



First Strike

Pamela Clare

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Warning: This story ends with a cliffhanger.

Just a weekend...

Laura Nilsson knows what she wants: a successful career as a broadcast journalist—and a little fun between the sheets now and again. What she doesn't want is marriage or kids. When a ripped and sexy stranger intervenes to stop a couple of drunks from harassing her in a hotel bar in Dubai City, all she can think about is spending the rest of the weekend with him—in her bed. There's just one little problem. Unmarried sex is illegal in Dubai.

... of no-strings sex ...

Navy SEAL Javier "Cobra" Corbray is on his way home from a rough deployment in Afghanistan when he finds himself having dinner with "the Baghdad Babe." What she wants from him—sex with no strings—could land them both in prison. Still, he's more than happy to oblige her. She's confident and sexually assertive, and he's secure enough to lie back and let her make the first strike. But, as she's about to find out, he's more than her match.

... or the beginning of something more?

Yet, neither Laura nor Javier has any idea what lies ahead—or how this weekend of mind-blowing sex will impact their emotions. Will they act on their new-found feelings in time, or will they let something special slip away... perhaps forever?

Warning: This story ends with a cliffhanger.

First Strike Details

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From Reader Review First Strike for online ebook

Pepa says

Relato corto, muy cortito. Bien escrito, erótico. Interesante para saber cómo se conocieron Javier y Laura, protagonistas de *Acoso mortal*

A mí estos relatos siempre me dejan con ganas de más

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

5 Super Sexy Stars!

Dubai City, Dubai

United Arab Emirates

July 14, 2009

First Strike is the novella prequel to Pamela Clare's soon to be released *Striking Distance*, the sixth book in her incredibly popular *I-Team* series. Originally this was part of the *Striking Distance* prologue, but Javier and Laura's first encounter was so passionate and so intense, in the interest of page count and mainstream publishing, it either had to be watered down, or it had to be cut.

Thankfully Ms. Clare is an author who, one way or another, tells her stories the way *she* wants them told. Because watering it down wasn't an option for her, she cut it from *Striking Distance* and has given us *First Strike*, the self published, no holds barred story of Javi and Laura's lust-at-first-sight meeting in Dubai, and their wild, no strings attached, sex-filled weekend that follows. But rest assured – this is Pamela Clare we're talking about, so the whole 'no strings' thing? Yeah... that doesn't work out quite the way Javi and Laura had planned.

If you've read Pamela's books, you know she can write some very hot scenes, but trust me on this – until you've read *First Strike*, you ain't read nothin' yet! Just sayin'... for those of us who enjoy our stories on the steamier side, this is another benefit of her self publishing it! But I can't stress this enough – yes, this is an erotic short story, but it's not smut. It's romantic, poignant, sweet, and definitely sexy, and I'm so happy to get this up close and very, *very* personal look at Javi and Laura's first meeting.

You probably already get this, but just to make sure there are no surprises, I'll spell it out - since this is the prequel to their story, there's no HEA, yet. Also, if you've read the cover blurb for *Striking Distance*, you've probably figured out that things didn't go well for Laura after she and Javi parted ways in Dubai. What I'm telling you is that this novella ends in a cliffhanger, but not an unexpected one, and you won't have to wait long to find out what happens because *Striking Distance* is due out November 5th, 2013.

I can't tell you how happy I am that Pamela gave us this novella because we couldn't have gotten this part of the story any other way, and that would have been a huge loss for us readers. Not only is *First Strike* off the charts sexy, it's still every bit Ms. Clare's brilliant style of storytelling, introducing us to characters who capture our hearts and stories that keep us coming back for more.

Many thanks to Pamela Clare for providing me with a copy of this novella in exchange for an honest review.

My Spoiler Free Review of Striking Distance

The I-Team reading order so far:

1. Extreme Exposure
- 1.5 Heaven Can't Wait - a novella found in the out of print anthology Catch of the Day and on ebook
2. Hard Evidence
3. Unlawful Contact
4. Naked Edge
5. Breaking Point
- 5.5. Skin Deep
- 5.9. First Strike
6. Striking Distance

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If you're already a Pamela Clare fan, or interested in learning more about her and her books, be sure to stop by our Pamela Clare Fan Group here on Goodreads!

Jonetta says

Navy SEAL Javier Cobray is on his way home from Afghanistan by way of Dubai when he sees investigative TV reporter Laura Nilsson having dinner at the same restaurant. She's affectionately called Baghdad Babe by those familiar with her reporting from the Middle East. Circumstances have them connect over a meal and before they know it, they've spent the next three days and nights together.

This is a prequel for the next story in the series. It's actually more of a prologue to whet your appetite for Laura and Javier's complete story. Their relationship was supposed to be casual but these two were unprepared for their explosive chemistry. It's erotic and sensual and we learn a lot about the two of them for this to be a novella.

It ends with a bang of a cliffhanger so be prepared to jump right into the next story, as I am. Well done.

♥? Dorsey aka Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says

5/26/15

In the mood for a Military Romance since it's Memorial Day, so I've decided to revisit Javi and Laura.

5+ Amazing Prequel Erotic Stars!!!

WOW!!! What an amazing start to Javier and Laura's book Striking Distance, I cannot imagine reading it

without this prequel!! I for one can't wait for more of Javier (Javi) and Laura!!!!

Javier and Laura meet in Dubai City and have an erotic weekend of what is *supposed* to be a weekend of "A sex only, no strings hookup"...Well it was, but do you really think that would be the end? I think not.....after an intense gut wrenching ending, I can't wait to see how PC will work her magic and bring these two lovers back to each other.

***A big THANK YOU to my beautiful friend Kellie G for gifting me with this delicious "I-Team" novella!! xo**

Originally Read: September 2013

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

With this being such a short story, it's not necessary to write an expansive review. Instead, I will just give a few quick thoughts.

I am glad I read Striking Distance first because this novella feels more like a backstory that I was happy to get after the fact. If you read this first, you'll still be okay. You'll just want to dive right into the full-length follow up on Javier and Laura.

I will be honest and I say I not a big erotica fan at all (I can only count maybe two authors I read in that genre, Shannon McKenna and Lisa Marie Rice), but despite that fact, I enjoyed this book. I feel that Pamela Clare is very good at writing fulfilling romantic stories with sex that adds to the story and doesn't detract. This novella doesn't really have more sex in proportion to her books, but it just feels that way because it's short and the focus is on the sexual interactions between two strangers who decide to share a no-strings attached weekend. I don't find hook up stories that appealing (I'm a HEA, love and commitment girl), so it was great to realize that I could enjoy the interactions between these two people because I cared about them. Clare does a good job of facilitating the reader's involvement in their story.

Readers who love hot and steamy sex will definitely enjoy this novella. You could see that there was a meeting of two equals who knew what they wanted sexually and weren't afraid to go for that, despite the risks of getting caught. Along the way, they might have just discovered they wanted more. For readers who aren't into the kinky stuff, you'll be fine. I'm definitely not into non-vanilla sex in my romances, and this was well within my comfort zone. It's a bit more descriptive than Clare usually gets, but only a bit.

I'd give this **4.5 stars**. I'll pretty much read anything by Pamela Clare, because she does write such enjoyable stories and manages to make a 60 page novella about a fling feel like a lot more than that. Kudos to her for that.

Thanks to Ms. Pamela Clare for the opportunity to read this novella in exchange for an honest review.

If you'd like to chat with other fans of Pamela Clare's novels, please feel welcome to join the Pamela Clare Fan Group on Goodreads.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

Beginning and middle:

End:

Kimberly Carrington-Fox says

Un relato cortito muy muy calentorro para que veamos cómo se conocieron Laura y Javier, los protagonistas del siguiente libro de la serie I-Team. Y se prevee una historia muy interesante! Aquí los mozos se pasan un fin de semana de frotamientos bajeriles que provocan más fuego que las Fallas de Valencia y, para que no mueras del abrasor corporal, Pamela Clare lo termina con un *cliffhanger*, aumentando las ganas de tirarse sobre *Acoso mortal* como lobas, cosa que yo no puedo hacer ahora mismo #Indignación.

Vamos, todo muy Pamela Clare y yo, encantada

KatLynne says

5 Mouth-Watering Stars!

Pamela Clare's **First Strike** is a superbly written, scorching hot, erotic prequel to her soon to be released *Striking Distance*. The story introduces readers to Laura Nilsson, a broadcast journalist and the mouth-watering Javier Corbray, an active-duty Navy SEAL and the weekend they spend together.

Dubai city is not the place to be having a casual fling as unmarried sex is illegal in this city. But their blazing chemistry can't be denied and both Laura and Javier are more than willing to take the chance, regardless of the risk. Three short days is not nearly enough time to appease this kind of hunger, but they certainly give it their best try:)

This short sizzler is packed with all the things I've come to love from Pamela Clare's books. It's not often an author can showcase her talent in a novella, but the caliber of her writing shines through. The love scenes are scorching, the heroine is brave and smart and the hero is DIVINE! Pamela's trademark for touching upon

specific atrocities being committed against women is also included and a highlight. And let's not forget suspense. There's a riveting cliffhanger that will leave you more than anxious to begin *Striking Distance*.

One of the things I loved most is not only do we get highly erotic love scenes, but there's also tenderness and romance. By the end, you feel the connection and my heart was already engaged. I could easily envision a future for this couple.

I loved it all and the spectacular cover is perfect! November 5th can't come soon enough!

My sincere Thanks to the author for the opportunity to read this and offer an honest review. It was such a pleasure.

If you've not had the pleasure of reading this very talented author, I highly recommend her books. Whether Historical or Romantic Suspense, the amount of research is clearly evident in each release. Also, smart heroines and alpha heroes are my favorite combination, and Pamela never disappoints.

Beanbag Love says

This is a novella prequel to Pamela Clare's next installment of the I-Team series, "Striking Distance". This story is erotica (sans anal for those who are squeamish) and has a lot of well-written sex, but it's impressively effective as a romantic prelude as well. The chemistry between the leads is quite good and it actually works really well -- and believably -- for "insta-love". While neither admits to having fallen that hard, they both clearly get that something more profound than raucous, no-strings sex has happened.

It takes place in Dubai where things could turn very ugly for them if anyone finds out they've been having sex without benefit of marriage. Very precarious. But when you meet the person you gotta have it with, you gotta have it. I actually believed that, even in that dangerous environment, they needed to get it on. That's usually something I feel I have to forgive in the writing, but not here. I fell for this couple.

It ends on a cliffhanger because, after all, this is a prequel to the the novel which also has a prologue. So it's like we're two jumps from starting. No happy ending here, but it's okay because PC has taken care of her fans by releasing this novella only a couple of weeks before the novel comes out. It's not like the usual ass-wipey cliffie that keeps fans waiting for a year to a decade.

This book actually starts out with a note from the author that warns about the cliffie as well as gives a lot of pre-reading comfort. I thought PC was going a little overboard with her warnings and gentle "it'll be okay" promises, but now I see her concern. Holy Moly! I'm a basketcase!

Luckily PC has posted the prologue to "Striking Distance" on her website, so I'm headed over there to read that.

If you're a fan of Pamela Clare we have a group here at Goodreads that you really should join:
<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

If you haven't read PC yet then ... don't wait another second. Start reading the I Team series right this minute so you'll be ready for this one-two punch of novella and novel.

Baba says

4 lickable stars.**Review posted October 24, 2013**

First Strike is the prequel to Striking Distance and tells the story how Javier met Laura at a restaurant in Dubai City in 2009. When two unappealing men are getting in Laura's space, Javier feels the need to intervene. Javier and Laura end up having a drink and a rather interesting conversation. Laura is a very self-assured and open-minded woman and doesn't beat around the bush...

You can imagine what happens next. Javier *follows* Laura to her hotel room for a long weekend full of sizzling passion, desire and need. He intends to take control over Laura between the sheets and over a short time frame of three days he's totally *dedicated* to her. In fact, he's...

...ready to lead.

US Navy SEALS

Tried, Tested and Dedicated. Ready to Lead, Ready to Follow, Never Quit.

However...

...unmarried sex is illegal in Dubai. Sinners are not really welcome.

Javier and Laura have to be very careful otherwise they could land in prison if they get caught in flagrante delicto. As an unmarried couple, Javier and Laura are not allowed to show any form of affection in public either.

"I'm thirty-four."

A smile lit up her beautiful face. "At last I know something about you."

He leaned forward. "All you need to know about me, bella, is that I'm the man who's going to make you scream."

I know you can read Striking Distance without having read First Strike. I think, however, it's like eating a piece of cake without the icing on top. I mean you just have to have it, right? It's so much tastier and it can enhance your satisfaction tremendously. I've read the prologue of Striking Distance a while ago already and I must say it's one of the best I've read in a long, long time. Therefore the anticipation as well as my expectations are very HIGH. It goes without saying that I was absolutely keen on meeting the gorgeous and

passionate Navy SEAL Javier and the beautiful investigative journalist Laura in First Strike. And by reading Pamela's first erotic novella I could somewhat quench my thirst, yet on the other hand, I'm on edge to get my hands on SD as soon as possible. The novella ends on a rather huge cliffie, but it's one that I expected and serves as the perfect introduction to Striking Distance.

While reading this novella you should listen to the Italian version of (view spoiler) performed by (view spoiler) The song is very apt. Awww, the feelings...*goosebumps*

(view spoiler)

This song was a huge hit in Europe back in the days. Gosh, the 90s...those were the days.

Even though (view spoiler) Javier won't *quit*. They will see each other again (view spoiler) After all, Javier is *tried, tested and dedicated*.

If you're not into plenty of steamy, sweaty and naughty ~~activities~~ sex against a wall, in bed and in the bathroom, then don't read it. However, if the answer is a straight yes, then all I can say is ~~naughty~~ happy reading!

P.S. I suspect the sex in Striking Distance will be more about (view spoiler) Can't wait to see what'll happen. I expect plenty of emotions.

Buggy says

Opening Line: "*Javier Corbray walked into the ICON Bar in the Radisson Blu Hotel, his gaze travelling over the dim interior taking it all in at once -the upscale décor, the busy wait staff, the near-to-capacity crowd of expats enjoying Happy Hour. It wasn't his scene.*"

I'm so glad I read this sexy little prequel before starting Striking Distance. A big thank you to Pamela Clare for not just leaving this extended prologue on the editing room floor but sharing 60 fantastic pages with us readers instead.

As an erotic novella First Strike stands perfectly fine on its own; you get to know the couple, it's sexy as hell and you get a virtual vacation for a weekend in Dubai. But where it really makes a difference is once you get into the meat of their story in Striking Distance (which takes place 3 years later.) By starting here you're left with a deeper understanding of the characters and who they were. Yeah some "stuff" goes down in the interim that changes everything, so be prepared for the cliff-hanger ending here.

First Strike spans a weekend, just 3 days between two passionate and confident equals who know what they want and go for it. Navy Seal Javier Corbay is between assignments and spending a couple days downtime in

Dubai City when he meets broadcast journalist Laura Nilsson in a hotel bar. She's confident, sexually assertive and just what he needs. Adding to the excitement of their agreed upon no-strings encounter is the fact that they can't touch each other in public and of course it can't be known that Javier's visiting her hotel room every night as this would be breaking the law. I loved this forbidden love aspect as it added an edge of suspense and naughtiness to their affair.

As I said Javi and his "Baghdad Babe" know what they want and they don't mess about. Personally I would have liked a bit of foreplay before they just started banging each other up against the hotel room wall, but they're so into each other it's a wonder they made it indoors let alone into the bedroom, so yeah I get it. Plus as an erotic quickie this is along the lines of what I was expecting.

In saying that though they do still manage to get in a little sightseeing (I loved the exotic location) and enough dialogue so that this ended up feeling more like a super sexy back story than real erotica. I'll admit though there were still a couple of moments when I was like yeah, yeah get on with it because they were at it again:)

Between all the humping you really do get to know these individuals though and by the end (just like the characters) you're left wanting more. Lots more. I liked how the intensity of their weekend fling caught them both off guard. *Sigh* the postcard.

Pamela Clare is just the best, she has managed to make this short lived relationship feel like much more than what it is in the mere 60 pages provided. Don't skip this. Cheers.

~4.5~

?Karlyn P? says

4 1/2 stars. First Strike was a GREAT sexy romance novella set in Dubai. This is the prequel to Striking Distance, and is set a few years earlier. It tells the story of how TV news reporter Laura Nilsson and the very discreet Navy SEAL Javier Corbray first met. What starts off as a no strings attached romance quickly gets complicated. And it ends with a shocking bang that will make you want to jump right into the next book!! (Darn, I still have to wait another two weeks!!) This is a must read for Pamela Clare fans, or anyone who enjoys well written sexy romance.

Lana ✶Dirty Girl Romance✶ says

This novella just reminded me exactly why I love Pamela Clare's writing. This is one of my favorite Romantic Suspense series, and this novella is not to be missed.

The perfect quick appetizer before the main course.

Now jumping straight into Striking Distance!

For more reviews visit

Shawna says

5 stars – Erotic/Contemporary Romance Prequel

Yowza! I'm an avid Pamela Clare fangirl and her I-Team series is one of the very best in romantic suspense. So what do I think about her venture into writing an "erotic" story? *Oh hell yeah!*

This is a prequel to Striking Distance detailing the steamy, forbidden weekend Javier and Laura share together. I'm glad I read this first, and now I'm counting down the days until *Striking Distance* is released.

I also hope Ms. Clare writes more erotic romances in the future!

Auntee says

Woo-wee! Can Pamela Clare pack an erotic punch or what? This is how you do it--writing a short erotic story seems effortless in the hands of this master.

This is *the erotic prequel* to Clare's 6th I-Team book (Striking Distance), and she sets the stage on how the two leads in that book (the Lara Logan-esque beautiful blonde TV Journalist Laura Nilsson (28) and Latino hunk/Navy SEAL Javier Corbray (34)) meet. Neither Laura or Javier want any romantic commitments (why don't I believe that?) but neither would say No to a *hawt* weekend beneath the sheets. And a hot weekend it is in their Dubai hotel. But then the weekend's up, Javier has to fly back to the states...and he misses her. He catches her nightly broadcasts covering the war in Afghanistan. She's as lovely as he remembers..And then something terrible happens! To be continued in Striking Distance. Oh my! What a cliffhanger...

Thank god Striking Distance arrives in my mailbox today!

5 hot thrilling stars!
