



Stroked

Meghan Quinn

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Reese King: Olympic medalist, underwear model, Greek god.

His body is chiseled from rock, sculpted by the weight room, and refined by water.

On a daily basis his skin is completely bare for everyone to see, tan and defined, only covered up by a minuscule piece of spandex. There is no denying his sex appeal.

I hate to admit it, but I'm head over heels infatuated with him.

There is one HUGE problem though. His achingly gorgeous abs, inked up arm, and cocky swagger belong to my boss, the high-profile, reality star bitch from hell and certified heinous human being, Bellini Chambers.

What I think is going to be an easy job assisting a glorified wench turns into a cluster f*ck of epic proportions.

Stroked Details

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From Reader Review Stroked for online ebook

Wil Loves Books! says

I have reached the conclusion that I absolutely trust Meghan Quinn. I know that she will always deliver a combination of funny, over the top drama and swoony romance. You know you're in for a ride when you read her books. You know you're going to get some really funny stuff and you're amazed at the stuff that comes out of her mind, lol!

Stroked is no exception, this was ridiculously funny, emphasis on the ridiculous! When I found out Meghan was writing an Olympic themed romance, I was sold. And when I saw the cover, I couldn't wait to get my hands on this one. I mean, look at that perfect specimen of a man in that cover, sigh.

So, what can I say about Stroked. This was swoony, hot, light-hearted, hilarious and absolutely ridiculous. It's a little unconventional in the way that is written, it has 3 POVs, one of them the "villain" of the story, and overall I enjoyed it, a lot.

The hero, Reese King is super awesome. He is Olympic royalty, having gone to various Olympics and winning a few silver medals. He is also mocked by the media by his inability to win Olympic gold and being dubbed the Silver Stroke. He is also gorgeous, an underwear model and was named Sexiest Man Alive. But he was so sweet, caring and endearing too. I loved him lots.

"Everything about him captivated me. From the way his body moved with confidence and power, to the deep husky tone of his voice, to the slight crinkle by his eyes that shows his age. From the way he spoke to me, a side of gentle in his voice, I felt myself melting all over the floor, willing myself not to turn into a ball of mush."

Paisley is equally likeable. She's a college graduate who had her heart set on having a career in film production. She worked hard to get to the top but an unfortunate mistake cost her everything she worked for. As a result, she has to take a job as the assistant to the world's vilest celebrity. But Paisley is awesome, she is gorgeous, and super sassy and Reese is captivated with her from the first time he sees her.

Did she feel the same way I felt? The burning need to get to know each other, mentally and intimately? Did she feel the electricity starting to build between us as well? A spark so heavy, that if our lips connect, it will feel like the entire room will explode?"

The only problem is Bellini, who is Reese's "fake" girlfriend and the star of her own reality show. She's Paisley's boss and she's just plain awful. The stuff that comes out of her mind is equal parts vile and equal parts hilarious. However, I didn't care much for her POV. It didn't really work for me, and that's probably the main reason why this is not a 5 star for me, because I just didn't care to be inside her mind.

"It's so hard being me. I'm so popular, everyone wants to be me, and do you know what? I don't blame them? How can I? If I saw such a specimen walking down the streets of Rodeo Drive, I would strive to be just like me as well."

Ugh, I just couldn't deal with her and her wicked ways. She's instantly jealous of Paisley, because she's just so much better and because she can definitely sense that Reese and her have an instant connection. Which makes for a great villain. I just could have done without her POV.

I loved the relationship between Paisley and Reese, to me that's what makes the book worth reading. It develops at a great pace, and everything is so hot and swoony. The sexy times are scorching hot!

Overall this was super sexy and super funny, just like Meghan's other books. She's an absolutely must read for me and I definitely recommend this one if you are looking for a hot and funny read. And it's just in time for the Olympics!!!

"Your looks might have gotten me interested, but it's your heart that will keep me around."

****An ARC was generously provided by the author and Wordsmith Publicity in exchange for an honest review****

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Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

EDIT: Because FREEEE today (12/22). Make your spirits bright, all you horny little perverts :)

Oh, there's a Meghan Quinn book available to review????

OMNOMNOMNOMNOM!

Being the red-blooded 'Murican I am, I was totally down for a real patriotic type of read – especially one about a swimmer turned reality television star and his quest for gold in the Rio Olympics . . .

Yeah yeah yeah I know. Divers aren't swimmers but seriously tomato tomahto when it comes to gifs. After all, they both wear Speedos and Tom Daley is totes farking adorbs.

Okay, on with the book. This is the story of Paisley (WTF with these stupid ass names in romance novels, right???? I feel ya). An unfortunate hot mic incident that went viral left Paisley unemployed and blacklisted with every production crew in Hollywood. Well, all but one.

Introducing Bellini . . .

She's famous for doing . . . nothing really except spending her father's money. Her father is famous for??? A ***"near-death experience of being brutally humped by Orson, the demon pig"*** (no relation to Mitchell).

Paisley's shot at getting her foot back in the door is as Bellini's PA on her new reality show, which she co-stars in with her boyfriend, legendary Olympian but never gold medalist Reese . . .

"What is a girl supposed to say to the Sexiest Man Alive? Thank you, please come over and impregnate me so I can be attached to you forever, stroke you whenever I want, and lick your nipples just because I feel like it? Might be a little aggressive."

Now if you're worrying about a love triangle angle, have no fear. Reese and Bellini's relationship is 100% sham. Reese and Paisley, on the other hand . . .

"You're fucking sexy when you moan like that. We should try it out in bed some time."

"Reese!" I hiss, leaning forward and scanning the place to see if anyone can hear our conversation. "I'm your assistant."

He shrugs. "Technicality."

Thank Tom Cruise they eliminate that technicality . . .

SPLOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH!

Okay, so this was marketed as a "Rom Com" and it was . . . kinda. It just wasn't as funny as *The Mother Road*. Buuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuut, the sex???

"A couple of things I learned last night: Reese likes to talk dirty, which is a major turn on. He is also very demanding in the bedroom."

So good. Soooooo soooooooooooooooooooooo good.

It also helped that Reese was a "bad boy" swimmer which in porno world means . . .

"He's dark, mysterious, sports a beard right up until competition where he shaves it before getting in the pool."

And since I had just watched *13 Hours* (looky me reading all smart books and shit) he was immediately pictured as . . .

Yep, I just admitted I watched a movie about some horrible event and got a lady boner off of John Krasinsky's ripped abs, beard and chest hair. God bless America!

Anyway, as with most errrrrrything I've read by Meghan Quinn I recommend this one . . .

She just doesn't know it yet.

ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you, NetGalley!

Denisa says

1.5 Nope nope nope nope!!

I get why this book was liked by so many people, but I just couldn't!

I hated that Bellini character so much I just couldn't finish the damn book. Maybe if I liked the MCs more, I would have tried, but can't say they were too interesting either. I mean, they feel like tools! And maybe they

get better, or evolve, or whatever, but I don't have the patience to wait and see.

It got the 0.5 star because well, it's hard to make me hate a character as much as I did this chick. And though it's a bad thing, it should still be appreciated.

NMmomof4 says

3 Stars

Overall Opinion: This was a little disappointing. I had some issues with the OTT villain, Bellini -- she was just too OTT at times. Getting her POV just made her even more obnoxious, but it was a different technique the author used so I can appreciate that. I also had some issues with the pacing and lack of closure, and was confused by a scene towards the end (see below sex scene spoiler) that I felt was completely unnecessary. Overall it wasn't anything outstanding, but it was ok for what it was. It was a pretty light, sometimes funny, sexy read.

Brief Summary of the Storyline: This is Paisley and Reese's story. Paisley got her last chance as working as an assistant to the two stars of a reality tv show, Bellini and Reese. Bellini is an obnoxious OTT spoiled socialite, and her (fake) boyfriend Reese is an Olympic swimmer that is about to compete in his last Olympic Games. The sparks fly instantly between Paisley and Reese, but Paisley really needs this job so she doesn't give in right away. Eventually they give in to their strong attraction, and they fall in love. There is some friend and career drama, some hot sexy times, and a few sweet and funny moments...and they get a HFN ending.

POV: This alternated between Paisley, Bellini, and Reese's POV.

Overall Pace of Story: Good for the most part. I never skimmed, and I thought it flowed well. The only issue I had was that we didn't get them as an official (not secret) couple except in the epilogue.

Instalove: No. They connected instantly, but I wouldn't call it instalove.

H rating: 4 stars. Reese. I liked him. He was a good mix of alpha, possessive, and sweet.

h rating: 3.5 stars. Paisley. I liked her ok, but had some issues with her not confiding in the H when she ran into problems.

Sadness level: Low. No tissues needed.

Push/Pull: Yes (view spoiler)

Heat level: Moderate. They have some hot tension, chemistry, and scenes.

Descriptive sex: Yes

Safe sex: Kind of. They don't use condoms, but did have a std status and birth control talk before going

without. I don't remember any mention of previous practices.

OW/OM drama: Yes (view spoiler)

Sex scene with OW or OM: No (view spoiler)

Cheating: No

Separation: Yes (view spoiler)

Possible Triggers: Not really

Closure: This had ok closure and what I would call a HFN ending (view spoiler). It was yet again a book that had the big conflict be resolved right before the epilogue (which I hate!), so I really wanted more.

How I got it: I got it on loan through booklending.com

Safety: I'd say that this is probably Safe Or Safe with Exception for most readers depending on personal preferences.
(view spoiler)

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

I'm late to the party on reading a smexy times book with an athlete in it. Most likely because my idea of exercising would probably go something like this.

Ain't nobody got time for that. BUT this was a Meghan Quinn book. And I found this.

So I decided I had some time. Kelly and I have decided that Meghan Quinn should be our real life friend but we haven't stalked her enough yet for it to happen. This chick writes some funny stuff. (Check out The Virgin Romance Novelist and The Mother Road if you don't believe me)

This story is the story of a production assistant named Paisley who kinda blew her chance at a decent job with a little boo-boo and now her room-mate and best friend Jonathan has gotten her a job as a personal assistant to reality star Bellini Chambers. (Think Kardashians times a million)

Bellini is freaking awful! And of course I loved it. She is the pampered daughter of a guy who made his

fortune from getting humped by a pig (I want that whole story!) and money is no object...nor is her be-littling everything and everyone. She has Paisley who she calls Mauve (can't be bothered with learning her name) feeding her tic-tacs and waiting on her hand and foot.

Bellini is doing a new reality show because she is that giving and lovely, (cough) in the show she is in a relationship with Olympic swimmer Reese King. The public doesn't know that their relationship is fake. Bellini also keeps herself busy with asking her pampered dog questions about life because he is so close to Jesus. (She is starting a religious clothing line for dogs).

Reese is hawt of course and sets Paisley to drooling as soon as she meets him. He is off limits though because girlfriend needs this job assisting Satan's mistress.

You know that is not going to last don't you?

She is tired of seeing the room-mates wanker and needs to branch out on the penis front.

But please note: it's not God's gift to all women, it's not the amazing thing to look at. It's a rod of skin hanging between your legs. Unless it's erect, supercharged, and ready to burst, cover that shit up because a flaccid penis is just a soggy meatball sub, balls sagging behind, and hopefully devoid of parmesan cheese.

Amen sister.

So Paisley and Reese are struggling with wanting to do the thangie thing and having to put up with the queen of crazy. WHO BY THE WAY RUINED MY CHEERIO LOVING!

Pope Francis (The dog) prays for them every night, as it's on his list of sinners, along with chefs, people who live with more than four cats, and individuals who enjoy eating Cheerios-no one should eat a bowl of vaginas.

I loved Paisley and queen Bellini. Reese got on my nerves at times with his over the top Alpha male stuff but it's a fun ride to see if he wins the girl, the gold medal and does he escape Bellini's clutches?

I buddied up with my friend Kathleen to read this one. She leads me into smexy time books more often than not. :D

Booksource: Netgalley in exchange for review

Sabrina says

Bellini ruined this book for me, simple as that. I don't think I've ever hated a character so much before in my life. She was absolutely horrid! And the sad fact is, she wasn't even the main character, just a bitchy secondary. A secondary character should not be able to ruin a book so much for me, but Bellini overshadowed the romance and story of Paisley and Reese to the point I just couldn't ignore her.

I think Bellini was supposed to be so crazy that it was funny, but for me she was just so crazy I wanted to choke the ever loving shit out of her. Then bring her back to life just to do it all over again. She made me so

frustrated I had to stop reading multiple times just to calm myself down.

Closer to the end she wasn't such a big part of the book, and that's what sort of saved it for me. But still only bumped it up to a two star instead of one. I think if she was just an annoying secondary character that wasn't too heavily into the book I would have been able to ignore her, but she had her own POV and that just killed it for me.

Especially when her POV was always just her saying how hard her life is because of some trivial thing and that everyone just strived to be her. It was the most self centered POV I've ever read and clearly came from a delusional character.

I was even irritating myself because whenever she would speak or when her POV happened I would read it in the most annoying, snobbish, voice because that's just how her character was for me. And I couldn't stop reading it that way.

I just can't get over how wretched Bellini's character was and honestly that's all I could think about while reading this book, so I don't really have anything to say about the actual main characters. I do think a lot people will find the comedy in Bellini, so I still recommend this book for anyone that doesn't get frustrated too easily.

DW says

If I didn't like Reece and Paisley so much, I would have quit. Bellini was a nightmare. She was over the top annoying and I could have reached through my kindle and choke slammed her. Her presence was unnecessary in my opinion and ruined it!!

Angela (Reading Frenzy Book Blog) says

DNF @ 57%

I'm so disappointed. This book has all the makings of a fantastic story. It kind of reminds me of a cross between an Olympics-based romance and one of my favorites, *The Devil Wears Prada*—well, the movie version at least because I didn't read the book. Don't judge. It's a shame that one character can ruin a good story.

The big problem is the antagonist, Bellini. It's fine to have an unlikable villain, but she is one-dimensional and so over-the-top that it's unrealistic. There are chapters written from her offensive, hateful, and spoiled point of view, and they held no interest for me because I didn't want to know her thoughts. We get it. She's a horrible person. The chapters are unnecessary and actually detract from the story instead of enhancing it.

Other parts of the story seem illogical to me. Reese is preparing for the Olympics. His career depends on him

winning, and he says he needs to stay focused. So he agrees to be on Bellini's reality TV show? A camera crew following them around isn't going to distract him? *Bellini* isn't going to be a distraction? On top of that, the humor feels forced.

I can tell Meghan Quinn is a creative storyteller, and I'm sure some readers will find the book charming and funny. For me, it was a cup of tea that was too difficult to swallow.

****ARC received in exchange for an honest review.****

Mercedes says

This book came out just in time for the Olympics! It was a good sports romance but I had to have extra patience with one of the characters.

'Why can't I ever win with you?'

'I'm smarter.' She winks. 'It's the jock in you.'

Paisley is stuck with a terrible PA job after a slight microphone mishap at her last job. She was essentially an untouchable in Hollywood and she took the only job left in the entertainment industry she could get, Bellini Chamber's personal assistant. With reality star diva Bellini comes her on-screen boyfriend, underwear model and Olympic medalist Reese King. He's gorgeous, athletic, funny, smart and sooooo taken. Everyone in the country knows about Bellini and Reese's relationship, if Paisley and Reese develop feelings for one another there will be national news about their affair! But, sometimes you can't help what you want.

Every champion was once a contender that refused to give up.

Reese is an Olympic golden boy, well, really a silver boy. He's been chasing that elusive gold medal and this is the last time he'll be competing in the games, it's now or never. Bellini is a means to an end for him, she's exposure to a wider audience and supposedly good for his image. When he lands eyes on Paisley he doesn't want his farce of a relationship with Bellini to get in the way of something that could be very real with Paisley. Could that something real with Paisley get in the way of his gold medal aspirations? Is he willing to risk the gold for a relationship.

I'm beautiful. I'm popular. I'm famous.

But most importantly, I'm rich, and what I found out when you're rich is that you can get anything you want.

Bellini was the thorn in everyone's side throughout this book, myself included. She was vapid, self-absorbed, rude, and delusional. She was a bit of a love-to-hate character (and by that I mean, she was loved because she helped move the plot along), she was integral to the story but I also couldn't stand her presence! I did really love her dog Pope Francis, poor baby having to be in her presence constantly.

To my baby. Love, Clyde.

Reese and Paisley were a really enjoyable couple. They were playful, funny, sweet, and sexy. I only had a few hangups with this book, I didn't enjoy the added roommate drama or the drama at the Olympics. They were AT THE OLYMPICS!!! Lol. Ok, so maybe that was kind of a focal point of the book but still, the

Olympics, poor Reese could've done without the added pressure. This one was cute if you're looking for something sporty or if you're looking for something Olympian specific.

*So excited, I won an ARC from **Shh Summer Buzz Book Event 2016!!** Check out the event details here, maybe you could win something too! <https://goo.gl/uqgC3u>*

Kathleen says

Story Rating ~ 4 STARS!

Hero Rating ~ 4.5 STARS!

Heroine Rating ~ 5 STARS!

Romance Rating ~ 4 STARS!

Heat Level ~ 3.5 STARS!

Humor Level ~ 5 STARS!

Ending ~ 4 STARS!

Overall Rating ~ 4 Fun and SEXY STARS!

I was just finishing up a book wondering what I was going to read next when I saw my good friend Shelby *trains flying monkeys* was reading ***Stroked*** which I had been wanting to read too. So I decided to give it a go and I really enjoyed it, SO thank you Shelby!

Stroked was a fun and sexy read about a sexy Olympic swimmer named Reese. He recently joined a reality show with Bellini a rich beautiful socialite that everyone hates. They are pretending to be in a relationship on camera when in real life Reese wants nothing to do with her.

In walks Paisley, Bellini's new assistant, just one look at her and Reese wants her. He goes about trying to attract her attention.

It's Paisley's first day on the job a job she must keep at all costs. When she sees Reese, a man she has secretly been attracted and lusted for ever since her collage days, she knows she must stay away because she knows if she doesn't she will lose her job.

Reese wants Paisley, wants her bad, so he pulls out all the stops in order to get what he wants. The thing is, he has to be careful because he has a contract signed to pretend he is in a relationship with Bellini and also doing a reality show with her while training for the Olympics all at once.

It's not long before Paisley caves in to the sexy, charming Reese and things between them go from HOT to SCORCHING quickly. Will they be able to keep their relationship a secret? I'm not telling.

This book was packed with excellent characters. Even Bellini who I thought was a total bitch but was one of the highlights of this read. She was SO despicable some of the things she said and the way she treated all the people around her made this read VERY interesting, even her dog was a great addition.

The humor added in throughout this entire read had me shaking my head and laughing out loud. This is one of the things I feel the author excels at and what keeps me coming back to read more of her books.

The whole Olympic swimming theme was very interesting to learn about especially with the 2016 Olympics

currently happening. I had NO clue just how hard these people trained in order to get into the Olympics for their shot at winning the gold. I feel that it was the PERFECT time for me to read this book.

The ending was good but I felt the epilogue should have been longer. I really wanted to know more of where Reese's and Paisley's relationship was going.

Overall I really enjoyed this read. It is NOT my favorite book by this author but I know without a doubt if I'm needing a funny sexy read that is going to make me laugh and smile that Meghan Quinn will always be my go to author.

Maria♦*Steamy Reads Blog*♦ says

"I follow behind him, like a lovesick puppy, wishing he would give me a little more attention. May be a pat on the head, a lick to the neck, a penis to my vagina. Anything would really do right about now."

➡ This **sports romcom** was a pretty entertaining read for me. The sexual chemistry between the main characters was electric, some moments were really emotional and at times I even found myself tearing up. But for the most part I was **giggling and chuckling**, of course!

➡ **Reese** is at the end of his swimming career and is about to compete in Olympics for the last time. He is determined to get a **gold medal** - something he has never previously achieved at the Olympics. Reese also made a decision to boost his image by being on a **reality TV show** and in a fake relationship with Bellini, a spoiled reality TV star.

➡ **Paisley** is trying to salvage her career in TV production after an incident on the job that cost her dearly. She gets hired to be Bellini's **personal assistant...** and by default Reese's assistant. Paisley and Reese are instantly attracted to each other but Paisley is determined to remain **professional**. Will she be strong enough to resist him? :D

♥ This book is told from **three POVs** - in addition to the main characters' POVs we also get to be in Bellini's head for a couple of short chapters. I know a lot of people struggled with getting into the book because nobody wants to be in the head of an **obnoxious person**. For me, it was kind of entertaining. After reading a couple of chapters from her perspective, you pretty much can no longer take her seriously. She was **stupidly hilarious**. I'm pretty sure nobody can survive on just tic tacs and water. Just sayin'.

♥ I liked Reese a lot - who wouldn't? **The man wears a speedo...** and with his body... yes please! Also, quite a bit of a **dirty talking alpha**!

✕ One thing, perhaps, that I wished for would be Paisley standing up for herself. I felt like I needed some sort of triumph at the end. Paisley had to **bite her tongue** throughout the whole book because she just HAD to keep her job. Also, there were a bunch of typos in the ARCs I've received. I hope those get polished out.

➡ Recommended to those who like **romantic comedies** with quite a bit of steam and humor.

Jenny•Steamy Reads Blog• says

Just throwing this out there right away, I loved Reece & Paisley. If this was a book with just two POV, Reece & Paisley's, I would have been head over heels in love. But of course it couldn't be that simple. Had to make it three POV's.

Bellini. I have nothing nice to say about her, so I am just going to end my review with, I love this author, loved Reece and Paisley and I'm looking forward to getting more of them in the next books in this series. They were hot, they were cute, and they stole my heart. They deserve all the stars for just having to deal with Bellini ?

I hated, no I completely loathed Bellini. What a nightmare.

On to the next. Looking forward to getting Bodi's story

Michelle says

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review

I want to explode, right then and there. His deep kisses are throwing me into a downward spiral, arresting my breath, seizing my heart, and occupying every inch of my skin with desire-filled chills. He's consuming me with just his mouth to the point that I feel myself evaporating , our bodies molding together as one."

Olympic medalist. Check. Underwear Model. Check. Body like a Greek God. Check. If those three facts doesn't check off your checklist as to why you need to go read Meghan Quinn's latest sports romantic

comedy, **Stroked** then let me add in the fact, this book is ridiculously splashing with lots of humor, banter, and of course dripping with lots of sexy moments. Yes, prepared to get wet.

If you aren't familiar with Meghan Quinn, then you are truly missing out on a motherload of a smart witty and playful romance. Meghan is well aware of how much I adore her books and **Stroked** is definitely one book that you need to take a dip into and here's why.

Reese King is a world champion Olympic swimmer. His life has been dedicated to his profession. While he may be successful, there is one thing that has always been plaguing him, he can never capture a gold medal and this upcoming Olympics, Reese plans to put the naysayers in their place. So when Reese's publicist suggest that he enter a fake relationship with a reality star, Bellini Chambers in order to boost his popularity and gain sponsorship, Reese never thought he would be in such a predicament dealing with Bellini and her bitchy attitude.

Every inch of her passion is possessing me: the way her hips melodically fuck me, the way her tongue won't ease up, just keeps begging for more, and the way her fingers grip the curls of my hair, pulling aggressively, just enough to turn me on even more. She's playing my entire body like an instrument, her sexual need strumming me to the point of orgasm."

Bellini Chambers is everything you would think a reality star behind closed door is really like. You know what I am talking about all you Bravo and E! Reality junkies out there. If you need me to spell it out to you she is a world class bitch. So you can imagine what it would be like working and having to deal with her demands.

Paisley Macarro deserves a gold medal for taking up the job as Bellini's personal assistant. While Paisley has to work for Bellini, she also was able to get close to Reese since the whole Bellini and Reese publicity. As Reese got to know Paisley, he was intrigued by her and wanted to know more. And soon Reese was able to worm his way into her heart. But happens when Bellini discovers the secret relationship of Reese and Paisley? Will Reese be stroking his way to romance and a gold medal or will he discover that Bellini is ready to drown his career and any chance of happiness?

You're perfect in every way."**"And . . ."****"And the most attractive man I've ever met."****"And . . ."** I roll my eyes. **"And your dick is the best dick I've ever had inside me."****"And . . ."** I think about it. **"And I love you."**

Splish Splash!!!! **Stroked** was a smart witty and humorous read that had all the makings to get you drenched. As always, Meghan writes stories that are clearly to have you giggling like a fool and swooning like a love sick puppy. The writing was stellar. The characters were entertaining. And the story line was a riot of fun, sassy romance. So are you ready to take a dip and get soaked by this sexy and fun romance by Meghan Quinn?

Review can also be found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages: <http://fourchicksflippingpages.weebly...> Meghan Quinn

Astrid - The Bookish Sweet Tooth says

3 Olympic Stars

Review @ Vanilla & Spice Books

My love for the quirky humor and sweet story of *Hustler* by Meghan Quinn & Jessica Prince had me excited for this one. The premise of a hot swimmer who has earned himself the moniker of The Silver Stroke because he can't win an Olympic gold medal for the life of him? Count me in! So why only 3 stars? I'll explain.

Reese has been a swimmer since he was a teenager. He was an Olympic contender twice and while he managed to win many silver medals he never made it to the top. These next games are going to be his last ones, his last chance to take home gold. Of course his concerns are about his future, what's after his athletic career? His agent comes up with the idea to secure his future by getting into a fake-relationship with a reality show star, Bellini.

Paisley is a sound engineer who made a career-ending mistake when she didn't turn off a microphone she was supposed to mute. She misses her job and wants to get back into the industry in Hollywood. Her best friend helps her to get her foot back in the door when he manages to get her hired for an assistant position for a reality show talent.

When Reese lays eyes on Paisley for the first time all he can think about is how lovely and beautiful this girl is, who is supposed to be his and his fake-girlfriend's assistant. Paisley can't mess her chance up so she musters every bit of strength to resist this gorgeous and kind guy with the interesting tattoo. How long will she be able to keep him at arms length?

Reese and Paisley were both likeable main characters. Reese the jealous, a bit edgy, possessive alpha-guy with a sweet side and a funny sense of humor, Paisley an adorable heroine with a few contradictions. She could be completely awkward around Reese and the next time she was self confident. The sexual chemistry between our main characters was off-the-charts hot. Reese was a dirty talker alright and his sweet cuddly side was unexpected.

I had a major problem with reading Bellini's point of view. It was a self-praise fest about her beauty, greatness, kindness and superiority. In her POVs she not only praises herself, she degrades the people in her environment, talks down to them and is generally an extremely hateful secondary character. She also has the habit of giving people weird names. Now, I usually wouldn't mind a counter part to the sweetness of a lovestory but in my humble opinion it was overdone. I didn't see the point of hearing Bellini's voice, it distracted from the story. It did nothing to enhance the journey of Paisley and Reese and I started to skip Bellini's chapters.

The story generally trickled along the first two thirds of the book without major ups and downs (except my irritation with Bellini) and would have profited from less Bellini and actually more story. As it is it these chapters felt more like fillers than anything else. The pace of the last third was more to my liking and it picked up then and made it still an enjoyable read. The quirky sense of humor I liked in *Hustler* is present as well and I had a couple of laugh-out-loud moments, yet that wasn't enough to wow me.

I am convinced that Meghan Quinn can do better, the secondary characters were interesting and I'm sure if this author issues a gag order on Bellini I'll be picking up the next in the series as well!

Wendy's Thoughts says

4 Timely, OTT Hysterical Stars

* * * *

Never let it be said Megan Quinn doesn't know comedy, snark and swoon worthy romance. She has the type of humor you pray your bestie would have when out drinking or shooting the sh#t after a crazy day. She has this knack of taking something actual and mixing it with farce to the point where it balances between the danger zone and just right...With this book, she did it right.

In **Stroked (Stroked #1)**, she has taken the Olympics and coupled it with a heinous level of human beings thrust on the public through their infamous "reality tv" stardom. To couple the pursuit of excellence in sport, life and accomplishing the pure goal of lifetime achievement with the crass to the insane level of this celebrity father and daughter should be criminal.... yet with all that is happening today...Why should I be surprised....

On the normal/good/real side of this story we have:

Reese King. This is World Champion swimmer, Olympic medalist and all around amazing man. He has dedicated his life to the pursuit of the sport and although he is considered the best... no doubt...He has been the Silver medalist in the last two Olympic games...giving him the unfortunate image of World Class Choke Artist....best first place loser...For his physical game is perfection, it is his mind game which has caused him to let the Gold slip through his hands.

This upcoming Rio Olympics is Reese's last chance to change the World's perception of him... set him up to move on and create the next chapter of his life..and like any athlete today, financially he needs to make sure he has his sponsors, future ventures set.

Having the Gold would make things very different than having Silver.... Again.

This is how Reese King has found himself in the Bellini Chambers web of hell. Somehow, when his head had been awash with too much chlorine or lack of oxygen, he agreed to be part of her reality show for one season... pretending to be her "boyfriend". His publicist convinced him he would benefit from all the millions of followers she had and it would boost his social media ratings, etc. Of course, no one would know it was a sham...yada yada... and after the Olympics and the season, he would be able to do whatever he wanted. Now he is locked into this because he signed the contract. Great.

Our next participant is **Paisley Macarro**, a woman who has broken the cycle of her family by leaving the Indian Reservation where they had a general store. She was sheltered growing up with only her grandfather breaking her free with trips to the movies. There she saw what was outside... waiting for her... and as she watched these films throughout her growth... they impacted her deeply...When it was time, she shocked her

folks by telling them she was off to college to pursue her dream to be part of the film industry. Dishearten, her parents turned their back on her...they couldn't understand.

Paisley finished UCLA with a degree in film production and did all the important internships to put her on the path of being a sound tech. She landed a position on a successful, long time talk show. The public thought the main talent was a dream, so sweet etc...with her advanced years... in reality, she was cranky bitch. Paisley took a call from her grandfather while working and in an instant, her life changed... she forgot to turn off the ole gal's mic... and the broadcast world heard her live cussing and talking Sh*t on air...

There went all the hard work Paisley had done... she now was known in the industry as the The One who had the Incident.... not good. Now Paisley is in a pickle... she has been living with her best friend Jonathan... and he has been covering her part of the rent while she has tried to get another position. Unsuccessfully. He has now informed her he has put his neck out for her and landed her a job....and she better take it. It has the ability to put her back on path in the Industry if she is able to pull it off. It won't be easy...but he is advising her she better suck it up... and just do it.

Paisley doesn't have a choice... and so this is how she is now Bellini Chambers' Personal Assistant.

And now for the Impossible, Ridiculous, Unredeemable...

Bellini Chambers This a person who defies description....words like Delusional, Evil, Heartless and oh, this one...

nar·cis·sis·tic

"a narcissistic REALITY TV CELEBRITY"

synonyms: vain, self-loving, self-admiring, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, conceited, self-centered, self-regarding, egotistic, egotistical, egoistic; informal full of oneself

Yup, that is this woman... and to even approach how to describe her is to take everything you ever thought about the Kardashians and take away any goodness or fun they may have shown, any humanity, any intelligent comments and then twist it and you might have a bit of an idea of how cray cray this girl is.

She is every personal assistant nightmare personified... and our Paisley is stuck having to handle her. The only saving grace is she is also assisting Reese...well, if assisting the most Greek God like man on the planet and the teenage crush you had....

So Paisley is in this hell of being the assist for these two... who are supposed to "be a couple" who make no sense at all... and the looks Reese is giving her is killing her and making her all flushed....because ... come on... when Reese King looks at you that way... you would get all flustered and flush too...

And Reese is wondering what the hell... who is this fantastic woman Paisley... she is everything he loves... athletic, toned, and her tattoos...writings on parts of her body he wants to discover....Damn...He is dying over here...

With Bellini acting the fool, spoiled brat...Reese and Paisley have their hands full....

This book was So Much Fun...But is also approached real issues, too. We were in the mindset of elite athletes. What their lives entail and how taxing all of it can be... physically but also most importantly mentally. Because they can be the best in the way to do their events...but if they cannot deal with the mental game... then all is lost.

We also get a terrifically hot, sexy, swoony read with no cheating or issues except the idea of whether to pursue a relationship with your boss. It is discussed and Paisley knows what she is risking every time she and Reese get closer.

Not to forget, there are terrific secondary characters ... those who are fun and destined to have their own books, Yeah!

If you have read Megan Quinn before... then you know how intensely fun this book will be....and for those of you who haven't been "Quinned" yet... get on it...I promise you will be laughing out loud.

A gifted copy was provided by Hot-Lanta Publishing via NetGalley for an honest review.

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