



## Tactical Strike

*Kaylea Cross*

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## Tactical Strike Kaylea Cross

**Return to the Bagram Special Ops series with *New York Times* bestselling author Kaylea Cross** Gunship pilot Captain Candace Bradford has worked long and hard to earn her rank and position within the male-dominated world of Air Force Special Operations. She's not about to let anything or anyone jeopardize that, let alone one sinfully tempting man who seems determined to cause her nothing but trouble. Even if she's starting to fall for him. As an elite Combat Controller, Staff Sergeant Ryan Wentworth is used to overcoming adversity in order to complete a mission. Breaking through Candace's prickly exterior and into her heart is a challenge he can't let go. But just when he's begun to gain her trust, they're thrown together in the field facing an overwhelming enemy force. Candace and Ryan find themselves on the run, searching the skies for an emergency extraction. But one dangerous enemy has an agenda in mind and he'll use whatever means necessary to achieve it, including using American forces to do his dirty work. *Previously published*

## Tactical Strike Details

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Author : Kaylea Cross

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## From Reader Review Tactical Strike for online ebook

### Glamdring says

**\*Spoiler free review\***

**“What...what about the others?”**

**“They won’t be back for hours. I made sure.” He stroked gently over her stomach. Slow, firm circles that made her want to rotate her hips in time with his rhythm. Her mind was still fighting it.**

**He’d made sure? What did that mean, and how could he know? “You can’t be sure—”**

**“I’m sure. I’m good at recon and planning missions.”**

This is Ryan Wentworth, elite Combat Controller, for you! :DDD

I loved this book even better than the first one. From the previous book, I knew I'd love Ryan and, thank god he didn't disappoint, the surprise came from Candace. And it was a good one. In the previous book she was too uppity for me, here she was the same character without the uppity factor. Partly because she melted to Ryan special brand of seduction and partly because her behavior was explained.

Here again, the action parts were outstanding with a steaming factor higher than in the previous book —their first time together was **H O T**. There were some sad parts but there also were some funny ones.

Another thing I really loved about this book is **"Ryan's Glossary of Military Terms for Civilians"** . It was both helpful and funny.

**"AFSOC: Air Force Special Operations Command. Made up of CCTs like me, PJs, Weathermen (way more badass than it sounds) and gunship crews like Ace. We CCTs are the most awesome though, in case you were wondering."**

**"B-hut: not the Hilton, but better than most places I've stayed on several deployments, and a lot better than the digs downrange."**

**"BP: blood pressure. Mine goes up every time I look at Ace. waggles eyebrows"**

**"BUD/S: basic underwater demolitions/SEAL training. Almost as tough as the Pipeline. (What? It's true.)"**

Can't wait for Jackson's story! <3

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### Wendy says

**5 shining stars!**

This book has everything I love in a military romantic suspense. A protective, sweet and sexy alpha male hero in Ryan, a kick ass, at times prickly but lovable heroine in Candace, non-stop action, great plot and absolutely delicious romance makes this a standout!

*He didn't touch her. Just stood there looking down at her for a long moment, his gaze gliding over her face like a lover's caress. Hot. Seductive. "So, if we were alone right now, would you kiss me?"*

*Her mouth went dry. She swore her knees weakened. Her befuddled silence was apparently answer enough.*

*"That's good to know." A slow curving of his lips set her heart pounding. "I'll see you later, Captain."*

When it comes to military suspense, no one does it better than Kaylea Cross. Her military knowledge and the research she puts in her books are outstanding. It gives you a sense of being in the thick of the action. Kudos, Kaylea you've done it again with this fabulous read!

## Ryan

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### Steamywindows♥? says

Great story, action packed with a very lovely romance between an airforce pilot and a communications specialist. She (Candace) is the pilot, and Ryan, the guy in the thick of all the action. This was well written, fast paced and very credible. I liked this one even more than the first, so I'm really looking forward to the next one out. Wowsa the steam factor was, \*fans self\* HOT!

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### UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

*The mission of a Combat Controller is to deploy by the most feasible means available into combat and non-permissive environments. Combat Controllers are Special Tactics Operators who establish assault zones while simultaneously providing air traffic control, fire support and command and control communications in the joint arena. Additionally, Combat Controllers expertly employ all terrain vehicles, amphibious vehicles, weapons and demolitions. First There.*

*Hooyah!*

—Combat Controller mission statement

*Tactical Strike* is, without a doubt, the best military romantic suspense story I've ever read, and *Bagram Special Ops*, the best military romantic suspense series out there. The first book in the series, *Deadly Descent*, was intense, exciting, emotional, romantic, steamy... I really didn't think anything could top it.

Well, I was wrong, because *Tactical Strike* is all that, on 'roids!

Straight up? Kaylea Cross is an amazing writer. Somehow she's able to take something I've never experienced and make it real. Make me feel it. Dread it, want it, hate it, love it, crave it... whatever "it" is, I feel it. And this isn't just jogged memories... maybe I can explain it this way...

If you've spent any amount of time at the beach, in the water, you know what the push and pull of the tide feels like against your legs. You know exactly what it's like to have the sand washing away beneath your feet, the slight imbalance as the waves roll in and back out... So, if an author describes that in a story, it's more clear to your imagination because you've lived that. It's a memory that you draw on and it's your experience filling in the gaps in the author's words. Now, stay with me, I'm getting there...

I've never known the terror of being chased through the mountains while terrorists are shooting at me. I've never had friends die while I watch, helpless to do anything. I've never suffered the biting pain of having no shelter in a snow storm, *no* idea what that level of cold feels like... I've never experienced *any* of the kinds of things these people have and yet, swear to all that's holy, I felt like I was right there living it. My heart was racing, my hands sweating, my mouth dry... I felt it. And the passion? Burn up the pages and again... heart racing, fanning myself... yep, I felt it. The romance, the uncertainty of it all, I haven't been as engrossed in a military romance – hell, *any* romance – in a long time. I started reading and couldn't stop.. just. Couldn't. Stop!

Ryan Wentworth and Candace "Ace" Bradford are incredible together. Ryan's easy going flirtation and subtle seduction, his attempts to get "Ace" to drop her guard a bit - and her resolve to not get involved - to keep her distance... watching Ryan work his magic and make that resolve crumble... so, so good. Their chemistry and their intensity and how it combusted in their first time making love together is one of the most sensual, amazing scenes I've read.

The bottom line: I'm just rambling. Three days I've been writing this review and there's so much to say that I can't find the right words to say it *all*, so I'll stop. Except to say, read this series. You won't be disappointed.

For anyone wondering; No, you don't have to read *Deadly Descent* first to appreciate this story. Now, that doesn't mean I think you *should* skip *Deadly Descent*, quite the opposite. It's one hell of a story and we meet Ryan and Candace there, getting a small glimpse into their attraction, their dynamic. That carries over to *Tactical Strike*, and had I not known "Ace" and where she's coming from going in to this story, I might not have warmed to her as quickly as I did.

*My thanks, truly, to Carina Press and Netgalley for providing me with a copy of this amazing story in return for an honest review. Start to finish, incredible.*

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### **Jen\_C says**

3.5 "No doesn't mean keep pushing" stars.

I love the series and this book is well written, full of action and good. Cross fans will enjoy it and if you like

cocky dominating males, probably love it. I like a bit more time spent on the building up of the relationship than this had. I skimmed the parts from the terrorist's point-of-view because I would rather read about the main characters.

My reasons for not *loving* it may just be my preference. I felt like it was repeatedly mentioned how hard Candace worked to get where she was/build her reputation, but this was not *shown*. She supposedly is not a rule breaker but she gives in to Ryan within days and then is all about flaunting it.

**“So what is it? I’m just too much of a challenge for a guy like you to resist? I bet you’ve never been turned down before, right? Well, I can assure you, I’m not playing hard to get. I’m not here to be anyone’s entertainment, and I’m not here to flirt. I have a job to do—a job that I take very seriously, and I’ve worked my ass off to get where I am. You think it was easy for me to get into AFSOC? For once and for all, you need to understand that I will not allow anyone to jeopardize my career or my reputation, let alone a man who likes to live on the edge and gets led around by what’s between his legs.”**

Her impassioned speech stunned him, but the remark about him being led by his c@ck stung. “That’s pretty damn harsh, don’t you think? Not to mention sexist.”

She shrugged. “It’s not sexist if it’s the truth. Oh, come on, are you really going to stand there and deny it?”

“Yeah. Because you’re wrong.”

“You don’t like being judged, huh? Well, neither do I. And that’s what happens to me on a daily basis out here because I’m a female officer on a gunship crew. You know it’s true. I can’t afford any gossip that could ruin everything I’ve worked for. It’s different for me than it is for you.”

Felt like insta-lust not love. I kept thinking of that line from the movie Speed, "I've heard relationships built on intense experiences never last."

Ryan was dangerously close to crossing the alpha to alpha-hole line for me when he surprised/scared her in her but. He thinks "no" just means she needs convincing.

**He had more interesting things on his mind. Specifically a curvy five-foot-ten blonde gunship pilot who’d saved him and his team a few weeks back and he couldn’t stop thinking about. Though he hadn’t seen her in the two weeks since, it probably wasn’t long enough to suit her. Even after he’d made a little headway by personally thanking her for what she and her crew had done, she’d still had a permanent stick up her butt around him, trying her best to pretend he didn’t exist and calling him Sergeant whenever she was forced to acknowledge him. Captain Bradford was a total professional and a rigid rule follower who’d probably never breached any sort of protocol in her whole life. She needed mussing up in the worst way, in his opinion. And he’d love to do the honors.**

“Went, wipe that smirk off your face,” Hawking warned then shook his head in disappointment.

“Fine, no jump for you.”

Oh yeah, now he’d definitely be back to base in time to see her. “Yessir.”

Other nitpicks - I was shocked how quickly Ace recovered from HACE. I hated that we did know know who saw them in the hospital & ratted them out. I wanted to know the actual punishments and was ticked off that it seemed the woman was getting worse consequences than the man. Also it ended a bit quick after all that drama in A-stan.

Still a solid read I recommend to fans of this author & series. LOVED Ryan's glossary of military terms for civilians in the back. Cute!

Some quotes:

“What’s wrong?”

“Nothing,” she said with a dismissive wave.

“Saw Sergeant Irritating again, did you?” Maya guessed. That was the perfect title for him. How could a man awaken so many needs inside her, then make her want to choke him?

She ran so hot and cold he couldn’t be sure. He’d had enough. Screw this. He was done tormenting himself, seesawing back and forth between hope and frustration, trying to figure out where he actually stood with her. Message received loud and effing clear. He gave a curt nod.

“Be safe up there.” Before she could say something dismissive in that superior tone that made him want to shake her until her perfect teeth rattled, he brushed past her and Erin into the hallway.

Candace might be a couple of rungs above him on the Air Force ladder, but he was sick and tired of her treating him like a peon in front of everyone else.

His warm breath sent pleasurable chills radiating all over her body. “I want you,” he whispered. “So much I can’t breathe.” The stark, unapologetic need in his tone left her speechless. No one had ever told her that before.

*Let him in. Let go. Just this once.* Part of her suspected that even once with this man was too dangerous. Her fingers tightened on the covers. “I...” She felt his slow smile form against her neck. Could hear it in his low voice when he spoke again.

“Need some coaxing, sweetheart?” Oh, the erotic promise in his tone and the way he murmured the endearment made her go weak. A shudder raced through her body. He hummed and licked the sensitive spot under her ear lobe. “I can do that. I’d love to make you melt for me.”

It was imperative that he keep her focused, keep her moving, not let her succumb to fatigue, despair and grief. And he had to get her away from here before the rest of the guys came back up with the body. When she saw that, it would kill her. If Ryan had to ride her ass like the Lone Ranger all the way up this mountain, so be it. He had no problem letting her think he was a heartless asshole right now if being pissed at him gave her an added burst of strength.

The medic glanced up at him, and what Ryan saw in the other man’s eyes made the bottom of his stomach fall out. Dropping his ruck near the wall, he rushed over. “What’s wrong?” he demanded, all but shoving Park out of the way. Instinct made him reach for Candace, cradle her face between his own hands. Her eyes were open but glazed, unfocused. Staring at nothing. Sh!t. She’d deteriorated this much in the thirty-plus minutes he’d been gone? “Candace? Candace, look at me.” To hell with protocol and regulations. The others could come to their own conclusions about his relationship with her and then go screw themselves.

Ryan tipped his head back to meet Park’s gaze and spoke his worst fear aloud. “Is it HACE?”

“Looks like.”

He refused to stand by and watch Candace go into a coma, maybe even die.

Jackson hunkered down in front of them. “Heard you need some plastic surgery,” he said to Ryan, his dark eyes dancing with amusement.

“Don’t make me too perfect, doc. I still want to look bad@ss when you’re done.”

“I’m just going to keep the edges together to slow the bleeding until we get to base. You don’t want me stitching your face through turbulence on our way back.”

“Good call.”

**“What happened to your face?”**

**“If you mean the handprints, Grandma slapped him,” Candace said. “Can’t imagine what got into her.”**

**“About a half bottle of scotch, most likely,” the senator muttered, shaking his head. “I’m sorry about that. Ma’s a character. She can be a real handful sometimes.”**

**“Yes sir, I got that impression.” *On both cheeks, thank you very much.***

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### **Lady Heather says**

What an AMAZING ride this story was!

LOVED the characters, writing, and story!

I loved Candace's strength, courage, discipline, and compassion, and attitude.

... and Ryan was just PERFECT! What an *amazing, dangerous, and crazy* job he has as a CCT! His courage, honor, discipline, *focus*, compassion, strength, humility, sense of humor, and intelligence... WOW! He is the WHOLE package!

I also *loved* Candace's grandmother!

*“Holy shit, he’d just been bitch-slapped by an old lady.* \*\*Literally laughed out loud!\*\*

I'm kicking myself for having this book in my possession and waiting so long to read it, because if anything Kaylea Cross ALWAYS delivers an amazing story!

Can't wait to read Jackson and Maya's story!

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### **Sonya Heaney says**

Originally posted HERE .

If I'm in a reading rut, I will always gravitate to military romance or romantic suspense to pick me up. It is a genre that has books ranging from amazing to awful, but when you find a good author of the genre, there's nothing better.

There're two things that set Kaylea Cross' books apart, and make her one of my favourite authors:

1. Her research. Oh my goodness, this author does the most extensive research for her books, and every time you up one of her books she has transported you to the centre of a warzone. In a genre that is sadly marked by books where the attitude appears to be, '*Readers won't know any better, so we'll just write whatever, without checking facts - and focus on the romance*', Cross' books are a revelation.

2. The relationships. You actually see that people are falling in love, we're not just told they are. And if you're looking for something steamy then you won't find anyone who writes it better than Cross.

Now, I love, love, love the first book in this series, and when you love a first book, the worry always is that you won't like the second anywhere near as much. Happily, I can say this isn't the case here.

I loved Candace and Ryan, and I recommend you read book one first, because they have some interactions there.

What I especially like is that the characters – male and female – always have a reason to be caught up in the action. There's a reason both characters are being hunted, and it's not a situation where the woman is just the helpless female who fell into a situation where she didn't belong.

I also like that Cross comes up with truly suspenseful situations. When a character is hurt, there are genuine obstacles that put their life in danger. Sometimes bad things happen when you don't expect them to.

It's so important for writers in this genre to remember the suspense aspect. The reason some people move away from romantic suspense is because writers don't know how to keep the action going at the same time as developing relationships. It's how you get stuck with bizarre sex scenes in bizarre places, and laughable lapses in security in order to focus on the relationship.

Cross doesn't do this. And her books are better for it.

I hope we don't have to wait as long for the third book as we did for this one!

*Review copy provided by NetGalley.*

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## **Kathleen says**

Review posted at: Swept Away By Romance

### **ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC**

Story Rating 5 Stars

Character Rating 5 Stars

Romance Rating 5 Stars

Heat Level 3.5 Stars

Action Level 5+ Stars

Overall Rating 5 Stars

THIS READ WAS AMAZING!!! I loved every second I spent reading this story and there was not one thing

about it that I did not like. It grabbed me from page one where the action took off right from the start and kept right on going. These scenes were so well written that they took me there and had me feeling everything that was going on!!

Captain Candace 'Ace' Bradford is a pilot and an officer who follows the rules. That means NO fraternization with any of the men that are stationed at Bagram Airfield. Sergeant Ryan Wentworth is extremely attracted to Candace and goes out of his way to get her to notice him. Time and time again Ryan tries to garner Candace's attention, and every time she shoots him down, but inside she wants him just as much as he wants her.

When danger comes from an attack on the base and Candace's safety is threatened, Ryan runs to keep her safe and things start to heat up between... the sparks flew off of the pages!! The passion these two shared was of the charts HOT, and it was well worth the wait once these two gave into their attraction for one another.

The action starts up again and it kept me glued to the pages. Kaylea Cross sure knows how to write an exciting and riveting action scene. Not only does she give the good guy's point of few, but she also allows the reader to get into the bad guys head, and let us know what he's thinking. I find this very interesting, knowing the thoughts on both sides, and it added a lot to the plot. It bears mention that the action scenes in Tactical Strike, and in book 1 of the Bragam Special Opsseries, Deadly Descent, are some of the best I've ever read and they will keep me coming back for MORE!

The ending was very good and I found myself chuckling... it left me with a huge smile on my face. Now the wait for book 3, Lethal Pursuit, is on. I'm thinking maybe we will get Jackson and Maya's story next. On a final note I want to say, if you have not read this series and you enjoy an excellent action packed military romance, then I strongly suggest you give this book and series a try ASAP!

*\*ARC courtesy of Carina Press via NetGalley\**

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### **Dee says**

★★★★½

Full review to follow but in the interim will just say that it was well worth the wait!

This book can be read as a stand-alone but I honestly wouldn't recommend it - I really do think you should read the first one before this.

*ARC kindly supplied by Carina Press via Netgalley*

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## rameau says

*This review can also be found on Book Girl of Mur-y-Castell-blog.*

This is going to be a “*let’s dissect the blurb*”-review.

Gunship pilot Captain Candace Bradford has worked long and hard to earn her rank and position within the male-dominated world of Air Force Special Operations.

This is the set up and since I’ve not read the first book in the series I’m going to take this at face value. She does crash a plane but technically that’s not her fault, so I’m guessing she’s worked hard to earn her wings but there’s very little in the book to *show* she’s worked particularly hard to earn her rank or that her gender made it especially difficult for her.

She’s not about to let anything or anyone jeopardize that, let alone one sinfully tempting man who seems determined to cause her nothing but trouble. Even if she’s starting to fall for him.

This too is part of the set up but I didn’t find it particularly well done. For being such a stickler for rules, she’s having difficulties articulating a denial. Even if she’s *starting to fall* for someone she works with, if the rules mean that much to her she should be saying no at every turn. She’s not. She’s offering vague denials, mixed signals, and avoidance. None of these actually work. There are other ways to show her inner struggle, but this author doesn’t spend any time on developing those feelings for Candace’s character.

As an elite Combat Controller, Staff Sergeant Ryan Wentworth is used to overcoming adversity in order to complete a mission.

Now that I think about it, this actually has some basis within the story. Ryan keeps remarkably calm during the action sequence as long as we ignore the utter unprofessionalism prompted by Candace’s presence.

Breaking through Candace’s prickly exterior and into her heart is a challenge he can’t let go.

This is the main problem with his character. He’s like a dog with a bone; he can’t let things go not even for a second. He pushes, he stalks, he doesn’t take no for an answer, and I’m baffled why would Candace think Ryan has anything remotely resembling a *softer side* in him. There are a couple of instances when the author glimpses into his psyche that could constitute as his more humane and understanding feelings, but they were sparse and easily missed.

But just when he's begun to gain her trust, they're thrown together in the field facing an overwhelming enemy force.

When exactly did that happen? I know when they faced the “overwhelming enemy force” but I’m at a loss to understand when she started trusting him and why.

Candace and Ryan find themselves on the run, searching the skies for an emergency extraction. But one dangerous enemy has an agenda in mind and he'll use whatever means necessary to achieve it, including using American forces to do his dirty work....

I’m guessing this is part of the longer plot that may have started in book one of *Bagram Special Ops* and continue if not conclude in book three.

Instead of character growth, this novel focuses on action and sex—the first being entertaining and the second being rushed. The romantic relationship is woefully underdeveloped. As I’m not an expert on military matters I can hardly comment on the accuracy of their portrayal within the book other than to say that the abbreviation jungle was in sore need of the glossary found at the end of the pdf I read. I actually hope the epubs have footnotes inserted in them for those who need them.

*I received a copy of this book through Lit Connect in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Jill says**

#### **4.5 stars**

This *Bagram Special Ops* series is possibly **THE** best military romantic suspense series at the moment!

*No fraternisation between enlisted men and officers.* It's a protocol that the military takes seriously to ensure that discipline and the chain-of-command are not compromised.

Air Force Staff Sergeant, Ryan Wentworth is fond of bending the rules. He's interested in the tall, blonde gunship pilot who helped save his team several weeks ago. Captain Candace 'Ace' Bradford follows the rules to the letter. Even a hint of gossip might ruin her reputation and career.

As a Combat Controller, Ryan is confident, experienced and highly trained. Candace is a pilot and an officer, professional and rigid. Although she admits Ryan is attractive, there's no way she's going to encourage a relationship. But Ryan's used to the challenge of tackling difficult situations.

The story takes place almost entirely in Afghanistan, with the opening scenes on the military base at Bagram Airfield. The action starts here with an attack by insurgents. The action builds and continues when Ryan, Candace and other personnel are stranded in the freezing cold Afghan mountains. Trying to stay alive, tend

the wounded and reach safety, all the while evading the enemy.

One of the many things I love about this series is that it is set right in the warzone. Too often stories of military heroes are set Stateside or when they're on leave or discharged. We usually see very little of the actual fighting and work these men and women do.

That's what make this series outstanding. Kaylea Cross's evident research and use of military terms and protocols makes this an incredibly authentic read. And kudos for being able to plot a *romance* between an officer and an enlisted man on a military base with a no fraternisation policy. No easy task!

### **Shout-out**

Although the hero, Ryan is not a PJ (Pararescue Jumper), the first book Deadly Descent focused on Cam, a PJ and the third book Lethal Pursuit has the hero, Jackson a PJ.

At present on the National Geographic Channel is a documentary titled *Inside Combat Rescue* and is a brilliant look at the incredible work of these military men. The first three episodes can also be seen on youtube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogw3oS...>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vae1Cr...>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7C-4P...>

( \*My thanks to Karla for the heads-up on this doco and the links for us girls Down Under!)

As a reader of romance and military non-fiction, for me the blend of romance and the military doesn't come any better than this. Included is a very helpful glossary of military terms and acronyms by Ryan at the back of the book. *Tactical Strike* (and this series) will suit readers who enjoy the books of Cindy Gerard and Catherine Mann.

Highly recommended!

**Steam: 3**

*ARC courtesy of Carina Press via NetGalley*

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### **Baba says**

**4 stars.\*\*\*\*Review completed March 3, 2013**

It's been a long time since I read and enjoyed *Deadly Descent*. *Tactical Strike* picks up right where *Deadly Descent* left off and tells us Ryan and Candace's story. No worries though, it was well worth the wait!

Staff Sergeant Ryan Wentworth "Went" is a CCT (Air Force Combat Controller), and a member of AFSOC (Air Force Special Operations Command). These men are some of the most proficiently trained military

members in all of the Armed Forces. Their motto is "Any Time, Any Place" (command wide), "First There" (combat control) and "That Others May Live" (pararescue) <---- look up Kaylea Cross's Deadly Descent, the hero Cameron is a US Air Force pararescue jumper.

I quote Ryan "We fucking rock".

Ryan is all gorgeous alpha male with a hot body, a disarming smile and a weakness for a certain Captain Candace "Ace" Bradford. He is a very confident, sexy and intense man. A man also who unsettled the prickly Candace in a major way. To top everything off, he was always very straightforward and didn't really care about their difference in rank.

***"I never meant to offend or embarrass you. I like you a lot, and I'm just--okay, I'm worried about you."***

Ryan had no problem with Candace pulling rank on him, but it's understandable that it annoyed the heck outta him when she treated him like a drudge in front of everyone else. Granted, it was not fair how she treated him but on the other hand I could understand Candace. She worked her ass off to become a member of AFSOC, a female Captain on a gunship crew, that is.

### **AC-130U Spooky Gunship**

It goes without saying that she took her job very seriously and she wanted to do it to the best of her capabilities. And she would never allow anyone to jeopardize her career. Against all odds though, Ryan was determined to unravel our dear Candace. She may be very uptight, cool and tough, but beneath her aloofness was something so much softer, and he couldn't wait to discover this other side of her. There is a little problem though, fraternization is a very big no-go, let alone public displays of affection on base, however, as you can imagine love happens and does not ask for permission.

***"Thank you," she murmured, hating that her cheeks were burning at the simple show of courtesy. "You should put on a jacket."***

***"Nah, I'm hot blooded." He all but purred the words.***

***Her eyes jerked to his, and when she saw the teasing glint there, she had to fight back a smile. "I don't doubt that."***

Even though Candace didn't like Ryan and thought he was an arrogant a@@hole, she couldn't deny her growing attraction to him. It confused her and she knew it was wrong, yet she couldn't help but fall for him. And she fell hard.

The breath whooshed out of her when he lowered his head and brushed his lips against the side of her neck. The soft bristle of his beard abraded her sensitive skin, but his lips felt like velvet. His warm breath sent pleasurable chills radiating all over her body. "I want you," he whispered. "So much I can't breathe."

*He brought one hand up to cradle her nape, squeezing the taut muscles before sliding his fingers into her damp hair. He pulled gently, tilting her head back enough to see into her face. She found herself falling into his eyes, tumbling headfirst into the unknown. And it felt right.*

I loved the interlude with Candace's grandma. The old lady smokes like a chimney and drinks hard liquor...

*"Hello, Mrs. --"*

*"Are you the man sleeping with my granddaughter?"*

*He stilled in shock, struggling to keep his mouth from falling open. "Uh..." How the hell was he supposed to respond to that? "I'm Ryan." He started to offer his hand.*

*Her thin lips pursed in displeasure. "Hold this." (...)*

Ah, Ryan, I feel for you. Poor guy. \*pets\*

Nope. Not going to tell you what happened, however, I'm sure you will be surprised as much as I was and...well, it was hilarious--sort of. And it's a true story because Kaylea told me it's her grandmother and she wanted to work this family legend into one of her books.

Kaylea Cross writes some seriously thrilling and realistic action scenes. As always I think she did her homework and I appreciated her thorough research. Lady, your use (and knowledge) of military terms as well as weapons and flying objects is fascinating! About halfway through the plot there is a fabulous action scene that took place in the friggin' cold Afghan mountains, and Ryan proved that he really fu@@ing rocked. Though let's not forget Candace because she can hold her own, that's for sure. Once they settled their discord they made one sexy couple.

Interesting characters, plenty of action, a touch of well-placed banter and friendly ribbing and a nice dose of romance make *Tactical Strike* definitely worth reading. Overall it's a well-written, titillating and enjoyable read that held my interest. Recommended to fans of military romantic suspense.

### **Minor censure**

There's no getting round it to point out the fact that *Tactical Strike* is a bit similar to *Deadly Descent*, but I can honestly say that I didn't mind and I enjoyed Ryan and Candace's story nonetheless.

### **As a side note**

Ryan, your *Glossary of Military Terms for Civilians* at the end of your story rocked! You're a sly dog and I found myself smiling time and again. I was familiar with quite a few terms already but your author did not shy away to use plenty of those in your story, therefore I was very glad I could check them out. Thank you!

And last but not least I was very pleased to see that the intellectual Jackson and the feisty Maya, MCs of *Lethal Pursuit*, have been perfectly set up in *Tactical Strike*. He's a smidgeon NA, Comanche and plenty of Mediterranean heritage too. The man is deliciously hot! Boy, I loved to feel their intense chemistry and I'm sure they will make an 'explosive' couple. As I see it it's entirely possible that they will end up as my very favorite couple in the *Bagram Special Ops* series. In consequence, I cannot wait to read their story.

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**\*\*ARC courtesy of NetGalley in behalf of Carina Press in exchange for an honest review. Thank you.\*\***

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### **Saly says**

Tactical Strike is the second book in the awesome Bagram series by Kaylea Cross and despite the long wait it doesn't disappoint.

In the first book *Deadly Descent* readers were introduced to by the rules pilot Captain Candace Bradford and rebellious Staff Sergeant Ryan Wentworth and the sparks they struck of each other but Candace is miles apart from Ryan, first she is an officer and fraternization is forbidden then she isn't sure she likes Ryan half of the time, he has a big mouth and disobeys her even when she tells him to keep his distance.

Sounds awesome, right? And it is, military maneuvers, a first hot kiss and the hottest first sex scene ever! The book totally doesn't disappoint. The suspense is top notch, the danger of being stranded when the enemy is surrounding you and being professional even when the person you love is in danger.

The romance once it starts going is lovely, I loved how these two gave their all to each other despite the heroine's complicated family and their career. I so can't wait for the next story, since I love this series, this author and the characters who are next.

*ARC provided by publisher through Netgalley.*

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### **Gina says**

This was an amazing story, and it will hold a place on my favorites shelf!

We met Candace Bradford and Ryan Wentworth in Deadly Descent as supporting characters, I was thrilled to know they were getting their own story.

Candace Bradford is a pilot (officer) and she has worked hard to succeed in a male dominated field. She has earned her place by working hard and following the rules, keeping her emotions in check and not giving anyone an opportunity to take what she has worked hard for.

Ryan Wentworth is an elite Combat Controller (enlisted), he has also worked just as hard to get where he is, but he has a very easy going flirtatious personality that just draws you to him.

As I said in Deadly Descent, that book was my first military romance suspense book, and I absolutely loved it, oh yes indeed! And I am here to tell everyone I loved this book even more, yes yes yes!!

I could feel the chemistry and attraction between these two wonderful characters more intensely. I could honestly see both sides as they danced around each other. I can understand Candace being so cautious around Ryan, she has fought hard to get where she is at. And I could see Ryan's point of view, life is short, find someone who draws you in, go there, don't fight it! And while there were not too many sex scenes in this story, I gotta say in this book we have quality not quantity! OMG OMG THEY WERE HOT!!

And what I also absolutely loved was the action side of this story, it was intense, I could feel it, I felt like I was there with them (well as much as a non-military, I sit on the couch and read kinda girl)! The muscles in my shoulders got tense when the fighting started. When things starting looking bad, I was afraid of what was around the next rock. When soldiers died I cried. And when they couldn't express their feelings about each other because of their rank I felt indignant for them.

Overall an amazing story by a talented author and I will be reading more of her books! You betcha I will!

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### **KatLynne says**

Tactical Strike picks up right where *Deadly Descent* left off, giving us Ryan and Candace's story. If this is what Military Romantic Suspense is all about, then I've been missing out!

Riveted from the very beginning, I didn't want to put this book down. From the war zone battlefield in Afghanistan to the frenzied, delicious romance, I loved it all. Kaylea Cross' incredible talent once again excels as she takes the reader into the midst of the combat zone while also offering a highly charged, emotional love story.

Air Force Staff Sergeant, Ryan Wentworth is one of the most appealing heroes I've read. Each aspect of his personality drew me to this delicious man. Each layer endeared him more, from his playful, flirty seduction to the serious, well trained, highly competent soldier. **Cross not only produces a highly believable, action packed story filled with gripping suspense, but also creates heroes that charm and appeal.**

Captain Candace 'Ace' Bradford rigidly follows the rules and the "No fraternization between enlisted men and officers" is one of the reasons she fights her attraction to Ryan. She doesn't want anything to damage her reputation. Her career as a woman pilot is hard enough without adding more problems. However, Ryan is known for bending the rules and his persistence and determination pays off as the undeniable chemistry and deep felt attraction intensifies and detonates.

Another **fantastic** installment in KC's *Bagram Special Ops* series. It's intense, emotional, romantic and steamy. Also one that I highly recommend!

A big *Thank You* to Babs for leading me to this one:)!!

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