



# Fighting to Survive

*Alexis Noelle*

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## **Fighting to Survive** Alexis Noelle

This book is no longer available for sale. It has been remastered into a standalone. If you are interested in reading it please refer to it's new title Fight for Me

Shawn Matthews has been living a double life for almost a year. Now that his secret is out, life becomes even more difficult. Shawn is learning to balance his hectic lifestyle and carry on a relationship with the only girl that has ever made him want one. Will he be able to overcome the many obstacles that stand between them?

Jason and Nicole have had a hard time adjusting to the bombshell that was dropped on their relationship. Can they move past it without hurting each other in the process?

Carter and Madison still have a demon haunting them that won't stop until they are ruined. Will they figure out his plans before it's too late?

Fighting To Survive is the final book in the Guarded Hearts Series. It will test the strength, will and love of all the characters. This conclusion will have you laughing, crying and screaming for more.

## **Fighting to Survive Details**

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Alexis Noelle

Format :

Genre : Romance, Academic, College

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# **From Reader Review Fighting to Survive for online ebook**

## **Debbie says**

This was another good story in this series. We find out Shawn's secret in the first chapter. I enjoyed getting to read more about him and loved him and Christen together. They are really sweet. She's from a very wealthy family but her parents are more concerned about appearances and money and not what makes her happy. Shawn is in pre-med and is from a family that works hard and struggles, but is full of love.

Carter and Madison are back and we get the conclusion we've probably all wanted as readers regarding her ex boyfriend Chris. Nicole and Jason are in the story, but not much happens with them. This story was mainly focused on Shawn and Christen.

Overall, I really liked the book. I loved seeing all the characters. My only complaint is the ending. I wish Holly would get a book so that we could get a little more closure and updates on all the couples. We were given a nice ending for everyone, but it was really rushed and a few things felt unfinished. You did however leave with the feeling that although this group wasn't all family, they really were. Sometimes it's your friends that support and love you the most.

FYI - this book ended at 88% on my Kindle.

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## **The Book Fairy Reviews says**

Fighting to stay in school and I do mean literally fighting, Shawn finds that he can't keep his secret any longer. He has been fighting in an underground circle so that he can come up with the tuition money he needs to stay in pre~med.

Going out with her girl friends to celebrate a birthday party, Christen never expected to see Shawn. When he turns around and sees that Chris is standing there, something in him changes. He sees her for the first time he is really seeing her. For Chris, who has secretly had a crush on him for a while seeing him like this sends chills to her core. They come from different backgrounds and different worlds. Can they make it work?

This is the third book in the Guarded Heart Series and it is simply beautiful. Filled with tough decisions and facing truths. A story where we learn that family isn't always thicker than water. We learn that the ones that love you and stand by you are your family. I loved reading it. If you are looking for a series that fills your heart with a calm after the storm this is it! Shawn and his friends are the most fiercest and protective of boyfriends and friends. Hmmm I don't think you will hear me complaining!!!

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## **Mariela Bustos says**

What can I say? I needed to read it. Just got the book once Ashley told me it was already out. I love this series, and who would have guessed I could have a bit of Carter and J in Shawn. :D I won't lie at first I thought Holly and Shawn would get together, but Christen works for me. Oh, and the opening just blew me away, I never would have guessed what the secret was. It was sweet and romantic. I also loved that he wanted to show her a good time with simple dates, and the Brazilian restaurant was awesome. I have been and enjoyed. Shawn sacrificed for love and had me wanting to cry with Christen. I did enjoy the wrap around

with Madison and the abusive ex Chris. Still, I am left wanting to know holly's HEA. I can sympathize feeling like the third or in her case seventh wheel. So, soon I hope. If you haven't read her series yet, don't hesitate and go for it. :)

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## **Monique Machuca-Austin says**

OMG! WHEN YOU ARE FORCE TO FIGHT FOR MONEY, LOVE, AND A FUTURE TO SURVIVE, IS IT ENOUGH?

Fighting To Survive is the third novel in the Guarded Hearts series by Author, Ashley Piscitelli. Ashley has done a wonderful job introducing her characters in each novel and keeps them engage in each of the following novels in the series. I have been fortunate to have read and reviewed each novel in the series: Playing With Fire (Guarded Hearts, #1) and Breaking Through The Wall (Guarded Hearts, #2). Playing With Fire (Guarded Hearts, #1) is the story of Madison Stevens, Chris Johnson, and Carter James. Breaking Through The Wall (Guarded Hearts, #2) begins immediately were Playing With Fire left us on that dreadful cliffhanger in which Chris Johnson has gone crazily obsessed over Madison and everyone has concerns to the secret Shawn Matthews is hiding.

All the girls are going to out to celebrate Holly James' birthday, but Holly decides she wants to attend a secretive underground fighting circuit, The Circle. While the other girls are freaking out to actually being somewhere illegal for a fear of being arrested and more so than getting in trouble with their boyfriends. The announcer starts to speak and the crowd goes insane when he introduces the undefeated king, Knockout. Unfortunately, they too are knocked-out when they discover the fighter is Shawn Matthews.

"There, standing in front of us in all of his sculptured, sexy, raw glory, is Shawn. He has on shorts that hang low and show off his defined V that dips below them. His chest looks so chiseled that I swear it looks like a padded Halloween costume. His chest is rising and following fast, like he's high on the adrenaline of it all." - Christen

What Shawn does not know is that Christian has had a crush on him for the past year, now he finds himself shocked on how a girl like Christian could like him. Christian's family is wealthy, because her father is a business mogul. While Shawn family owns a construction company, but business is slow for the company.

"I don't want to pretend like it never happened. I didn't go back there to try to hit on you, but I definitely don't regret it. I've had a crush on you since last year, and when you kissed me tonight it was amazing. I hope I'm not making an idiot of myself right now, but I would like to see where this thing goes." - Christian

Christian and Shawn agree to try a relationship, despite their different upbringing and financials. Despite to their feeling of each other, Christian's parents have a different plan for her future and it does not include Shawn.

"Shawn isn't rich - strike one. His father isn't someone influential - strike two. And he doesn't go to an Ivy League school - strike three." - Christian

Even though Christian's family does not approve of Shawn, that does not keep Christian away so her father thinks of other means to get rid of him. In addition, Shawn finds himself from one bad situation leading into another.

Fighting To Survive will capture your attention immediately and will have you on a roller coaster of COMPASSION, SADNESS, ANGER, SUSPENSE, FORGIVENESS, LAUGHTER, and LOVE. We can only hope that Ashley will continue her writing with the Guarded Hearts series with Holly's story.

"Blood doesn't make you family, love does. You haven't loved anyone but yourself in a long-ass time." - Holly

Ashley Piscitelli's third novel in the Guarded Hearts series, Fighting To Survive, receives - 5 AMAZING STARS!

**\*\*JUST BOOKED** received a gifted copy by the author for an Honest Review\*\*

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## **Twinsie Talk Angie J says**

check out this review and others at  
[www.Twinsietalk.com](http://www.Twinsietalk.com)  
[www.Facebook.com/Twinsietalk](http://www.Facebook.com/Twinsietalk)  
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I received this book from the author for an honest review.

Ok so I am a huge fan of this series. It made my top 20 picks for the year 2013. I am a huge Carter girl but will take Jason on the side with some fries. I will admit to feeling that I didnt really know Shawn but he totally got me interested. Ashley was having people guess what Shawns secret was and I went cray cray when I guessed right....little booty shaking went on for dang sure!!

Ok so this book was a SUPER FAST read!! I mean like WOW was it fast. I felt like I read it in like 5 minutes because the writing flows. The characters were all there and I love that about this series. We stay connected even as the series grows with all the main characters. We still see Mads and Carter in love. We still see Nic and J fighting but sexing each other up and in love. SO when Shawn's book began, I felt comfy jumping right in with their love story because we knew the characters. Their story does literally jump in right away...like within the first 2 chapters. Now someone who doesnt know the series or the characters may have issue but not me. These are MY peopls!! These are MY characters!!

SO Shawn and Chris or Princess as everyone calls her jump right into a realtionship after she stumbles across his BIG SECRET. He never really noticed her before but thought she was cute. However, when she approached him the night of the secret, her compassion is what made him sit up and take full notice of her. Annnd so Shawn and Chris begin a very quick relationship all the while Shawn is told if he messes with her he is dead...this from Carter's sister Holly who is a very important member of this book.

Well Shawn takes Chrsi home to meet the family and they love her. When they meet her family they hate him...like crazy hate him to the point of blackmailing him. Well per the typical drama, they split up. When he comes to his senses thanks to JASON, he rushes back to find and save her from a BAD SITUATION. Wellllll then things go very badly for him but I will not tell.....

Ok Holly, well she is loving everyone is in love but is lonely. shemeets Joshand they begin a realtionship inline. She is very excited to meet him and when they have their first date...things go....well, not according to

the plan!!! All I can say is I was texting Ashley saying "OMGI didnt see that coming!!"

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### **Tracy Trixy says**

OMG!!

Book three definitely the better book!! Full of shocks and surprises :)

Nice tie up for the main characters, however I'm left wondering about poor Holly... Hoping there's a book for her???

Loved it, loved the twists and turns, love the character interactions and developments, and loving the end result for Chris :)

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### **Melinda ~ Twinsie Talk says**

I received this book by the Author for an honest review.

This is the third book in the series and I am in love with these characters. There is Maddy and Carter, Jason and Nicole, Shawn, Holly, and Christen. We have some unanswered questions from the last two books like what is up with Shawn and what is going to happen with Chris? I could not wait to dive in to find out. I was so happy to be back with all these guys.

This one jumps right in and answers the first question about what is up with Shawn. The girls blow that one right out of the water on a girl's night out. I think they were just as shocked to see Shawn as Shawn was to see Christen. Christen has had a crush on Shawn for a while. However, this is when Shawn finally starts to actually see Chris. Let's just say when their relationship takes off it really takes off.

Shawn's parents love Christen. However, Shawn and Chris do have obstacles in their way called Christen's Mom and Dad. They are mean, ruthless ones that will stop at nothing to get Christen to follow the path they have planned for her and not her own. The ones that seem to loose in the end are Chris and Shawn, only because Shawn turns and runs instead of talking to Chris about what is going on. Shocker I know big Alpha men trying to always protect their women. Once Shawn figures out what he needs to do (with the help of Jason...Another shocker I know) he is dealt another blow...and the twist keep coming (something that Ashley Piscitelli is great at and I love).

I loved that we get to see all the characters in this series no one is left out. Question that were lingering from book one and two are answered in the end of this book. The way the book ended it almost sounds like Holly may get a book of her own. Oh, please say it is so she needs her HEA just like the others. Well I will have to wait and see if this is the case. Plus if she does get her own book I may get to see Carter, Jason, and Shawn again. Selfish I know..but a girl can dream.

Thank you for the wonderful series Ashley Piscitelli!

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## **Megan says**

This was a great conclusion to the Guarded Hearts series. I absolutely love all of the characters and it was nice to finally see some resolution for them. The story line was interesting and had me glued to my tablet. I easily read it all in one sitting because I couldn't put it down.

This book mostly revolves around Shawn and Christen but you do get a little bit from Jason, Nicole, Carter, Madison, and Holly. Shawn and Christen quickly fall for each other. Their personalities complement the other's very well. Shawn is finally able to come clean with his friends and of course gets their support but he also acquires more obstacles to overcome after he starts dating Christen. The love and support within the whole group is inspiring and I found myself easily rooting for them.

Thankfully we finally get some resolution with this final installment and I was happy to see most of the group find someone. I do wish that there was a fourth book so Holly could find someone. However it was a great book and awesome series. The story flowed really well and I was easily able to immerse myself in their world. I look forward to more from this author and give this one a 5 out of 5 stars!

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## **Janna ♥ I'm A Sweet And Sassy Book Whore ♥ says**

[www.mysecretromancebookreviews.com](http://www.mysecretromancebookreviews.com)

Shawn Matthews has been hiding something from his friends, he is secretive and won't talk about what has him running off and returning beat up sometimes. His friends aren't sure what to think, but when his secret comes out it all begins to make sense.

Christen has had a crush on Shawn since she first met him. He hasn't noticed her though, well not until she and her friends are the ones who discovered his secret. Once she catches his eye, will they be able to move past how different their backgrounds are, or will their relationship be fighting to survive?

Shawn has been keeping a secret from all of his friends. He doesn't want them to know where he disappears to. He knows once they find out they are going to offer help and he doesn't want that. He doesn't like what he has to do but he can't deny that he isn't good at it either. When Christen, Madison and Nicole discover his secret he didn't think he knew they wouldn't keep their mouths shut. He also didn't plan on noticing Christen, the girl that has hung around them since Carter and Madison have gotten together. Once he does though, he can't help but want her.

Christen comes from a wealthy background, but she doesn't throw it in your face. She's been Carter's little sister Holly's friend for years. Since she first meets Shawn she has had a crush on him that has only gotten stronger as time goes on. She falls hard for Shawn.

These two have great chemistry and get along great, well that is until people stick their noses where they don't belong. My stomach actually felt nauseated when I read what Shawn does to Christen. While I can see why he does what he does at the same time I was like why are you letting them do this to you and her? He does earn back my love though, doing what he does best so I can forgive his momentary douche bag status.

Of course things for Madison and Carter and Nicole and Jason aren't all sunshine and roses either. Nicole

and Jason are still trying to work through what they have learned. Madison and Carter still have the threat of Chris hanging over their heads.

Fighting to Survive is the final book in the Guarded Hearts series. I really enjoyed this book. My only issue was that it seemed a little rushed and could have been longer to close up some loose ends but overall it is a good read and a great ending to this series and the beginning of another. Ashley Piscitelli had won me over with the first book in this series, *Playing With Fire*, but sealed my loyalty with *Fighting To Survive*.

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### **The Book Hangover says**

Fighting to Survive is the last book in the Guarded Hearts series and is Shawn and Christen's story and boy what a story it is! If you've followed the series, there's something a little mysterious about Shawn and you've always wondered what his deal is, well the truth comes out in *Fighting to Survive*.

In the first chapter, you learn his secret but also see Shawn and Christen's connection. She's been crushing on him for a while now, she approaches him and it kind of shocks him, making him realize that she may actually be interested in him, even though she knows his secret.

Their relationship really takes off until they go home on break and meet each other's parents. Shawn's parents love Chris but the love isn't reciprocated with Chris's parents about Shawn, causing Shawn to think twice about their relationship. When they return back from break, that's when all hell breaks loose!

Shawn and Christen's story is cute but pretty hot! You still get to see Jason and Nicole and Maddy and Carter, oh and of course Holly!

These are hot, quick and suspenseful reads so be sure to pick up the series!

Here's our stop on the blog tour: <http://wp.me/p3vwIF-190>

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### **Stephanie Phillips (Stephanie's Book Reports) says**

What an awesome story. I have been looking forward to reading this story to catch up with what's happening with "the gang." It's great to catch up and see the new relationship of Christen and Shawn. They didn't waste any time getting together and becoming a solid unit. There's some drama with Christen's parents and Shawn, unfortunately, pays the price. Those are some nasty cold hearted people.

I think you'll enjoy this book as much as the others. It a very quick read.

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### **Megaen MacDonald says**

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Shawn and Christen's story is cute but pretty hot! You still get to see Jason and Nicole and Maddy and Carter, oh and of course Holly!

These are hot, quick and suspenseful reads so be sure to pick up the series!

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## **Jennifer says**

*\*\*A complimentary copy provided by author for blog tour\*\**

**~~ 4 Stars ~~**

So I'll start by saying this review might be on the short side, just because this book was shorter than the first 2. It also might be slightly vague because things that I want to put into this review would ruin the story for everyone.

Fighting to Survive is Book 3 of the Guarded Hearts series by Ashley Piscitelli. I thought this was a great concluding book to this series. This book is mainly about Shawn and Christen, but it also concludes the stories of all of the characters from the previous books. This book was an extremely quick read...I finished it in less than 6 hours. Part of that is because it is a shorter book (almost more like a novella) but also because it is so smoothly written that it just moves right along and before you know the story is over. Ashley gives us a bit of everything in this book. We got love, laughs, steam, drama, and even some suspense. My only real negative and why I didn't give it 5 stars was because I didn't think it was long enough. I felt that some of the parts were slightly rushed and could've been expanded on a little more. The suspense and drama part of the story happen pretty close to the end, which in turn made the conclusions of that part of the story pass too quickly. I also felt that the ending of the epilogue was kind of abrupt....the way the final sentence is stated it sort of leads me to believe that there could be a book for Holly someday. ( I wouldn't be opposed to that at all...hint, hint ;) ) With that said, I truly did enjoy this whole series and I am glad I got the chance to read it!!!!

We met Shawn and Christen in Book 2 of this series. They are both friends of Carter, Maddy, Jason, and Nicole. In book 2 Shawn is very secretive and the author never revealed anything until book 3. We did find out in book 2 that Christen has been attracted to Shawn since the day they met. So when book 3 starts and Shawn and Christen get together pretty quickly it actually really kind of works. I know a lot of people don't like the insta-love thing but this scenario worked because they had met prior to getting together. Ashley also does a great job letting the reader know that it really doesn't matter then length of time a couple have been together, when you know its right you just know. I really liked both Shawn and Christen's characters. They both knew what they wanted out of life and were willing to whatever they had to, to make their dreams come true. I loved that Christen wasn't the spoiled brat she could've turned into because she comes from money....she was very down to earth and knew she didn't want to rely on her controlling parents. These two

made a great couple.

As I said before I was glad to see Carter, Madison, Jason, Nicole, and Holly all in this story. I have absolutely fallen in love with each of these characters and their stories. I was glad to see that all the unanswered questions that still lingered on from book 1 and 2 were completely answered in book 3.

I would recommend this book/series to anyone looking for a quick series that is a great love story, with just enough drama and suspense to keep you coming back for more. I will definitely continue reading anything Ashley writes!!!!

*For more reviews go to Book Bitches Blog*

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### **For the Love of Books says**

5 AMAZING STARS!! So I've loved this series from the get go and was SO excited to finally get to know more about Shawn. Boy was it worth the wait! I loved seeing the characters I had fallen in love with from the first two books are back and still as lovable, and some not so lovable :) I loved these two and the story line. Definitely one to go one click!  
~ Leslie ~

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### **Mayas says**

Hahaha, I knew it. I was spot on with his profession (secret). Shawn is so my baby and is a baby at heart but driven to be something with the shitty hand of financial problems.

I was happy he admitted he was douche and apologized to Christen but her parents are on my "hate" list like Chris. UGH, speaking of him I can't believe he stooped that low to get Madison. He got what he deserved too. Yep, I am happy with the outcome but want more. I want to see EVERYONE problem and family drama free. Those darn stubborn 'rents.... Can't wait for Holly story though.

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