



Midnight Action

Elle Kennedy

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**She's got a broken heart...
and a fully loaded arsenal....**

Ex-army ranger Jim Morgan leads a team of elite mercenaries, but eighteen years ago in Paris, he was part of a black ops unit whose mission was to hunt down a rogue operative. In order to trap the criminal, Jim seduced Noelle, the man's daughter—a ruthless act that cost him the love of his life and turned her into a mortal enemy. Now he can't trust her, but he still desires her. He also needs her help....

Older, wiser, and unwilling to play the fool again, Noelle runs a group of highly skilled assassins. And she's just been offered the hit of the century: Eliminate Jim Morgan. History gives them no reason to trust each other, but with their lives in jeopardy at the hands of a common enemy, the lines between love and hate are soon blurred. Now Noelle and Jim must face the past if they want to have a future—let alone a future together.

Midnight Action Details

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Author : Elle Kennedy

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From Reader Review **Midnight Action** for online ebook

Jae says

This book was all Noelle. She was such a hardassed b**ch in the previous books, that I was worried that she would make a terrible heroine. But there was so much to her story after all. It explained a lot on how and why she turned up the way she was. And I even shed a few tears for her.

But I finished the book with a bitter dislike for Morgan. For what he did to Noelle he should've grovel harder for her forgiveness. Make some effort at least. Super-soldiers are allowed to be softies from time to time too.

I like my soldier soft-for-me **4 STARS.**

nick says

4.5/5

SO SO GOOD! This is by far my favorite book in the series. I absolutely LOVED Jim and Noelle together and all that pent up passion they had between them. Also, kudos to the author for surprising me with a few twists in this one. Elle Kennedy is a writing goddess!

Ezinwanyi says

Jim Morgan and Noelle Phillips have had a contentious relationship since book 1. None of their operatives knew why Jim and Noelle hated each other, only that the feelings of animosity were palpable when they are in the same room.

In this book, the author gives the background to this volatile relationship by alternating past and present every other chapter. The narrator does an excellent job with so many characters because this installment had a lot of moving parts.

18 years ago, a young Jim Morgan seduced a 17 year old Noelle Phillips to gain information on Noelle's dad who was on the government wanted list for selling intelligence to the foreign enemies. The information resulted in the apprehension and death of Noelle's father. Noelle was devastated at Jim's betrayal and vowed vengeance.

In this book, Noelle receives a call from a client who wants her to murder Jim Morgan and it seems like Noelle finally got an offer she couldn't refuse. Except she told Jim and they decided to work together to uncover who wanted Jim dead.

The heat and chemistry between those two was among the highest I have ever read. They were wildly

attracted to each other but there was no trust and no forgiveness for past wrong. This new assignment allowed Noelle to address her grievances and Jim to make amends. I was hoping the "D" would be part of the equation, but this was a second chance romance trope and "D" was a third wheel.

Allyson Ryan did an amazing job on this book. I was never lost in this audiobook. I loved the voices she used for each character because it was believable. The author didn't disappoint in Jim and Noelle's story which was my fear since the author has been alluding to it for 4 books now. I like them together and I understand why Noelle was so prickly and caustic. She had been constantly betrayed at a young age by those she trusted. She had been through a lot and survived through sheer grit and inner strength. While I hadn't liked her in prior stories, having her background made all the difference. It also allowed me to understand Jim's journey and sacrifice. The action in this book was constant and the plot was really interesting. I was entertained as the stubborn protagonists finally addressed the elephant in the room, their love. It was slightly angst but the ending was expected. This was my favorite in this series. This book utilized many of the supporting cast we have met and it set up two new storylines. I am glad Jim and Noelle finally got over their hate and moved on to love.

**Special Thanks to Tantor Audio for the audiobook given in exchange for an honest review.*

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

I have mixed feelings about this one. As much as I liked Jim and Noelle I feel there was still too much that happened between them for them to end up HEA. I don't feel completely sold on their love. I did really like them though. I also have a really hard time with the fact that Noelle slept with D a number of times. I don't care that Jim or Noelle slept with other people as they were not together for years but D lives and works with Jim and I feel that it's just eww. I loved Jim's daughter. Cate was awesome and I seen she gets her own book yay. I just wish I would have been more connected to Jim and Noelle. Liam and Sully had one hot scene and then a bunch of crap. I would have liked more from them. On a side note I listened to this book on audio and the narrator Allyson Ryan was amazing. She does so many different voices and accents it really brings the book to life!

Sophia says

I wasn't five pages in and I started mentally kicking myself for waiting so long to pick up this book. Yep, it was sensational, jaw-dropping, can't breathe, squirming, all the good stuff romantic suspense. I've read many that claim the description of 'enemies to lovers' trope, but really didn't. However, this baby, it was the Real McCoy. These two hated each other and had good reason, but they also had the skills to kill and never get caught so that added some real edge to it all.

This was the fifth installment of the Killer Instincts series. I'm going to pull a 'do as I say not as I do' bit of advice and suggest that they get read in order even though this was my first in the series. I say that because yes, I loved it and had little difficulty reading it as a standalone, but there were also times that I wished when

little hints or familiar characters appeared in the scene that they had been, in fact, familiar to me. I think that I would have gotten even a stronger connection than I did to the story, characters, and series if I had but read them in order. So yeah, it will work as a standalone, but would be a much better reading experience in its place.

The story opens with super assassin, Noelle, getting contacted to do a hit. She is surprised to discover the hit is on her greatest enemy, ex-Army Ranger and now mercenary, Jim Morgan. Jim used her and betrayed her in the worst way nearly 20 years before, but Noelle is uneasy about the hit and does something unprecedented for her.

Jim is the leader-owner of a merc group that are quickly going from a bunch of single soldiers of fortune like himself to people in strong satisfying relationships. He never wants that for himself, but his latest short-term situation with a woman has ended and he is edgy after the woman speculates about what woman in his past burned him for a second chance. He can't and won't share that he once loved a woman and betrayed her love for his country before she revenged herself in a bigger way destroying any feelings he had for her.

Something is coming his intuition warns. And when he finds Noelle in his compound, the source of his edginess is explained. The years roll back and they both remember the past even as they warily circle each other now. Jim is astounded that Noelle has come to warn him about the hit, but no more than she is by her actions. He has to trace the source of the hit and neutralize it before the hit goes public and every assassin is after the reward for his death.

Noelle thought to inform Jim and then leave, but he returns to Paris with her and will not go away even requesting her help, reluctantly and through gritted teeth. Their love was killed long ago and the hate is very hot, but what neither of them anticipate is the heat of passion blazes even hotter. While they follow the clues back into Jim's past and through the present to the identity of his shadowy enemy, they also are forced to confront their own shared past. Noelle will not give in and let Jim close and Jim wonders if she is too broken to ever love again. Meanwhile, there is one surprising and deadly twist after another waiting for them and their team of helpers.

As I said, this is enemies to lovers at its best. It's a story told switching between point of views and alternating present with the past. I thought that part was all well done and easy to follow. I liked how it all worked on me so that I was forced to revise my opinion several times with each new surprising reveal. I felt a certain way about the characters and thought I had their motives worked out, but I only got some of it right. I enjoyed the fast pace of the action that still allowed room for introspective moments. And the passion? Good golly Miss Molly, these two channeled all their frustration and emotions into the physical and it was as dangerous and intense as any action scene.

The romance was by necessity slow to develop. I was grateful to the author for distinguishing between lust and love. These two were lusty, but the growth of love was something wispy and didn't become tangible for a long time. Even then, it was the sort of love that was bruised and tentative because of what they had done to each other in the past and because of who they are, hard-core people in the death-dealing business.

There were a couple other minor character plot threads that I enjoyed, but were also a little distracting because I wanted to stick with the main plot. I think these must be setting up for books following this one.

Speaking of minor characters, there is a whole host of them. There is the plethora of people from Jim's merc team and Noelle's assassin squad that mix and match because of previous stories in the series brought them together. They are all lethal operators and yet they form a hodge-podge family. Other secondary characters

include the villain group. I liked that the author took the time to develop the villains' characters and their motives so that their actions and emotions make sense and there is depth.

Alright, so this was one brilliant thrill ride that I hope to repeat both by catching up on the series and continuing forward with it. I heartily suggest Romance Suspense lovers give these a try.

My thanks to Penguin Group for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

RachelW (BamaGal) says

Blehhh...after waiting so very long for Morgan and Noelle, this was a let-down. Where was the team OP, the action, the *suspense* in the Romantic Suspense? This was just a big ol' Soap Opera. This series is turning into an OOU sex romp, a series I loved when I read it; but 'Killer Instincts' is *supposed* to be RS. Disappointing...

Laura says

With this we finally get to see what is behind the decades long feud between Noelle and Jim, and it did not disappoint. The story alternates between the past, when Noelle first meets Jim as a teenager and the present. I was riveted with both. I'm not usually a fan of flashbacks but this worked and was written beautifully. I'm not going to reveal anything about the past, (find out for yourself) In the present Noelle's assassin skills are hired and her target turns out to be Jim. She warns him and they work together to discover who put out the hit. Their banter is hilarious, and one minute they are cursing each other, and coming to blows and the next they are banging around the room. They are HOT! Do they hate each other? Love each other? Hard telling from one second to the next. Things are never dull when they get together that's for sure. The team as usual is there to assist, LOVE them. As you can tell I loved this one. 5 stars!!

Jennifer says

Midnight Action is the fifth installment in Elle Kennedy's romantic suspense series titled Killer Instincts. Ms. Kennedy has been teasing her readers since book one with a palpable but undisclosed history between mercenary leaders Jim Morgan and Noelle Phillips. In Midnight Action, we finally got the nitty gritty details of it all. It's sweet, innocent, sad, sexy, angry, resentful...and it all makes sense why their relationship is the way it is present-day. I loved that this book was their story. It's my favorite of the series to date. However, in addition to Jim and Noelle, there are equally engaging side stories that offer some explanation for Jim's on-and-off MIA status and a separate but seriously sexy relationship setup for an m/m romance that I hope isn't too long down the road. Midnight Action will absolutely be a re-read for me. If you follow this series, you can look forward to a spectacular #5. Check it out!!

My favorite quote:

"She suddenly realized how fleeting it all was. You always thought you had all the time in the world. You took it for granted that the people you cared about were always going to be there."

2/5/17:

My fav in the series so far. Completely engaged and absorbed every page!
Full review to come...

AH says

Initial Thoughts: My favorite book in the series so far. **Midnight Action** lives up to its name: Lots and lots of action packed edge of your seat moments, explosions, thrills, and more. The lead couple Noelle and Jim have chemistry that is right off the charts. These two sizzle and a lot of furniture is destroyed...This is a great little escape - perfect for summertime reading.

Thank you to NetGalley and Penguin Group NAL for a review copy of this book.

Kathleen says

4 1/2 Stars! I really enjoyed this one, I just don't understand why it took me so long to finish it!!

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says

5 AMAZING Stars <33

From the moment I finished *Midnight Target* I wanted to know more about Jim and Noelle! I knew these two will drive me crazy in a good way!!! I freaking loved their story, these two loved each other and hate in the same time for their own reasons.

Noelle and Jim has to work together and this is a great opportunity to work on their issues. Whenever these two are together is like an explosion! They are super hot, passionate, intense and erotic! I admired Noelle and loved her, she is sassy, badass, strong and sometimes funny. Jim is simply perfect, stubborn, bossy and sexy. I loved all the other characters!!

If you are looking for a series with action, suspense and fantastic characters this is perfect!!!

♥Rachel♥ says

Midnight Action was an exciting second chance romance filled with action, danger, and hurt fueled by an old betrayal!

Noelle was betrayed by Jim Morgan eighteen years ago when he seduced her to get to her father as part of

his uncover assignment. Noelle was crushed, but she picked up the pieces of her life and vowed revenge. She got it and ever since then Noelle and Jim have been at each other's throats. Still, every time they meet it's a battle to keep their hands off to themselves and not just because they'd like to kill each other.

Noelle, who has since formed an elite company of assassins', receives an offer you'd think she couldn't refuse: kill Jim Morgan. Instead of carrying it out she bands with him to find the killer, and finally after all these years they'll have to work together and face the past, a past that is filled with pain on both sides. Is it possible they could ever have a future after all they've put each other through?

Years ago Noelle was crushed when she found out how Jim used her and when the details were revealed my heart ached for her. But the situation is different from what she was led to believe. Still, the betrayal stings fresh because Noelle was so in love with Jim. As the true events are revealed Noelle and Jim's relationship becomes very complicated. It's a passionate tug of war between these two. As if the revealing of past events wasn't enough excitement for this story we have the mystery behind who wants to kill Jim supplying danger and action at every turn.

Part of the problem over the years between Jim and Noelle was his refusal to accept responsibility for how things played out. I wanted to shake him for blaming Noelle, at all! Really, the revenge that Noelle took was his own fault, but thankfully it's not long before Jim wakes up and realizes what a complete moron he was. Once that happens it clears the way for healing to take place in between assassination attempts, that is. And between HOT, angry hookups, and I do mean HOT!! During these encounters, Jim and Noelle can't help but let some of their true feelings come through and it helps them let go of the past a little bit at a time.

I adore second chance romances. It makes me sad when a couple loves so intensely and then everything goes tragically wrong. I long for their HEA! But it was evident to everyone around that Jim and Noelle had a one of a kind bond and it was only a matter of time before they realized it as well. I haven't read the previous stories in this series, but it's not necessary to enjoy Jim and Noelle's addictive and moving story!

Midnight Action was full of intriguing secondary characters and the set up for future romances were included as side stories. I found one very sizzling, indeed!

A copy was kindly provided by Signet in exchange for an honest review.

Saly says

Rating 3.5 stars

Oh Noelle I love you so much that I can't even express it and if it were upto me you would have gotten a much longer, prolonged and agonizing grovel from Jim Morgan, the guy who broke your young heart and made you into the queen of assassins. I had such astonishing expectations from this book and it couldn't be met but that doesn't mean I didn't enjoy reading this one. But I wanted much more page time for Jim and Noelle and was annoyed reading about Bailey, Liam, Sully, Sean when I just wanted this compelling couple to come back on page. I loved seeing the very few glimpses in your past and would have loved to read more about your transformation. And another thing I feared came to pass in this book, the plot device that threw you and Jim together and made the story move forward. I have suspected this plot device for a while but was hoping it was just a red herring but alas it wasn't. But I expect to see plenty of novellas about you and Jim especially how Jim convinced you to MARRY him.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Afrodyt's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

There are so many things I love about this story that I don't even know where to start!

Midnight Action is the much anticipated fifth installment of this series where we get to finally find out why Jim and Noelle became bitter enemies and also reluctant allies.

Now, I have a vivid imagination and I have to confess that when I cracked open this novel I was just certain that I knew what happened and where this was going. I thought I'd followed the clues and pieced together a likely reason why Jim broke her heart and how Noelle betrayed him. I wasn't even close!! This plot was so unexpected and deliciously twisted that I was practically sweating the entire time I read it. The heat between these two was positively exquisite. Jim and Noelle epitomized the phrase, "It's a thin line between love and hate," and in this case that line was razor thin.

Since the beginning of the series we've known Jim Morgan is searching for something or someone but he's kept it on the down low. An enigma even to those closest to him, Jim is a super soldier, well connected with many allies and enemies around the world, but none more well known than the queen of assassins and leader of her own team of chameleons, Noelle.

When we first meet Noelle in Book 1, she's arriving to Jim's secret compound, unannounced, to ask for his help in finding one of her girls that's been captured. She's a gorgeous, steely-eyed, cold hearted bitch that strikes fear in the hearts of others just at the mention of her name. Everyone but Jim, that is. From the start the tension between them was off the charts. Sexual tension, anger, hatred, loathing, and deep resentment. Since they are both deadly in their own right you wonder why they wouldn't just kill each other and get it over with. But there's no fun in that, right? In the most brilliant and subtle ways, Elle Kennedy lets us know that at the root of their relationship was a deep love, mutually shared, that somehow went terribly wrong and left them both deeply scarred. It's within this framework that the story unfolds, masterfully.

I could not put this book down and even when I finished it the characters stayed with me. The sex in this book is as gritty, raw and passionate as Jim and Noelle. The action is pulse pounding and the circumstances they find themselves in will simultaneously rip your heart out and make you soar. For its absolute perfection I give this book an enthusiastic 5 stars!!

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: B+

Ah, the story of Jim Morgan and Noelle – FINALLY! Throughout the series, these two have hated each other. Hated. Each. Other. To the point that I wouldn't have been surprised to see one of them kill the other

at some point. But their chemistry was off the charts and while they loved to pick at each other's soft spots and make each other's lives miserable, it was clear there was more to their relationship than what was on the surface. *Midnight Action* flashes back to nineteen years ago when Jim and Noelle first met. Noelle was a young 17 year old, Jim a few years older and he was her hope. She was living with an abusive step-father, enduring repeated rapes and counting down the time until she could leave that situation forever. Initially, Noelle was a job for Jim. Get close to her and get information on her birth father, a man suspected of selling government secrets. Jim got more than he bargained for when he fell for Noelle, but not before the truth came out and crushed Noelle. Not only did she lose the man she thought she loved but she lost her father as well. Noelle vowed revenge and got it when a couple years later Jim was pulling the same mission this time on another woman and with a tip from Noelle, the whole mission went sideways. There were deaths and disappearances and Jim has never forgiven Noelle for losing track of the woman he was seducing at the time. It ends up being obvious as to why, but I'll leave that little tidbit alone for you all to discover ;-)

So we keep going back and forth from flashbacks to the present, and present day is pretty crappy for Jim. Someone hired Noelle to assassinate him. She lets Jim know that if she doesn't complete the job by her deadline, then the assassination order will go out to any and every one in their crazy, dangerous world and Jim will be a hunted man. Reluctantly, Noelle agrees to join her team with Jim's and figure out who wants Jim dead and why.

First, the suspense and the hit on the Jim – I liked seeing this play out. It gave both teams a chance to work together, see the other characters interact and especially see Noelle and Jim in action, always fun. They're both ruthless, but there's something that just made me smile about Noelle, she's a badass, period. She comes off as being heartless, but as we can see throughout the flashbacks, she has a huge heart and it just takes her letting some walls down around it to let Jim back in. Make no mistake, even as her relationship with Jim changes, she doesn't. She starts and ends the book as the same, take no shit, assassin that we've come to love in the series. She just has a man standing by her side now.

As Noelle and Jim work this case, they also start to work on their issues and do they ever have issues. There's so much hate between them, I started to wonder how they were going to be able to move beyond their past and try to start something new. It takes Jim just letting it all go, putting himself out there (this guy goes through a lot emotionally) to try and win Noelle back. She's the woman he's never stopped loving and trying to get her to believe that will take everything he has. In the meantime, they have some hot angry sex, hot dirty sex and just plain hot sex. Elle Kennedy brings it for these two characters and their romance is exactly what you'd expect – combative, explosive and the best parts being when they'd let their guard down, just a little, and show tenderness.

I feel like I've been waiting ages for Noelle and Jim's book and it doesn't disappoint. Their story and journey stayed true to the them as the characters we've come to know and I really liked getting the details of their past and seeing them find a way back together. I also really liked the supporting storylines that are in motion and setting up future books. Some good stuff is coming and I can't wait!
