



Jack

Stella Marie Alden

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I was mostly dead but with one look, she got my heart beating again.

Gorgeous Dr. Smythe has an office on Fifth Ave and I'm the hired help, a glorified bouncer with a gun. I knew her trip to Utah was a bad idea so I tagged along. My focus should've been on keeping the shrink safe but every time she touched me, I lost it. Something about her naïve innocence, coupled with her brilliant mind, captivated me. Then, when I let her in, I realized we both were damaged, maybe beyond repair.

With a past like ours, is love too much to ask?

Jack, a supporting character in the 'Busted Play' series, gets his own woman in this full-length, standalone novel. Intended for mature audiences there's explicit language and some violence. Contains no cheating and a well-deserved, smoking hot, HEA.

Jack Details

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From Reader Review Jack for online ebook

Marcellina T Reno says

I received a free copy of this book via Bookfunnel and am voluntarily leaving a review. I really love this series of books. Jack is the bodyguard Slate relies on in the other books because of his gut instincts. He first sees Blakey in an intense situation and they hit it off. Blakey is a psychiatrist taking over for Melanie Quinn in her support group. Jack and Blakey have a haunting past with their families. Jack has to rescue Blake several times from herself and her impetuous actions. A miscommunication, stolen phone, and pride almost cost them their love. Thanks to meddling family members help these two find their way back to each other. They get their happy ending before Slate and Andy.

Kim Eisenberg says

Jack, a secondary character from the 'Busted Play' series, is a bodyguard assigned to protect ex-football star CJ Quinn and his family, but in reality, they're more like family to Jack than anyone ever has been. While assigned to protect Quinn's wife Mel, Jack is introduced to the beautiful and unbelievably smart Dr. Blakely Smythe. The two are instantly attracted to one another prompting Jack to follow Blake to Utah on a crazy mission to confront the demons of her past that include a suspiciously aggressive cult and the devious leader who runs it. But there's definitely more than meets the eye to this situation and the two are thrown into a dangerous sequence of events. With the danger running high things start to heat up between Jack and Blake and they practically set the sheets on fire. But Blake is absolutely set on uncovering the truth no matter what the risks. Will Jack be able to protect her from the cult and maybe even herself? Will their relationship last once the danger is gone?

This steamy novel is a must-read for anyone looking for hot scenes and high-risk action. Well written and absolutely charming, Stella has once again delivered a fantastic read that you just can't put down. I totally recommend this novel.

I received an advanced reader copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Emma says

The pace of the action is moderate at beginning. Then as you read it quickly escalates to fever pitch of fast action, suspense, danger and believe it or not, romance. This continues until three quarters of the way in then in an anticlimactic pause we are dealt with another personal drama between Blakely and Jack. Blakely is a psychologist and it determined to find out what happened to her older sister Faith. Blakely, her mother and sister were lived in a Mormon cult like group called The Church of Heavenly Bliss. At five years old, Blakely has memories she questions. She knows that her sister was fourteen and did not want to get married. Blakely does not know if she is still alive or not. When she tells Jack she is going to Utah to film a documentary at the cult location, Jack immediately goes into bodyguard mode and accompanies her. But Blakely does not tell him everything. The cult leader is David Young. Somehow Blakely traps herself back into the cult and Jack and the film crew have been dismissed. Jack has to figure out how to get her back without blowing his cover. In the interim, Jack setup a plan to get Blakely out and ends up legally marrying her. They also have to do a convincing job of consummating the marriage in order to satisfy David's dark urges. When Jack thinks it's time to leave, that's when all heck breaks loose and Blakely, Jack, his two-man team of Lucky and Suds run the operation. Then Blakely again tempts fate against Jack's orders and tries to

force David Young's hand. Again, Blakely has put the team and the film crew in danger. But it does not go down as planned. Blakely need evidence against David Young to find out about her sister. When Jack and Blakely are back at the safe house they get into an argument and there are misunderstandings. Jack does not wait for Blakely and leaves immediately back to New York. Blakely tries to reach out to Jack but he does not respond. Jack has taken another job in Washington D.C... Several weeks and a couple of positive pregnancy tests later she realizes she is alone and pregnant. She knows Jack will want to co-parent because of his father. She asks her friend Mel to get ahold of Jack and she told her not to worry she would figure everything out for her. Jack is enroute to Utah when Blakely comes on board the same plane and sits in the next seat from him. Neither one of them expected this and realize they have been set up by Mel. They talk but it is too late, they are on their way to Utah to get a divorce. But this is not the end of the story. This is a great book full of action, adventure, drama and romance. I highly recommend it. I received an Advanced Readers Copy of this book and am voluntarily leaving a review.

Kelly DeMarco says

Jack packs some heat, so hot!

Jack by Stella Marie Alden is an action packed, emotional thrill ride! I fell in book love with Jack immediately. He is so sweet and alpha at the same time. I loved how he immediately becomes enamored with Blakey. Her backstory is very interesting which adds to the overall intrigue and suspense of this book. I was hooked from the beginning and I love how Stella Marie Alden kept me engaged by revealing important information in bits and pieces to keep my attention.

Overall another fantastic book by this author. I can't wait to read the next one.

I read an ARC of this book via Bookfunnel and voluntarily share my review.

Judy Johnson says

I am never disappointed when I pick up one of Stella's books, this book, Jack, is no exception! Jack quickly become one of my favorite characters EVER! Tons of drama AND HEAT, with suspense , twists and turns, ups and downs, passion and chemistry abound, and a wonderful cast of characters to ensure you a H.E.A, which Stella ALWAYS provides. Starts a little bit slow, but don't give up, because then you'll certainly miss out on a fun, fast, really good read. Good story, better characters, told succinctly and leaves you completely satisfied at the end. No spoilers, just a solid recommendation to pick up this book and once you start, you really won't put it down until the end.

Nikki May says

I want to say I enjoyed this but i can't fully, I enjoyed reading parts of this like the connection between Jack and Blake and the uncertainty between them, the insta-love this time I didn't buy though, it felt forced and bullied and I really disliked Jacks way of bullying her into accepting his protection when she went to Utah and her as a character just accepting that, not even fighting or arguing just going ok that's fine.

Jack is meant to be a strong will, strong man who knows how to protect and to do his job well and he does for the most part but when he meets Blake he shows a slightly softer side and shows that he wants a future.

Blake is a seemingly put together strong independent woman but actually as the story unfolds you see she's nothing of the sort, she's a psychologist who is great at advising other people in what to do but not so much herself. As I read on she felt less independent and easily controlled, especially when Jack dictated what was going to happen she didn't argue or fight she just went along with it.

This story has a few subjects it covers; grief, young trauma, control, overpowering and bad childhood memories it felt a little empty though the story for me so I couldn't really connect to the characters at all.

Linda Lagrue says

Stella has written another exciting book that I could not put down till the last page. The novel involves Blakely a beautiful psychologist, Jack a bodyguard for a famous football player, a dangerous cult and lots of intense action. Jack is losing his job since his football player is retiring and no longer needs a bodyguard. He decides that Blakely needs his protection since she is intent on finding her missing sister. This book is superbly written, with drama, suspense, tension, danger, steamy sex and romance. If your looking for an excellent plot that will keep you at the edge of your seat "Jack" is for you. Give it a try. I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book.

Annette Drewett says

Lots of action in this story. Jack meets Blakely under less than desirable circumstances, yet sparks seem to fly. When Blakely decides to confront a cult in Utah, to try and discover what happened to her sister many years ago, Jack decides to go along as her bodyguard. There were some very deep issues abounding within the cult and Jack finally needed to come to her rescue. This is a very well-written story, with intrigue, danger, suspense, humour and steamy bedroom scenes. The characters are strong yet vulnerable and make you wish the book didn't finish. I loved this story.

I received an ARC copy of this book and am voluntarily leaving an honest review.

Linda Walters says

A good tense story with great main characters. Both Jack and the good doctor, Blakely (Blake) have had quite the roller-coaster childhood. Both totally different but still totally dysfunctional all the same. It's one of the reasons that Blake went into the profession that she did. Oh, she's good at it but she is still trying to work out how to deal with her own emotions. Especially when it comes to dealing with men.

Blake wants, no needs to know the truth about her sister and she puts herself in considerable danger more than once.

Jack was attracted to Blake right from the get go and when they first met it made for quite the dramatic start to the book. Jack is also good at his job. He is tough, skilled and also a born protector. His skills saved both of them more than once.

When Blake confronts her past, it really makes danger come to the forefront and the drama it causes is well done. Be prepared for a surprise or two concerning that.

Also be prepared for a misunderstanding or two between Blake and Jack because come on, we are talking about two damaged people trying to wade through emotions.

Yes, there will be hot sex between the two of them and a H.E.A. as promised. They also have a supporting

cast of some good people to help them get there to that H.E.A.

I voluntarily read an ARC of this book and this is my honest opinion of it.

Nessa says

Compared to other books by Stella Marie Alden, I was not that impressed with this story. Jack pretty much pushes himself into Blakely's life, and while she tries to push back, he mostly just stream rolls over her. Stella Marie Alden does do a really good job of explaining it away, and the lust at first sight line does work in a way to account for that. It honestly could be that I wasn't in the right mood to deal with a pushy bodyguard type romance story, and maybe if I read it again in a different mood I'd enjoy it more.

I will say that I love the cult angle from Blakely's past, and the book is written quite well in my opinion.

Please note that I did receive an ARC of this book, and the opinions expressed in this review are my own.

Jenn says

DNF big time. Don't pick on people's religions.

Nope. Can't do it. I'm not down for a book who makes fun of other people's religions. Even if it's a spin off cult to the main religion- you can tell the author is more about making fun of the main stream religion. I can't and won't support it.

I don't care for the little digs.

If you're going to do a religion cult book- try leaving the main stream religion alone and do some homework on how to write a better book that focuses solely on the cult itself. I know people from the main stream and I take offense to the dig when the guy calls them morons as a joke.

Becky Claxon says

This is one of my favorite books by Ms. Alden. Jack Taylor is a bodyguard for a football player living in New York. The football player's wife helps a group of abused women, but since her family is moving to North Carolina Dr. Blakely Smythe is taking over. Jack is such a good guy and likes taking care of all people. This is one of the things I like about Jack. When Blakely goes back to Utah where her mother is a religious sect that Blakely escaped from, Jack goes with her to protect her. I loved how he calls in favors to protect Blakely and the extremes he goes to. It is so hard for me to understand how some women can be so brainwashed by a man. The two may have not got together in a normal way, but I was so glad to see them fall in love. Mel, the football player's wife was good at helping to get the two together which I was glad to see. I loved the book and strongly encourage you to read it. I voluntarily read an Advanced Reader's Copy of this book.

Carma says

The latest novel by Stella Marie Alden is one that tells the story of Jack, bodyguard to CJ and Mel from Busted Play (and he is mentioned in countless other books along the way). Jack finally gets a story of his own when he meets Blakely, the new doctor taking over for Mel as she and CJ prepare to move their family to a new state. Blakely has a checkered past that Jack soon finds himself involved in, for her protection of course. Can they work together to save her life, from her past to ensure her future?

I have read a few novels by Ms. Alden and this one pretty much flows the same as the others. Quick reads with no real surprises. This one does touch on the cult lifestyle, particularly Mormon's so that is interesting to learn more about. This read gets a 3 ½ star rating from this reader. I received an advance copy without expectation for review. Any and all opinions expressed are my own.

Christina Rybka says

Jack and Blakely are two people who are damaged by the past but can they come together and fight to be together. Jack is a bodyguard who is looking for something new and Blakely is a psychiatrist who is trying to find answers. Can they find the answers and each other. Loved Jack and Blakely great storyline with wonderful supporting characters.

Darcy Smith says

I love the whole list of characters throughout the group of books. They can all be read as a stand alone but are so much better when all read in order. It was great to finally have Jack's story. He is such a fabulous character. He is such an alpha male that it is great to see someone who can handle him. Blakely is a very strong headed woman but knows how to handle herself. Jack and Blake together have this hot chemistry that doesn't stop. The story is has a lot of action that keeps you on the edge of your seat till the end. It is absolutely worth reading and doesn't disappoint. I voluntarily review an advanced reader copy of this book.
