



Shattered Duty

Katie Reus

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A new novel from the author of *Bound to Danger* who “has the amazing ability of pulling the reader onto the front lines of the action and drama.” (The Reading Café)

When his wife was murdered two years ago, Special Agent Levi Lazaro turned his back on everything he cared about. Ever since, he has thought of nothing but vengeance. Now he's finally uncovered the identities of those who killed his wife—and he's ready to destroy them at any cost. He won't let anything stand in his way—not even a beautiful NSA agent on a mission of her own.

Special Agent Selene Wolfe prides herself on being the best. Her fearlessness and quick-thinking make her the perfect person to take down a deadly terrorist cell. But she needs Levi's help, and the moment he shows up, Selene knows her objectivity—and her heart—are in trouble.

As the two strike an uneasy alliance, Levi finds himself tormented by his desire for Selene—a feeling he thought long dead. But when their mission takes an unexpected turn, he finds himself faced with an impossible choice: either put aside his need for revenge, or save the woman who's reawakened his soul...

Shattered Duty Details

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Author : Katie Reus

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From Reader Review *Shattered Duty* for online ebook

Emily says

Special Agent Levi Lazaro vows revenge on the people who killed his wife. He has been working tirelessly trying to find them and now that he has discovered who the players are, he finds himself entangled with Special Agent Selene Wolfe.

Selene has her own reason for being in the same place as another agent. Levi wants answers though and for the first time since his wife died he feels a spark of attraction to another woman. Not sure if they can trust one another, they find themselves working together to find the man who is in the middle of it all.

Full review on Single Titles

<http://singletitles.com/?p=10947>

Claire Robinson says

4 - **"This isn't fucking casual."** Stars!

Book three in Katie Reus' *Deadly Ops* Series, started off at a rapid sprint and didn't really slow down until the last chapter. I haven't read the previous books in the series (although I am itching too now) but, *Shattered Duty* can absolutely be read as a standalone, without the reader experiencing any confusion.

As I have come to expect with romantic suspense books from this author, the cast and characters are laid out pretty quickly, the multiple POV's set the scene really well, and although very thorough, nothing is overdone or impedes the flow of the story between Levi and Selene as a whole.

"You and I are going to have to talk about your trust issues."

I really liked Levi, the guy is dealing with some serious issues, having lost his wife a couple of years ago in the most disturbing of circumstances. Grief and the thirst for revenge have been strong and controlling motivations ever since, and the intervening time has been spent living a solitary, undercover existence, trying to build an alternate persona that will allow him access to the people he believes are responsible for her murder.

Selene Wolfe has known of Levi for longer than he realizes and when their paths cross at a party, they realize that their goals to infiltrate the same criminal network are very similar, except Selene works for his former boss in the NSA, and whereas her actions are sanctioned, Levi's are wholly independent and for personal reasons, rather than on a national security level like Selene's. Working together, as well as being attracted to each other, but never fully trusting, they form an uneasy alliance.

"I want to taste your release on my tongue as you ride my face."

Gotta love a dirty talker, and Levi certainly does admirably in that respect. I liked that Katy took the time to

deal with the guilt and grief over his wife before putting them together sexually. The chemistry between them is smoking, but it takes a little time for the flame to fully ignite.

Another great book, from an author who is becoming a firm favorite on this girls Kindle!

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, and it was my absolute pleasure to provide the above honest review.

Tracy T. says

Excellent Story! Excellent Narration (audible review)

Wow I love this series. And I think this book is my favorite so far!. Loved Levi Lazaro, awesome character. He is smart, handsome and sexy. Selene is smart, sexy, strong and a total bad ass. Love her!

The story line and plot is great! Loved the back story of both characters. There is kidnapping, killing, special agents, undercover ops and action!

The chemistry between Levi and Selene is great. Real and not forced. Very genuine and believable. I was so glad that Levi's revenge didn't cause a bunch of angst and I can't be with you BS. What a relief. There are a couple of very good sex scenes too. Not a rated G book, but not erotica or BDSM either. Just very well written sex. Thank you!

There is a lot of great dialogue throughout the book. I really like this author's writing style. Always something happening and not a bunch of filler nonsense. The story flows very well and easy to follow.

I totally recommend all the books in this series.

As for the narration. It was fantastic! Love Sophie Eastlake narrating this series. She has a great reading voice. The men sound like men and everyone gets their own distinct voice. She reads with emotion as it is called for too. Just great all the way around.

Stephanie G says

His only focus is vengeance, but as Levi Lazaro closes in on his target, Special Agent Selene Wolfe closes in on the same target forcing him to face an impossible choice in this electrifying romantic suspense.

Vivid imagery brings these strong compelling characters to life with vibrant energy that draws the reader in and refuses to let go while lots of thrilling and death defying action guarantees there is never a dull moment. Tension and expectation builds as Levi and Selene closes in on a very treacherous enemy and the clock is ticking keeping readers on the edge of their seats and glued to the well written scenes and events.

Emotional angst grips the heart as Levi struggles to make the choice between his vengeance for past events and his desire for the one woman who's awakened his soul. The reader can't help but get caught up in all the excitement and turmoil that flows from the pages with electrifying intensity and the fast paced and smooth

flowing plot makes it easy for readers to become part of the action and thrills. The romance between Levi and Selene grows slowly but steadily throughout the story with both unsure of trusting the other which adds lots of depth to the story and Levi's status with the agency causes quite a bit of tension and excitement while unexpected twists keep everyone guessing.

Once again, Katie Reus gets the blood pumping and the adrenaline hopping with lots of suspense, action, romance and captivating characters that make the heart pound and ensure that the readers come back for more. I was completely absorbed in Levi and Selene's story from the very beginning and I can't wait to read the next electrifying Deadly Ops mission.

- Eva

Sofia T. (♥ Dimitri Belikov) says

“You strip away every ounce of civility in me, Selene” - Levi

The third book in the Deadly ops series by Katie Reus tells the story of Special Agent Levi and Special Agent Selene Wolfe.

After his wife's brutal murder and his inability to exact revenge through his agency, Levi decides to leave everything behind and uncover the identities of his enemies alone. Now two years later he has finally the names of the people who destroyed his life and he will stop at nothing to get his vengeance.

Special Agent Selene Wolfe is very close at catching the bad guys when Levi interferes with her case. Levi might have the names of his enemies but it's Selene that has the connections and the means to bring them closer. Levi and Selene will have to work together if they want to bring down their common enemy. Selene knows that Levi wants to punish the man responsible for his wife's murder. She knows he wants to kill him but first she needs some answers. She doesn't completely trust him but she's willing to take a chance with him.

Can Selene trust a man with no loyalty not to betray her?

This one was my favorite in the series! I loved the previous books but I clicked with this one. Levi was a tortured man. When he lost his wife, he lost not only his best friend but something more. He wanted to find out the reason his wife was targeted and he wanted justice. Levi tried to play by the rules but when it became clear that he would never get what he wanted through the agency, he left and became another man.

Selene owes her life to Levi even if he doesn't remember why. Levi is aware that his wife had helped a lot of agents with their missions but what he doesn't know is that the ties that bind them are stronger. She will help him get his revenge and she will make sure that he doesn't jeopardize her own mission. Thousands of lives depend upon them. A wrong decision could cost them everything.

Levi was a great hero. Despite leaving his agency behind and breaking some laws, he never forgot his morals. He thought that he was a different man but deep down he was the same man that Selene met when she was young. Meeting again after all these years neither could anticipate the tension between them. Their first meeting was exploding.

As always I loved the secondary characters, in this case, Alexander and Allison. Their scenes were few but

they were super amazing. Also, I was truly surprised with the ending. I never saw that coming.

Selene and Levi were two incredible main characters. Their story was one full of action, suspense and twists. They had a long and difficult road to follow but with their determination and courage they managed to reach its end.

Highly recommended!

ARC provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Posted on: <http://sofialovesreading.blogspot.gr/...>

Ezinwanyi says

I have been waiting for this particular hero's story since book 1. I am delighted to say it didn't disappoint me. Levi Lazaro has been straddling the line between the good guys and the bad guys for a while now and no one was confident as to where his loyalties lay. But it was clear that Levi's motivation was his thirst for revenge against those who murdered his fiancé and unborn child. I loved it this rogue agent getting justice and coming back to the fold.

This third book in the series is the best one yet. Levi's story was well conceived and Selene was a perfect counterbalance to his personality. The author made this relationship feel authentic because it was an instantaneous love match. There was an attraction but Levi still finished the grieving process before he fully committed to Selene. Selene also proved to be smart, resourceful and compassionate. Her skills as an agent made her shine as kick ass heroine in her own right.

The stability of this story lied in the very careful blend of crime solving with very sensual scenes. I just couldn't put this one down until I finished it. I really enjoyed his connection between special agent Selene Wolfe because she didn't comprise the mission nor did she sell Levi out. It showed an excellent balance between very cerebral decision making and emotive decision making. The book had action, angst, mystery, suspense and romance. This was romantic suspense done right!

**I received this book in exchange for an honest review.*

Sophia says

This was a long anticipated story for me after being briefly introduced to Levi's situation earlier in the series. After losing his wife and unborn child to brutal torture by a sick fiend, Levi escaped the agency he worked for and lived only for revenge. He crossed into gray areas and established himself with a dangerous persona to get close to the people who would lead him to the one who killed his wife. Any good in him and any sense of conscience is buried deep under his consuming need.

Now however, the situation with Levi has many people concerned because his need for revenge will put

thousands of lives in jeopardy forcing those who would claim him as friend or even owe him their lives to put him down for the greater good. One woman takes a chance that Levi still retains the honor, integrity and sense of duty he was known for and seeks to make Levi her mission partner. Surprisingly, even to Levi himself, he is ready to step up and do the job for reasons beyond revenge and for the first time since his wife was killed, he is interested in another woman.

And so begins the shaky and tentative partnership between Agent Selene Wolfe and former agent, Levi Lazaro. Levi may seem like the weak loose cannon on the team, but Selene has big issues and secrets of her own that may jeopardize things particularly her soft spot for Levi. Selene is a good agent and knows that the evil man plotting against innocents needs to be stopped even if it means destroying any chance with Levi and maybe having to take the final step to stop him.

This was a powerful story beyond just the romance and suspense elements. It's the story of Levi's journey back from darkness and Selene's final step of healing. The action is intense and the villain is truly vile. Like the others in the series, the hero and heroine narrators are joined by the villain in telling the story. The tension isn't so much in not knowing who is doing what, but in how they will accomplish what they are to do. The romance builds right alongside the action. Attraction is there, but wisely, the author gives this time to tease out. They have a lot of baggage that needs to be dealt with first.

The characters were phenomenal. Levi was easily a hero that I could get behind. He may be nearly broken by what happened to his wife and the isolation he lives in after parting with everyone he knew, but he falls in line when he is needed, he respects Selene and her skills without feeling threatened, and he is the one who makes the grand gesture even though he had every reason to feel hurt and betrayed.

Now while I loved Levi, it was Selene who really surprised me. She was a fantastic heroine. She is brilliant, capable, and loyal. She is young and impulsive at times, but her motives and actions are sound. Her flaw is difficulty bestowing complete trust. If there was one thing that I would have liked to have seen, it would have been a scene demonstrating real faith in Levi particularly after he kept patiently proving himself. This isn't a real criticism so much as just a dreamy wish because Selene made all the right decisions even when they were tough ones. She loved him and everything worked out in the end- most satisfactorily, but there wasn't that moment with everything on the line where she had to choose to trust. Guess the romantic in me wanted that. Not that I was gypped on the romance because they were a passionate pair.

All in all, this series continues to impress with strong, gritty, action, intriguing twists, and characters that are tough, mature, and sizzling hot. Even better, these are connected as a series, but in such a way that they can be read out of order. Romantic Suspense lovers really shouldn't pass these up.

My thanks to Penguin Group for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Jaclyn says

Originally reviewed at [The Book Adventures](#).

Shattered Duty kind of surprised me. I had been pretty desperate for an audiobook to listen to and I discovered this one on my library's eAudiobook offerings. Well, I found myself finding excuses to do chores so that I could listen to this one, which is always a good sign in an audiobook.

Reus romantic suspense title is the third in the *Deadly Ops* series. I have not read the first two books in the series, and I didn't feel that I missed out on anything.

Shattered Duty features NSA agent Selene Wolfe and former agent Levi Lazaro. Two years ago Levi left the NSA fold and went rogue after his wife was brutally murdered. Now, two years later he's closing in on the man that ordered her death. Selene's investigation into a known terrorist cell coincides with Levi's mission; however, unlike Levi, Selene is not out for revenge and she must put the safety of the nation before Levi's hunt for his wife's killer. The premise for *Shattered Duty* is pretty standard fare for romantic suspense, but what stands out in Reus romance *is* the suspense. Reus incorporates many elements that I find more common in the thriller genre and balances out the suspense with a romance. The terrorist plot was not some ambiguous development that acted as a vehicle to develop the relationship between Levi and Selene; rather, the author invested time in fleshing out the bad guys, giving them layers and exploring what the ultimate plot entailed. If you like your romantic suspense with a plausible suspense plot, *Shattered Duty* does this really well.

As for the romance, yes it's fast-paced. And that's because there is an imminent terrorist plot and foiling that is kind of more important than the romance stuff. I wouldn't have thought that a heavier focus on suspense would of worked, especially in the case of the two characters that readers are introduced to, but it does. Levi and Selene really worked as a couple. Levi had a lot of baggage going into the relationship, and sure that could have been fleshed out a bit more, but the fact that his wife was murdered did factor into the new relationship with Selene. And Selene served as an excellent counterpoint to Levi. Despite her young age Selene brought maturity to the relationship as well as idealism and innocence. I wouldn't have thought that this combination would have meshed: jaded operative vs. the agent who still believes in her mission, cue the conflict. But, Selene brought Levi back from the brink before he could cross a line he can't come back from. The give-and-take relationship between Selene and Levi provided a stronger foundation for the romance, which was needed considering the tight timeline of the book.

Romantic suspense fans, Katie Reus is an author you're going to want to check out. If you like your romantic suspense with a heavier dose of suspense, *Shattered Duty* is a safe bet.

Reading In Pajamas says

◆Review & Giveaway: *Shattered Duty* (Deadly Ops Series) by Katie Reus <http://wp.me/p3d0RZ-2t5>

Publication Date: June 2, 2015

Reviewed by: Reading in Pajamas/ Donna

Rated: 4.5 Stars

REVIEW:

"Shattered Duty" is another fast paced romantic suspense novel that keeps you glued to the pages. The action is realistic and pulse pounding, but still allows the characters' personalities to show through. Levi is a caring person battling a complex range of emotions that evolve throughout the book and you can't help but like him. I liked Selene too but she had me a little confused on her transformation, thankfully it wasn't enough to detract from the story. Their attraction was instantaneous and neither tried to fight it but unfortunately the danger kept them from exploring it more. As usual, I loved this Deadly Ops novel and cannot wait for book 4.

*Review copy provided by Penguin in exchange for an honest review.

Loriidae says

All the pretty little bows were tied up a bit too neatly! 3.5 Stars

Elisa Hordon says

Levi and Selena's story was awesome from their very first meet to finding out who killed Levi's wife and baby lot's of thrills, spills and adventure plus plenty of twists and turns to keep me guessing and a great ending.

Anna's Herding Cats says

noms Fantastic combo of rom-suspense. Loved the characters, the action, the set up. Good times. Good times.

Full review to come.

The Romance Book Disciple (Samantha) says

Link to full review below! Another wonderful romantic suspense from Katie Reus! See full review on The Book Disciple

Adria (Musings and Reviews) says

* I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Originally posted on Adria's Romance Reviews

After his wife's brutal murder, Special Agent Levi Lazaro walked away from his job and his life in favor of tracking down the people responsible. Going from an all American straight shooting man to a vengeance driving machine, Levi has made a home for himself in the grey areas between following the rules and breaking them. Finally, after looking for nearly two years, Levi has finally gotten the names he needs to get revenge and he won't let anything stop him. Not even an NSA agent with her own reasons for looking out for him.

Special Agent Selene Wolfe is the perfect combination of guts and brains which made her an obvious choice for the NSA. Deadly and brilliant, when Selene hears that a deadly terrorist cell might have ties to the murder

of Levi's wife, Selene knows it's only a matter of time before Levi tries to bring them down on his own. She agrees to be part of a mission to stop the terrorist cell before they can carry out their next attack in order to try and help Levi and keep him from doing something he might regret, or that might get them both killed in the process.

It's not official until the series is over but I do think *Shattered Duty* just might be my favorite *Deadly Ops* novel. There was just so much going on in this book and so much to love about it too!

The story line was something out of a Grade A action movie, there was the distraught man out for revenge, the villain who is as ruthless as he is cruel and the edge of your seat action and suspense. But what *Shattered Duty* had that most action movies don't have was a kick ass woman who was as much a hero as the man.

I loved how competent Selene was. She knew her worth, she knew her skills and she was confident enough to go toe to toe with Levi whenever she felt she had to. Author Katie Reus delivers what she promises and that's a strong female character throughout the whole book. None of this turning her into a damsel in distress after she meets the hero. I've become way more selective in my romantic suspense because of authors like Katie Reus who don't sideline female characters when things get dangerous. Instead, women like Selene are often depended on to carry out some of the most important parts of the missions or are even the ones who come in, guns blazing, ready to save the day. Damn straight I'm only going to read romances like that because what good is a limp, lifeless, cowardly female in a romantic suspense anyway? They just drag the hero down and make him look more like a caveman.

I honestly think that because of Selene, Levi was a better hero. She was a capable woman that Levi didn't have to save or protect. Not that he didn't want to protect her but he didn't have to. He could depend on her to watch his back and not hesitate to put a bullet in an enemy's head. Levi was a natural protector of women and children but that was only part of why he was such a good character. It was his belief in Selene, that had me falling for this guy. At the beginning of *Shattered Duty* Levi was nothing more than a rage fueled machine and it took awhile and a bit of an internal struggle before he was more man than machine.. He didn't want to feel anything and he hadn't for the longest time. With the return of emotions like doubt, concern and affection for another human being, Levi became less of a machine and more of a man. One thing that never changed was Levi's need to take down evil. I loved how noble he was despite losing his wife and breaking a few rules. Everyone loves a little bad in their man right?

Shattered Duty for me had more emotion behind the characters and in general the entire plot than previous books. I guess that's part of what made it such a good read for me. The rage and sorrow in Levi's soul was just too much to ignore. Plus, the way Katie Reus threw in a past connection between Levi and Selene was pretty neat. There were some pretty yummy secondary characters in this one that were so mysterious that I couldn't help but notice them more. I do hope they'll come out in future books. I can't help but love the dark, dangerous, mysterious men that Reus writes because I know that when they meet that one woman, it's going to be one hell of a sexy ride!

Final Verdict: Katie Reus makes danger look sexy!

Bev says

Wasn't wild about Shattered Duty which is a shame as I was so looking forward to Levi's story. I have enjoyed many other KR books where the suspense takes away from the romance and loved them. This one, not so much.

I think my issue is that they didn't get together until very late on in the book, then it was so rushed and insta love which didn't work for me at all. I don't mind insta love when it is believable, it wasn't in this case.

I also didn't connect with the characters, and was left not really knowing them. I needed more of their histories, I got to know very little about his ex wife, the whole reason behind the book.

I also found the first half of the book incredibly slow going. This one took me days to read, usually a KR book is inhaled in one day.
