



Operation Power Play

Justine Davis

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Murder, corruption and a second chance at love...

When his dog, Cutter, leads Brett Dunbar to a dead body during a routine property check, it's the detective's hardest case yet. Because the victim was found on Sloan Burke's land. Now Brett must balance professionalism and attraction?something nearly impossible when the beautiful widow's determination puts her directly in the line of fire.

Seeing the heroic qualities she valued in her late husband reflected in Brett makes the protective wall around Sloan's heart crumble. Brett won't risk another relationship to his dangerous job, and Sloan refuses to have a future with a man constantly in danger. But solving the crime might be easier than letting each other go...

Operation Power Play Details

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From Reader Review Operation Power Play for online ebook

Susan says

This is the fifth of the Cutter's Code books and it was just as good as the previous ones. Cutter is a very special dog who frequently seems to be far more than "just" a dog, and the people around him have learned to pay attention to him. Brett is a detective on the local police force and has had dealings with the Foxworth folks in previous books. He is one of the good guys who appreciates the good that Foxworth does. At the beginning of the book the dog Cutter is due to go home with another Foxworth employee while his people are on their honeymoon, but decides he'd rather go with Brett. Within a few days Cutter has engineered a meeting between Brett and Sloan Burke. Sloan and her aunt and uncle had been talking about a problem they were having with some paperwork filed with the county, and Brett, being a nice guy, offers to check into it for them. A simple inquiry leads to more and more questions about what is really going on.

Brett and Sloan are drawn together by more than just their investigation into the property question. There is an attraction between them that has surprised them, especially since both of them have issues that have prevented them from allowing anyone to get close to them. Brett had been married before, but his wife was murdered by a crook he had put away. Brett has sworn he would never put another woman in that kind of danger again. Sloan had been married to a military man who was killed in the line of duty when he and his men were ambushed. Sloan had promised herself that she wouldn't get involved with another man in a dangerous profession. Their intentions can't hold up against their attraction and the determined matchmaking of a certain dog.

I really loved both Brett and Sloan. Brett is one of those truly honorable men that seem to be so hard to find. I liked the way that he downplayed his part in checking into the paperwork problem, and yet was determined to find out what the problem really was. I also liked the deep respect he had for Sloan and what she has accomplished since and because of her husband's death. I liked his sensitivity to her feelings about their attraction, because he has the same thing going on himself. Sloan was an amazingly strong woman. When the powers that be tried to blame Jason for what had happened to he and his men, she took them all on, taking the fight all the way to the top. She then started her own group that was very much like Foxworth, that worked to help the men and women in uniform. I loved seeing the awe and respect that people like Rafe and others showed to her.

The relationship that developed between Brett and Sloan was wonderfully done. Though the attraction was immediate and strong, the relationship itself moved relatively slowly. I liked the way they took the time to get to know each other and were sensitive to each other's fears. Brett had a hard time letting go of the guilt he felt over his wife's death, especially as the danger got more intense. Sloan also had a hard time, and the mental conversations she has show just what she is going through. There is one spot at the end where she nearly lets her fears get the better of her. She does get past them, but once again Cutter comes through with the final "push" to get she and Brett together.

The suspense of the story was fantastic, though the blurb is slightly misleading. I loved seeing it build from what appears to be a simple paperwork snafu to something much bigger. The worry about what had happened to Brett's friend was very intense, and I liked seeing Brett have the confidence to go to Rafe at Foxworth when it looked like he would need more information than he could get for himself. The closer they got to finding the answers the more complicated things became. The final confrontation was very intense. I loved seeing how Cutter saved the day. The epilogue gave a great wrap up.

Cutter is the star of the show throughout the book. I always enjoy seeing the reactions of people new to Cutter and his capabilities. It's definitely a bit spooky at times to see how he reacts to various happenings. I can't wait to see who gets his attention next. I really hope that Rafe gets his story soon. I have a feeling it has something to do with the mysterious Charlie.

Robin says

Good book!

Paula Legate says

You dog lovers out there will love this book. Cutter showed up one day at Hailey's. She looked for months for his owner, but he let Hailey know that he was home. Cutter acted like he had been Police trained, but no one knew with the way he just showed up. Cutter had a ability for finding trouble and demanding that his people fix it. He had a different bark for each person that was special to him. Hailey got married, and before she went away for her Honeymoon Cutter walked over to Detective Brett Dunbar's car and refused to move. Brett ended up dog sitting while the couple was away.

The book starts out with Cutter leading Brett to Sloan, and her Aunt Connie , While they were out for a run.

Connie's husband was hurt, and could no longer go up the stairs of the two story home. She had requested a permit from the county to build a single story home on the land they owned. It was the same land the county had tried to buy a few years back, but Sloan's uncle refused to sale it. The suspense of the story was really good.

The book started off a little slow for me, but was worth the read. I would love to have a dog like Cutter one day. He was the star of this book. The romance between Sloan, and Brett was sweet, and touched my heart. Both had to get past the grief. Sloan's husband had died in combat. Brett's wife was murdered. I think they helped each other heal. Sweet book.

Suzanne says

Another good entry in Ms. Davis's Cutter's Code series. The characters had depth and the attraction to one another was developed over the course of the story and wasn't contrived. The story line/plot kept me guessing until the very end and was plausible. And then there is the interaction between all the characters and the dog, Cutter. Wish I had a dog like him....

Pam says

Operation Power Play is a romantic suspense by Justine Davis. It is a Cutter's Code novel.

Brett Dunbar is a detective who is now a dogsitter. He is keeping Cutter for Quinton while he is on his honeymoon. They have indicated that Cutter is a different dog, more human than dog. He chose Brett to take care of him by sitting by his car and refusing to move until they brought his "things" to Brett. Then he calmly got in the car and waited. Now he leads Brett to Sloan Burks and her Aunt. Here, after a brief chat, Brett learns that the aunt's application for a permit to build a house on her own property is denied. When Brett begins to look into why her application was denied, he began to hit brick walls. Why would someone not want to allow the aunt to build on her own property? Why would someone follow Sloan and Brett as they look into the situation? It goes much deeper than anyone knew. Can they fix this? What about their attraction to each other? What about his job?

I simply love the books involving Cutter. I would love to have a dog like him.

Nancy says

A great series..hope 2 read them all. This was definitely a slow read for me though and not plotted tightly enough, imho.

Harlequin Books says

"Their {Brett and Sloan} romantic connection sizzles in the latest Cutter's Code installment. The combination of an adorable dog, distinctive characters and steady pacing make this story one stellar read"
(RT Book Reviews, 4 stars).

Miniseries: Cutter's Code

Marcia says

Cutter, the psychic dog in the series, decides to stay with detective Brett Dunbar, while Foxworth Foundation founders, Quinn and Hayley, are on their honeymoon. Out on their daily morning run, he leads Brett to Sloan Burke, widow of an American hero, who had to crusade to uncover the coverup of what happened leading to her husband's death and had become a hero herself to the military world. Now she is taking care of her aunt and uncle who are having bureaucratic problems building a new home for her disabled uncle. They are both still in love with their dead spouses, but for the first time are attracted to each other, but both fear acting on this attraction. Cutter the dog know better. He also know that something is rotten in the county office and as Brett tried to help they find that that there is more going on than a misplaced file. The characters are all well developed and the action moves steadily to the surprising conclusion. My only question is who is the dog on the cover? Cutter is described as a black lab, with a black head and chocolate colored body, so why is there a german shepherd on the cover?
