



## Jigsaw

*Stella Barcelona*

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Foraging the cyber-world for puzzle pieces...

Zeus Hernandez, a Black Raven partner, is pulled away from a top-secret project to be the personal bodyguard to lawyer Samantha Fairfax. Terrorists have rendered the future frightening and uncertain, but Zeus and Samantha's past makes two things crystal clear: she'll be furious to see him and he can't refuse the job.

Sorting pieces as stakes rise...

Danger surrounds the International Terrorism Tribunal, a court convened to combat terrorism. Samantha is thrust into the limelight when her mentor dies as the trial convenes in Paris, France. Her role requires steadfast focus and nerves of steel. She's determined to do her job and move her life ahead, according to plan...without Zeus. He's determined she'll reconsider.

Completing the puzzle as their worlds collide...

As personal drama escalates behind closed doors, terrorists take aim at an Achilles' heel that is capable of crippling Zeus, Samantha, and Black Raven. While forcing puzzle pieces to click into place, a personal reckoning looms for these two strong-willed people. There's no denying they might be better off apart...but they fit together so well.

## **Jigsaw Details**

Date : Published June 30th 2016

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Author : Stella Barcelona

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary Romance

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## From Reader Review Jigsaw for online ebook

### Debbie Mitchell says

#### **Stella has her groove on**

This is the second book of the Black Raven series but the plot gets better with each book I read. Zeus Hernandez is a partner in Black Raven and normally is involved in the management part of the business. When he accepts a very lucrative fee to protect an old flame, the suspense begins. The plots and subplots with love and family issues thrown in, are extremely entertaining. I await Book 3.

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### Celestine says

#### **Privacy was a quaint, non-existent concept....**

Stella Barcelona's sophomore entry to the mercenary world of Black Raven is solid and scary. She again draws from world events by focusing this book on terrorism, how cells are funded, how they recruit and the role of cyber-communications and hacking in both perpetrating terrorism and ending it. This is a complex book which will require every ounce of your attention.

International Terrorism Tribunal attorney Samantha Fairfax is garnering a lot of attention - from all the wrong people. Teams of lawyers and judges from various countries are under attack from opposing politicians, radicals and hidden terrorists. People are being targeted and dying, and Black Raven partner Zeus Hernandez has been tasked with keeping Sam safe. The two have a history, and Zeus will go to any length to keep the smart and sexy Sam doing her job.

This book is fairly evenly weighted between romance and courtroom thriller. A lot of people do not want to see the Tribunal hearings succeed, and key players are getting picked off almost daily. True terrorist tactics are used, meaning loss of life is a collateral. The extreme danger pushes Sam and Zeus even closer together.

Sam is brilliant and focused, and so is Zeus. They both find this attractive in the other, but it causes them major problems at the same time. Zeus is determined to give them a second chance; Sam is not. If you are a fan of the "pushing away" theme in romance, you will get an overload of it here, but this time from the woman. Unfortunately, this is something in romance novels that I never understand. Separation from the one you love is crippling. Love and support only makes you stronger, and when it is offered, why on Earth would you reject it? Drama, I guess.

Overall, I thought both the romance and the overall plot had peaks and valleys. At one point, bodyguard Zeus lets Sam bind him with his neckties. Hmm, people are dying, danger is everywhere, you are a guard and you let your client immobilize you during sex? Never gonna happen. On the other hand, Zeus is going bonkers for this woman and it is nice to see the alpha type squirming for once. He's smart enough to know Sam is worth it, and he uses every weapon in his arsenal to sway her. Including handing over control every once in a while.

The thriller part of the novel chips away at the core question of privacy. Essentially, there is no privacy, and the ethics of how and when privacy is violated is approached in a roundabout way. Everyone is susceptible.

For Sam, it boils down to whether she will choose to violate privacy to capture a deadly terrorist. Should certain rights be suspended in order to protect the innocent? That is the dilemma. Barcelona's taut cyber-thriller weaves a hot romance between the intense international lawyer and the determined security contractor, where being smarter and quicker means life rather than death.

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### **TJ says**

There are those romantic suspense stories that are fun, fast-paced and easy to fly through. This isn't one of them. Rather, it is intelligently written, making the reader really think, plot and plan right along with the characters so perfectly portrayed within. There were times that the technical dialogue did become drawn-out and might bore those who aren't enamored with all things ITT logistical but the terrorist aspects were timely and intriguing. It never allows the reader to relax as the action and suspense just keeps ratcheting higher and higher!

Samantha's character was the only real glitch in the story. While I understood her initial reticence and actions, as the story progressed her cold, hard, stubborn refusal to show any compassion or feelings at all made it impossible to even like her. It was even more offensive when she used Zeus to satisfy her sexually then treated him so despicably. Yuck! Couldn't even bring myself to root for her in the end. And, that dear friends shows how very good this book is.... it still received 4 stars!!

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### **E. says**

4.5 stars

"Jigsaw" by Stella Barcelona is part of the 'Black Raven' series and explores the functioning of the International Terrorist Tribunal when it has to deal with a rash of terrorist attacks and endeavors to link it with the greatly feared Maximov organization. Samantha (Sam) Dixon Fairfax is tasked with the prestigious, and ultimately, dangerous, role of serving on the Amicus Curiae team but the biggest challenge she faces is dealing with Jesus (Zeus) Hernandez and keep him from breaking her heart again. Zeus utilizes his formidable skills and highly elite team to keep Sam alive, but only he can fight the most important personal battle of his life...if he can stay alive long enough to make his case.

This contemporary romantic suspense story is an exciting and spellbinding tale of terrorism, politics, and global cooperation with a delicious counterpoint of lost love and dedication to ethics and the requirements of the job, no matter how unpalatable. I love the intense characterization, the political chess game and legal maneuvering, and the beautiful devotion displayed by Zeus. There are some elements that aren't as cleared up as I would have liked about the way things turn out but I certainly enjoyed the 'aww' moments and the breathless anticipation as the danger ramped up. Those who are squeamish should be advised that there is graphic violence and those who are impatient should be warned there are definitely crossed wires and frustrating lack of communication. The overall story is wonderfully crisp and covers a multitude of locations and challenges and provides a look at some of the other intriguing Black Raven folks, with cameos by the primaries from the prior book. This series is a thought-provoking and thrilling read thus far and I definitely look forward to reading more about the sexy and extremely capable members of Black Raven.

A copy of this title was provided to me for review

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### **InD'tale Magazine says**

4.5/5.0

Stella Barcelona has created a thrilling world of intrigue, terrorism, love, and hate, where her characters come to life in the pages of her book.

Read full review in the 2016 October issue of InD'tale Magazine.

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### **Shelly Carter says**

#### **Zeus and Samantha**

A great action love story. Black Raven has a new powerful tool and someone to run it. Will Zeus and Samantha fix their previously broken relationship? Will they be able to help stop terrorism?

This a book that makes you want to quit, sleeping, eating, and working until you're done reading it

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### **Yvonne Farmer says**

This book grabbed me from the beginning and held on to me through till the end. This book has the suspense and the mystery as well as romance as the characters deal with terrorism in the world. It is gritty and the plot could have been taken from true life headlines with a little bit of tech thrown in to the mix. The characters have a history and we get to get each of their perspectives as well as some steamy sex scenes. It was great to see friends from Mrs. Barcelona's previous books. I loved the intelligence and work ethic and ambition both Zeus and Sam exhibit as well as their courage in chasing the truth. I am already looking forward to the next book and more Gabe!

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### **Melissa McBride says**

Another great book in the series. Sometimes a little too much with the technical data info but still kept me interested. Great suspense and twists like the first book.

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### **Liz Gavin says**

5 stars - Equal parts fast-paced thriller and romance

This is my first time reading Stella Barcelona's books but it won't be the last. As an author of romances, I know just how hard it is to create a balance between different elements in a story. Stella does it masterfully. Jigsaw is a well-written mashup of thriller, political intrigue, terrorism, cyber intelligence, second chances, romance, and sex. The plot, although highly complex, is so engaging you'll be glued to the pages so that you won't miss anything. And when life interferes and forces you to put the book down (those bills won't get paid by themselves, right?) you'll be replaying scenes in your head. It's that good! The characters are fleshed out skillfully. They're realistic and captivating and I'm sure readers of the first book will be delighted to meet again some of those characters.

I recommend this book for fans of thrillers and romances alike. But be warned though you'll be unavailable for doing much else for a few days while you devour this book.

\*\* I read this book with my Kindle Unlimited subscription\*\*

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### **Sherrie L Hocker says**

#### **Another good book.**

Jigsaw is the second book in the Black Raven Book series and is a very good read. The head of Black Raven accepts a job for the agency to provide security to a group of diplomats, one of which is a woman he had been in love with for years past..

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### **Book Him Danno says**

I really enjoyed the first book in this series Shadow but just like the first this book has so much dialogue to the point you know what everyone is thinking and there isn't much of a surprise. When they figure out who the bad guys are it is all so rushed and I found it disappointing. The author made it such a secret as to who the bad guys were that when they reviled I was really disappointed. Very anticlimax for all the build up.

This book has so much dialogue I would forget what the main story was about. In fact I forgot completely at one point why the female lead was in danger to begin with.

It's not a bad story it just wasn't what I expected. Thank heaven the author didn't have the female lead do anything stupid and in fact followed her security advice 99% of the time.

For me this book doesn't stand out in the crowd of the over populated security/former military style books. For me personally it felt like she wrote scenes and then created a story around those scenes and forgot to check to make sure it flowed or made sense.

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### **Lauren says**

#### **Great story and timely!**

This is the third book I read by this author and I enjoyed it! She has found the right way to write a romance with a great suspenseful story.

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### **Leona Pleasant says**

fabulous page turner...if it is fiction, where did Stella Barcelona get all the details, story line and inspiration from? The characters are in depth, the romance is from FIFTY SHADES OF GREY, the story line is a thriller with James Patterson, John Grisham, Daniel Steel page turners....Now I want to read all of this writers books..and meet the handsome men she used on the covers...Her writing style is definitely by a very educated person filled with descriptive paragraphs and ease of reading and understanding. Characters are well described and you almost imagine you are in the action with them.

...waiting for her next book.....

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### **Cindy ~ says**

Jigsaw changes the pace from previous books and becomes a intense political thriller centered around International Terrorism Tribunal, a court convened to combat terrorism after multiple deadly terrorist attacks around the world.

This is also what I would categorize as a smart thriller because you really need to pay attention as there is a lot going on. It has a large cast of characters including the President and his close advisers.

One of the reasons ITT was formed was to establish a link between the current terrorist acts and a terrorist organization headed by Maximov-in-Exile, a terrorist that has eluded the world and become known as a ghost as no one has seen him in years. When the Chief of the U.S. Amicus Curiae is allegedly murdered, Samantha Fairfax is appointed the new leader and Black Raven Security is called in as her personal protection by her grandfather.

Zeus Hernandez works Ciber for Black Raven and rarely does personal protection anymore but when Samuel Dixon personally asks for Zeus to head up his granddaughters protection detail he knows he wont be able to refuse due to their past history. Samuel's strong belief that members of the ITT are being targeted for death and Zeus unresolved feelings for Samantha from 7 years ago pretty much make it to where he cant say no.

As I said earlier there is so much going on within this book that if I tried to touch on it all I would be writing a very long review. All I suggest is hang on for a long ride of suspense and romance.

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### **Dina says**

I loved this book. The H and h were strong characters, the story line was solid and fast paced. It held my attention throughout. I love my heroines strong and intelligent - this h was fantastic! The hero was strong and stoic but when it came to the h he was different, he was totally into her. Overall a great read. 5 \*\*\*\*\*

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