STELLA BARCELONA

Thrillers with Heat & Heart



MEDIA KIT

www.stellabarcelona.com

STELLA BARCELONA

STELLA AT A GLANCE

Author of the Black Raven romantic suspense series; seven novels, with an eighth in progress

Former middle school history teacher and attorney with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; now a full-time novelist

Debut novel Deceived published 2014

Shadows : Winner, 2016 RONE Award, Best Suspense Thriller, InD'Tale Magazine

Cover praise from New York Times bestselling author Heather Graham

Available in print, eBook, and Kindle Unlimited

Based in New Orleans and Fort Lauderdale

Book club discussion questions available for all seven novels

Free 20–30 minute video visits with book clubs reading a Black Raven novel.

Five speaking topics available for reader groups, conferences, libraries, and civic organizations

Available for interviews



> *Terrifyingly possible, Shadows is romantic suspense on steroids.*
>
> *– Long and Short Reviews*

ABOUT STELLA



Stella Barcelona writes romantic suspense novels where danger, desire, and unforgettable characters collide. Her Black Raven series follows the elite private security agents of Black Raven Private Security Contractors through dangerous assignments that test courage, trust, and love. She has seven novels to date, with an eighth in progress.

Writing is Stella's third career. She taught middle school history before serving as an attorney with the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Both careers show in her fiction: her plots include government surveillance and the Fourth Amendment, human trafficking, WWII history, the 1976 Entebbe rescue and the federal witness security program. Her stories are told from the villain's point of view as well as the hero and heroine's.

Black Raven itself began with something that happened to her. In the weeks after Hurricane Katrina, while walking her dogs through a deserted Lafayette Square, she was approached by a man who acted as through he was going to rob her. Another man, dressed in black and armed, rushed over and intervened. The armed man told her she was safe, that he had been watching from the courthouse, and walked her home. He was a private security contractor, hired to guard the federal buildings around the square. Research that followed produced Black Raven Private Security Contractors.

Shadows won InD'Tale Magazine's RONE Award for Best Suspense Thriller, and Stella's work has drawn praise from New York Times bestselling author Heather Graham. Amazon and Goodreads reader reviews praise her memorable characters, intelligent plotting, fast-paced action, and romantic tension.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Stella now divides her time between her hometown and Fort Lauderdale. New Orleans is the setting of two of her novels, Deceived and Concierge. From Fort Lauderdale she frequently travels to the Florida Keys, which is the setting of Desperate Whispers and Silent Screams. When she isn't writing, she travels with her husband, Bob, particularly to France, where they follow the painstaking restoration of French châteaux. Her "children" are two papillons.

CLICK TO FOLLOW:

stellabarcelona.com

THE BLACK RAVEN SERIES

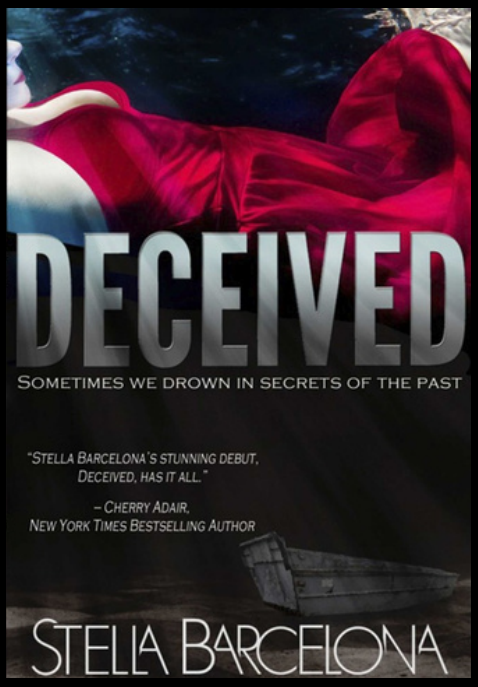
Seven novels. Black Raven Private Security Contractors runs through all of them — headquartered in Denver, with a training facility called Last Resort in Atlanta.

Where to start. The first five novels are standalone and can be read in any order. Desperate Whispers and Silent Screams are the Hideaway Duology and should be read as a pair. New readers are usually pointed to either Deceived or Desperate Whispers; both can be entry points into the series.

BLACK RAVEN

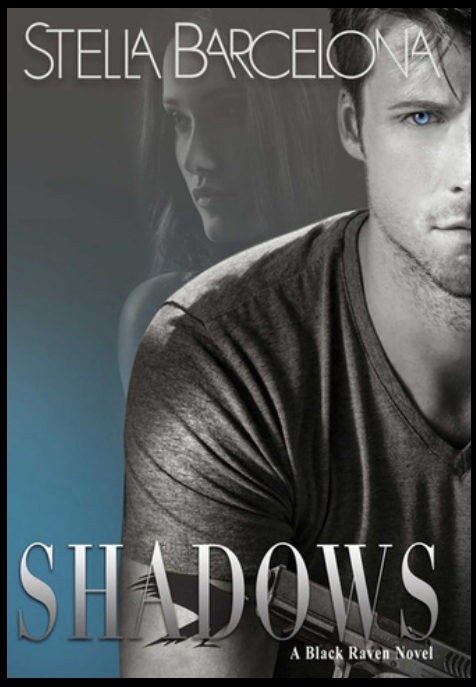
> *“Ms. Barcelona is a master storyteller.”*
>
> *– InD’Tale Magazine, on Jigsaw*

BOOK 1



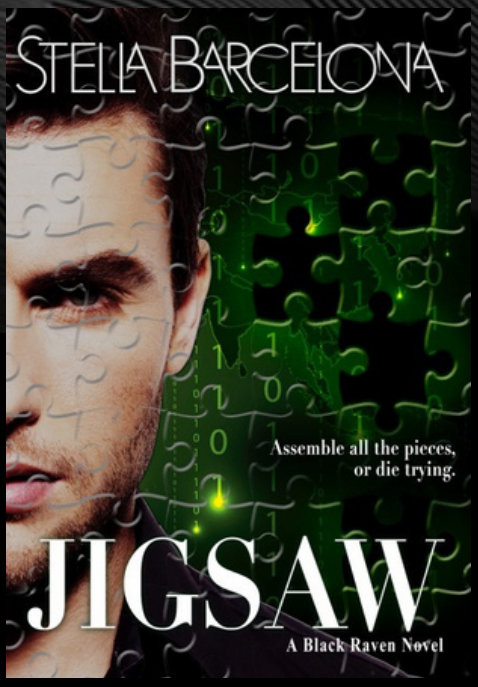
- Setting: New Orleans
- Themes: WWII-era historical mystery solved in present day; enemies to lovers

BOOK 2



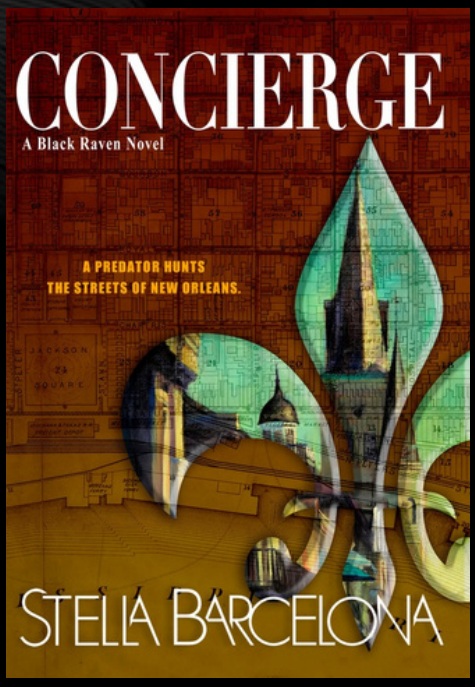
- Settings: North shore of New Orleans, then various U.S. locations
- Themes: Prison break and fugitive chase; Government interference with private electronic communications; Fourth Amendment search and seizure concerns; Romance under pressure; Dangerous secrets

BOOK 3



- Settings: Paris, London, Miami, the Chihuahuan Desert
- Themes: International terrorism; Kidnapping; Bodyguard for lawyer; Ex-lovers with unresolved issues

BOOK 4



- Setting: New Orleans French Quarter and surrounding neighborhoods, during Mardi Gras
- Themes: Human trafficking; kidnapping; past trauma; French Quarter people who live on streets

BOOK 5



- Setting: A luxury cruise ship in the South China Sea
- Themes: hijacking; Christmastime violence (as in the tradition of the Die Hard movies); inspiration drawn from the 1976 Entebbe incident; friends to lovers

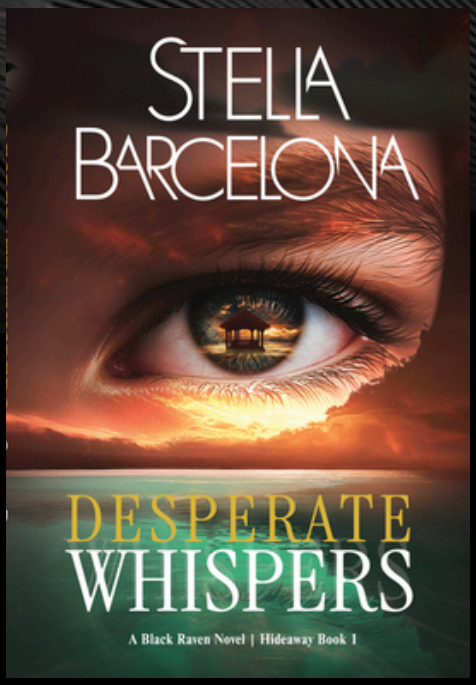
BOX SET



> *“Imagine is a superbly written tale that draws you in from the very beginning.”* — *The Reading Café, on Imagine*

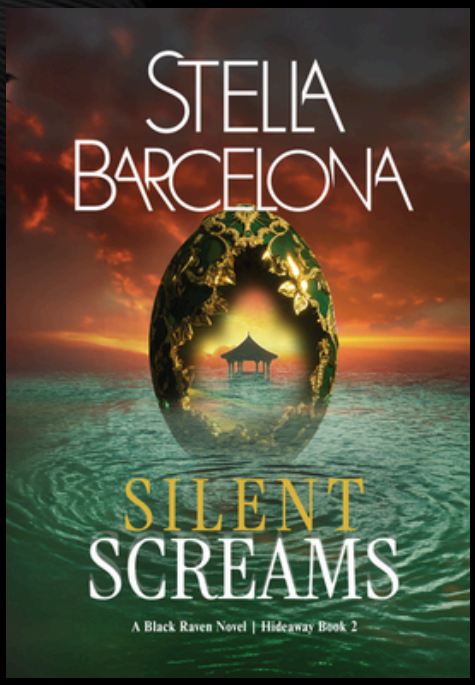
stellabarcelona.com

BOOK 6



Hideaway Duology, Book 1

BOOK 7



Hideaway Duology, Book 2

Setting: a fictional island located in the Florida Keys, a fictional island with parallels to current day Haiti, and other places in the United States

Themes: Justice versus revenge; kidnapping, with twists and turns; self-sacrifice; witness protection; redemption; grief; and trust.

HIDEAWAY BOX SET



> *"Deceived brings history to life in a suspenseful, contemporary tale... Barcelona's debut book brings an excellent author to the fore; the intrigue blends beautifully with the romance."*
>
> *– Heather Graham, New York Times bestselling author*

> *"[Desperate Whispers is] the perfect balance between mystery and romance, with a compelling plot."* *– H Harris*

> *"Exceptional … a total and utter plot twist that I really did not see coming."*
>
> *– The Archaeolibrarian, on Concierge*

PRAISE FOR STELLA BARCELONA

"[Shadows is a] smart techno-thriller with a steamy and surprisingly touching love story between two characters who are both torn between duty and desire."

— RT Book Reviews

"[Jigsaw is] an emotional roller coaster of a novel that leaves you breathless. Intelligently written, the plot is both edgy and intense."

— RT Book Reviews

"Searing. Heart wrenching. But there are champions and strength in the darkness."

— SherrybytheSea, reader review of Concierge

"Reading Imagine, I was in the crawl space of the luxury cruise ship."

— P.D. Ness, reader review of Imagine

"Raises the stakes, the emotion, and the danger to an entirely new level."

— Jennifer Taub, reader review of Silent Screams



CLICK TO FOLLOW:

stellabarcelona.com

FOR BOOK CLUBS



Discussion questions are available for all novels. Sign up for Stella's newsletter to receive a book club kit, with print-ready PDFs and letters on the inspiration behind each novel, back cover blurbs, and discussion questions for all seven. Already on the list? Email her from your subscribed address to request the kit.

The questions go past plot recap. Groups have debated whether the Fourth Amendment should require a warrant before the government collects your phone and email records (Shadows), whether traffickers could be operating in their own city (Concierge), and where justice ends and vengeance begins (Desperate Whispers). Lighter questions cover casting the movie, favorite streets, and jellybeans.

Stella offers free virtual visits to book clubs reading a Black Raven novel. She offers the following note to provide guidelines for her book club appearances.

Meeting with book clubs after Deceived was released prompted me to write discussion questions, and it's still one of my favorite parts of being an author. If your club is reading one of my novels, I'd love to join your discussion by video for 20-30 minutes, free of charge.

A few things help the visit go well:

- Reach out a month ahead. This gives time to find a date.
- Let me know how many readers you expect. Conversations work best with six or more.
- Send a headcount about ten days before the meeting so I can prepare.
- Format is up to you: discussion questions, ones you send ahead, or whatever comes up.
- In the New Orleans or Fort Lauderdale area? Ask about visiting in person.
- Email stella@stellabarcelona.com to arrange a visit or to tell me your club is reading one of my novels. I'd love to hear about it, and to see photos and thoughts on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

Stella Barcelona

CLICK FOR THE NEWS LETTER

CLICK TO FOLLOW:



SPEAKING TOPICS

Stella speaks to reader groups, book clubs, conferences, libraries, and civic organizations. Topics are listed below and can be adapted in length or emphasis. Questions welcome.

Behind the Scenes of the Writing Life. Stella traces her path from lifelong reader to teacher, lawyer, and independently published author of seven novels. She discusses the real work behind writing and self-publishing, the research grounding her novels, and the rewards and frustrations along the way.

Finding Black Raven in a Deserted Lafayette Square. The encounter in the weeks after Hurricane Katrina that produced an entire series, and why private security contractors are a fit for her romantic suspense novels.

What Is Romantic Suspense? The genre gets dismissed as soft and formulaic, all romance and no stakes. In reality, it runs on terrorism, trafficking, and surveillance, with real violence and a relationship that has to survive it. What defines the category, why Stella chose it, and what skeptical readers discover when they try it.

Why Reading Matters. Stella discusses reading as a fallback. The joy, the escape, and the comfort reading can offer, not only in the lighter moments of a life such as beach vacations, but also in grief and illness.She also discusses what reading has given her across a lifetime and what she hopes others find. She shares thoughts on the benefits of keeping reading a part of your life and the importance of sharing enthusiasm for reading with others.

Research for her novels, including:

- The Fourth Amendment. Government surveillance, data collection, and how a former appellate attorney builds a thriller around contentious constitutional question.
- World War II History & Treason. Mystery rooted in New Orleans' wartime history, using her legal background to build a historic crime solved in the present.
- Real-Life Settings Inspiration. New Orleans, Paris, the Florida Keys, Haiti, a cruise ship, the French Quarter, the Eiffel Tower, and more.

LOGISTICS:

Format: Panel participation, Talk w/ Q&A (30–45 min.), Book club Q&A (20–30 min.)

Audiences: Reader groups, book clubs, conferences, libraries, and civic organizations.

Location: New Orleans and Fort Lauderdale metro in person. Virtual from anywhere.

Fees: Book club visits are free. Please enquire for othere events.

AVAILABILITY & ORDERING

All Black Raven novels are available in print, eBook, and Kindle Unlimited through Amazon using the links below. Stella's books are also available upon request at your local bookseller. If you cannot find copies of Stella's books, reach out to her at stella@stellabarelona.com

amazon kindle unlimited

For bookstores and event hosts: Stella is happy to do in-person events and signings. Stella can supply copies of her novels for an event or work out a consignment arrangement Reach out to Stella to make arrangements.

Click here to download book covers.



MEDIA ASSETS:

Click here to download web resolution photo.
This file (1024 × 1024 px) is suitable for websites, social media, and online event listings. It is not sized for print. For a program, poster, flyer, or newspaper, please contact stella@stellabarcelona.com.

Click here for a Video interview with journalist Mike Hoss, Hoss Communications

---

WWW.STELLABARCELONA.COM

CLICK FOR MY NEWS LETTER

CLICK TO FOLLOW:

stella@stellabarcelona.com