



Chasing Shadows

Catherine Bybee

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An Amazon Charts and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller.

Falling in love can come with the most unexpected risks in this *First Wives* novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Catherine Bybee.

Avery Grant doesn't date. Her first marriage was a mutually beneficial contract that gave her the financial freedom she needed to step away from her controlling parents. Wealthy and single, the last thing she's looking for is love sneaking in to mess up her life plans. And after a brutal attack, she's determined to never be vulnerable again, even if the new man in her life helps her feel safe.

Mesmerized from the moment he sets his eyes on Avery, Liam is driven to learn everything about this tough, sexy, challenging woman. Breaking down her defenses won't be easy, but Liam refuses to be pushed away. All he needs is a tiny crack in Avery's armor to wiggle his way into her heart.

But when a terrifying lie about her attacker's fate comes to light, Avery's past returns to haunt her. Now she's willing to put herself in danger to get the answers she needs. That means jeopardizing the best thing that's ever happened to her: Liam.

Chasing Shadows Details

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Author : Catherine Bybee

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From Reader Review Chasing Shadows for online ebook

Michele says

See the full review at HarlequinJunkie.com - Actual Rating: 4.5 Stars

A novel about female empowerment, putting the past to rest, and of course, finding The One, Chasing Shadows shows Catherine Bybee at her best—putting her characters through their paces while making her readers smile, laugh, gasp and sigh accordingly.

‘She was a warrior.
Which was a hell of a lot better than being a victim.’

I am so loving this First Wives series! Catherine Bybee is an auto-buy author for me anyway, but there’s something quite special about the relationship these female characters have together. It’s the kind of friendship I think most women strive for; to have friends you can turn to for anything, whether it’s a shoulder to cry on, to walk you through the tough times, or to share the happy moments...and bring the wine. (lol)
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Samantha (WLABB) says

Rating: 3.5 Stars

Avery had not been the same since her brutal attack. One year later, and she is still haunted by the memories of her attacker. She made attempts to make herself feel safer, but she still needed to confront her issues stemming from that fateful day last year in NY.

Overall, I really enjoyed Avery's story. Watching her fade since her attack was hard, and she didn't seem to be making much progress toward her recovery. Yes, she was physically recovered, but mentally and emotionally, she was just putting bandaids on her wounds.

The first wives were busy celebrating marriages and engagements, and I wanted Avery to be able to find her happy with someone too. That someone came in the form of a fabulous contractor named Liam.

I immediately loved Liam. He was funny and sweet, and exactly the type of person Avery needed to help her begin living again. I thought the interactions between Liam and Avery were fun and flirty, but what really made me love him was seeing him with his sister and his niece. Those two women had him wrapped around their little fingers, and he was more than happy to do their bidding. The love he had for his family was so obvious and wonderful, and I knew right then, that he was a keeper.

As always, the whole gang got some page time, and it is always fun spending quality time with the other first wives and their significant others. It reminds me how lucky they are to have each other, and also, how much mayhem they can get into.

Fun and games aside, I was happy Avery got the closure she needed with respect to her attack. It was a new beginning for her, and allowed her to put quite a few of her inner demons to rest.

My only complaint was that I wish Liam and Avery had more time together on page. I adored these two, and wanted to see them have more fun with each other.

The book had a really cute ending, and there was a lot of groundwork laid for Shannon's story, which I am excited about it.

*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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***Avonna says**

Check out all of my reviews at: <https://www.avonnalovesgenres.com>

CHASING SHADOWS (First Wives #3) by Catherine Bybee is a contemporary romance that had me on an emotional roller-coaster from the very first chapter. This is the third book in the series and Avery's story. This book can be read as a standalone, but all of the women in the First Wives Club appear and interact in this book because of Trina's wedding.

Avery Grant finally has the financial freedom to live life on her own terms. Her divorce contract left her financially well off and she is now working a job she loves. Avery is a one-night-stand kind of girl who avoids commitment since her divorce. This works well for her until a brutal attack (which occurs in book #2). After a long recovery, Avery starts taking Krav Maga classes vowing to never be a victim again.

Liam Holt sees Avery after a class in a local bar and is immediately intrigued. Liam wants to be the man in Avery's life. He is charming, sexy and willing to put up with all of Avery's arguments against dating. She tells him she is a bad bet, but he will not be put off.

When Avery starts having flashbacks of her attack, new clues come to light. Avery is determined to find the man who nearly killed her no matter the consequences to herself or her relationship with Liam.

I could not put this book down! Avery is such a strong and complex heroine. I cried and laughed with her. She goes from carefree to victim to survivor to warrior in such an amazing character story arc. The author shows how Avery allows Liam into her heart step by step with love and laughter. Liam is the perfect book boyfriend in every way for Avery. This is a beautiful step-by-step romance that just hits all of the right notes. How the author handled Avery's reaction to the discovery of her attacker was unique and had me in tears.

This is a great addition to the First Wives series that I highly recommend!

Treena says

Thank you to Montlake Romance and NetGalley for giving me an ARC of this book. The review below is entirely my own opinion.

I think in order to fully appreciate and understand Avery's story, one should read books 1&2 of the series first. Otherwise, imo, some things will not be as significant and there are mentions of characters from the previous two books.

Because I did read the first two books, I can say that I loved how much Avery has grown from book 1. It was awesome to see her blossom in this book and I liked getting to know her more. She totally deserves her HEA and Liam is a great partner for her. They make a great couple!

I must say though that book 2 still remains as my favorite of the series.

Can't wait to read Shannon's story!

TJ says

4.5/5.0

Love the heroine! I wasn't sure if I would like Avery very much judging from previous books, but Ms. Bybee squeezed, twisted and wrenched until I finally admit, I absolutely adore this character! She is such a strong woman, one who doesn't give up but is capable of such strong love. There were a few small blips but nothing that would seriously jeopardize this lovely story.

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

So enjoyed this one!!

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I had read another book that was similar in theory to the First Wives Club and I thought it was the same author and the continuation of that series. However, this is a different series than the one I was thinking of and it turned out to be a great choice.

I love how some authors just make you feel at home with their book. You're not trying to figure out what's going on. You're just enjoying the story. And that's what happened with this book.

The characters were great. The First Wives friends are an awesome group of women that are completely supportive of everyone. And I absolutely love Liam. He was so kind and sweet; understanding and sexy as hell.

The story is a little different than what I expected with a woman who is recovering from violent act. I love that she has taken control and knows what she wants. Plus, the bit of mystery and suspense was fabulous addition too.

Overall story is wonderful and definitely one series that I would love to continue to read.

\* copy received for review consideration

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## **Carvanz says**

With each book from this series I think it's the best one yet...so yeah, this is the best one yet. I never expected to love them as much as I do but dang, they just keep getting better and better until I can't get enough of them.

We learned about Avery in the previous books and I was really curious to find out what her full story was going to look like. While you don't necessarily have to read them, there is some background information to help you understand more fully what she has been through. She has definitely developed into one tough heroine and I loved how this author had her "chasing shadows" and the ultimate outcome of the chase. Color me surprised...and pleased.

I am a huge fan of Liam. He was just so perfect. He instinctively knew what would cause Avery to run and he avoided those things at all cost even as he slowly courted her and pulled her into his life. There was the potential for a lot of push and pull but that's not what we got and again I was a happy reader.

I loved watching Liam and Avery together as they practiced krav maga together. The fact that even then Liam didn't want to hurt her, while knowing practicing these skills was for her benefit, made me love him. I adored each time I got his point of view and he absolutely made my heart swoon. I rarely swoon.

I don't think this is a fast paced story but I really don't know. Once I started I couldn't stop. I found myself devouring every word and then suddenly it was the end and I just wanted more. Also, I was so wrapped up in the relationship Liam was building with Avery that the steam factor didn't really stick out to me. But I assure you, it was there. All the women from the first wives club is present as well as some new characters that helped to add depth to this hero and heroine as they interacted with each other. There was one little villainy type situation that had me scratching my head because it didn't go anywhere. Either I completely misread it, the character may come up in a later book, or it is simply a loose end.

Overall, this is a wonderful book with some great romancing-the-heroine romance as well as a bit of mystery. I absolutely loved it and can't wait for the next book in the series.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book provided by NetGalley and Montlake Romance. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Multi POV – mostly H/h

Safe (view spoiler)

Triggers (view spoiler)

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## **Mindy Lou's Book Review says**

Please bare with me because I really just want to swoon all over Liam. If I could dedicate this whole review to him, he is worthy BUT I won't cause I gotta say that Avery really surprised me. I should talk about her first cause she has been there from book 1 in the series and Liam is new. Besides, I like to save the best for last anyway.

Ok, so Avery was a character in the first two books that I just wasn't too sure about. She came off a bit shallow, maybe a bit spoiled, and a tad bit immature in the first two books. You do also get to see a very protective side to her when it came to her girls so she did have redeeming qualities. I just wasn't sure how much I was going to like her as a main character.

I really love when an author proves me wrong. Granted Avery experienced a trauma in book 2 which explains some of the shift in her character but she wasn't so different that you didn't recognize her. I liked her a lot. You learn a lot about her background and why she was flighty in the first place. It also explained why she had a hard time letting Liam in.

Now for my favorite part....Liam. Liam is going in to my top favorite heroes. I loved him from the moment he was introduced all the way to the end. I fell farther and farther for him every step of the way. What I loved about him the most is that he took one look at Avery and knew he needed to know her and he wasn't going to stop until he did. One of the best features in a man is knowing what he wants and going after it.

Liam learns right away that Avery is skittish and the way he handled her was perfection. I think I am actually going to be vague about his pursuit. It's something to experience for yourself. I was completely charmed and want to find more heroes just like him. This is one of those books where I could easily start back at the beginning and immediately re-read it. It's safe to say that I recommend it.

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### ♥Rachel♥ says

Last year Avery barely survived a brutal attack and remembers next to nothing about it. Previously, Avery's been outspoken and up for a good time, but the attack has changed her. Not that she's now a shrinking violet, but she's more thoughtful and serious. Also, she's taken up krav maga determined to be able to defend herself should she ever be in a vulnerable situation again.

While defending herself from a handsy barfly, Avery captures the attention of Liam, a nice, normal building contractor, who soon starts taking krav maga to get close, and the sparks fly between them! Liam isn't like the men Avery usually tangles with, satisfied with having a brief physical affair, and then moving on quickly. Liam wants more than a casual hookup, unnerving her, but he's exactly what Avery didn't realize she needed.

While Avery refuses to be treated or seen as a victim, the attack did leave a mark and its effects are coming to a head the closer she approaches the one-year anniversary. Details of the attack are coming to light as Avery starts regaining bits of her memory, shaking her up as she realizes things may not have been as the police originally thought.

When I was first introduced to Avery in the last book, I have to say she annoyed me quite a bit. She was very abrasive to Wade and Trina as they were starting their relationship and I felt like she was overbearing and intrusive. By the end though I realized that she was only trying to protect her friend from harm even if it was over the top. I felt awful for her when she got attacked!

When we first meet up with Avery here, it's apparent that even though she hasn't lost her fighting spirit, she's struggling with feelings of anger, helplessness, and vulnerability. Normal feelings, I'd say considering what happened. I love that Liam was patient and kind even when he was in the dark about her situation, he could sense she needed understanding. I love how things wrapped up here, and how Avery was able to find

peace and closure with a surprising turn of events.

*A copy was kindly provided by Montlake Romance via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Tracy T. says**

Great book and narration by Emma Wilder (audible review)

This might be my favorite of the series so far. I really liked Avery and her new found fighting skills. She was on a mission to never get beat on again! I liked Liam too. He was handsome and smart. I was kind of worried in the beginning when he was kind of stalkery... but that moved on quickly.

I enjoyed the story line and plot. It all flowed very well and was well written. There was a lot of dialogue throughout the entire book. There is a couple of sex scenes but they were nicely written not rated G or X. Just well written.

I don't know if Catherine Bybee reads her reviews but if you do CB can you please do a book about Sasha please! I am dying to know about her character. She is kind of awesome! Thanks.

As for the narration it was excellent. I enjoyed it a lot. Emma Wilder did a great job on all the voices and has a very nice reading voice.

FRFL with KU!

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### **Stacie says**

4 1/2 "Warrior" Stars!

Loved it! Can't wait for Shannon's book and I hope Sasha gets a book too! Happy reading!

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### **Lesley says**

My husband: Whatcha going to do today?

Me: Laundry and cleaning - I'm totally getting the house clean today...I think I'll sit and read a couple of pages of the new Bybee book I have first though...

Me 4 hours later: Well, I had good intentions, but Avery and Liam needed me to read their story start to finish.

Truth be told, Avery is my least favorite of the First Wives Club. A professed player who didn't have much direction in life other than making sure she had enough money to fund her shopping excursions, I found her hard to root for in the beginning. By the end of Trina and Wade's book though she was slowly coming around and now she has found herself a successful career while trying to recover from her attack in the last book. She seems to have matured to some degree, but she claims she does not want to get married and be like her pretentious parents.

Liam starts off being semi-stalkerish, but he is a really good guy. I loved his family and hope his sister gets



her own HEA one day. He practices a fair amount of patience given some of Avery's issues - especially with trust and unable to say I love you.

Overall, another winner from Bybee. The romance is a slow build and I did love Liam's support of Avery as she confronted her memories and found happiness with him. Her parents reaction to meeting Liam is hilarious and yay - Samantha and Blake make an appearance. Their story is still one of my faves!!

I can't wait for Shannon's story! I need it!!! Not want it - I need it!!! But then, the series will be over. I'm so torn...

Many thanks to the publisher for a review copy via NetGalley.

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### **Peggy Jaeger says**

I lost another night of sleep when this book popped up on my Netgalley approval list!!!! But then, I always lose sleep when a new Catherine Bybee book is released because I just can't put her books down.

Book three in the First Wives Club, Chasing Shadows, deals with ex-wife Avery Grant. In the book 2, we saw her viciously attacked and left for dead. It's a year later and rich party girl Avery has undergone some changes - and more than just the new nose she was given after the the attack.

A disciple of Krav Maga now, Avery is one beautiful bad ass woman and no one is ever going to hurt her again. She's always protected her heart but now she protects her body as well. Enter Liam, a contractor with a heart of gold, abs of steel and resolve of concrete. He's not going to let the best thing that's ever come into his life - Avery - go, despite her prickly ways.

Avery's memory of the attack has been absent for this past year, but when snippets of it come back, she is determined to ensure the man responsible is punished. Going back to the scene of the crime puts her in danger, and the ex-wives and Liam are having none of it.

As I said, I read this book in one sitting because it was unput-downable! Thanks to Netgalley and Montlake for allowing me a sneak peak. 5 uber-worthy stars from me and I wish I could give it more! Can't wait for the next installment!!!

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### **Heather says**

Don't pick up a book by Catherine Bybee unless you have several hours free for reading, because once you pick it up you won't be able to stop reading! This is the third book in the First Wives series and it really does help if you have at least read book two since Avery's life was forever changed in book two. Don't want to spoil anything here, so I will just say read book two and then pick this one up next!

As always Catherine Bybee is able to create such wonderful characters that actually feel like real people and ones that you actually wouldn't mind being friends with. A great read and I can't wait to see what is in store for Shannon as the fourth member of the First Wives Club!

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## **Dirty Dayna says**

### **4.5 He's still alive Stars**

I have so many ARC's I am behind in reading but I knew I needed to read a book by one of my favorite authors to get me back into binge reading.

First Wives club is a group of women who have married and divorced for money. This sounds like it would be very rapid and boring. However, you learn about each woman and how love finds a way to everyone. This story is about Avery Grant. In previous books I assumed she was a "poor little rich girl" but after Trina's story (book 2) you start to realize there is actually a lot more to Avery than we knew. This series is really enhanced by reading the books in order because you don't get the full emotional aspect of the series without doing that. Avery is needing validation for her pain but in a way that makes you scream "girl power". I think as a woman (even if they have never gone through abuse) Avery will speak to you. She brings out your inner bad ass that shows how strong a woman can be emotionally and physically. As she recoils from her painful experience she has shut off all of her emotions and built some sky high walls that Liam is determined to climb.

I think the story could have been enhanced with a bit more from "Spider" and may a bit longer between the couple as well. But I still loved the purity and strength this book gave.

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