



## Firewall

*DiAnn Mills*

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After a whirlwind romance, Taryn Young is preparing to board a plane at Houston International Airport, bound for a dream honeymoon, when a bomb decimates the terminal. Injured but still alive, she awakens to discover her husband is missing and they're both considered prime suspects in the attack. Further, the FBI is convinced her husband isn't who he appears to be.

Agent Grayson Hall's number-one priority is to catch those responsible for the day's act of terror. All evidence is pointing to Taryn and her new husband. But his instinct tells him her pleas of innocence are genuine. Is her naiveté just for show, or could she truly be another victim of a master scheme, possibly linked to the software she recently developed for her company?

With both their lives and reputations on the line, and the media outcry for justice increasing with each passing minute, Taryn and Grayson have no choice but to trust one another . . . and pray they can uncover the truth before they become two more casualties.

## Firewall Details

Date : Published July 1st 2014 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (first published June 20th 2014)

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Author : DiAnn Mills

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Genre : Christian Fiction, Suspense, Christian, Romance, Mystery, Romantic Suspense, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Firewall for online ebook

**Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

## About this book:

“In a matter of minutes, Taryn Young’s happily ever after turns into her waking nightmare. After a whirlwind romance, software developer Taryn Young is en route to a dream honeymoon when a bomb decimates the terminal, killing dozens. Injured, she awakens in the hospital to discover her husband is missing, and they’re both considered prime suspects in the attack. Further, the FBI is convinced her husband isn’t who he appears to be.

Agent Grayson Hall's first priority is to catch those responsible for the bombing. Despite the evidence pointing Taryn's guilt, Grayson's gut tells him she's innocent...and in danger. With a possible mole in the FBI office, Grayson and Taryn fight to stay ahead of her pursuers, especially when they learn what the bombers are really after: Taryn's latest high-security software project. In the wrong hands, it could leave the US vulnerable to massive attacks.

With national security on the line, Taryn and Grayson must unravel the plot and find the architect before their firewall is breached.”

Series: Book 1 in the new series "FBI: Houston". {The next book "Double Cross" is coming out in April of 2015.}

Spiritual Content- Taryn says she was a “Once-a-Month believer”, only going to Claire’s Messianic church once a month; Grayson is Protestant; Prayers.

Negative Content- Minor and Medium Cussing including: an unfinished ‘b----‘ (written just like that), a ‘cr\*p’, a b\*ll’, a ‘crude’, a p\*ss\*nts, a ‘h\*ll-r\*isin”, and two ‘suck it up’s; The sayings “All h\*ll broke loose”, “crawling up your r\*ar”, and “p\*ts of h\*ll” are all said at least once; People curse & almost curse but it’s not written; Drinking; a little girl gets kidnapped (not in her P.O.V. but is semi-detailed)

Sexual Content- two ‘s\*xy’s; A few not-detailed kisses; Taryn blushes remembering her and Shep’s wedding night (no-details); Different people says “such slept with such” (like Taryn says Kinsley slept with Haden); Taryn says when she was three, quote, “My mother found me standing in her bathroom sink rummaging through her medicine cabinet. I’d eaten all of her birth control pills.” “What did you do?” “Had my stomach pumped. I’ve been hormonal ever since”; Taryn had to flirt with Murford to get him to talk; Iris knows she’s pretty & uses it to her advantage.

-Taryn Young

-Grayson Hall

P.O.V. switches between them & Iris {though, Taryn & Grayson is in third person while Iris is in first.}

390 pages

### Pre Teens- One Star

New Teens- One Star

Early High School Teens- Two Stars

Older High School Teens- Two Stars (and a half)

My personal Rating- Two Stars

\*\*The cover?! Taryn described with having auburn hair with green eyes—not black hair with blue eyes! Maybe that's supposed to be Iris? That's the only thing I can figure. Also, Grayson is a blonde...? Maybe that's Shep? I don't know...

While I thought this book was okay, and I liked where it was set {but not really, 'cause when I think about it and all that happens, it's way too close to some of my family} this would not be a book for teens, it's pretty rough.

Link to review:

<http://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot.com/2013/06/firewall.html>

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\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

\*I received this book for free from the Publisher (Tyndale Publishers) for this review.

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### **Lynn says**

DNF at 45%. This one wasn't for me.

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### **Melanie says**

Review on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/review/R1Q3EQFT...>

Review on my blog (to be posted 6/29): <http://christianbookshelfreviews.blogspot.com/2013/06/firewall.html>

Firewall is an intense read that, when you're reading it, you don't want to put down! I really enjoyed my time spent reading the story. I thought it was very suspenseful and left you guessing as to what was to happen next.

The plot was really interesting and unique. The characters were great and I thought their individual quirks were neat. One thing I very much enjoyed about Firewall was that just when you thought you knew the guilty party and what was going on, another curveball was thrown.

All in all, another good read from this author. I really liked it and recommend Firewall to fans of romantic

suspense novels. I look forward to the next book in the FBI: Houston series, Double Cross, which releases next year.

\*Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention/review it on my blog. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own and I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.\*

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### **Natalie Walters says**

What happened the day you left for your honeymoon? For Taryn Young it's a day spent in the hospital waking up to learn she's suspected of terrorism along with her missing husband.

Firewall feels like a meshing of three stories in one. First there's the bombing, then there's the desperate search to find a little girl, and finally the clock is ticking as to who will find the "high-security software project" before it falls into the wrong hands.

Because of these multiple plot lines, which I feel could all stand their own story, it leaves Taryn Young's character caught in a trifecta of goals. Add to that the romantic ideas she begins to feel for Agent Grayson Hall in the midst of the chaos. What's a girl to do?

Taryn fights the trifecta. She wants to clear her name, find the little girl of her best friend, and stop the software program she designed from destroying America. Agent Grayson Hall helps her by rebuilding her trust in men (she did marry a man after only knowing him for three months-how could this tech savvy girl not have done her homework? A simple Google search...I'm just saying), and keeping her safe from the enemy at every turn.

DiAnn does an incredible job showing what role the FBI takes in solving crimes to keep America and her citizens safe. She carefully weaves a story of plot, character, and setting giving the reader a chance to live inside the story.

Firewall is definitely a Romantic Suspense story that will take you on an adventure.

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### **Iola says**

Software developer Taryn Young has just become Mrs Francis Shepherd after a whirlwind courtship. She is about to board a plane with Shep for their island honeymoon when a bomb rips through the airport, and Taryn wakes up in hospital to find she and Shep are the prime suspects.

FBI Special Agent Grayson Hall has been assigned to interview Taryn to find the truth behind the fatal bombing. He and his partner are initially convinced she is guilty, but while she manages to convince them of her innocence, it soon becomes apparent that Shep is intimately involved in the crime. As the investigation

progresses, Greyson finds himself developing feelings for Taryn.

There is something slightly 'off' about a romance plot in which one of the partners has only recently come out of a serious relationship (as in, serious enough that she married the guy). Even as teenagers we understood that rebound relationships never work, and while I've read some excellent novels about second relationships (*Somebody Like You* by Beth Vogt springs to mind), *Firewall* is not one of them.

Taryn's emotions towards Grayson felt more like a bizarre kind of Stockholm Syndrome than real caring, and I didn't think her naïve genius-level IT geek came across well (Ted Dekker's *Hacker* on the other hand ... brilliant). Bluntly, I found it difficult to care for her as a character. She felt more like a mash-up of clichés than a real person. Yes, I know this is fiction, but the beauty of great fiction is it makes me feel like I'm reading about real people. *Firewall* didn't.

Despite the relative failings of the romance, the suspense side of the plot was definitely up to standard. It was chilling to watch the FBI investigation progress and see how thoroughly Taryn had been duped, and Mills did an excellent job in that I never saw Taryn as stupid or naïve (let's face it, even the most intelligent of women can make bad choices in marriage, Christian or not). The finale was excellent, as it pulled off a huge plot twist that tied up all the ends of the suspense plot. However, this was not enough to squelch my 'yuk' factor around the 'romance' side of the plot. *Firewall* is not a book I'll be rereading.

Thanks to Tyndale and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

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### **Rebecca says**

Mix together one fabulous opening chapter with an ending that you will never see coming; add one beautiful heroine, a handsome, courageous F. B. I agent and you have just followed the recipe for one breathtaking romantic suspense novel. "*Firewall*" has all those ingredients! And more!

With her signature style of fast-paced suspense, and doses of romance, DiAnn Mills has crafted a stand-alone story that will have you turning pages until the very end! A wonderful addition to her collection of novels.

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### **Faye says**

Taryn's married bliss is cut short when a bomb goes off in one of the airport terminals on the way to her honeymoon--and the bomber/terrorist is her new husband! After the dust clears, Taryn and her husband are the prime suspects in the attack.

Agent Grayson Hall's job is to find those responsible for the, and even though all evidence points to Taryn as her new husband, things just don't seem to add up and Taryn seems genuinely baffled by everything that has just happened. Grayson can't seem to shake the feeling that Taryn is innocent.

With the media out for blood, it is up to Taryn and Grayson to clear her name once and for all,

while avoiding the forces that will stop at nothing to see that they don't discover the truth.

This is a fast-paced action packed read, with concise chapters that left me wanting more. Great characters, and a terrific plot line, I read this book in record time, and found myself reading it in every spare moment. Hands down, this book is a winner, and probably my favorite DiAnn Mills book to date!

Taryn is thrust into a terrible nightmare of a situation, but she trusts God, and takes everything one step at a time, as she and Grayson work to unravel the conspiracy.

Overall, this is a fantastic read, that I enjoyed every minute of. I had a hard time putting it down and I would highly recommend it to anyone who likes a fast paced action/suspense read, with a touch of romance!

**Disclosure of Material Connection:** I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Leighann says**

Sorry, DiAnn. I recognized your name, and thought I'd enjoyed your books before, but this one just didn't do it for me.

1. The romance angle was really hard to swallow. I understand the fact that Taryn was utterly deceived and used by her fiance/husband, but it's a hard to believe she would emotionally drop him like a hot potato and get the feels for some guy she's known less than a week.
2. Political or international suspense doesn't hold my interest like a murder or abduction thriller, but that's just personal preference.

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### **Brittany says**

I enjoyed reading Firewall. It was an exciting story and kept my interest. I really did like these characters and thought the book kept up a nice, quick pace. There seemed to always be something happening, or a new piece of information being discovered.

My favorite parts of the story involved the mystery running through the book. There were multiple villains and it was not until the very end of the book that all of my questions were answered. The author completely floored me with the twists and turns the story took and with the ultimate "bad guy reveal"!

I also enjoyed the romance. It could be argued that Taryn is falling into another quick relationship, like the whirlwind courtship before her marriage. I don't think it was unreasonable in this setting for Taryn and Grayson to develop feelings for each other and with Taryn's lack of much romantic background, she might be susceptible to falling for another man quickly.

Two things required me to "suspend reality" and just enjoy the story, but they were minor as they related to

my enjoyment of reading an exciting suspense novel. First, Taryn has a fairly monumental conversion from atheist to believer. Not unheard of, but she does become very solidly focused and knowledgeable about God quickly. Second, the villains seemed to be “super villains”. The various bad guys had everything covered and planned out, always seeming to outsmart the good guys. They were just so good at what they did! It was hard for me to believe that they could always be so many steps ahead of the FBI and Taryn. But, then again, it made the story very exciting and unpredictable.

This was my first book by DiAnn Mills and it will definitely not be my last. It was an exciting and engaging story.

You can read my review on the Suspense Sisters review page:  
<http://suspensesistersreviews.blogspot.com>...

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### **Hannah says**

Wow, talk about a book that keeps you guessing! I never saw the big reveal coming and never guessed who the mastermind-villain was. Quite a shock. There's nonstop action, twist after twist, and plenty of danger to the plucky heroine. Add to it a strong representation of Christian faith, as her troubles draw her to consider her need for a personal God Who cares what happens to her.

I've already got book two on hold at the library and am eager for a chance to read it!

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### **Rissi says**

#### **Rating: 4.5 out of 5**

This novel, the first in Christy-award-winning novelist, DiAnn Mills new series is definitely a good one; it's riveting and fortunately for the story, it's full of characters that don't get lost in the excitement of the fast-moving plots. Taryn Young is a savvy, brilliant woman, except when it comes to matters of the heart. Today, her whole world is falling apart. It's the day after her whirlwind romance ended in “I do,” and as she and her new husband, Shep are about to board their honeymoon flight, a bomb explodes inside the airport. Injured and lying in a hospital bed, when Taryn wakes up, it's to be surrounded by men with FBI badges and the news media calling her a terrorist. Sure this is a horrible dream she'll wake from to be back in the arms of Shep, Taryn is unable to find her new husband and despite what the FBI are telling her, she's determined to put an end to the rumors of her involvement, even if it means she has to trust in the stalwart agent – Grayson Hall, who is by her side, with the intention of protecting Taryn at any cost.

Regardless of my love of this genre and all things “mystery,” I can honestly say, this novel is one of the best I've read this summer – surprisingly, it's not all about the nail-biting excitement either (although that doesn't hurt anything). There's something very compelling about *Firewall*'s premise in spite of – or maybe it's because of, its genre which can sometimes be stereotyped to the point of potential readers assuming there is nothing to the novel beyond the game of back-and-forth danger. It is true that *Firewall* follows that same path in that it barely takes a moment to catch its breath (the danger and secrets begin before a chapter is gone and doesn't stop until the epilogue) not to mention letting us do the same, however DiAnn manages to weave in some exceptionally good character traits so that we never feel as if we're strangers to the characters – its

main protagonists are, in fact insanely fun people to know and if we have to be chasing down the bad guys, it's a roller-coaster ride along with these two.

Part of the reason the plot does such a sensational job putting a slower, genuine tag onto the characters is because it begins with a broken heroine, who is not easily made whole (for the majority of the pages) whereas most books would have written the kinder, happier outcome by using the safer route and letting Taryn's belief in someone she loved have weight. If there is something that seemed jumbled it was all of the characters involved in the terrorist plotting. All the names kind of ran together for me, though I don't know that it was a mistake on anyone's part but my own, since I may not have been totally focused on portions of the book when all the players came into the picture, because of that, I can hardly hold that against the story – and in fact, don't. On that same line of thinking, the book does run a smidgeon overlong, counting in at 400 pages. A few cuts here and there would have made the plot tighter and a quicker read.

The plotting offered some sweet surprises along the way (one in particular had me smiling like crazy) and the ending was super sweet, all of which helped make this story one of the most fun among its peers. If you're a fan of law enforcement novels that features easily liked protagonists, check out the first novel in award-winning author, DiAnn Mills brand new series. It's quite a ride.

A version of this review first appeared on Life is Story.

Sincere thanks to the publisher for providing a complimentary ARC copy of this book for reviewing purposes. My apologies for the delay in posting this review.

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### **JoJo Sutis says**

A book comes along only once in a while that excites you and keeps you on the edge of your seat...Firewall is absolutely one of those books!!!

Literally at the end of almost every chapter I was like "oh, my gosh!"

Who puts their characters through this much torture? Diann Mills- that's who!

Seriously, the book starts with a bang and doesn't let up. I really liked Taryn from the beginning- with everything she is going through, everything that's being tossed her way, she is such a strong heroine...I LUV her!

I really didn't know which of the other characters to trust, who was being honest, who was lying, who was on her side, who was against her and I loved being taken on the wild ride with her, trying to unravel the mystery of it all.

If you are a fan of high action, suspense do not miss Firewall!!!

\*\*\*THIS IS ONE OF MY 2014 FAVES\*\*\*

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### **Sarah Grace says**

3.5 stars.

Yikes, this was intense! Lots of crazy twists and turns, and action scenes. The main reason I docked a few stars was the main characters. I just felt very "Meh" about them the whole time. They felt flat. I actually liked the background characters (JOE!) better than the MCs.

Overall, I did enjoy the story, and finished this in less than a day. Mills' writing style is very engaging and definitely keeps you on the edge of your seat.

CONTENT: Recommended for ages 16+ for mature themes and violence. (view spoiler)

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### **Emily says**

What a ride! This book is full of twisty-turny...twists and turns, actually. And I loved getting to read a book set in my area.

My gut reaction was to rate this book a 4. So, I did. So when you read my nit-pickiness here in a bit, know that overall, I truly did enjoy the book. \*\*edit\*\* The more I remembered, the more I realized that I should knock off another star for some things I forgot until I delved further into it, and went back to the beginning.

I genuinely liked Grayson and Taryn. And who COULDN'T love Joe???? Tell me this. He was absolute GEM of a character. The level of detail in this mystery was truly amazing, and I loved how Mills referenced that Grayson and his team were a small part in solving the crime. So many times I read suspense novels that has a small group of people that seem to solve a huge case, when really, there are sooo many people "off set", as it were, working multiple angles of it. I must admit to catching on to the final plot twist about halfway through the book, but I couldn't figure out how it was going to be revealed, so it didn't detract from the suspense. At any rate, it was a good, engrossing read. I hesitate to go into too much detail here, as there's just SO MUCH to this book. I don't want to give much away.

Ok, so here's me being on the picky side.

First of all, there are some references and content that could make some younger inspirational fiction readers uncomfortable, as well as language that made ME uncomfortable at times, so heads up on that.

Second, there are A LOT of abbreviations with zero explanation. I still don't know some of what she was talking about. There were also several sentences that I read, re-read, and re-read again, because I couldn't figure out what she meant. The tenses would mix, and sometimes I couldn't tell if she was talking about one thing, or two separate things. Anyway, there were several moments that left me thoroughly confused as to what she meant.

Ok, last thing. SOMEONE FINALLY SAYS SOMEONE HAS TYPE 1 DIABETES. Like, specifically TYPE 1. And mentioned how he required insulin. Which is awesome, 'cause #advocacy. Except then he didn't take care of himself, and was obese. He had other issues too, but they are immaterial to my discussion. The thing is, I DO give props to Mills for not saying he had diabetes due to his weight. Yay! Unfortunately, most people automatically make that connection, and it serves to perpetuate a stereotype that we, as people with type 1, are trying to eradicate from public mindset. She didn't state anything incorrect...it's just an inference I know that a lot of people make. Because we hear the comments. And it's old.

\*sighs\* I just wish that an author would portray someone with type 1 as a productive, healthy person, because we CAN be that (aside from our lazy pancreases). I know, I know. I should write something. But if authors would just...either do a little more research, or just leave it out..

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## Hilary says

3.5 stars

Caught in an explosion at the airport while beginning her honeymoon, Taryn quickly becomes the primary suspect when the FBI see her new husband leaving the terminal before the bomb goes off. She's not content to sit back and let things happen around her, first planning to escape the FBI and then investigate to clear her own name; the media may splash condemnation on the front page, but retractions or admissions of error are rarely publicized, so her career and life are both at stake, but now she doesn't know who she can trust.

Some elements were a little predictable, mainly the romance side. There was a great suspense setup though, which left me wondering who it could be the whole time, and as they kept investigating, it became apparent that there was far more than just Shep's betrayal. (view spoiler) It was an enjoyable read, though a few little things jarred. I may be too cynical for softer romantic suspense now. (view spoiler)

One more thing: Why does everything seem to have discussion questions at the end?

Disclaimer: I received a free ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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