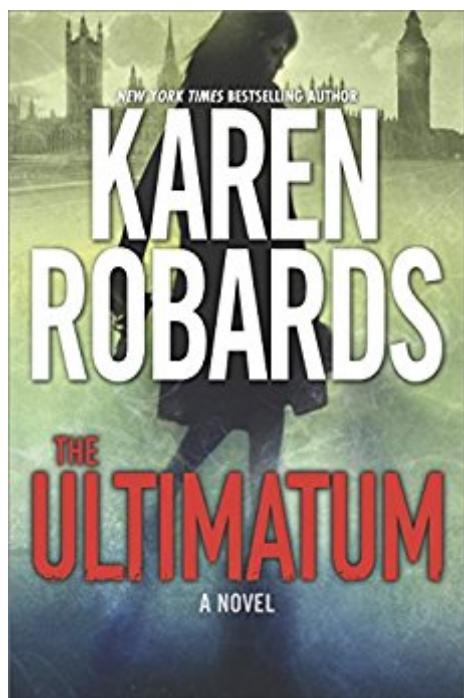


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# The Ultimatum: An International Spy Thriller (The Guardian Book 1)



## Synopsis

"Enthralling&#133; Readers won't want this adrenaline-rich story to end. " &#151;Booklist (starred review)Thief. Manipulator. Con artist. Call it what you will&#151;Bianca St. Ives is the best in the business.Ã  Growing up, Bianca St. Ives knew she was different from all her friends. Instead of playing hopscotch or combing her dolls' hair, she studied martial arts with sensei masters and dismantled explosives with special-ops retirees. Her father prepped her well to carry on the family business. Now a striking beauty with fierce skills, the prodigy has surpassed the master.Ã  She's known as the Guardian. Running a multinational firm with her father, she makes a living swindling con men out of money they stole&#151;and she's damn good at it. She does things on her own terms. But her latest gig had a little hiccup&#151;if you count two hundred million dollars and top secret government documents going missing as little. Her father also died on the mission. The thing is, the US government doesn't believe he's really dead. They'll stop at nothing to capture Richard St. Ives, a high-value target and someone who has been on most-wanted lists all over the world for over two decades, and they mean to use Bianca as bait. With only a fellow criminal for backup and her life on the line, it's up to Bianca to uncover the terrifying truth behind what really happened&#133;and set it right, before it's too late.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bianca St Ives has been trained by her Father from the time she was young. She has learned martial arts, how to get into any safe and how to change her appearance. All the things a master burglar needs to succeed. When their latest job goes terribly wrong Bianca manages to escape and retreats to her cover life, a successful legitimate business. I think this book is going to be the start of a new series for the author. The ending left room for another book. There was suspense but not much romance. The book was a bit predictable at times, but I did still enjoy it. There was a twist at the end, part of which was predictable, part I didn't expect. Thank you to net galley for an advanced readers copy.

What a wonderful, fast paced suspense/adventure! The action never ends and yet the characters are authentically human and believable in a Jane Bond type story. Hopefully this is the beginning of a series which I look forward to following. Unlike another reviewer, I thought the ending was powerful. Wow, loved it.

I hate this new process of books in sections, with cliff hangers (in the case), however this was written so so well that I do not mind at all. You enjoy getting to know main character with glimpse of her possible love interest. This book keeps you riveted and hard to put down. It is going to be interesting to see how everything develops. As always with Karen's books I think this my favorite book, no way can she top this, and then she does.

When you can't wait for the next installment, then the writer has pulled you in to her story. And that's how readers get hooked with the characters and the storyline. Long absence form reading Robards, back with a winner in my opinion. Great action, a touch of sexual chemistry, and the making of likable characters.

This is one of Robard's best books yet! The characters are real and likeable. am ready to see the next chapter in Bianca's story.

I can't wait for the next book in the series! The characters were interesting, the plot lines intense and

quirky. There are threads to tie up and I hope sooner rather than later. People complaining about the book having no ending note: we were told it was book 1, the author has to generate some excitement for book 2.

Well, I had to eventually had to close the book...sigh. Karen Robards orchestrated a thrilling mystery that had me clutching my book in an effort to help Bianca out! There was a secret side of me that was hoping she could drag "NOT" Williams home with her and he would crumble at her feet, but the yacht scene was priceless! I loved it! PLEASE SAY BOOK 2 IS WRITTEN AND WILL BE OUT SOON!!! Thank you Karen.

I am so glad this is a series. What a roller coaster ride . Bianca St Ives, a sometimes high end grifter, discovers the safe she has broken into is empty. Her cold and distant father is the master mind of the heist and has taught her well. Realizing they have been set up to take the fall the team scatters. So many twists and turns and a little romance. What fun! My only sadness is it will probably be a year before the next book.

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