept me interested to know what was going to happen next. The whole crime fighting thing is one thing apart from romance that I really enjoy watching and reading.

I did like Shay and Ford together, he was sweet and protective of her and she was caring and understanding towards a guy who she thought loved his work and had a thing for weird t-shirts such as piglets playing poker or possums.

Quibbles: Maybe it's just me but Ford and his team literally threatened everyone, talked about death so causally and I didn't understand Ford's issue with the Brit's or Harlan. Ford and his team also this issue of not following orders given to them by their bosses which I find disconcerting because I don't you should have an operative in the field that is a wild card or could disregard orders which doesn't suit him. I also wanted a lot more groveling from Ford after all he did lie to her for months and not just about his career but everything else as well. Lastly, I would have loved a flashback to when Shay and Ford first met and an epilogue.

Overall, it was a pretty decent read and I will definitely be reading more books from the author. *Happy Reading!*

P.s Whats the deal with the cover on the guy, he kinds looks like Adrian Pasdar you know the guy who played Nathan Petrelli in Heroes.

Shannon says

Playing Dirty

The Characters

I don't even remember. That tells us much.

The Story

I give up on HKD books. I've read, from people I trust, how good they are but I can never make it past the first few chapters. Maybe I'm not patient enough.

The Random Thoughts

*DNF so no rating

Carol Storm says

I didn't finish this book, but it's not because I didn't like it. I just renewed it too many times and the library wanted it back!

What I love most about this book is the heroine, Shay. She's not a virgin, and she never pretends that she's not interested in sex. She wants a relationship with the hero and she is honest about it, but she doesn't pretend she isn't enjoying all the sex in the meantime. She's so different from the annoying virgins that most authors still need to put into their stories.

I liked Ford okay, but the plot of the book was a distraction. There's something really annoying to me about these books that feature "top secret" government agents who are so secret that government itself can't actually control them. What I especially disliked was the way that Ford and his bodies run around acting like corrupt cops in Chicago or LA, i.e., holding suspects without charges, beating them, extorting confessions, etc. all in the name of "homeland security." The author doesn't even bother to defend these actions, or to describe their long range consequences for society, or even their emotional impact on the hero. She just thinks this stuff "builds the hero up" the same way a duke just has to have his own castle and his own membership at White's. But I was pretty disturbed by the whole thing.

Over all, though, I'm still giving this book four stars because Shay was such a kick ass heroine, and because I really liked Ward and Tasha. Does anyone know if they have a book of their own yet?

? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

Deep undercover work is never as conflicted as when a suspect becomes a lover. Ford Decker is a secret agent working a dangerous case. His cover is a computer fix it guy which Shay Alexander buys easily. Shay

is a property manager who is befriended by sexy Ford. Even though Ford is supposed to not get mixed up with Shay, somehow he ends up in her bed. This is premise that has train wreck written all over it. It is never good to find out one is being played. In this situation, Shay is being used as a means to an end - finding her missing genius cousin.

The story is attention grabbing. Ms. Dimon is a new to me author and one I'm adding on my list of authors I enjoy reading and will follow. This romantic suspense is a nice balance between romance and the thrill of spying suspense. The male agents in this elite covert ops group are alpha and sexy. It's an attractive combination many female readers will appreciate. Whilst there are plenty of books hitting the shelves in this genre, Ms. Dimon will be one which stands out, similar to author Maya Banks. This is because Ms. Dimon creates good solid characters as well as an engaging story. The intrigue in this book isn't simple and it's not convoluted with impossible situations.

This book moves at a good pace. The sex scenes are slow and romantic. The suspense scenes are intense and fast paced - just how I like them. The characters are also snarky which is always a win for me.

Ward didn't hesitate, probably because he knew the team viewed silence as approval.

"You can't kill him."

"The word you're looking for is 'shouldn't.' "

West took up his usual position, slightly away from the group and leaning against the wall.

"I really could do it." (kindle loc. 2687-2690)

When do we get to learn more about West? Because this is hilarious to me. Just sociopathic enough to pull me in and want to learn more. Dangerous is quite sexy. This book is recommended to romantic suspense lovers who enjoy Maya Banks and Suzanne Brockmann.

**provided by Edelweiss*

Cecilia says

Purchased this while it was cheap, read because camping.

The majority of the book is told from the hero's perspective so the emphasis of the book is on the action relating to Worldwide Doom Toxin. Periodically there's a sex scene between him and the heroine, who is his mark in this whole operation. There is little character development on her side, and on his side it's all Drama and Guilt and Muscles. Not my cup of tea.

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

I closed Playing Dirty as a did not finish at approximately 30% and a little over 100 pages.

There are a few things I expect when I go into any romance novel. I want the love story, the romance. The first time Ford and Shay are on the pages together (opening chapter 2) they have been sleeping together for a few weeks. As a reader this was a huge disappointment. I have no idea how he charmed himself into her life. I just know he is there. This would not have bothered me in a novella length read. With the amount of pages of a full length novel I wanted the full details of the initial meet and greet.

The odd flow didn't stop there. I was robbed of the heat and passion that led up to the first sex scene. Chapter 8 open mid scene with Shay riding her way to bliss. It would have been nice to read the romance that keeps Shay and Ford in bed together. I'm told plenty that they are over the moon attracted to each other. I didn't get to read the events that created these feelings.

By the time I chose to give up on this book Shay and Ford had been given a few pages where they were together interacting and giving me some dialogue to follow into their quasi relationship. At this point I just couldn't care enough about how they get to their happily ever after. Considering I didn't know how they even met and decided a roll in the bed (repeatedly for weeks) was a good idea.

Kini says

enjoyable, but too much focus on the suspense for me.

Crystal ♥ RBtWBC says

Not sure how I feel about this one...

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Review now posted...

Terrorists and traitors and spies, oh my!

Playing Dirty is the first book in HelenKay Dimon's *Bad Boys Undercover* series and it's a sexy, fast paced tale. There's a whodunit type mystery involved with lots of twists and turns.

Ford and Shay are great characters, both with pasts they can't seem to leave there – in the past. They're attracted to each other and their sexual chemistry is off the charts, but they just can't seem to ... trust or open their hearts to one another. I suppose that makes sense on Ford's part given that Shay is an unwitting player in his mission to find a potentially deadly 'terrorist', not someone he should be falling in love with.

I truly enjoyed *Playing Dirty*. The world Ms. Dimon has created is more than a little exciting and definitely intriguing. Then, add-in the amazing cast and this is a series not to be missed!

An ARC was provided by Avon Books. In appreciation I'm giving them an honest review.

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyrarker says

******Full Review******

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Commanding men, sinister terrorist plot, sexy bedroom scenes, and double dealing all lead to a romantic suspense story that is hot in more ways than one. Ford is former CIA now working for a very off the books government group called Alliance. Alliance also includes former MI6 and other tips of the spear military members. Coming off of a botched mission, Ford the leader of Bravo team is doing a little undercover work to get close to Shay, the cousin to a suspected terrorist. They have instant chemistry and Ford finds himself getting a lot closer to Shay than he originally anticipated. As missing deadly toxin vials and cat and mouse games with deadly consequences swirl around them, Ford is forced to decide what he'll compromise to keep Shay safe and Shay is left questioning if the man she loves is the true Ford.

This is an incredibly quick moving story; key players are constantly making moves that keep you turning the pages anxious to see where it is all going to lead. The strength is definitely in the suspense plot with the reader wondering how much is Shay's cousin really involved in the terrorist plot and who the mole is. Although, in the beginning when all the members of Alliance are kind of clustery thrust at the reader and who is who is being learned, things were a little muddled but about thirty percent in I was able to get into the flow of the story. Alliance and its members is the central core of the story with the terrorist plot/mole and Ford's romance with Shay branching off of that. Ford and Shay's relationship is strong throughout the story but they definitely get lost in the mix at times. Individuals looking for some romance in their suspense stories will fare better here than those looking for the vice versa.

As this is told from more of Ford's perspective he is the stronger character. He has a realness and ease that will have reader's instantly connecting with him. Also, let's be honest, his capability in and out of the bedroom and the way he loves Shay will have him starring in a couple of fantasies. Due to all of these strong components, the character of Shay doesn't pack much of a punch. Her limited screen time interactions with Ford consisting of a lot of sexual foreplay/activity and musings if Ford is trustworthy leave her relegated to the background. They are hot together but the fact that Shay doesn't discover who Ford is until very late in the book leave her an outsider to the story and the reader.

The introduction of all the characters might overwhelm you at first but as you get to know them, you'll be secretly wishing for each and everyone to get their own story. It's a well crafted, thought out, intriguing characters, with sex scenes that are on point book. If *Playing Dirty* is any indication to what the rest of the books in the *Bad Boys Undercover* series are going to be like, then sign me up for them all.

Lisa Filipe says

Gripping Suspense, and Sizzling Sex...Who could ask for more?

PLAYING DIRTY is the perfect title for this New Romance Suspense by HelenKay Dimon, the first full novel in the Bad Boys Undercover Series released through Avon Romance. Ford is forced to "Play Dirty" with Shay in more ways than one...and the "fun" ways are off the charts smokin hot, their chemistry literally burns the pages!

The not so fun part of the "Playing" and "Dirty" comes back to bite Ford in the ass, with Shay in the middle of the Op, what can you do when the woman who you have fallen for finds out you're not the man who she thought you were, and her personal life is falling apart at the seams. The emotions run deep in PLAYING DIRTY, yes, the suspense is spot on and the action is jam packed, but HelenKay brings on the emotion full force with PLAYING DIRTY and I loved it!

Romance Suspense fans...PLAYING DIRTY is a Must Read!!

Jane Stewart says

DNF read 97 pages and the last few pages.

I want character development and relationship development, but this felt like TV style action writing - good guys hunting bad guys. It's a cardboard story. Nothing pulled me in.

Page 17: the author skipped how Shay and Ford met and how they began having sex. She just tells (not shows) that they met 3 weeks earlier and sex started 2 days after they met. Boring.

Page 44: more telling not showing. Author says Shay's friends joked about her making him up, she moved plans around, she never brought Ford to meet them. Very unsatisfying.

Page 46: Ford invites Shay to dinner and the scene stops. It doesn't show them going to dinner. It skips to next scene with Ford hunting bad guys in Paris.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 370 pages. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words but not often used. Sexual language: mild in first sex scene. Number of sex scenes: don't know. Setting: current day various locations US and Europe. Copyright: 2015. Genre: romantic suspense.

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

This review can also be found at [Carole's Random Life](#).

4 Stars!

After reading the novella that starts this series, Running Hot, I jumped at the chance to first full length novel in the series. I have always enjoyed a fast paced, exciting romantic suspense and this story did not disappoint. As with most romantic suspense stories, there were more than a few things that happen in this story that go beyond realistic but I was more than satisfied with this highly entertaining novel.

Ford is an Alliance agent, which is similar to a CIA agent. He often finds himself in very dangerous situations and frequently works undercover. He is tasked with the assignment of trying to get information from the suspect's cousin, Shay. The book opens with Ford already working on his undercover assignment - Shay.

Shay works as a property manager for her uncle. She has started seeing the new tenant and is unsure of their status, but starts to let Ford into her life more and more and time passes. Not only does Shay have a new man in her life to worry about, she is incredibly worried about her cousin who she has not heard from recently.

This book had a lot of action and excellent pacing. I really liked Shay a lot and thought she was an excellent character. She doesn't try to pressure Ford into any kind of relationship and is willing to accept what he has to offer. Ford's character changed depending on his role. I loved Ford's personality anytime he spent time with Shay. I didn't like the fact that he spent a lot of time misleading her but that was part of his job. When Ford was on the job, he seemed tough, competent, but argumentative and not quite as likable.

I liked the chemistry between Ford and Shay. It was obvious that Shay had become much more than a job quite early in the book. I thought the story was well written and I absolutely loved the scenes with Ward and Tasha. I would recommend this book to fans of romantic suspense. I can't wait to read the next installment in this fast paced series.

I received a copy of this book from Avon Books via Edelweiss for the purpose of providing an honest review.

Keri says

2.5 Stars; I struggled with all the 4 letter names, between Ford, West and Ward, I was confused at times and would have to stop and think who was who and what they were to do. I also didn't feel Ford and Shay's romance because by the time the scene started, Ford had been in place for a couple of weeks and already sleeping with Shay. It was just sex to me. Now having said that, I feel that the series has potential and I would like to read about some of the characters coming up. P.S. Sleeping with someone to gain information left me with a slimy feel, hence some of my rating.

Mara says

This is a note to myself. It's not, nor is intended as, a review.

Kindle deal, and reading the reviews I understand why the need of a push. Plenty of Dnf or meh. I read the sample to see if I might have been interested enough to buy.

I'm not. The sample was too bland, and had already two wth moments: heroine had sex with hero 2 days after meeting him and military hero passing as IT. Yep, I can sooo see an elite military soldier as a nerd. Nope. Have you ever worked in IT? Snort. Not all nerds are, well, nerd stereotypes, but there's quite a difference between someone who keeps himself fit, and military fit. I know from experience :)

And I have no problems with hookups, but I need to see the reasons for this. (The 'no shit in your house' rule

should otherwise apply.)
