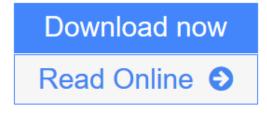


# **Opposing Forces**

Adrienne Giordano



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**Opposing Forces** Adrienne Giordano Book six of Private Protectors

Jackson Lynx always has a plan. He wouldn't be Vice President at Taylor Security if he wasn't steady, smart and reliable. But as capable as he is, he's not perfect. Approaching the one-year anniversary of kicking his prescription-drug habit, the last thing Lynx needs is temptation. Celibacy is part of his recovery plan. But then Jillian Murdoch asks for his help...

Jillian loves her job—managing pharmaceutical distribution—and she's suspicious when an unscheduled delivery shows up late on a Friday night. Then someone breaks into her home and, terrified, she asks Lynx to install a security system. Grateful for his help, she's wary of her attraction to him... She recognizes the Serenity Prayer on his mirror and can't get involved with an addict.

But when they uncover dangerous secrets they'll have to trust one another. Their lives, and their hearts, depend on it.

Go back to the beginning with Risking Trust, available now!

#### **Opposing Forces Details**

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary, Suspense, Mystery

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# From Reader Review Opposing Forces for online ebook

## Amy R says

Opposing Forces is another adventure driven by Adrienne Giordano in her Private Protectors series. In this story we are introduced to Jackson Lynx and Jillian Murdoch. As with the other books in the series, Adrienne has come up with a fantastic plot with plenty of mystery, suspense, and romance to engage you from the beginning and keep you reading until you smile and sigh at the last page when all is said and done.

Jack has decided to switch jobs from the State Department to work for Taylor Security. We get a glimpse of Jack in Man Law as Vic Andrews' go-to guy at State. I wasn't sure I was able to trust him back then, but obviously we can all rest assured knowing Jack is one of the good guys. Jack is the man with the plan. He doesn't fly off the handle or operate by the seat of his pants. I have a feeling he and Gavin from Negotiating Point get along well. Jack has a plan for his life and in that plan, it does not include starting any relationships until his one year of addiction recovery is up. Too bad he has been eyeing Jillian from his Sunday morning yoga class for the past three months and now she has come to him for help. He has a problem saying no to people in need.

Jillian is used to being on her own. She likes to keep people at arms length so they don't get close enough to disappoint her. All she has ever known is disappointment growing up. Jillian works hard and strives for perfection and approval, especially in her job in pharmaceutical distribution. Unfortunately she is in the wrong place at the wrong time and sees a suspicious shipment of drugs. Things at work take a turn for the worse and are never the same after that.

Jack and Jillian have flaws that a reader can relate to, even if they have not been in the same situation as the characters. Adrienne does such a good job of describing Jack and Jillian's feelings that you really understand them. She also does a great job of research for her books. Addiction recovery and the pharmaceutical industry are both things I am not familiar with, but by the end of the book I had a greater appreciation for both. I love when a book can both entertain and educate me!

Because of the more serious tone in Opposing Forces (due to Jack's seriousness), I enjoyed the comedic relief that only Vic can bring. Janet Fink, another employee at Taylor Security had me laughing as well. They both need a better brain to mouth filter. I found it funny that Vic was shocked that Jillian was not intimidated by him. One of my favorite quotes from Jillian was when Jack and Vic were letting their egos get the best of them in a situation in which they were under a time crunch. Jillian yells at them, "What is wrong with you two? Forget the pissing match and open the damned safe." It sums her up very well.

The build up of the the romance in the story is perfect. It is very believable and fits the characters very well. Adrienne writes intimate scenes perfectly for romantic suspense - giving way just enough to use your imagination but not too many details. If you enjoy romantic suspense with a solid plot, relatable characters, humorous banter, and a great balance between the romance and edge-of-your seat action, you need to read Opposing Forces.

### Brenda says

I received an ARC of Opposing Forces (Private Protectors #6)

This is the first book in the Private Protectors series I have read and I immediately went and bought the first 5. I was concerned that picking up a book in a series would cause a lot of confusion but it did not.

Opposing Forces is about Jackson Lynx. A former officer in the military and then worked for the Secretary of State until a prescription drug habit changed his life. He moved to Chicago and became the Vice President of Taylor Security and has focused on almost nothing but work, and his recovery. He however has found his weakness. Jillian Murdoch is in Lynx's yoga class and turns to him for help after a break in at her home. They both slowly start to uncover something going on at her pharmaceutical distribution job.

I had not read any suspense romance novels prior to Opposing Forces and I am now kicking myself for not having tried new things. This story was fast paced and kept my interest the entire time. You never knew what to expect around every curve and goodness what a hot romance. Throughout the story I become so invested in Lynx and Jillian. Would they ever come to terms with their growing feelings for each other? Would Lynx maintain such a almost stick in the mud mentality about his recovery even with his friends pushing him our of his comfort zone? Most of all would Lynx be able to keep Jillian safe?

There were so many layers to this story that I felt like I was on an adrenaline high while reading. I don't think I put it down unless I actually had to.

If you enjoy a little mystery, suspense, romance and a very well told story make sure you read this.

#### Saly says

Adrienne Giordano has slowly become an author whose books I have come to like. The reason is simple I like her characters.

The sixth book in the Private Protectors series Opposing Forces introduces us to two complex characters Jackson Lyn, kind of a new hire at Taylor Security and Jillian Murdoch.

Jackson Lyn was a perfectionist all his life, he was in the military and from there joined the State Department, a great job, girlfriend, everything was going well, then he blew out his knee and got addicted to his painkillers. Worse than the addiction was him losing control, so he moved away from his stressful life. He is about to complete his one year of sobriety and it hasn't been easy, he has also been keeping celibate but that has been a bit more difficult especially because of Jillian, who is in his yoga class.

Jillian doesn't understand Jackson, he seems to be interested in her but always moves away. However, circumstances brings their life closer together, a late night at her pharma company office to collect her beloved camera, puts into motion several unsettling events, her house is broken into, something that makes her go to Jackson and then her job keeps taking a weird turn.

Now, the path between Jillian and Jackson wasn't an easy one and I liked how the author didn't shy away from the painful nitty gritty details. Jillian grew up with addiction, her father was an alcoholic, who seldom accepted his problems, so knowing about the hero's problems makes her wary. The hero Jackson, over-thinks everything which can be kind of a problem.

The book was filled with emotional and sexual tension. There are trust problems of course, addiction is a life-long battle and the heroine has issues trusting people. The suspense is also well done, the hero/heroine

keep on taking hits.

I liked how Jackson was shown as more of a diplomat/political player than a gun-totting alpha hero types. The book couldn't be complete without Vic of course.

All in all I would recommend this book.

ARC provided by the publisher.

#### **Michelle says**

This was the first book of Adrienne Giordano's that I've ever read...and now I MUST buy the rest of the series. Her characters were perfectly flawed, honest and so much fun to read!

Jackson Lynx is the man with a plan. It's a plan that he's determined to follow through with, until he helps out Jillian. Despite their issues concerning addiction, the two came together to solve the mystery of "who is destroying Jillian's life".

My favorite quote from the book, that I think sums it up nicely:

"The man had a way about him, all blue-eyed and baby-faced, yet so intense. A deadly combo slowly chipping away at the number one reason she shouldn't allow herself to get emotional about him." -Location 842

If you're a fun of witty dialogue, intense action, and great romance...this is definitely a book you'll want to read. Yes, it's part of a series, but it's perfectly suitable to read as a stand-alone.

Thank you to Adrienne Giordano and The Dangerous Darlings for providing me a copy of the book. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

### Michel Reinhard (Smut Book Junkie Reviews) says

Adrienne Giordano has done it again! The sixth book in The Protector Series, Opposing Forces is a fantastic read !

Adrienne Giordano is a very gifted writer. Not only does she write a thrilling romantic suspense, a steamy hot romance, she creates memorable characters with loads of personality. Her characters and dialogue are creative, snarky, smart mouthed, and sensual. Her plots are creative and keep the reader sitting on the edge of their seats. Add the former character's from Taylor Security Agency to the mix and you are in for high octane read.

Opposing Forces is Jackson Lynx and Jillian Murdoch's story. Jackson is still in his one year recovery program for addiction to perscription drugs. He has a plan and goal. He cannot let anything get in his way to his one year anniversary mark. That means getting rid of the stress in his life, celibacy, and any temptation. He is almost there....six more days....until Jillian Murdoch approaches him for help. She is a temptation.....

Jillian Murdoch works for a pharmaceutical distributing company. Her job is to keep track of all deliveries and distribution. When an unscheduled delivery shows up on a Friday night she becomes suspicous. After witnessing this delivery frightening things start happening. Her home is broken into while she is asleep and her camera is stolen. She has been locked out of the company's computer network, moved to an isolated office, and basically shut out of her job. She is determined to find the answers. She approaches Jackson Lynx for help. And Jackson being the good guy with the boy scout complex agrees to help. What has Jillian got herself into...one super sexy hot guy, hot guy who has an addiction problem, dangerous job, scary boss, and life threats. As the danger escalates so does the chemistry between her and Jackson. Can she deal with both? Can she deal with Jackson and his addictions? Can Jackson meet his one year anniversary and be free? Can he do it without breaking his celibacy? Can Jillian accept all that he is, good and bad. Can they catch the bad guys so that Jillian can make that choice?

Read the book! Fantastic!

#### **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

Review copy provided for an honest review

#### **5 STARS**

I'll admit when I read the first book in this series I didn't realize it would be more suspense than romance but once I read it, I was thoroughly hooked. Great thing was, I was able to read the next three immediately and have since had to wait for the next release which isn't always easy to do. I've grown to love the romantic suspense genre and in my opinion Adrienne Giordano is one of the best writers of this genre. She always has a great plot, interesting characters, hunky hot as hell heroes, and heroines who find out they don't always need a man to help them out of a tight spot. They are spunky, smart, and downright savvy. I so love strong female characters! Opposing Forces pairs recovering prescription drug addict Jackson Lynx who also happens to be Vice President at Taylor Security with Jillian Murdoch who accidentally stumbles on some strange incidents at her job at a major pharmaceutical company. Strange bedfellows to say the least!

First off I'll come straight out and say I admire anyone who has the courage and strength to kick any habit and that makes Lynx a hero in my book from the start. The fact that in addition to kicking his habit, he's also following the prescribed recommendation of no women, thus no sex makes me understand this is a commitment he was willing to make no matter the sacrifice. However despite all that when a woman he's noticed has a security question, he can't ignore her safety or the fact that she threatens his commitment.

Jillian is one of those female characters you can't help but love. She's independent and hates having to ask anyone for help. But following a home invasion in which she scares off the perpetrator she asks a favor of a man in her yoga class that she knows works security. She gets way more than she bargains for when Lynx basically takes over but she soon finds out his deep dark secrets and because of her past she's leery about having any kind of a relationship with him.

From start to finish this book has some blood pumping action scenes that I could easily see translating on the big screen. While each book in this series has dealt with some suspense and action this one is jammed pack and I was on the edge of my seat waiting for the next shoe to drop and let me warn you there's a whole closet full of shoe dropping! Each time I would think we were nearing the end of the threat something else would happen to send me back into a tailspin, some seriously fantastic writing.

I loved that we got to see quite a bit of Vic from Man Law as well as his wife, Gina. Vic is one of those characters that is larger than life and cracks me up at almost every turn. The way he and Lynx bicker remind me of an old married couple and you can really understand how important they are to one another. We also get to spend some time with Gavin and Janet from Negotiating Point and see how their relationship is progressing. While they were important to this story, you do not have to read their books in order to enjoy this one. Each of the books in this series is related but they aren't dependent on one another for the story to make sense.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that in addition to the awesome action scenes there are also some very hot and heavy sex scenes as well. Remember Lynx has been celibate for almost a year...yes, think on that my dears but be aware it takes them awhile to get to this point but the build-up is way worth the wait!

As much as I've enjoyed the other books in the Private Protectors series, I have to say this one is my favorite. It felt deeper, richer, and seemed way more intense in all instances. I flat out loved these characters, their easy and teasing banter, and their extended foreplay. Opposing Forces is a book that is not to be missed and honestly, Hollywood should be knocking on Adrienne Giordano's door asking to make this one into a movie...it's that good!

#### S. R. Lewis says

#### Suspense and romance

This book has a lot of mystery and a lot about the workings of addiction. The romance is complicated for them. Enjoyable but not as enjoyable for me as the other books in this series.

#### Misty says

Another private protector to add to my favorites list. First there was Vic, then I fell for Michael. Now it's Lynx.

I've enjoyed the entire series, and this book was no exception. It starts off with a bang and the action continues to come at a breakneck pace. Meanwhile, the hero and heroine struggle with Lynx's former addiction to pain killers. This part of the story was handled very well by the author.

One of these days, I'm going to start with book one and read the series straight through. I enjoy seeing the progression of characters and how the Taylor Security's alpha guys are all brought to heel by their women!

#### **Tracey Devlyn says**

I'm a big fan of Adrienne Giordano's heroes. Jackson Lynx of Opposing Forces is no exception. Giordano did a masterful job with Lynx's journey. LOVE, love, love!

#### Judith says

Another winner from an author who has apparently found the secret for keeping the characters straight and the tension high throughout her series about some very strong and loner kinds of guys who have all found strong women to compliment their lives. While this is a stand alone novel (and I know some reviewers have already stated that their is their first from this author)it benefits from having read the other five novels in this series. Suffice it to say that it starts off with the kind of energy that grabs a reader and never lets go. It is a compelling story of a man who has faced his own illness, his addiction to prescription drugs and who has set goals for himself. He is determined that not even his over-the-top attraction to a strong and sexy woman who has come to him for help will deter him from achieving his one year goal of sobriety, a part of which is celibacy. In many ways this is a fun read as the repartee and tension between the main characters gives this story its sizzle and spice. But it is a dark mystery and one that will engage the minds of readers who like the push/pull of going after the bad guys, even when their identity is unknown. Simply a fantastic read. That just about says it.

#### Wendyvin says

Delving into this book, I wasn't sure if I would be able to keep up as I had not previously read any of the other books in Adrienne Giordano's Private Protectors series. But, I was wrong.

This book has a stand-alone plot that doesn't rely on having read any of the other books in the series. The main characters, Jackson Lynx and Jillian Murdoch, are well-thought out, layered and relatable. Woven throughout the book is plenty of mystery, romance and intrigue that captures the reader's interest and keep you engaged through to the end.

Both characters are flawed with deep-rooted issues from their respective pasts. Those flaws, however, are what makes Jack and Jill (interesting choice of character names, no?) seem like they could be real people and not just fictional characters in a book.

Beyond good character development, the story itself has an interesting plot that delves into the underbelly of the pharmaceutical world. Issues of addiction, both from an addict's point of view and from those that love them, are an integral part of the storyline and character development as well.

In addition to action and suspense, the book has a good romantic build-up between the two main characters that satisfies in the end.

Overall, the book is a good read. Once you pick it up, you won't want to put it down until you get to the end. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading suspense or romance novels-it has a good mix of the two!

#### Wendy Marcus says

I loved this story. It's a fast-paced, realistic read that I could not put down! Even though it's part of a series, and I've read them all, I believe it stands alone. I highly recommend it.

#### Sacha says

I received an Advanced Review Copy (ARC) of Giordano's Opposing Forces last week. First things first, I can't believe I didn't know about this author/series until now! I haven't read much romantic suspense that didn't involve supernaturals as yet, and I'm so glad I had the chance to read this book. It was a great introduction to this genre.

Jillian Murdoch happily works in pharmaceutical distribution. She works hard, and she's careful – a go-getter.

Jackson Lynx is VP of Taylor Security, and he's a recovering addict. Ever the 'Boy Scout', he always has a plan. His current plan is to stay out of trouble and away from temptation, including women. He has been eyeing Jillian for months, and there's only a few weeks left until his one year of sobriety anniversary... no problem, right?

Wrong. One evening, Jillian returns to her office to pick up her forgotten camera and witnesses a strange, late-night delivery. Shortly afterwards, someone breaks into her place and steals very specific items. That weekend, after their shared yoga class, Jillian approaches Jackson for help with a home security system. This one seemingly simple request starts an avalanche of events and emotions. These two try to ignore the chemistry between them at first, but as they start to uncover something big beneath the day-to-day operations at Jillian's office, they find comfort in being near one another.

Lynx can't get himself together. He can't figure out if this is the one time that it's okay not to stick to the plan, or if he needs to walk away. But as Jillian gets herself in deeper with what's going on at work, things get more dangerous. He needs to keep her close, keep her safe.

Jillian knows that Lynx is a recovering addict, and she has some addiction-related baggage. She's incredibly drawn to him, superhero complex and all, but she just can't get involved with an addict. She can't face that disappointment. But that smile...

At one point I had to put the book down to get some sleep and I left it in an awkward place. I thought I was going to be going back to the introduction of a second story line at a pretty high point in the first, and I was worried about it. I was loving the story and the character development and I was nervous that this second story was going to be too much and take away from the real "meat and potatoes" of Jackson and Jillian. Luckily, the worry was all for naught. It simply picked up with Jackson's new crisis having been averted, and dove right back in to the original plot line. The only problem I had with the book was that this particular thing left me hanging. I don't feel like this 'flash in the pan' crisis added to the story, and not knowing what happened kind of felt like a loose thread. Maybe if it hadn't felt like such a huge deal at the time, the lack of details wouldn't have bothered me.

I am kicking myself for not having read the other books in this series. The story is fast paced, and the action and suspense aren't the only elements that will leave you on the edge of your seat. The relationship development between Jackson and Jillian is not only intense and heated, but it's believable. They both have their hang-ups and learn quickly how to push each others buttons. They go back and forth between being cautious and being passionate.

#### Amy Alessio says

Jillian sees an odd night shipment at her Chicago pharmaceuticals company when she returns to work to get her expensive camera. The next night her house is broken into. She takes a chance and talks to Lynx, a hot acquaintance from her yoga class that she knows works at a security company. He agrees to help her get a system in her home, and she ends up staying in his guest room, trying to sort out his mixed signals. Lynx is approaching his year of staying clean after dealing with an addiction to painkillers and really does not want the distraction of a relationship. But he can't deny that he is attracted to Jillian.

When Jillian returns to work she is told she is locked out of the company databases and moved to a remote office upstairs. She turns to Lynx as someone she can possibly trust, though her childhood growing up with an alcoholic father makes her uncomfortable with Lynx's addiction.

Private Protector series fans will enjoy the return of the Taylor Security characters, including Janet, Vic (and his baby twins), Mike and more, though readers new to the series will have no trouble keeping up (They may want to go back and read all the others for fun, though!). As Lynx and Jillian, with the help of his friends,dig below layers of red tape and clues, they receive multiple warnings from others to leave this company alone. A major contract for Taylor is now in jeopardy, and other law enforcement agencies want to talk to them, but Lynx's instincts tell him to keep digging. Jillian keeps going to work to try and find proof of something illegal, and finds herself harmed more than once.

Award winning author Giordano makes action as well as the love story believable. Her characters and pacing provide an exciting and readable mix that fans of Julie Garwood, Suzanne Brockmann and newcomer Julie Walker will especially enjoy. Jillian was just working on her career and stumbled onto something. Lynx is going through steps. Their growing relationship and chemistry has bumps and discussions that are real yet the book provides a suspenseful ride.

#### **Sharon says**

Once again I loved this next book in the Private Protectors series. I so look forward to each book and I just love keeping up with Vic and his growing family. Lynx and Jillian were fantastic and I'm so happy with their happily-ever-after. I know this book hasn't been out long but how soon before the next book? :)