



Besieged

Jaid Black

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Besieged is the prequel to the Death Row series. While studying the indigenous people of Alaska for her anthropology dissertation, Peggy Brannigan is hunted down and kidnapped in the arctic by a mysterious Nordic male determined to keep her as a breeding mate.

Publisher's Note: Originally appeared in the anthology *The Hunted*.

Besieged Details

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Author : Jaid Black

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From Reader Review Besieged for online ebook

Nudge Wink Wink says

“Thousands of years ago, by edict of the gods, several Viking clans fled to the harsh, wintry Arctic and built a civilization deep below it in the earth’s belly. The prophets warned them to keep to themselves, to stay below the ground, for one day the perverse Outsiders – those who dwell above the ground – would taint the laws of the gods and destroy themselves in the process. And then, once again, the Vikings would rule the entire world.

The modern Alaskan tundra is a rugged, largely unexplored terrain. The three kingdoms of the Underground, New Sweden, New Daneland and New Norway, continue to thrive, their ways and cultures untainted by time. The Vikings never go above the ground, with one great exception. They venture into the world of the Outsiders to hunt... Women.”

And so begins a new series by Jaid Black. The author introduces a world which to modern Western civilisation seems quaint and filled with contradictions. It’s a world of old customs and religion, primitive dwellings and technological inventions, a world where women are kidnapped or bought, yet cherished and valued, and finally – a world of traditional gender divisions (men are the protectors and providers, women take care of the household). And yet, even though the modern girl in us finds it sexist, ridiculous and unbearable somehow when you dive into this world filled with mutual respect and unquenchable passion we are immediately enthralled.

The series comprises four novellas released by various publishers hence the erotic tone and explicitness varies. You can easily find the short plot description online so in here I’ll just quickly list the books that comprise the series. Book 1, *Besieged* (in *The Hunted* anthology with JW McKenna) published by Ellora’s Cave is not surprisingly the most sexually explicit since the publishing house is known for its steamy novels. Book 2, *The Hunter’s Right* (in *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down* anthology with Sherrilyn Kenyon and Melanie Rowan) is probably the least steamy of all four books. It introduces us to the New Sweden on the verge of *The Revolution*. However, the details are not revealed until Books 4. Book 3, *Hunter’s Oath* (in *Playing Easy to Get* anthology with Sherrilyn Kenyon and Kresley Cole) has been already reviewed in this blog. The plot focuses on one of the outer colonies of New Sweden hence the political turmoil is only mentioned in a background. Book 4, *Deep, Dark and Dangerous* from Pocket Books, is a self-standing novel. It happens parallel to Book 2 and focuses more around the nitty-gritty of the Revolution.

I suppose the most controversial aspect is the initial act of procuring the future bride, be it kidnapping or a bride auction. Furthermore, in order to get away with it and persuade the women to stay and give the new union a try the men use psychological tricks and coercion, not far better than Pavlov’s infamous dogs, and still somehow you can’t really stay mad at them. They truly believe that in capturing a bride they show stealth and cunningness, combined with physical strength and bravery they combine the essence of a warrior. In their culture the notion of marital love and happiness is romanticised and the bride is the centre of warrior’s world, hence her happiness is the ultimate goal and as important to them as their honour. I believe this is the detail which eventually gets to every heroine. Of course the fact that each of them looks like a demigod, with beautiful, large bodies, filled with virility, stamina and sexual prowness is not a bad deal.

What I enjoyed most in all books was the fact that the characters are mature in their years and experiences and the process of them finding the way to each other after the rocky beginning (i.e. kidnapping) leads through conversation, mutual understanding and tolerance (and, yes, some psychological coercion). Combine

that with sexual attraction (let's face it – who wouldn't be attracted to a 6ft8in demigod, kidnapping be damned) and you have a recipe for a strong and passionate love. Let me assure you here that the books deserve their erotic nomenclature – the sex is filled with passion and skilfully described, so I'm sure you'll enjoy it. However, as mentioned above, the level of sexual explicitness depends on the publisher.

I will not voice any comment regarding the traditional role division since it's a reoccurring motive in all romantic novels be it a Greek billionaire, Earl of Sth Sth or a Vampire King. A woman end up in a sack with a well-off handsome devil and let's face it – it's difficult to concentrate on Kamasutra, when Thames Water is cutting off your water supply.

I must say that I'm really looking forward to Book 5 which, according to Jade Black's website, will be release sometime in 2013.

ValerieC says

This is the same book as Hunted, but the title was changed on the Kindle book.

Ri says

4.4 stars

Very interesting and we'll thought out story. I liked the idea of this hidden world and people and their customs. I never would have thought of it in a million years and is precisely why I love books.

I'm not sure why the reviews were so extreme because this was in no way dark by dark standards.

Shannon says

"Me big viking man, you pretty wench. I'm going to kidnap you and make you my wife and make you bare my big viking children and you should be happy about it. And if your not all these other big viking will take you and rape you whenever they please." TF? Me, thinks not.

Holjo says

Peggy Brannigan is working on her dissertation about the indigenous people of Alaska. While traveling outside of the community for supplies, a young boy from her host family becomes alarmed that Peggy is being hunted. After further questioning, she discovers that there are rumors amongst the people, forbidden from being spoken aloud, about savage men who hunt and steal women.

Although she is frightened by the experience and information, she still takes a risk that she shouldn't. As a result, Peggy is indeed kidnapped by several vile Nordic-looking men - only to be rescued later by another equally frightening and enormous Nordic man. Her rescuer, Geirwolf (loved that name for a warrior btw),

brings her to his hidden underground Viking land, where her only hope of survival lies in becoming his breeding mate. Is it possible to find love and happiness in such a place?

I have recently become quite obsessed with Jaid Black's stories. She definitely knows how to create a masculine, honorable, warrior of a male character (the best kind!!) Although her books are a little on the short side for my taste, they are very sexy and have wonderful characters. This Viking world she has created is unique and a lot of fun to read about.

Usually, if I have a complaint about an erotic fantasy-romance book, my complaint is that the dialog tends to sound B-movie-ish or soap-opera-ish. Black's writing is NOT like that, which is why I will keep coming back for more.

Recommended for fans of Fantasy-Romance and Erotica. This is definitely adult reading only.

Ali says

I started reading the Vikings Underground along time ago, years I think now. Although, I did not read them in order, I still liked that they stood on their own. Now, these books are like my trashy addiction that I really enjoy to read for fun. But, finally reading the first of the series, I could not have not enjoyed this any less. I don't know if it's because I'm an adult woman now or that this first book was so drastically different from the rest of the series (in the way how the "brides" were taken, not stolen taken in the physical sense of the word). Along with a lot of tiny things that really ticked me off, to the point I was not having any fun reading Besieged. I even tried reading a different book by Jaid Black from a different series, but I wanted to scream. It was making me even madder then I was, because it was taking all my joy at the idea of the book being trashed and could have been told in such a better way (as I think this one could have been too).

Chrannag says

Two very good different short stories. Each one best than the other...

Jennifer says

I must say I WISH there's was a review like the one I'm about write before I got into this book. and you can't berate me simply because this was marked "taboo" and it was a kidnapping book that I should've known. I've read many kidnapping books and NONE were this level of demeaning to the woman. I didn't even get past the "consummation" before I just HAD to stop.

it. was. disgusting. how these "wives" were treated. and these men "love" their "wives" but allow them to be treated thus way?

let me say that I've LOVED jaid black and her books, until this one.

Pegg is kidnapped, and touched by men who are NOT her husband and the man who is SUPPOSED to be her husband and "love" her, is okay with that.

peggy and a young girl- 18 year old VIRGIN michelle- are giving a sleeping agent, and wake up naked, bathed, and shaved. WHO knows who did this to them, or what the hell ELSE they could've done to them.

then they are paraded through town completely naked-along with all the other naked "brides". there is a woman leading them, along with two bulky male guards wielding bullwhips to whip them if they get out of line on their little field trip. they are brought through the "commons" which is where "recalcitrant" women are sent to be forced prostitutes. men go to get drunk and force any woman to do anything. they can do whatever they want to these women, and they can be as rough as they please. knowing these men are "vikings", you can imagine how strong they are, and how much damage they can do. one of the men (who is not her "betrothed") pulls Peggy down on his lap and she just has to sit there and let him fondle her and play with her nipples. no one steps in to stop him. the woman "leader" and the men with the bullwhips apparently are only there when the WOMEN get out of line. soooo.. a WOMAN gets BULLWHIPPED if she steps out of line, but a man? they were looking the other way and chatting while this happened.

anyway, so after that, they are led to the "dungeon of shame" where women apparently go when they keep acting up in the forced prostitution ring. the women are placed in hanging cages, mens waist high, strapped down on all fours with their legs spread wide, and blindfolded. deprived of sight and food. the men come in and can play, touch, whatever to them, and simply ask the keeper for the key to whatever cage of the woman they want, open the door, grab her hips, and pummel her. if she comes during this, she is thrown a few scraps of food to lick off the bottom of the cage.

then the "wedding" where she is forced to kneel at his feet and stare up at him and I quote "meekly, as if he is the only man in the room" which is what the woman told her to do. I can only imagine how she would be punished if her gaze strayed for a second. after the vows, the claiming. the young girl, michelle, gets to bed her "husband" in privacy because she's a virgin and her blood will be proof. peggys has to be public. now I've read about public claimings in other books, but it was as tasteful as public sex could really get, in those ones. and the other men look on with respect and longing. and the husband treats her like she's precious. this one? ohhhhh no. the men jeered and leered and laughed and stared at her naked body. which was strapped down spread eagle for all to see while he took her. the women are no more than pets to them. they aren't wives. they are broodmares.

I'm still upset and have to keep reminding myself this is just a book. this is beyond taboo. there's should be a stronger word for it.

Lula Pantoofle says

So erm, where to start. This must be fantasy-erotica. I think I liked the idea of the heroine being an anthropologist in northern Alaska, studying culture there when she is kidnapped and taken to a secret, ancient viking settlement underground. Cool idea!

Poor Peggy gets taken by two old slave traders who maul her which she seems unbelievably stoic about. Then she's sort of rescued by a more good looking viking who fondles her against her will.

Then she is trained to be his wife by being shown the alternative on offer. Erotic or scary? Scary or erotic?

Then she says I do and gets rogered in public whilst everyone gets a good eyeful.

Happy Ever After guys!!!

T00zday says

This story is **INCREDIBLY** hot erotica.

Bride kidnapping, underground vikings in our world preparing for some kind of foretold biological catastrophe. (These stories actually lead into the 'Death Row' series by Jaid Black)

The Underground viking world is short on women. There are slavers who find them and bring them to the underground systems and auction them off to their husbands.

There is forced/non-consensual oral/digit sex & intercourse performed on Peggy by both the slavers who capture her and by Wolf.

Although the physical aspect of the story is hot, there was still a sweet love story that was slowly developed between Peggy & Wolf.

Latasha Grooms says

Ok book

It was a good book, didn't like some of the implied threats (although later proven to be false!) as it colored my view of the story/characters! By the end I was rooting for Wolf and Peggy to make it! Although it was never fully explain why wolf wanted or like Peggy so much, for a person and population that is so vested in the old ways just how is it he knew who she was before he even kidnapped her? I was very happy to get extra information on Michelle and Ragnar, and happy that Peggy got her Wish by the end of the book

Jane Stewart says

Ok, but others in the series were better.

So far I've read four Jaid Black stories about the underground viking world near Alaska. This was her first one, published in 2002. I liked it, but it was not as good as the other three, published later. I gave this story 3 stars, but I gave the other three stories 5 stars each. See list below.

In this story, Peggy is an archaeologist studying Eskimo cultures in Alaska. She is kidnapped by Vikings who live underground. The Vikings' dress, culture and language is similar to that from many centuries earlier. Once she is there, she can never return to civilization because they do not want their existence known. The women in that society walk around naked or topless. She is forced to marry Wolf, one of the Viking men.

CAUTION SPOILER: There was a nice ending having to do with Peggy's mother.

Data:

Story length: 89 pages. Sexual language: erotic. Number of sex scenes: ten. Setting: present day Alaska.

Copyright: 2002. Genre: erotic fantasy romance.

Viking Series:

There are four underground Viking stories which I rated as follows.

3 stars. Besieged (also in the anthology The Hunted)

5 stars. Hunter's Right (in the anthology Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down)

5 stars. Hunter's Oath (in the anthology Playing Easy To Get)

5 stars. Deep, Dark & Dangerous

Other Books:

For a list of my reviews of other Jaid Black books, see my 5 star review of One Dark Night.

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

Dottie Withers says

Sieged!

1st in series about Vikings. Great quick read! Plenty of action with lots of steamy scenes thrown in. Loved it!

Kelly says

I'm not quite sure what to think of this book. I've read a few books in the "kidnap the ladies and hold them hostage until they love us" genre and I'm torn on how I feel about them. With this book, I get that it's a way of life for these people and they've been stealing brides for hundreds of years but... I don't know. I think I'm more disturbed by the way the brides are lied to by their trainer than anything else. I mean, would it have killed anyone to be all "Oh, by the way, our secret society must remain secret so you're never going to be allowed to leave"? That might be a little harsh, but at least it's the truth. Scaring people to death with blatant lies and stripping them of their will is kind of skeezy, don't you think? Maybe that's just me.

I did like the Wolf/Peggy interactions. I thought he had a core of decency and he was taken with Peggy from the first time he saw her. Sure, he was kind of stalker-esque but who isn't nowadays?

The sexy times were excellent and the idea of a group of people living in secret below the ice pretty much rocks. I just had an issue with the lying. THE LYING, GUYS! I don't like the lying.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Anna says

I read this book because I learned it was a sequel of Death row series, which I enjoyed. I shouldn't have bothered.

Peggy is an anthropologist working in her dissertation with the Eskimos in the Central Arctic. There she hears about the stone-dwellers, fierce warriors who kidnap women, but she believes it to be an Inuit legend. Until one day she is kidnapped by these Nordic-looking men, probably descendants of Vikings.

The world-building almost finishes here, and there begins the erotic book: from here on Peggy isn't a clever woman, she becomes is just a lusty female, and the world built is just an excuse to have lots of sex with a gorgeous man. Let me illustrate this with the most ridiculous thing ever: the stone-dwellers live happily below earth, and the first thing that catches Peggy attention is that women are undressed. In the Central Arctic??? Just how many kilometers bellow earth are we talking about?
(view spoiler)

So to sum up: mindless reading, for when you are in a mood for a flat-brain erotic reading.
