



## Shattered Virtue

*Magda Alexander*

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**Shattered Virtue** Magda Alexander

A new erotic romantic suspense series from Magda Alexander

## **Haunted by her Past...**

Madrigal Berkeley vows to discover why her parents' killers got off scot free. But after graduating from law school, the ravishing beauty gets sidetracked by her grandfather who insists she intern at his law firm to learn the defense side of the law.

## **Damned by his Ambition...**

The last thing top criminal defense attorney Trenton Steele wants is to babysit an apprentice—especially the boss's granddaughter. But recognizing an opportunity, he demands the private suite he covets in exchange for teaching Madrigal the ropes.

## **They Play a Dangerous Game...**

Before long, this tough-as-nails lawyer and his wet-behind-the-ears intern are fighting more than court battles. They're struggling against a sexual attraction that could ruin his career and derail hers. Unable to stay away from each other, they join forces to investigate her parents' murders. And soon they're uncovering long-buried secrets while succumbing to desires neither can deny.

## **Shattered Virtue Details**

Date : Published September 22nd 2015 by Montlake Romance

ISBN :

Author : Magda Alexander

Format : Kindle Edition 254 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense

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## From Reader Review Shattered Virtue for online ebook

### Sharon says

Twenty-four year old Madigral Berkeley is working as a summer intern in her grandfather's law firm under the top criminal attorney, Trenton Steele. Trenton knows how to wiggle his way around the law which is exactly what Madigral hates since it is what allowed the murderers of her parents to walk free 12 years earlier. She has no plans to stay at her grandfather's law firm once she graduates, but she has no choice but to take the summer internship that is forced on her.

Trenton has to see a death row inmate in North Carolina and gramps forces Trenton to take Madigral along. She is reluctant to go since it will mean they will be alone together which has already been awkward, but she isn't given a choice. The meeting goes well in North Carolina until a hurricane comes in and grounds all flights and they end up staying in a fleabag motel for the night in the last room left. One thing leads to another and under the stressful circumstances Trenton comforts Madigral and she says that she is trying to solve her parents murder to which he agrees to help.

I loved the story. Sexy Trenton is quite the ladies' man, but after meeting Madigral he is so infatuated with her that no other woman is satisfying. Of course if they have any sort of relationship her grandfather will probably fire him. Madigral does not want to get involved with a ladies' man, but with no one else to turn to, she can't resist him. The book has ups and downs and seems like it is going to have a HEA ending with no cliffhanger, but the last page changes everything and I can't wait for the next book. Now typically I dislike cliffhangers when they seem like the author did not complete the story and just broke it up so you would have to buy them, but in this case almost everything is resolved and then a new twist is thrown in, so I loved it and can't wait for the next book!

An ARC was provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### Elizabeth says

Can you solve a murder that no one wants solved? Madigral wants to find the truth behind her parents murders. The ones who were arrested were let go to a technicality those many years ago. Now an adult and working in her grandfather's law firm before she goes to work in the prosecutor's office, Madigral has the chance to find out what happened that night. Trenton Steele doesn't want to work with her but is attracted to her. Bad boy now grown up and the best defense attorney at her grandfather's firm, he's the player she should stay away from but can't. The book is full of plot twists and sexual tension. One question is answered in the final chapters but opens many more questions that you have to wait for the next book. Sometimes a bit choppy and slow, but the overall tone is great and the story moved along despite the main characters self-doubting attitudes. I can see the characters getting more developed in the next book and I hope some of the minor characters get stronger more defined roles. Not a bad read, but definitely needs the second book to "see" what happens next.

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## **Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says**

### **2 Just not feeling it Stars**

I just didn't care for this book. It wasn't so bad that I hated it. Hate would apply a strong emotion or feeling and I really didn't have a strong reaction at all to this book. The only things I felt while reading this book was indifference, bored, slightly annoyed, and then relief that I was done with it. I felt no connection to any of the characters. The only one I felt anything for was Madrigal and what I felt was annoyed. She was a total wimpy push over and a little immature. I didn't buy their relationship. I had no interest whatsoever in the story plot. Hell the book ends in a cliffhanger and I don't even care to find out what happens in the next book. That's saying something because I have OCD and I always feel the need to read the whole series once I start it.

<http://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessio...>

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## **Christina says**

3.5 – Stars – 3 Flames

This was NOT what I expected, but I have to admit that I was pleasantly surprised. Knowing that this was an Erotic Romance/Suspense read, the need of being able to draw me in was going to be high and this didn't disappoint. First things first. I had a REALLY hard time mentally pronouncing Madrigal's name. Not gonna lie. This held me up so much that I literally needed to yell at myself that it didn't matter...lol. Ok, enough of that. Let's continue, shall we?

Madrigal Berkeley is the granddaughter of Trenton Steele's law firm partner/boss. Of course she's hot, smart and just the right amount of sassy. Trenton on the other hand is an arrogant ass that's a man whore and knows it. They meet at a company function, introducing Madrigal to the firm as an intern for the summer. Madrigal doesn't want to intern for her grandfather and Trenton doesn't want to babysit an intern, but of course, sparks fly and the writing is on the wall.

Although Madrigal wants to become a prosecutor and not a defender, she finds herself asking Trenton for help in investigating her parents' murders. Things become clear rather quickly that things didn't go the way they were originally told to her in her younger years. While the investigation part of this story was great, I found the "romance" side of it a little difficult to grasp. I mean, sure, Madrigal is 24 and hot. But Trenton is in his mid-late 30's and is clearly only thinking with his "other" head. I just couldn't see the chemistry, but that's my issue.

Overall, great suspense filled with lots of drama, especially once you're half way in. Good sex scenes and an ending that earned this review an extra half star.

Please don't misunderstand my review. I liked this a lot more than it looks on paper. In fact, I'll be quietly anticipating what this author has up her sleeve. To be continued...

\*I was given a copy of this book as a gift from The JeepDiva in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sharon Dunn says**

Romance with suspense that will have you on the edge of your seat.

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### **Katrina Weiskerger says**

Received a free copy of this book from goodreads in exchange for an honest review.

I have read her other series Storm and it was very good. Even though people may argue there is a similar story line I disagree. Both stories were vastly interesting and different in a positive way.

I read this book straight through, took me about five hours. The plot is so suspenseful but in a new way one you couldn't see coming and it keeps the romance fresh. The intimate scenes always changed it up a little but left some imagination to the reader which I love because it was steamy but made my own kind of steamy.

Honestly this was an amazing book but I only gave it four stars because the drama was amazing at the end, 5 stars there but because of how good the romance was through out the book the ending was lacking in that part. There is a cliff hanger, one that will bring people back but in a positive way.

This book has 100% 5 star potential but if you want no drama in your romances I still think you should give this a try, perfect drama!

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### **Niken Widyastuti says**

An idealistic newly graduated lawyer, Madrigal Berkeley, and a seasoned criminal defense attorney, Trenton Steele, met in this exciting story. Madrigal would love nothing more than to investigate her parents murder 12 years ago, thus becoming prosecutor. However, her grandfather asked her to do an internship in his law firm, as defense attorney. Trenton was tasked to show her the ropes. Their relationship evolved to something they never thought before despite their age differences, along with Madrigal investigation.

Madrigal was young and felt immature sometimes. However, I found that it's ok, because she was young, freshly grad, idealistic and a bit naïve. Her immaturity fell in line with her character. Trenton was that kind of guy who's a bit cocky because he knew things, realistic and a bit infuriating sometimes. Overall, their characters are likeable and I'd love to know more about them and their relationship.

The romance and story of this book were both exhilarating; you just want to keep reading it to the end. But... bummer, there's a cliffhanger! Well, ok, I expected it a bit as I know this is a first book in a series with the

same main characters, but someone can always hope, eh? Well, just wait patiently until the next one arrived.

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### **Jen says**

*Read the full review on Bookaholics Not-So-Anonymous.*

Note: This ARC was provided by Montlake Romance in exchange for an honest review.

Shattered Virtue is the first novel in the Shattered romantic suspense series from bestselling author Magda Alexander and is also my very first read from the author. I loved how the mystery and suspense was interspersed with the sweet and steamy scenes between main characters Madrigal Berkeley and Trenton Steele. There was a quiet but intense anticipation with where Madrigal and Trenton's relationship was headed as well as with the details that were finally being unearthed in the murder case of Madrigal's parents. It's impossible not to be sucked in by both the love story and the mystery, either one eliciting it's fair share of thrills and chills. Just when you think you know who's involved in the murder from twelve years ago, your theory is knocked on its head and you go tick off yet another name on your list of suspects.

I really liked Madrigal as a female lead character. She wanted answers and while she accepted help from Trenton and others, she made it clear that she did not like being set aside or made to feel as if she had no purpose to serve. She was also a good sister to Madison and loyal to the memory of her parents but it was when she was with Trenton that she found herself to be less restrained and more in tune with her needs and wants. And Trenton was just someone I couldn't help but fall in love with. Yes, he was cocky but he didn't have to demand respect because he simply earned it. His past is heartbreakingly painful and he doesn't share too much of himself with others, but there's a part of him, professionally and personally, that shows there's more to him than being a highly successful lawyer who enjoys the company of women.

The book does end in a cliffhanger and you do end up with even more questions than when you began, and while I have been known to curse evil cliffhangers because of all the waiting involved, this is one sequel that I've already got on my to-be-read list. I've become too invested in Madrigal and Trenton to not want to find out what happens next, and I have my own personal notions with as far as the supporting characters, particularly Mitchell Brooks and Madison Berkeley, Trenton's mentor and friend and Madrigal's sister, respectively, are concerned. This was a fantastically written series starter in that it makes you want to learn more about the characters and continue on with the story. I read Shattered Virtue in one sitting and loved it to bits, making this five-starred romantic suspense book a 2015 favorite. ♥

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### **Jenny Metcalf says**

Reading the plot line to this book, I was feeling indifferent when opening to page 1. Nothing new here to hook me. I had a copy of the book so instead of casting it aside, I started at page 1 and actually made it to the last page with enough curiosity and interest to want to continue the series when it is released.

A romantic cliff hanger is what this story became. It built from predictable storyline to something I genuinely had interest in. Shattered Virtue is the story of Madrigal Berkeley and her desire to become a prosecutor so she can put undesirables away. Most of her life, her destiny has leaned towards this. However, one last summer and an internship in her Grandfather's law firm changed this. Madrigal meets Trenton Steele. The cliched brilliant defender who of course is from the wrong side of the tracks, magnificently good

looking and fantastic at his job. Their lives intertwine and we build and build to the end where we are left hanging and waiting for the next installment.

Magda Alexander built and built the story whilst allowing the reader to make their own assumptions and ideas. I am one of them who has my ideas of what happens and happened.

I was expecting a dreary read but now find myself waiting for number 2 and to see where the series goes.

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### **Lexee Toste says**

This was a great story. I loved it. The characters intrigued me from the beginning and as I got to know them better I started to fall in love with them. They have multiple layers and are complex and changing throughout the story. The storyline is written really well. It flows smoothly and holds your attention. Madrigal is trying to find out what has happened to her parents years ago. She is doing an internship at a criminal law office to appease her grandfather but plans to work on the prosecuting side. Her boss for the summer is Trenton, a top criminal attorney. They are both drawn to each other pretty quickly but neither are quite sure why or what it is that draws them, both have their reasons for denying it. Stuck together during a storm shortly after they meet they give in to the lust and then have a very hard time denying each other afterwards though they do try to do so. They are both trying to keep it just sex and not anything else but that doesn't work out very well for them lol. Trenton decides to help Madrigal find out what happened to her parents and it sends them on a chase for the truth that is full of surprises. Magda Alexander definitely knows how to write a story that you don't want to put down. I was not ready for the story to end. There are still questions regarding her parents' murder and other things that happened (don't want to spoil anything), but you are not left with a major cliff hanger at the end of the story, though I can't wait for the next one to come out and figure out what is going on! Looking forward to the next one!

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### **Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says**

Reviewed by Gemini  
for Read Your Writes Book Reviews

Shattered Virtue is the first book in The Shattered Series. It's told in first person from the perspective of the male and female lead characters in alternating chapters. While it has very familiar themes, the book was actually unpredictable. Magda Alexander did a great job of introducing an unlikeable character in Trenton Steele and making him likable. Trenton came from the wrong side of the tracks to become a very successful partner in a law firm. He is tasked with mentoring Madrigal Berkley who is the attractive granddaughter of one of the founding partners. Madrigal intends to become a prosecutor but her grandfather wants Trenton to convince her to join the firm as a defense attorney. Madrigal is driven by the fact that her parents were murdered twelve years ago when she was twelve and her sister Madison was four. Their alleged killers got off on a technicality and Madrigal is obsessed with making sure that justice is served for her and other victims.

The suspense element blends well with the forbidden romance between Trenton and Madrigal. While they clearly shouldn't be intimate, they are forced into closed quarters and their attraction can't be denied. Their time between the sheets is raw and erotic. They truly burn up the pages. Slowly, they are drawn closer and closer together although Trenton has built a reputation of being a womanizer. Madrigal employs Trenton to look into her parents' murders and the investigation quickly reveals that the circumstances surrounding the

murders and the murderers were not true. There was an apparent cover-up and as more information comes to light, Madrigal learns more than she wants to know about reputation and false idols. There is an exceptional amount of depth to Shattered Virtue and the characters that are involved. No one was what they seemed to be in the end.

I thoroughly enjoyed this romantic suspense and look forward to seeing what happens next.

\*\*Received a copy from Montlake in exchange for an honest unbiased opinion.\*\*

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### **Jennifer says**

ARC received for review

Cliffy... I shouldn't be surprised since I read Ms. Alexander's Storm Damages series. As I was reading and getting closer to 100% I was afraid she was going to rush the ending, but she didn't. So I'm not too mad over the cliffy.

There was suspense and drama, plus Steele and Madrigal were hot together. I'm clueless over who killed her parents. I look forward to the next part.

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### **Writer says**

A well written, extremely captivating book...

SHATTERED VIRTUE IS one of the most intense, mystery and romance book I have recently read. Just the beginning alone kept my interest, and as I went along, I got more hooked and stayed glued to it. I know I had a day off the next day and I intend to sleep in, but to stay up until past 4 in the morning was an overkill. But by gosh, it was so intense and riveting that I couldn't put it down and I was a goner when I got to the 2nd quarter. When I looked up at the clock a little later and realized it was past one o'clock, I just knew I will have to stay up and finish it even if I lose sleep over it.

The attraction between Madrigal and Trenton, is fierce, so strong that they were helpless to fight it, even if the consequences ride high that Trenton could lose his partnership at the law office owned by Madrigal's grandfather. Their love scenes were fiery, potent and oh, so dreamy. The mystery that surrounds the murders of Madrigal's parents, the circumstances, events and cover ups is so intense and overwhelming that it would require a great self control to put this book down without finishing it.

I didn't realize this was 3 parts since it's about 235 pages, it has a cliffhanger but not the kind where you're going to want to scream and fling your kindle against the wall. It's actually the kind that added more drama to the already stirring and exhilarating tale. I found out the 2nd is going to release next year, 2016 seems an awful long wait for this heady and gripping story, but who's complaining?! A story this captivating and well written...I'll be waiting with zeal and fervor!

This is my first of Ms. Magda Alexander, I wonder how I missed her books all this years of reading. Well, I know I'm going to check out all her books to read and

devour to make up for the lost time. Well done, Ms. Alexander, you have one terrific impressive mind!

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### **Mom's Guilty Pleasure says**

Madrigal wants to become a criminal prosecutor ...her family didn't get the justice they were seeking, because a criminal wasn't prosecuted properly and was set free. She wants to learn the law and find answers for her family. Her sister Madison is interning at a newspaper for an investigative reporter and stumbles across some documents about her family. Their grandfather is the founder of a prestigious firm & wants Madrigal to intern for a summer for him (trying to persuade her to switch to the defense side of the law). Trenton is a high profile partner at her grandfather's firm. He's known as a player and not someone Madrigal should associate herself with outside of work. Madrigal is assigned to Trenton to intern. She seeks his help and connections to find out more about her family's murder.

There are many twists and turns throughout this book. The investigation keeps you on the edge of your seat. The brewing sexual tension and relationship that's building with Trenton and Madrigal won't allow you to put down the book. I can't wait for *Shattered Trust* to get the answers that Magda keeps us wondering about.

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### **Jessica says**

4.5 Stars

*Shattered Virtue* was my first book from Magna Alexander and I truly enjoyed it. Magna's plot absolutely kept my attention - entertaining me with clever and intriguing characters. I thought their mysterious pasts were interesting and it created an suspenseful read - I wanted to know more.

Starting with Madrigal Berkeley. Even though she is 24, Madrigal still feels the need to do exactly what is expected of her - at least for one more summer. Her grandfather wants her to intern at his law firm, mainly because he hopes she will change her career path and work for him.

Except his plan did not factor in Trenton Steele - a partner at his firm - and how he would affect Madrigal's life. Gramps had no way of knowing that they would soon be off on a puzzling and quite possibly dangerous adventure to discover what truly happened to Madrigal's parents twelve years ago.

With each new chapter, you become more and more invested in Trenton and Madrigal. They share this unexpected bond and you're completely enchanted by it. Oh. My. Hotness. The attraction between these two is instantaneous and off the charts hot. However, they both respect one another's intellect and are captivated by their personalities - so it's not just about lust. It's an unlikely relationship because of their age difference but it's just right and they both know it.

All of this together creates an exciting and enthralling romance between these two as well as excellent reading for you. This book kept me up late into the night reading and overall, I would recommend *Shattered Virtue* but with one small caveat.

The book ends on a cliffhanger - one that does not seem possible and one that I was not expecting so that kind of annoyed me. However, after I digested that detail, I found it did not lessen my desire to read the next installment in the series. I look forward to finding out the truth about the mystery and seeing where this couple's romance goes in the future.

Definitely check Shattered Virtue out.

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