



## Heart Strike

*M.L. Buchman*

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Richie Goldman is the team geek of Delta Force, a warrior and a technical wizard-but nothing is more mysterious to him than women. When a feisty new recruit joins the team just in time for a dangerous mission in the Colombian jungle, he'll have to make it out alive if he ever wants to figure her out.

Melissa Moore is going to be the best woman in Delta Force. Ready to do battle, her biggest challenge is avoiding Richie's sweet and sexy distractions. She was prepared for combat, but falling in love is an entirely different battlefield...

## Heart Strike Details

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Author : M.L. Buchman

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, War, Military Fiction, Suspense, Contemporary, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Heart Strike for online ebook

### Cardyn Brooks says

Melissa and Richie's story is more streamlined in character focus and geographical story range, which makes it read as less hectic than the first entry in this series. Although the firmly established chemistry between Carla and Kyle and their team from the first Delta story may explain this more precise sense of story and character development. Melissa and Richie's interpersonal dynamic resembles Kee and Archie's without being recycled template. Heart Strike also incorporates cheeky homages to James Bond and Casablanca, which are cute while not being my favorite elements.

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### Eva says

[le fait que l'héroïne a elle aussi perdu son frère, ce qui l'a poussée à s'engager dans l'armée, avec l'objectif de devenir Delta. (hide spoiler)]

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### Olivia Farr says

"Heart Strike" is about a group of soldiers in the Delta Force, focusing on Melissa and Ritchie. Both Melissa and Ritchie are known for their intelligence, and this is interesting to observe as to how others react differently to their intelligence likely based on gender. Anyway, they have some experience flying planes and so begin to train together and get closer really fast in terms of time but slowly in terms of the book (about 100 pages in when things begin to develop).

The main focus of the book is on their training and military structures, etc. As someone who knows relatively little about the military and less about planes, I found myself pretty lost in that part of the plot. The relationship was easy to follow and they are easy to cheer for as a couple. However, I felt that the military aspects of the book were the focus and would have needed more explanations for me to follow. For people with more (any) knowledge or experience in this area, I think it would be more enjoyable.

This book is part of a series but works as a stand alone/does not need to be read in context of other books in the series. I was surprised by the large number of movie references and quotes in the book. Some movies I knew but others not so much. They mention a lot of movies. It didn't matter much, but it was something I found unusual/unique. Regarding the intimacy, it was more of fade to curtains style but still intended for a mature audience.

Overall, I think it's a solid military story with a side of romance, but some knowledge of military would be best to really enjoy the storyline. Please note that I received a copy of this book from a Goodreads giveaway. All opinions are my own.

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### Sophia says

Carrying on after the explosive excitement of book one, the spotlight shifts from Kyle and Carla to another member of the team, Richie 'Q' Goldman and the newest female Delta, Melissa 'the Cat' Moore. The elite tough members of the Delta team's story is told with detail, passion, and a rush of adrenaline.

This is book two in the Delta Force series and while it could be read out of order in a pinch, it builds on the book that came before it and continues the series arc about the team and the previous story of Kyle and Carla.

Melissa Moore has finished her training. She has achieved the impossible by becoming Delta and a member of The Unit. She has come a long way from the young girl who lived on a houseboat in Washington State, working in a museum, and going on hiking adventures and flying lessons with her intrepid brother. But one fateful climb, leaves her bereft of a beloved brother and ready for a new life's calling. She joins the army and pushes to become the best of the best like the amazing man who rescued her up on that mountain. Now, she is being shipped out to work with an existing team in South America.

Melissa takes one look at her new team and wonders if there has been a mistake especially when half the team bristles at her appearance and all of them are far more skilled than she is. What can she possibly add to the equation and why is she here? Even after the CIA man tells them they have a new assignment that requires flyers, she is still off her game because of the unlikely boyish grin of Richie Goldman.

Richie is the team's tech guy and resident genius, but that doesn't make him any less a warrior and qualified to be there. He watches Chad and envies him his ease with women since Richie stumbles all over himself and struggles to catch the nuances. Thus, he is as surprised as everyone else when he is as natural and relaxed as can be with Melissa. Their rapport is instant even after he discovers she can appreciate his geek out moments and they share the love and ability to fly planes.

Adventures and situations arise as they are want to do for Delta team members, but through it all the pair grow close and marvel at what is happening between them. But then the doubts come. Can this be real? Can they have something special in their line of work and on the same team?

Things heat up and the mission takes over. Both are determined to make it out alive and make sure the mission is successful so they can cash in on all the previous missed opportunities.

Alright, this was an enjoyable read. Like the first book, it starts out slowly and then picks up speed as it goes. I enjoy the author's careful attention to detail so that the back drop and characters, the plot and development feel right for such a story.

The characters are tough, gritty, and live a life constantly on the edge. Honed to a sharpness that the average person cannot even imagine, they go about life, love, and work so differently. I continue to enjoy the group introduced in the first book that now includes Melissa into the dynamics. Melissa is a hard, focused woman, and most think she has walls around her as thick as a fort, but from the first encounter, Richie awakens the laughter and easy side. Melissa has no idea how this many-faceted guy does it and Richie is just being Richie. Melissa is gifted at reading people and their motives though she doesn't realize just how crucial such a gift it is until she is on the team and part of the mission. Instead, she is uneasy and wonders what her place will be since she is moved from her newly graduated team to this already established one. Chad is hostile and Carla starts out that way. Duane takes a wait and see. Kyle, the team leader, and Richie accept her without reservation. Melissa is captivated by both the gentle geek and by the fierce warrior spirit that are both Richie. Richie never thought he'd be the guy to get the girl and decides upfront that he wants something meaningful that will survive past one night. He reads Melissa well and appreciates her strength without being intimidated so that he can let her take the lead with full trust.

The romance is passionate, but also develops at an even pace. They are constantly together and in an intense situation so the relationship progresses quickly though not unbelievably. This pair are caliente. I loved the

way Richie was with Melissa. He keeps her guessing and has her wanting. He's got a lightness to him and enjoys discovering new things and new facts, but he is all male for Melissa. The author gave them wonderful experiences whether it is underwater exploring a Caribbean reef and appreciating an island respite or sharing an intense coupling in a drug empires' lair. They make sense together and are a fantastic team and part of the larger team.

All in all, this was a fantastic story balanced well between the romance and the action-suspense. Only my third encounter with the author's works and I am prepared to read anything he writes and has written. Those who enjoy military romantic suspense should definitely give this series a go.

My thanks to Sourcebooks Casablanca for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Marlene says**

Originally published at Reading Reality

Heart Strike continues the Delta Force series begun in Target Engaged, and just like the first book in the series, it makes for a pulse pounding military romance from beginning to end.

In Target Engaged, we saw both the formation of an elite squad within Delta Force, and the hot as fire relationship between team leader Kyle Reeves and one of the members of his team, the first woman in Delta, Carla Anderson. By the time the story ends, Kyle and Carla are in a solid relationship, and the team that formed around them in training has become the premier Delta team in South America.

But this wouldn't be a romance if the other three men on the team didn't get their chance at an HEA, now that Carla is taken.

And that's where Melissa Moore comes in. Carla was the first woman to pass Delta training, but she won't be the last. Melissa is second, and there are days when it feels like her entire training consists of following in Carla's footsteps and not quite measuring up. Not that Melissa doesn't measure up to Delta, but that Carla seems to have set a mark that only perfection could possibly match.

Melissa is good, but she is far from perfect. And part of her feeling that she isn't quite everything Carla is boils down to Melissa not quite figuring out what she specializes at. She very, very good at so many of the skills that Delta operators, need, without being an expert in any one of them. It's hard for her to see that generalization is itself a skill.

Colonel Michael Gibson, the highest ranking field officer in Delta, sends Melissa to join Kyle and Carla's group in Colombia. Generalist Melissa immediately hits it off with the squads ultimate specialist, Richie Goldman. Richie is the unit's chief geek and technical wizard. Everyone calls him "Q" after James Bond's gizmomaster. And just like "Q" in the Bond world, Richie is more than a bit tongue-tied around women. At least until Melissa lets her own nerd flag fly.

They get each other, at a level that goes beyond sense. But one member of the team believes that Melissa is not what she claims to be, or that her motives are less than pure, or that Richie is her victim and not the man she hasn't known she's been looking for all of her life.

So as the team pursues dangerous drug kingpins in the depths of the Colombian jungle, the team has to sort

out where, whether and if they all belong. Before they tear each other apart.

Escape Rating B: I love this series almost as much as The Night Stalkers series it spawned from. One of the terrific things about both sets is that this is military romance where the women are every bit as much soldiers as the men. No one is weak, no one needs to be rescued. It's all about joining strength to strength. And that's awesome.

One of the things that is similar in both series is the intense team-building. These people all have to rely on each other in every extreme. Guarding each other's backs is the only chance any of them have of making it out of each mission alive.

On the one hand, the way that Chad distrusts and disrespects Melissa from the get-go shows just how much of a problem it is when that mutual trust is breached. On my other hand, his reasons for his extreme reaction didn't quite fit for this reader. As deep and strong as his instant antipathy was, and as many problems as it caused within the group, the reasons that were given for it, and the sudden reversal, didn't quite gel. I was expecting some of the motives for his unreasonable reaction to be personal, and when that personal connection wasn't there, his behavior didn't make much sense.

On my third hand (consider me an alien) the relationship between Richie and Melissa was smoking hot from the instant they met. Just as with Kyle and Carla in Target Engaged, their problem was resisting the attraction long enough to build an emotional connection before the physical, and also to find a safe and private place.

They do have some of the worst, and funniest luck!

But if you love military romance, this series in particular, and M.L. Buchman's books in general, are always bullseye shots to the heart..

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### **Ashley Dawn says**

I love books about military men and women! Richie (Q) is an essential part of his unit. He is the brains and sees things well before others think they are a possibility. Melissa became a member of Delta Force after she was rescued by a man in the army who braved horrible danger to get to her. She never knew who the man was but that forever changed her. Now she is one of the elite warriors and is joining a new unit. Richie and Melissa have an instant connection but some on the team aren't as sure, with all the dangers they face the tension is high and so is the romance!

This is the second book in the series but the first that I've read. It stands alone fine but does make you want to go back and read about how the team first came together. I have to say that this author did a wonderful job making me adore the characters. Q is a quirky guy whose brain doesn't work like everyone else. That just makes him adorable! Melissa has her past and then a past in the army that leads to distrust but wants to be a valued member of her unit. The tension between the members was palpable and I wasn't sure how it would work out but I liked what the author did there.

It was a 4/5 for me. I really liked this team and am ready to read more about them!

Thank you to the publisher for the review copy of this book (via netgalley). I received this book in exchange for an honest review and the opinions stated above are 100% mine.

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## Reading In Pajamas says

◆Spotlight, Review, Guest Post & Giveaway: HEART STRIKE by M. L. Buchman

<http://wp.me/p3d0RZ-5Sd>

Publication Date: August 2, 2016

Reviewed by: Reading in Pajamas/ Donna

Rated: 4.5 Stars

I enjoyed the romantic suspense of this book. Nice hot sex and ever growing drama. You add the Delta Force dynamics and it all equals a fast paced fun story. It did get a little bogged down in technicalities with planes and such, but that didn't ruin the excitement. Richie was the perfect geeky operative that waffled between sweet and hot. I want one! Melissa did women proud by showing she had what it takes to be an equal, without being a bitch. I liked it a lot!

*\*Review copy provided by Sourcebooks in exchange for an honest review.*

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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

And that's how they rode the waves their first time together. A long, slow, almost agonizing descent that shattered any experience he'd ever had before.

~\*~\*~\*~

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Book 1: Target Engaged (Delta Force Series) by M.L. Buchman

Kindle: <http://amzn.to/1US72zQ> | REVIEW 5 Stars: <http://wp.me/p3d0RZ-3IP>

## **Maria Rose says**

Heart Strike is the second book in M.L. Buchman's Delta Force series, but the first of his that I've read. When I'm not reading romances, I'm a big fan of espionage thrillers (the Tom Clancy, Robert Ludlum variety) and so I was intrigued to see how a male writer would take those kinds of scenarios and add in a definitely romantic subplot to the story. Also, I wondered if I would be able to tell the difference between a female and male writer of romantic suspense. (spoiler alert– I couldn't). While Mr. Buchman's novel spent more time dealing with team dynamics than I've seen in other stories, it definitely delivers on the romance and the action parts and is a well-researched and interesting look at an undercover operation working to hamper the cocaine trade.

Melissa Moore is only the second woman to graduate from a unique special forces training program. Five years earlier, she'd been a museum curator with a penchant for adventurous hobbies. On a mountain climb with her brother, bad weather and a slip into a crevasse had ended her brother's life and resulted in her being rescued by a Delta Force operative. From then on she'd been focused on becoming like her rescuer, joining the US military and working her way up to the elite task force. Post-graduation, her first assignment is to join a Delta Force team working in South America to debilitate the thriving drug trade.

Richie Goldman is the resident geek of his Delta force team. He's got the nickname of 'Q' (like the gadget wizard in James Bond) for his enthusiasm over technical details. But he's also a highly trained, physically effective warrior. When Melissa joins their team, he's awestruck by not only her beauty but her skills as well. As the other pilot on the team, they quickly become partners in training for their mission and it soon leads to a bedroom partnership, too. Deep undercover in the Columbian jungle, their team must find a way to take down a notorious drug dealer and his cocaine laboratory. With the clock ticking, they'll have to use all their wits to survive if they want to consider a future together.

Melissa is an interesting female heroine. She ends up on this career path due to a tragedy, but she clearly belongs here. She's smart, savvy, and strong both physically and mentally. Dropped into an already established team means she's going to have to work harder to fit in. One of her teammates, Carla, is the first woman to have graduated from the program. She's clearly a kickass, no nonsense woman as well, and so while they initially clash due to both being such strong women, they strike up an understanding and a friendship fairly quickly. Melissa is clearly different though; more even tempered and able to assess a situation and see what is missing or what is wrong. But her acceptance by the male members is a bit more challenging. Her attraction to Richie (which is mutual) is obvious to the rest of the guys, and they are suspicious, none more so than Chad who makes no bones about his displeasure at her joining their team. He worries about her either taking over the team captain position (currently held by Kyle), or about her hurting the somewhat naïve Richie. The friction between the two of them, and subsequently between Richie and Chad adds to the tension in the story.

Richie has a bit of split personality. On the one hand, he's definitely fully capable of his job as a covert operative. He's skilled in all manner of combat, and with his knowledge of several languages, can easily blend in with the natives on any undercover assignment. But when he's not in fighting mode, he's a tech geek, a very enthusiastic man who seems somewhat immature. He doesn't have a lot of experience with women, and it shows in his awe around Melissa. Where the other guys on the team are quick to find willing women to sleep with while on assignment, that isn't the way Richie operates. But he finds the courage to approach Melissa and when she reciprocates his attentions, they end up having some pretty steamy scenes together. Since two members of their team, Carla and Kyle, are already a couple (from the first book in the series, Target Engaged), there isn't a lot of discussion about whether or not it's a good idea for them to hook

up. It does happen fairly quickly, and the insta-lust leads to insta-love. In high stress situations like Richie and Melissa are in, it's not surprising that an emotional connection is established so fast. However, in this scenario a happy for now ending without a declaration of love would have been perfectly acceptable and more believable.

The strength of this story comes in two places. The first is the training that Melissa and Richie undergo before they take part in the big undercover operation they've been assigned. It's clear that the author knows about different kinds of small planes and there are some fun scenes with Richie and Melissa learning how to fly all sorts of them in preparation for what they might encounter on their mission. The second is the exciting and action packed latter half of the story where the mission is underway. There is lots of attention to detail in terms of the location, setting, characters and the cocaine trade that make up for the slower first half of the story. The focus on team dynamics for the first half had me wondering whether the story would pick up or not, and it definitely does. In the end, Heart Strike is a solid romantic suspense story with some interesting and genuinely likable characters and I look forward to reading more of this series.

This review is also posted at All About Romance: <http://allaboutromance.com/book-revie...>

Note: a copy of this story was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for review.

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## **Arlene Downey says**

### **Wonderful story**

The second Delta woman finds her team and fits in after a little rocky start with one member.

And she is in the same team as the first female Delta operator.

Lots of action, lots of interesting happenings, and lots of interesting interaction.

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## **Jen says**

I thought this one was much better than the first book in the series, but it still wasn't great like most M.L. Buchman books I love. I think this is another instance where 'less is more' should have been the correct approach. We're dragged into too many details about how to fly a plane when most of us don't care and will never experience that. At least all of the pre-Delta training details were left out of this one.

Melissa Moore is fresh out of Delta training and is being sent to join the team we met in Book 1. She hits things off right away with Richie Goldman, the nerd of the team. But others take a while to warm up to her since they're not quite sure why she's there. Chad in particular is pretty frosty to her for most of the book (the guy had some serious issues with her that really made me dislike him, especially when it came between Richie & Melissa's relationship). Melissa and Richie are movie buffs apparently and love to quote lines from movies, but it's cute and I enjoyed it. Richie thinks there's no way the beautiful Melissa could like the geek of the team, but she certainly surprised him.

The team ends up getting involved in drug smuggling to try and bring down the operation and that required

Melissa and Richie to learn how to fly an old coast guard plane. I don't see how they handled that pressure going into the unknown, but they certainly proved themselves to be true Delta Force operators.

The action is interesting in this one and there are a few surprises, but it lacked some of the suspense & intensity you expect from M.L. Buchman. I did enjoy the romance/relationship building between Melissa & Richie. It was believable and I felt the connection there, unlike with Carla/Kyle. Unfortunately, it just missed the mark for me and was just an okay read.

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### **Ruthie Taylor says**

~~I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads ~~

I really enjoyed the first book in the series- but may just have enjoyed this even more! I guess the team were all familiar to me, so I knew their foibles, and undoubtedly liked Richie a lot! Newcomer Melissa also falls for his intelligence, and finds his skills to be utterly charming. As the chemistry envelops them in an unexpected cocoon, can they also deal with the danger that their careers provide?

I loved the flying, the danger, the bravery and the subterfuge - all adding together to bring a clever plot and exciting story to a great end. And the romance was perfectly entangled in the action. I am a very happy reader. Hopefully Mr Buchman is busy creating the next in the series, as there are still single men who have secrets and desires to be released ... and always more baddies who need bringing down!

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### **RachelW (BamaGal) says**

3.5 Stars. GR really needs 1/2 stars. I hate to go down to a 3; but the story is just not 4 star quality read.

Melissa Moore is fresh from the latest class of Delta Force training, and the second woman graduate of Delta training. She is sent to South America to join the Delta Unit team from the first book of the series "Target Engaged". She is in Colombia for less than 24 hours before she and the unit tech geek, Richie Goldman, are whisked away to brush up on their skills in piloting small planes. They are there to prepare for a new drug smuggling op that the team is about to take on.

Nice enough read, but I enjoyed the first book "Target Engaged" more.

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### **Catherine (The Sassy Bookster) says**

Adorable warrior-geek and movie references? What's not to love about that? M. L. Buchman's writing is addictive and every book is exciting and engrossing in its own way while building on the familiar. I always enjoy how he perfectly balances the technical data with the actual action and romance.

Richie Goldman is the geek of his Delta team and aptly nicknamed 'Q' for the Bond movies tech wizard but he's also a highly trained warrior, a fact that is sometimes overshadowed by his big brain. And he's got no game when it comes to the ladies so it's understandable when he falls all over the new addition to the team.

But she's as skilled as she's gorgeous and they find a rhythm that he's never found with anyone else on or off the job.

In her previous life, Melissa Moore was a museum curator and an extreme sports enthusiast. Until she lost her brother on a mountain climb and was rescued by a military officer and the course of her life was changed. Now she is only the second woman in Delta but she is determined to be the best. For a woman whose life was originally on a different track, she fit in with the rest of the operators very well. She's smart and both mentally and physically strong, and her strength lies in her ability to make split-second assessments of situations and people, a skill that would be highly needed on their assignment.

The team has been tasked with taking down a South American drug lord and his operation and as the only two pilots on the team, Richie and Melissa find themselves spending a lot of time together as they brush up on their skill in prep for their assignment. The immediate connection between Melissa and Richie does not sit so well with the rest of the team for many reasons. With the only two women in Delta on the same team, there is the understandable friction between them until they reach an understanding. For the rest of the team, concern for Richie is a driving factor and Melissa's skills pose a threat to their structure. Their resentment of her puts pressure on the team dynamics, but they'll need each other and their wits to survive the Colombian jungle.

The first half of this book was slow going as it focused on team building and the training Melissa and Richie underwent, but it was balanced out by the action-packed second half of the story. Melissa's even temperament made her a major asset to the team due to the circumstances of this particular assignment and she brought out the best in Richie with the effortless way she understood him, challenged him and encouraged him to be his best. I liked how Richie embraced both the geek and warrior sides of him and grew into his potential.

HEART STRIKE lacks the fireworks of the first book but it was a solid and satisfying read and the main characters were just as lovable. M. L. Buchman is an auto-read for me and I'm looking forward to more from him.

Disclaimer: I voluntarily reviewed a copy of this book. All opinions stated are solely mine.

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## **Darcy says**

This one was fun to read, mostly due to Melissa. I liked her personality, loved how she didn't suffer from a lack of confidence and let it show, especially when she was added to a new Delta team. I absolutely loved how Melissa didn't give Chad the time of day, instead was smitten of the team geek, Richie, who seemed a bit dumbstruck by Melissa.

Melissa and Richie were great together, especially when for a great time they were alone, it allowed them to be themselves. It was great to see Richie let Melissa do her thing to help advance the team's goal. Although I did hate it when Chad allowed Richie to doubt things and create conflict between them. So I was glad when Richie smartened up and put Chad in his place to back Melissa.

The action at the end was a bit crazy, but nothing this group of Deltas couldn't handle.

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## **Taylor B says**

ARC provided by Netgalley.

Haven't read a military romantic suspense book in a long time, but I really liked this book. It is my first book by M. L. Buchanan and I think I will go back and read the first book in this series. It was quite good and actually managed to throw me for a loop. I also enjoyed the fast paced action of the book.

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