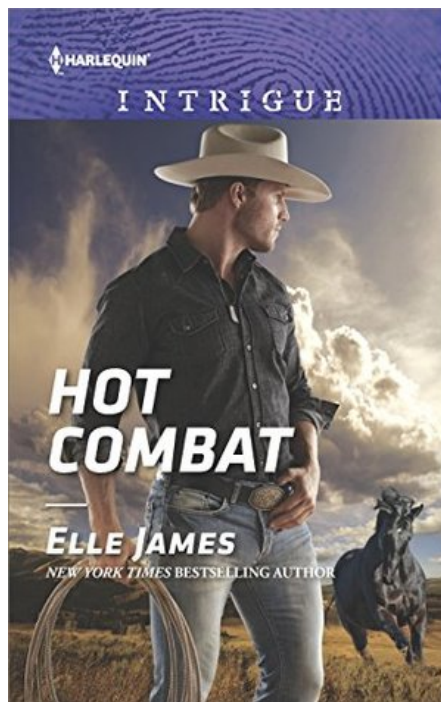




Hot Combat

Elle James

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Hot Combat Elle James

Can a sexy SEAL discover the truth before terror explodes?

Loaned to the task force taking on the most dangerous Homeland Security challenges, injured SEAL Jon "Ghost" Caspar is assigned to protect a former lover and her daughter...and prevent an imminent terrorist attack on his Wyoming hometown.

Single mom Charlie McClain hoped she'd never again see the gorgeous cowboy who broke her heart, but with her safety compromised, she needs Ghost. Can she still resist his rugged charms...and keep a bombshell secret about their affair?

With a terrorist on the loose, Ghost struggles to remain professional. But the elite bodyguard can't guard his heart against beautiful Charlie and her adorable daughter...

Ballistic Cowboys

Hot Combat Details

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Author : Elle James

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From Reader Review Hot Combat for online ebook

Anita says

Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) provided by the Author and Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an fair and honest review.

I did a bad. I'm reading this way out of order. It is not even on my reading list for January, 2017. So much for being more organized in 2017. One resolution already down the crapper. Oh, well... In my defense I was in Sears waiting and waiting and.... waiting for customer service. I pulled out my I-phone and brought up this Elle James book. Not the one I need to read in January, but a book with a February publish date. This book is a great start to what will be a wonderful series. Sweet 2nd chance romance, a SEAL in action and a threat on home soil. You just can't ask for much more.

Charlie is working part time for the Department of Homeland Security monitoring social media and chat groups for baddies stirring up trouble. She finds a group making threats against a government facility. Where? When? She is trying to track that when she gets a personal threat for doing that. With a six year old daughter to protect, Charlie is plenty spooked.

Jon (Ghost) Casper is a Navy SEAL on loan to DHS while he recovers from an injury. He wants nothing to do with this assignment and his posting to his hometown of Grizzly Pass, Wyoming. He has nothing there anymore, except the girl he loved and left seven years ago.

Ghost is assigned to protect Charlie while DHS contains the threat to her. Well, let's just say that he is more than a little shocked and surprised to find Charlie and her daughter, Lolly, as his assignment and his family.

Now, I have to wait until February 1 when the to "officially" post this review. I just hate when that happens.

Sandra says

A Hot Mess

"Hot Combat" has a rock solid plot premise and character development is adequate but the writing itself is lackluster at best. Not to pile on, but some of the mixed up homophones set my teeth on edge, i.e. led vs lead, and boarders vs borders. Then there was "assimilated" when "assembled" was called for. And don't get me started on the mixed metaphors: "fumbled the pitch and struck out" and "I love you from the tips of my toes to the very last breath". Huh? Shouldn't an author do some basic research for a novel? No self-respecting horse lover or westerner would ever describe a pony or horse as "chocolate brown with a cream-colored mane and tail." The proper description is "liver chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail." Call me a nitpicker if you will but the reader cannot be expected to ignore such glaring errors in a published work.

Denise H says

Jon "Ghost" Caspar is a SEAL recovering from a combat injury and on loan to the Department of Homeland Security for a pilot program in his hometown in Wyoming. Jon wants nothing more than to get through this assignment as quickly as possible so he can get back to Virginia and his SEAL unit. Returning to Wyoming

stirs old memories and feelings, including the girl he left behind almost 7 years ago.

Charlie McClain is a single mom with a sweet little girl named Lolly. Struggling since her daughter's birth to financially support them she went back to school for an IT degree and now develops software from home to be with Lolly. Having to pay off loans and needing more financial stability she works part time, in the evenings, surfing the internet for the Department of Homeland Security looking for possible threats and terrorists activity on-line.

She comes across a sight with some suspicious communications from a group called Free America and forwards it to her handler at the DHS and instantly receives emailed threats from whoever is running the site telling her they are aware of her presence and to back off. Suddenly fearful for hers and her daughter's safety she contacts her handler for protection. This protection comes in the form of Ghost.

Ghost and Charlie are equally shocked when they come face to face after all these years. Memories and feelings spring forth as they both struggle to maintain a professional relationship until the threat to Charlie and her daughter is resolved. Will they be able to resolve the past and have a second chance? Or will the secret Charlie is keeping be too much for Jon to handle?

Sue Stewart says

Really good book - great suspense. Like the whole team and the story within a story. Can't wait to read more.

Donna Repsher says

Hot Combat is the first novel in Elle James' "Ballistic Cowboys" series, and I found it somewhat confusing for several reasons. First, The title--the hero, Jon "Ghost" Caspar, isn't a cowboy, he's a Navy SEAL, who has returned to his former home in Grizzly Pass, Wyoming to recuperate from a shrapnel wound to his leg. Second, there's not much in the way of combat in this story, most of it deals with terrorist threat assessment on the Internet under the aegis of the Department of Homeland Security, and the combatant in this case isn't Ghost, it's Charlie McClain, the heroine. For these reasons and several others, I could only give this novel 3.5 stars.

Charlie is the single mother of a 7-year-old daughter, Lolly. As such, we're told that she's struggled to make ends meet, so, in addition to her regular job as a software engineer, she's accepted at part-time job as a social-media analyst for the aforementioned Homeland Security, and while doing that and investigating a suspicious post, the person posting it manages to hack her webcam and blow her cover. In addition, he's threatened her, and when she reports it to DHS they send her a protector/bodyguard--Ghost, with whom, 7 years ago, at age 19, she had a brief, no-strings, no-love affair (although Charlie fell in love with him anyway) an affair that resulted in a pregnancy and her now 7-year-old daughter, a daughter that Ghost didn't know he had.

When Ghost realizes that Lolly is his daughter, he wants to be part of her life. Charlie, who was heartbroken when he left her to join the SEALs, doesn't think she could possibly survive that kind of heartbreak again, but despite her protestations, the spark is still there between them, although much of that heat is rather subdued and totally unlike any of the other romance novels I've read by Ms. James. While Ghost still believes that he loves Charlie, and Charlie still loves him, the passion just didn't come across as genuine or

heartfelt, although I did like Ghost's quickly developing love of his daughter.

I'm also surprised by how flat the setting in this novel seemed. Although it was described, again, Ms. James didn't make me feel that I was in Wyoming. The most real character for me was Lolly, who was adorable and spunky and charming. Ghost and Charlie were likable characters, but again, compared to other second chance at love romances, I didn't feel connected to either of them. I kept wondering why neither of them asked what the other had been doing for the past 7 years. Ghost, at first, wonders about where Lolly's father could be, and Charlie wonders if Ghost has a wife somewhere, but they never actually ask those questions, nor does Charlie ever ask Ghost where they go from here. He mentions wanting to be in Lolly's life, but doesn't say how he intends to do that, since he's stationed in Virginia, 2,000 miles away.

As I mentioned earlier, there is some actual conflict late in the novel, yet again, while Charlie and Lolly are in danger, and Ghost wants to rescue them, I didn't feel his panic at the possibility of losing them. Yes, he's a SEAL, but he's also a father and in love with Charlie, so his lack of emotion struck me as odd.

This was just an okay read for me, and lacked the heat and depth of emotion I've come to expect from Ms. James' novels.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advance reader copy of this novel.

Ronda Barnes-Howard says

Great

I loved this book. Very suspenseful and intriguing. It even made me happy cry. Great story. Charlie, Ghost and Lottie make a cute family.

Paula Brandon says

A crack team of specialists are convened in Wyoming, where it seems as if terrorist activity is looming. One of them is Navy SEAL Jon "Ghost" Caspar, and he is tasked with protecting Charlie McClain, who does sideline work for the Department of Homeland Security monitoring websites for suspicious terrorist activity. Her searches have made her a target. Complicating Jon's mission is the fact that he and Charlie were an item seven years previously, and her daughter Lolly is his child that he never knew about.

This was an easy, entertaining read. But it's also quite stupid! Charlie lives in Wyoming and wants to protect her daughter and keep her out of danger - so what the hell is she doing helping out Homeland and monitoring terrorists on the web? She seems to think using the library's Wi-Fi will hide her identity! What the hell?!? It was unbelievably contrived. The book needed a better reason to have Jon come back into the picture to protect her.

Similarly, the "crack" team know that something hinky is going down at Yellowstone Park, most likely connected to the bubbling social unrest and potential terrorist activity. Yet when Charlie - who is supposed to be under protection - calls to tell all six of them that she's on a bus with a bunch of children to YELLOWSTONE FUCKING PARK, none of them blink and eyelid and think she will be perfectly safe! I mean, come on!

Also, I hate, hate, hate, hate, hate heroines who keep paternity a secret. Charlies thinks to herself at one stage that maybe she should have told Jon that he had a daughter. Um, yes, Charlie! You should have, you selfish thing!

Despite all the contrivance and stupidity on display, and a gratuitous bear attack (!) to pad out the word count, I still enjoyed the story, as it was at least fast-paced, and it had a really entertaining, action-packed climax. Despite being part of a mini-series (groan), the storyline for this entry managed to wrap itself up reasonably satisfyingly, and did weave enough intrigue for me to be interested in the other books in the series.

Books and Spoons says

Hot Combat has such an energetic, intense feeling in it through the story. The action is brutal and cruel and it hits at the most unexpected times. The boisterous passion between Jon and Charlie is reignited as soon as they meet again, yet the feelings between them are deep and rooted.

I loved this story. I loved the vitality of it, it was flowing off the pages with such drive I was lost in it, the rest of the world not existing.

Jon and Charlie have nurtured the fire between them for years deep in their hearts. Jon is kind, caring, protective, and has tenderness in him that made me swoon. He is wounded, in a crossroads in his life, and the chance meeting with Charlie changes everything.

Charlie is tough, capable, independent, and makes things happen. I loved how she took charge and was willing to make compromises and sacrifices if needed when facing the malice and danger. They were so perfect for each other, it was a joy to watch them fumble into love, wishing they would live long enough to have a chance with a future together.

I loved how the team was set up, how there wasn't that 'staging' that sometimes comes with the first book of a series. All fell into the place naturally, the team is skillful and competent and I am looking forward getting to know them better. The action they engaged in wasn't only against the homegrown terrorist and angry townfolks, it was also against the elements, nature, and wildlife. It set my heart raising, the danger and death coming right at them with rancor. A perfect mix of suspense and threat, delightful family bonding, and luscious passion and sweet loving.

~ Five Spoons

Yvonne says

I do enjoy romantic suspense and this one hit the mark for me. This is the first book in a new series by Elle James called "Ballistic Cowboys". Readers are introduced to a cast of strong, likeable characters to cheer for. Ghost is part of a group of men assigned to a task force to protect the country from terrorists. Ghost and Charlie have a ton of chemistry. They are a couple readers can truly care about.

Ghost's first assignment is to protect Charlie and her young daughter who are receiving threats. He's shocked to discover Charlie is no stranger to him. They must put their past aside to figure out the current danger threat.

The storyline is jam-packed with action, adventure, mystery and much romance. This book is so fast-paced, I felt as if I were on a never-ending roller coaster ride. To add to my enjoyment of the book, I was surprised by the ending. I didn't see it coming.

This is a continuing series and I, for one, am looking forward to the next one. In fact, it's already downloaded to my e-reader.

FTC Disclosure: I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Nicole Michele says

Quick fun read.

Renee says

It's guess I am confused on how a mutual agreement results in there being blame for one party.

So seven years ago Charlie and Ghost had a 'no strings, no heartbreak' affair while Ghost was on a leave. Both knew the score. Fast forward to present day and Charlie and Ghost are thrown together during a suspenseful time. Of course there are loose ends from their affair that were left hanging and the reason why? Charlie feels Ghost broke her heart and she can't trust him. She made no efforts to keep in touch with him because of their agreement and then blames him when he didn't keep in touch with her either.

Even worse, Ghost feels he is in the wrong for breaking her heart. WTF. I'm all for a scorned woman, but this one is just childish and petty. She is in the wrong and makes no apologies for it. Shaking my head at this nonsense.

Belinda says

Jon aka Ghost is being tapped by Homeland Security to help out in his Wyoming town where he has not been in years..When he gets there he is assigned to a woman that was threatened while looking for info on the terrorist cells in their town.when he gets to her house he is stunned to find it is the one woman he has always loved and left, Charlie..than her daughter Lolly shows up to see how the big tall man is...He finds out that she is his daughter....But he is there to protect them and keep them from harm...Can he do that and can he bring his family together? A fast paced thriller of a ride!

Madison Warner Fairbanks says

Hot Combat by Elle James

A fast moving military romance. A couple with a second chance. Villainous threats abound in the small town in Wyoming where harsh economic conditions have laid waste to the residents.

Hope, love, and resourcefulness are the key. True love conquers all? Yes, in romance it certainly does.

KimberlyDawn says

Every time I pick up a book by this author, I know I am in for a treat. I loved tagging along through Ghost and Charlie's story. Their chemistry is amazing, and the story kept me hooked from beginning to end. Definitely recommend this book!

Amanda says

Hot Combat (Ballistic Cowboys #1) by Elle James will take you on a hot and explosive journey. This brand new story will make you breathless and have your pulse racing with all the action taking place and of course the drama will have you shaking your fists!

Highly Recommended
5 Stars
