



## When Empires Fall

*Katie Jennings*

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This is an ACE of ASIN:B008UCNJUS When Empires Fall

The Vassers are America's greatest family, an empire forged in steel and stone, wealth and prestige. They're in the business of luxury hotels...and murder.

When the truth is exposed through the letters of a dead woman, all hell breaks loose. The family tries to cope with the allegation that what they thought was a decades old suicide was actually the cold-blooded murder of one of their own.

Things only get worse when they realize the killer is still among them.

Enter the newest generation of Vasser heirs: three siblings now running the Vasser Hotel in New York City, each with their own agenda. Principled and serious Grant; charming playboy Linc; and ruthlessly secretive Madison. They soon discover that swimming in the undercurrents of their own family's dark past could prove to be disastrous.

Family may be the ties that bind, but When Empires Fall, they are the ties that kill.

## **When Empires Fall Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2014 by Sapphire Royale Publishing (first published August 6th 2012)

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Author : Katie Jennings

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## From Reader Review When Empires Fall for online ebook

### Cristian Mihai says

Ambition, treachery, greed. Without passion, these are just words. But Katie Jennings doesn't lack this crucial ingredient. She masterfully weaves an intricate web of deception and lies. Exhilarating and fresh, When Empires Fall takes the reader on a journey into a world of fabulous wealth. A shallow and frivolous world indeed, sometimes lacking in compassion, but never in true emotion. Because, in the end, When Empires Fall is not as much a story about the rich as it is a story about human character.

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### Christina Rodriguez says

#### CHRISTINA'S BOOKREVIEWS

**"In the end, family is all we have, my dear. You'll do well to remember that."**

#### RECAP

The Vasser family has built what is to be one of the biggest luxury hotel chains in America. With the "determination" of each Vasser member the hotels have flourished. Lincoln, Grant, Madison and Kennedy are set to take rein over the business when it is their time. But when a secret, such as murder, is revealed, the Vasser's aren't so ready for the storm they are about to encounter. There is a murderer among them and they must all suffer the consequences of his betrayal.

Will the luxurious Vasser empire fall? Or will the new generation of Vasser's save it from doom? Will this family ever be the same?

#### MY TAKE

So I have to admit that this had been sitting on my Kindle for quite a long time. What a damn shame! This book was just what I needed! Filled with drama, romance, a slew of phenomenal characters and much more drama, When Empires Fall is a breath of fresh air!

The book starts off with a murder at the prestigious Vasser Hotel in NYC. Years later there is a newer generation of Vasser's in charge of Vasser NYC. A generation filled with new Vasser's who each possess their own gifts and charms.

Grant is the hardworking General Manager who is all work and no play. Grant doesn't put up with the emotions, drama and anything that doesn't improve the hotel. Grant lives to help the empire flourish and to protect and love his family. As we get to know Grant we are quickly saddened by the loneliness he is enduring. When he gets a new secretary, he isn't ready for the eye-opening experience he is about to have. Quinn slowly cracks the wall that he has built around him and together they are PERFECT for each other! I loved Quinn's sweet and charming personality and her push to get Grant to open up and please him. What I didn't like about Quinn was that I felt in a way she wanted to push herself into being something that she had to work to accomplish. I also thought the development of their relationship was a little rushed at the end.

Lincoln is the charismatic businessman in charge of Customer Relations at Vasser NYC. He is the complete opposite of Grant. Sweet, loving, a ladies man, and outgoing personality. But like Grant he is devoted to the Vasser empire and his family. He is also the one that is in the shadows of his older brother. You see the fire in him to want to improve the empire but he is not taken seriously. I was sad that his ideas were shot down and that he wasn't given a chance to prove his worth. But when Lynette comes into the picture you are happy that he does get to have someone who understands him and is fiercely protective of him and his dreams.

Madison the no-nonsense director of Food and Beverages. She is void of any emotions and is only focused on making sure that the empire her family built succeeds. She is ruthless and devoted to her grandfather and family. She is described by Linc as a viper and is just that. She will do anything and everything.

Then there is Kennedy the youngest child heading to Princeton. We don't see much of her in the book and I look forward to finding out much more of her. Hopefully she will have her own book.

I enjoyed When Empires Fall, the fact that you don't know what will happen, you don't know who to love and who to hate, and that it is filled with so much drama. I am the first to admit that I hate books with numerous characters but When Empires Fall impressed me. Every character had their time in this book and it was all connected beautifully. The author did a wonderful job with the flow of the story and I never once found myself frustrated with the changes.

**BUY it. READ it. LOVE it.**

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**HAPPY READING!!**

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**Emerald Barnes says**

When Empires Fall is a story full of suspense! It follows the Vassar family as they run their hotels and deal with a secret that can tear their family apart and destroy their legacy.

Grant is the general manager who is a workaholic. His brother, Linc, is the "playboy" of the family, and his sister, Madison, is the spitting image of their grandfather, Cyrus. Not only are they dealing with the secret that makes itself known by their "deadbeat" father but they have to deal with the fact that there are more secrets and lies than they could ever imagine within their family.

Quinn – Grant's new secretary – comes into the picture, and he finds himself needing her more than he is comfortable with. But he finds himself opening up and discovering his true self again with her. And it scares him. Lynette is the politician's daughter who finds herself utterly drawn to Linc when she doesn't have time for romance. But she can't stay away from him, and he can't stay away from her.

When Empires Fall kept me begging for more. I had fallen under the trap of the Vassar's and I wanted more of them and their lives. I wanted to be part of their story, and Katie did not disappoint in the keeping the suspense aspect of the story tremendously suspenseful and the romance aspect tremendously romantic!

I loved it, and I cannot wait for the second book!

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## **BestChickLit.com says**

This is not a story for those looking for an easy read as the story becomes all consuming. A complex tale of family betrayal and false appearances is possibly the best way to describe Jennings' novel as she makes a thorough exploration of the lives of the extensive Vasser family. The continual addition of characters will keep you on your toes as you find yourself becoming deeply involved with this curious story.

If you were looking for a distraction from work or personal affairs this would be ideal. Each character is given a thorough backstory, interweaving with the narrative and helping to create the empire of the Vasser family. While their luxurious lifestyle may not be one that many people can relate to, the down-to-earth nature of the characters helps the reader to picture themselves in this bizarre world of mystery and murder. Jennings cunningly adds a little romance, a touch of high culture and a dash of politics to ensure that it appeals to all readers. It is sure to entice readers to pick up the sequel, *Rise of the Notorious*.

Review by Elizabeth Wright of behalf of BestChickLit.com:

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## **Alli says**

With a masterful blend of suspense, passion, and intrigue, Jennings delves into the story of the Vasser family and the secrets that haunt them. Complete with a rich cast of characters, this book captivates you and keeps the pages turning at each new turn of the plot.

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## **Vickie McKeehan says**

When Empires Fall is a behind-closed-doors look into the heart of the wealthy Vasser family, owners and operators of a chain of hotels. The saga opens with a sixty-year old snapshot of betrayal at its worst. Laced with lots of juicy family secrets and snappy dialogue, the first book introduces us to the ends and outs of the Vassers, serious-minded Grant, irresistible brother Linc, and ruthless sister Madison. All three share a bond of putting family loyalty before anything else. But they will soon find themselves caught up in the dirt of the past. When Empires Fall offers a dramatic plot with character-driven narrative that will definitely carry over well into the next book.

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## **Richard Hale says**

The Vasser family have been kings in the hotel industry for years and when a lightning bolt from their past threatens to bring the empire crumbling down, they must come together to save what their ancestors struggled to build.

Katie Jennings paints a wonderful picture of a multifaceted family trying its best to cope with a horrible reality. From the workaholic older brother to the brilliant younger sister, the Vasser's lives are in for a sucker punch from left field. The cast of characters is enticing, the plot intriguing, and the tension exciting in this tale of greed, love, and family.

Jennings writing is excellent, the formatting attractive, and the pacing spot on. I found myself drawn into their world, an unwitting player in the drama of their lives. The story carried me along all the way to its dramatic conclusion. I loved this story and look forward to more from this wonderful author. Well done!

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### **Frezanda says**

I put this book in my romance shelf but actually romance genre is not enough to describe this book. This book is more of a family saga. However, when I saw a book categorized as family saga it reminds me of Jackie Collins or Dynasty. And this book is definitely is not that type.

1. It's so well written. The writing is great. It's not long winded and it's crafted beautifully. Every word chosen is a fit. This book consist of many POVs. We actually jump around seeing from character's to character's perspective. It's difficult but somehow the author manage to make the story flow beautifully. There is no jaggedness or a break when we have to change perspective. This is a testament of the writing skill. It makes the reader so engrossed and can't stop reading

2. No cliche; Well, most of the time, family saga is talking about greed and sex. The story can be shallow. This book actually tell a story that is worthy of soap opera. However, the author really dig deep into the characterization. Every actions was described properly so that it's understandable. It never falls into dramatic exaggeration.

3. The characterization is superb. I especially like how the author describe Grant. When I read the description, I actually can see Grant in my mind. All those emotions churning below the rigid surface. All characters in this book are so complex. The characters are real with not only their goodness but also flaws. They captured my interest because they always strived to do their best. None of them is totally evil (even the murderer). Even with their flaws, they have a capacity to love.

What a great find. I can't believe only few people rate this book. It's a rarity to find a book that can balance romance, ambition, dysfunctional family, and power play which makes you fell in love with all the characters (the good and the bad).

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### **Mimi Barbour says**

This book resonated with me, and because I hadn't been able to read it all in one go as I usually do, it also tormented me. But the holidays kicked in and company appeared daily. I fretted whenever I thought about this story. I wanted to get back to it and find out what happened. It's that kind of a novel. I love New York City and having the setting there was a plus for me. A huge luxury hotel added to the flavor and the Vasser family who shared ownership and ran the empire were all wonderful characters. There were so many plots going on, all very well constructed and interacting so that the reader got carried away into different romances, murder, intrigue and family conflicts but never lost the main theme. The big boss Grant Vasser played the role of a workaholic who controlled everything and I fell in love with him since the author wove the reader into his world, his sensitivities and his building need for his new secretary Quinn. The rest of the family consisted of Linc, a sweet guy who's every woman's dream, Madison a woman to hate, Kennedy the youngest but with an agenda and various others who add to this blockbuster and make it a delightfully

complex tale that will steal you away from your everyday world. This deserves five stars- PLUS!!

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### **Deborah says**

I am somewhat torn regarding When Empires Fall. On the positive side, it was a fairly enjoyable, larger than life, completely unbelievable (in an escapist way), soap opera-ish family saga. I certainly didn't lose interest in the story as the pages turned, although I will admit to rolling my eyes more than once. A bit of escapist drama with over the top characters that were at least interesting.

On the negative side, there was very little subtlety in the story telling. This was due to the author's attempt at an omniscient narrator. The head jumping point of view shifts meant the reader was never in any doubt as to what any character was feeling or thinking. This constant shifting of point of view may also have been the reason why some people have commented that they felt there were too many characters. It wasn't the number of characters so much as the point of view shifts. At times this led to momentary confusion as to who was speaking or thinking. I would have preferred to see the focus on a few key characters only, which would have allowed the author the way to build a stronger, more intense story.

Having said that, I didn't dislike the story and will probably read the second book in the series to wrap things up. The author has loads of potential, and as the overwhelming majority of reviews show, her storytelling hit the mark with many readers (who aren't looking too critically at the structure of the story or believability of the characters).

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### **Shane O'Neill says**

I really enjoyed this book. I will say to begin that it isn't my genre, but I'm learning as I grow older and wiser that if you never leave your comfort zone then you'll never learn or experience anything new, and I'm glad I did so with this book. I like Ms Jennings and I like her ability as a storyteller, and in my opinion she is very good at it.

I enjoy the way Ms Jennings builds her characters. I like the way she goes inside them to let us know what they're thinking and feeling, and the conflicts and turmoil they're each fighting with inside. Any good writer has to be able to do this, and she can. In fact I felt she depicted her characters so well that images of movie stars flashed through my mind every time a character faced me on the page. Grant is Christian Bale, Linc is Matthew McConaughey, Cameron Diaz is Madison, Meryl Streep is Charlene, Greg Kinnear is Win, Sam Elliot is Marshal and Courtney Cox is most definitely Quinn in my mind. I always write with a famous face in my mind, but rarely have I ever seen these faces with such clarity while reading and to me that is a testament of Ms Jennings' excellence in character building.

As with all stories of dynastic families there is ambition, jealousy, love, hatred, hidden secrets and impropriety in abundance... all the ingredients such a story needs.

I enjoyed the story very much. There were few surprises though as Ms Jennings gave us enough clues as to what was to come and who did what in times past, but the twist at the end I didn't see coming and now I'm very very eager for the 2nd book and have emailed the author to complain that I have to wait for it.

5/5 from me.

Shane O'Neill - Writer of The Dracula Chronicles.

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### **Natalie Gibson says**

Finally, a writer who understands her characters.

The genre of this one is difficult. I have never heard of family drama but this may just define the genre. It isn't really a mystery, though there is a murder (or four) involved, since we know the culprit from the start. This was a wonderful read. This is the kind of book you pray for, when purchasing an indie novel. It is well planned, well written, well edited, well formatted...well done, Katie Jennings. It makes me proud to be part of the indie publishing revolution.

This book is about its characters. Several generations of Vassers were beautifully portrayed. Bad guys don't ever think they are bad guys. Not in a movie, not in a book, not in a play, not in real life. Each character believes they are doing what is best for the Vasser family name. Cyrus is the grandfather who would do anything for the Vasser Legacy. Win and Marshall make the second generation and though they play a smaller role in the plot they have everything to do with the next gen's development. Both severely effected by their father, as I expect all of his offspring are. Grant, Linc and Madison are the young generation. They are easily identified with, yet their loyalty to the family is anything but common. Each generation and character is full and rounded. I had no trouble keeping track of who was who and who wanted what. They are all driven but by different yet similar motivations. I love how each romance was different. The two brothers find love, but with very different women. Each couple was believable and their bonds and attractions seemed genuine.

Jennings is a young master. Her books read like those of an old writing pro. Each scene is carefully crafted and the point of view is carefully chosen to impart the most useful information and give the most impact. There was no 'mind hopping' yet the p.o.v. was perfectly suited for the attitude of each. Five star, all the way. I cannot wait to see what Katie Jennings has crafted for book two. Bring on what Rise of the Notorious has in store. I am ready.

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### **Rachael says**

This review originally appeared on my tour stop for the Be Notorious tour! Make sure to check out the awesome-tastic giveaway and read an excerpt!

WHEN EMPIRES FALL is the type of book that I'd think would make a good TV drama - it's complex, dark, intriguing, and will just pull viewers (or in this case, readers) along within each episode, making them want more during and after each installment. Nevertheless, it's definitely a book that mystery, suspense, or adult fiction addicts will fall in love with!

What probably attracted me the most was this book's complexity. I definitely wasn't coming in thinking this would be an easy read, but I was still surprised by how intricate the characters were. Right from the beginning, you're introduced to quite a few POVs, including Madison, Grant, and Linc, who are siblings,

Charlene, their mother, Cyrus, their grandfather, and Marshall, their uncle. By the end, a few other characters are also introduced, including Wyatt (Madison's ex), Lynette (Linc's love interest), Quinn (Grant's love interest), and Detective Hughes. Though this many POVs might seem too confusing, but I personally enjoyed it, since each person had a different voice and different dark secrets to deal with.

And on top of that, you have the plot. It's a lot darker than I usually encounter, considering I'm a mostly YA reader, but it pulled me in nonetheless. Throughout the novel, you deal with murders, secrets, suicides, betrayal - whatever you'd imagine in a drama. Though sometimes I felt like some of the plot devices were overdramatized, sometimes this suspense and drama pulled me in even more - I just felt like I had to discover more of the Vassers' secrets! In fact, eventually when I finished the book, I almost immediately jumped into the next. So if you're looking for a complex but interesting story, definitely check this one out!

I also liked the central theme of family in the book. Though sometimes the family members could get on each other's nerves, the bottom line was that family was the most important, however corrupt or pathetic you thought your family was. You see this idea play out through the book, and it's really admirable that the Vassers managed to stay together despite the difficulty. This will be another thing I'm looking forward to seeing in the next book (:

My only question was concerning the romance. It was sweet and a good break from the rest of the drama in the book, but sometimes I also felt like it was... unnecessary. I did like Quinn & Lynette - both were really, really sweet characters. But at the same time, you could see predict their relationships from the beginning. Additionally, though this wasn't as much of a problem in Lynette & Linc's relationship, I found it hard to believe that the romance could go on without a lot of difficulty. However, I did like their relationships, and hope to see them grow in *Rise of the Notorious*!

All in all though, *WHEN EMPIRES FALL* was a fantastic read! It's dark, complex, and mysterious, which was exactly what I was looking for. If you're an adult or mystery reader, definitely consider checking this one out!

\* Thank you to the author for a review copy of the book!

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## **Martha Bryce says**

### **When Empires Fall**

*When Empires Fall* is the multigenerational story of the Vasser family, owners of an elite hotel chain with locations in Paris, Las Vegas, and New York and centered on the fourth generation of the family who run the hotel in New York. Grant, Linc and Madison use their talents respectively as General Manager, Marketing Manager, and Hospitality Manager. Their younger sister, Kennedy is just entering college at Princeton. Their father was passed over by their grandfather and has spent his life mooching off of the family and living as a drug and sex addled wastrel. In this, the first in the series, the family has discovered that their patriarch, their grandfather assumed control of the empire after having murdered his own father to keep him from changing his will and appointing his mistress to own and run the hotels. As the family tries to deal with the fallout from this news, they are also juggling new and old relationships with the lovers in their lives, each other and their social climbing mother. The story is well developed and moves at a great pace but Katie Jennings's real talent lies in her ability to develop fascinating and compelling characters. Readers will find themselves drawn in by the vividly developed characters, who creep into our imaginations and to whom we

want to return in future novels. What a great read!

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### **Kevin Hammond says**

I must admit to being the kind of nerdy person who reads the reviews on a book before i read. having said that i saw two main criticisms sticking out from some of the other reviews. One was the extensive character list, and development, and the other was the use of smirking in the story repeatedly.

When i read the story i found those were not so much weaknesses but strengths (in my opinion of course.) heres why, the story has a constant from beginning to end and that is the tale of power and how it affects the relationships of the characters involved. not just the relationships between family members but with other people in the story. they are a powerful family, wealthy, high status, prestige and influence. i think the smirk is a clever linguistic tool in the story because a smirk is not a smile and does not have warmth to it. it is sarcastic or superior and when you read this you will notice that when you look at who is doing this, when, and with whom. pay attention to that and im sure you will pick up on it.

Secondly there is alot of strong character presence and extensive character development. i found it pulled the story along very well. consider this, normally i read very slowly, about 10% of a book this size per day. i read this in three days, couldnt put it down in fact. the cast of characters laid down a great foundation for a whole saga of books and i see there is another in progress, sneak peak at the back of this story.

the story itself is very seductive in that it has a full compliment of relationships between family and friends and they have secrets being kept from one another, deep affection, trust and ultimately betrayals and twists that are rocking the foundation of their family. it really is a wonderful story

as i mentioned above i read two stories in one. the other story is of a writer who has conveyed to me a deep love of writing. it comes through in the confidence of her characters, of her story, and the language she uses throughout. i read this never having read this type of story before and i was suprised by how much i enjoyed it. if you take a chance on this one, whether you read this kind of thing or not, im sure you will love it too.

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