

## Scoring the Player's Baby

*Naima Simone*

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## Scoring the Player's Baby Naima Simone

After a divorce from her cheating football player ex, PR whiz Kim Matlock would rather drive a pine tree through her walled-off heart than work at the Seattle Wedding Expo. And the last thing she expects is to be grabbed and kissed breathless by a hot giant of a man looking to fend off a stalker. She doesn't want emotional entanglements, but she can't say no to one scorching night with the sexy stranger.

To her shock, she finds out afterward that a) he's a pro football player, aka her kryptonite, and b) she's pregnant.

But nothing could have prepared her for *his* response...

Each book in the WAGS series is STANDALONE:

- \* Scoring with the Wrong Twin
- \* Scoring Off the Field
- \* Scoring the Player's Baby

## Scoring the Player's Baby Details


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# From Reader Review Scoring the Player's Baby for online ebook

**Carol [Goodreads Addict] says**

Scoring the Player's Baby is book three in the WAGS series by Naima Simone. Don't you love it when you find an author that you know going in that you are going to love the book?! That's how I've come to feel about Naima's books. She just has a way with words that pulls me right in. And wow can she write steam. This book was smokin'! I loved the second book in the series, Scoring Off the Field and couldn't wait for this book. Not to mention that cover!

Ronin Palamo is a star wide receiver for the Washington Warriors NFL football team. He's a huge man with a huge heart. He and his four sisters were raised by their single mother. Ronin has nothing against love and is happy to see his two best friends on the team find love for themselves. But he had his one shot at love and now it's part of his past. He will never allow himself to feel that way for a woman again, to endure that kind of pain because that's what love does, it leaves you torn apart and bleeding in the end. Ronin does enjoy women though but only for one night. And he is always upfront with the women he spends time with what their time together will be.

Kim Matlock is Vice President of Public Relations with Bishop Enterprises, her half brother's financial and holding company. Kim is in Seattle helping to rebrand a hotel. But her time in Seattle might have other advantages as well. It's been a year since Kim's divorce from her cheating football player of an ex husband. A year since her heart was shredded. She hasn't been able to bring herself to date since the divorce. She has no interest in it at the moment. But one thing you can bet on is that if she ever does start dating again, she will stay as far away from football players as possible.

Kim is trying to gain business for her hotel from brides looking for places to hold their weddings. So, she is working at the Seattle Wedding Expo. It wouldn't be her favorite place to hang out for a day but it's good for the hotel. Little did she expect to be grabbed in the lobby and get the breath kissed right out of her by the best looking man and biggest man she has ever seen.

Ronin has been having trouble with one particular woman that just can't seem to accept that their one night together is all they are going to have. He is at the wedding expo with one of his sisters when the would be stalker shows up in the lobby. He had noticed the beautiful woman working the hotel booth inside earlier and now spots her in the lobby. He doesn't think, just acts, and grabs her and ends up with the best kiss of his life.

That kiss eventually leads to a night beyond Ronin and Kim's wildest dreams. A night that both of them consider perhaps repeating. But the morning after Kim realizes that this man that rocked her world right off it's axis was in deed a football player. About three months later, Kim found out something else. That she was pregnant with Ronin's baby.

And so begins Ronin and Kim's journey. Ronin is all in. Kim doesn't trust him and he understands why. He will prove to her that she can trust him to be the best kind of man and do whatever is needed. Even though each of these two are determined not to let feelings in, their hearts have other plans. And don't even get me started on their chemistry. It was off the charts. Ronin is every woman's dream. He is all alpha and just seems to know exactly what Kim needs. These two have a lot of hurdles to overcome, though, before they can admit their feelings for one another.

I couldn't put this down. Ronin was perfect. That man had me swooning from the first page to the last page. I loved watching him get inside Kim's heart little by little, melting her icy layers. I am a huge fan of epilogues and this book had the sweetest one. I'm not sure if there will be any additional books to this series but rest assured that I will be watching to see what this author does next!

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Naima Simone's WAGS series has been a bit hit and miss for me, but Scoring the Player's Baby was a huge hit. It quite possibly be that the hero, Ronin Palamo, is a character who has intrigued me from the first book in this series, it could also be that it was impossible not to feel the attraction between this couple from the start, or it could be that despite both the hero and heroine having some heavy duty baggage when it came down to it, their child and their growing feelings trumped all. I loved the emotions both characters had throughout this book, the lust that made it difficult for them to stay away, the parental baggage that made them both know they wanted better for their child, and the way they both fell despite believing they would never do so again.

I always appreciate a smart, strong, sophisticated heroine and Kim Matlock is all of that and so much more. The product of an affair between her model mother and business mogul father left Kim with a great female role model and a dad who refused to acknowledge her existence with the exception of his monthly check. While she now works with and has a great relationship with her half brother, her father still has an attitude against her even though she is working hard to save the hotels he bought that have been losing market share. On top of her father's abandonment, Kim's recent divorce from her pro football playing husband who repeatedly cheated on her and made a fool of her has left her less than trusting of men and swearing off anything resembling a relationship. Daring to embark on a one night stand with a man who has made her body sit up and take notice after a very long drought, Kim has no idea that the man she chose is none other than Ronin Palamo, a wide receiver for the Washington Warriors.

The minute Ronin spots Kim from across the room at a wedding expo he is attending with his sister he can't explain the draw she has on him and meeting her only intensifies that feeling. When she helps him out of a sticky situation he finds he admires her quick wit and smart mouth leading to a night they both will never forget in more ways than one.

You'll I can't even begin to describe the beauty of Ronin and I don't just mean his looks; this man is sweet, funny, kind, caring, and takes care of his sisters and his mom. Ronin is the whole package; tough when he

needs to be, patient, sweet, and dominate and despite his feelings on relationships he is all in when he finds out he is going to be a dad.

I loved how multi layered both these characters were and that throughout this book we got to see all of them. I will say this book was highly sexual because sex was easy for these two and emotions were not, but somehow through it all they shared their lives, opened their hearts, and fell in love despite all their reservations and the events in their past that had made them wary.

Scoring the Player's Baby was completely satisfying from start to finish with characters that were easy to fall in love with making it a perfect romance.

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## **Maria Rose says**

The first romance I read by Naima Simone was Beauty and the Bachelor, the start of her Bachelor Auction series in August of 2015. I loved it, and I immediately put the author on my 'watch' list, to make sure I wouldn't miss any of her future releases. Since then she's written a bodyguard romantic suspense series, a scorchingly hot sex club series, and her most recent endeavor, the WAGS (which stands for Wives and Girlfriends) football romance series. Scoring the Player's Baby is the third in that latter series and the title gives away the trope (Whoops! Surprise pregnancy!). Normally I stay away from that particular plotline but with this author, I trusted that she would overcome my hesitation with something worth reading – and she does, in a sexy, fun and emotionally pleasing romance.

For more of this review please visit All About Romance: <https://allaboutromance.com/book-revi...>

A copy of this story was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for review.

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## **Jen says**

### **4.5 Stars**

For now, I'm keeping this short and sweet as I've already written this review twice without being able to successfully post it. Thank you much, goodreads.

If you're on the fence about reading this or haven't had a chance to experience Naima Simone's writing for yourself, GET ON THAT PRONTO! This is my third book by Ms. Simone and believe me when I tell you, the woman can write! She has a way of turning an Entangled Brazen novella into something truly special. Not only are her men scorching hot, but I want to be each and every one of her heroines when I grow up.

Kim and Ronin are no exception to that rule. Kim's been burned badly in the recent past and isn't up for more than a one night fling. Ronin's also not looking for anything long term and from the beginning, the honesty and lack of b.s. between these two was refreshing as hell. It leaves room for an actual story rather than a bunch of convoluted misunderstandings.

Go forth and read this bit of goodness, People!

## Claire Robinson says

3 - "We'll work it out." Stars.

The third book in Naima Simone's WAGs series; *Scoring the Players Baby* gives us Ronin Palamo's story. The author paired him with Kim Matlock, a character I have previously had experience with in that she's the sister of the H in *A Millionaire at Midnight*, book four in the *Bachelor Auction* series, newly divorced from a footballer herself, getting involved with another one screams 'Hell's NOOOOOO' on every level to her.

**"I swear to god you have no filter between your brain and your mouth..."**

You can tell from my rating that this one wasn't as much of a winner for me as its predecessors. The previous two books, have been sharp in writing style, snappy in dialect, sexy in all the right places, with likeable characters and story-lines that weren't too taxing on the brain or overly filled with drama.

**"I've been waiting to be balls deep in you since I first put eyes on you... Put me out of my misery."**

*Scoring the Players Baby* started in the same vein and had instances where the snappy and sexy were front and center, but it was just too long for me. The rambling inner monologues from both of them were overdone, repetitive and filled up pages, and a lot of the time I only needed the information to be relayed the once. There were so many unnecessary secondary tropes thrown in so much so that one of Ronin's had already been used in a previous book, and it left me with a severe case of de-ja-vu whenever it was brought up, until I realized the reason why.

***Men like him only spelled trouble. And she'd had her fill of trouble and men in the last year...***

I knew Kim would be coming to the story with baggage because of her part in her brother Alex's story in *The Bachelor Auction* series, and to be honest it was enough to have carried this story through, especially with the circumstances of her divorce thrown in. Which then brings me to the constant references to exes from both sides that were superfluous at times as well, and we are left with a commitment shy man, and a man shy woman both fumbling around trying to get their heads around unplanned parenthood, an attraction that won't quit, and numerous shit storms in the background, it was just too much for me.

***He couldn't force her to open up... To take a leap of faith.***

This was probably my least favorite of all the books I have read from this author, but I do have high expectations of her, and on this occasion it was okay, rather than the expected outstanding. Still plenty more players in the team though, and I look forwards to seeing who the author turns her mind to next.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

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## Geri Reads says

### 3.5 stars

One of the things that I really like about Naima Simone's books are her characters. She writes hot-as-sin heroes and gorgeous, accomplished heroines. Scoring the Player's Baby is no different. It's a fun, sexy read with a lot of heart.

*"I'll give you whatever you ask for. Use me in any way you need to erase those shadows in your eyes."*

Ronin Palamo is living a life most men could only dream of. He's playing for a championship caliber team and he doesn't lack female companionship. He has it all. But it doesn't take long for readers to notice that Ronin is hiding a deep wound. One that makes him wary of love and relationship. He doesn't want it or need it. Or so he thought.

His resolve was tested when he meets Kim Matloc. Like Ronin, Kim is hiding wounds of her own. She was cheated on by her ex-husband who also happens to be a football player. She also issues with her birth father who basically abandoned her and her mother as a child. This makes Kim not trust men in general. She armored herself so no one could ever hurt her again.

I liked Ronin a lot, but I LOVED Kim even more. She's a successful woman who is constantly underestimated by people. Except for her half-brother, Kim has been hurt by the men in her life and I did not blame her a bit for disbelieving Ronin.

It took me awhile to warm up to Ronin. This is mostly due to personal preference. While I enjoy sexy, gregarious heroes, I don't really gravitate to them all that much. I prefer a grumpier type hero and Ronin is the exact opposite of that. He's full of personality which can be overwhelming at times. It was when he shows his vulnerable side that he shines as a character. I also didn't really like the constant reference to 'being a pussy' or the 'man card' in his POV. It was very distracting.

Despite those things, I enjoyed the banter between Kim and Ronin. I liked how they resolved their issues, and the grand gesture towards the end was really cute. Although, I must say that Ronin's come-to-Jesus moment felt a bit rushed considering he seemed hung up on his dead ex-girlfriend. The epilogue, however, leaves little doubt in your mind as to Ronin's devotion to Kim.

Overall, Scoring the Player's Baby scored a 100 on the hotness scale. If you've enjoyed Naima Simone's books before, you will find plenty of things to enjoy here.

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## Megan says

This entire series has been a huge hit for me. I'm really loving this author's voice, and her style, and her fun, sexy, and exciting characters.

Kim Matlock is a boss. She's the VP of PR for a huge corporation. The CEO is her half brother, but there was no nepotism involved here. She earned her job, and she's great at it, regardless what her jerk of a sperm

donor, or anyone else, thinks about it. She's moved from Boston, and is living in Seattle for about a year, working on her current work project. She had a horrible, painful divorce from her ex, about a year before. He is a pro football player, and he cheated on her. When she's working a booth at a wedding expo, and meets the sexiest man she's ever seen, she thinks taking one night for herself is exactly what she needs to get back on track, with everything in her life.

Ronin Palamo is a god among men. He's the only boy in a family of 5 kids, raised by his amazing single mother. He's a starting wide receiver for a professional football team, and from the outside, has anything and everything a man could want. But, he's still struggling with things from his past that he hasn't recovered from. He's been using sex as an outlet for a long time, and when he's with his sister at the wedding expo, and catches sight of Kim, that's exactly what he wants from her too. But, he has no idea the ride that's in store for them.

Ronin and Kim's chemistry was palpable, and HOT right from the first moment. Their witty banter was top notch, and I loved watching them circle each other. They are both very emotionally damaged people, trying to figure out how to work through their stuff. Neither of them are doing a very good job separately, but together, they start to find a way to really deal with their baggage, for good. Their coping mechanisms were both highly faulty. For her, withdrawing from the world, for the most part, except for her work. For him, indiscriminate sex, never with the same woman twice. For both of them, AVOIDANCE. Neither of their actions actually worked to make them feel better, at least not for long. They both had to realize what they were doing to themselves, with their actions, and they had to figure out a way to stop skirting their issues and actually deal with them for good. I really appreciated the soul searching each of them had to go through to come out the other side.

The side characters here were great. I loved seeing the couples from the prior books, and I was very intrigued by Kim's brother and his wife. Apparently they have their own book, in a different series (A Millionaire at Midnight), and I'm adding that book to my tbr pile right now! I love when friends and family come through with honesty and help the hero and heroine to realize the mistake they've made. In this case, the heroine was the one who needed to grovel, and the way she did it was fabulous, and made me quite teary!

I highly recommend this to anyone! If you love sports romance, damaged characters learning to heal, fun side characters, a great grovel, steamy sexy times, surprise babies, and gorgeous multi-cultural characters, this book is for you!

ARC provided by Publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Reviewed by Megan from Alpha Book Club

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♥ WishfulMiss ♥ says

### **1.5 ~ Second Best ~ Stars**

I'm a sucker for the unplanned pregnancy trope that brings two people together so I loved the fact that this unexpected baby was the catalyst to both Ronin and Kim's broken hearts healing and leading them to a second chance at love. If this was just a story of love, forgiveness and learning to trust again, this would have blown me away. Instead Ronin spends too much time putting up emotional road blocks at every turn and his back and forth, hot and cold routine with Kim was brutal. Both have



emotional baggage that stands in their way until the bittersweet end and that drama and drawn out angst ended up bogging the whole romance for me. I wish I could rate it higher because I liked Kim and I liked Ronin but this had one of my biggest pet peeves constantly brought up and rubbed in my face (view spoiler)

**What I liked:** The story was fast paced, the writing smooth and the smexy times were off the charts hawt. The MCs were good together when it was just Ronin and Kim, they had amazing chemistry, flirty banter and definitely had an instant connection. Ronin was a man after my own nerdy heart! He knows Harry Potter and loves LOTR, people! I loved the teasing and tender moments between them, as they become friends and get to know each other. My main problem was that it was rarely just Ronin and Kim.

Ronin constantly pushes away and denies his feelings for Kim because of his past and it got old fast. When the hero of a book mentions his constant rejection of even the possibility of real feelings or a lasting relationship with the heroine because of OW, and his mindset doesn't change, it sort of kills the romance. I can't really root for a couple if the H does such an amazing job of proving again and again that his love, his devotion, his whole emotional arsenal is already fully committed to another person. Kim seemed like she scored second best in Ronin's life, which isn't something I enjoy in romance. When the H mentions his love for OW more times than he does for the heroine we're supposed to root for, it's not romantic. When he constantly compares his feelings for Kim with those of OW, it's skeevy. But the worst part (view spoiler)

(hide spoiler)]

It was really hard to come back from that punch to the gut confession. Granted he does feel wonder and awe over the baby but his initial reaction tainted that moment and it still felt like a huge betrayal to Kim - even if she never knew that those thoughts were running around in his head.

The fact that he finally has an epiphany at the very end (with two measly mentions of love @ 90%) and somehow turns the blame around on Kim - making her out to be the coward running scared from her feelings - was so wrong! And a low blow coming from him. Yes she was wary of trusting him (she had good reason to with a cheating ex) but Ronin did plenty more rejecting of her and his own feelings for the majority of the book to now start singing a different tune! To me she had a more valid reason for staying wary and protecting her heart than he did and in her shoes, I wouldn't believe (after everything that has happened between them) Ronin's sudden and out of the blue declaration either.

A little less of his hang ups on repeat would have gone a long way to a higher rating. At the very least give him more page time to prove his love wasn't some spontaneous knee jerk reaction. Bottom line, I needed inside Ronin's head space more after he realizes he is in love with Kim because it was too rushed to win me over. I was left unconvinced that he was ready to move on and not even the cute epilogue complete with the soft glow of new born baby could save this one.

**\*\*\* ARC provided for an honest review \*\*\***

*I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.*

**SAFETY INFO:** (view spoiler)

*A night or two. They were the most he had available for any woman. Grace had been his one shot at what his friends now had.*

**He'd never have with another woman what he had with Grace. Because he wasn't going there again.**

*... the hottest sex of his life [with Kim]. A bitter oily trail of guilt slicked across his chest. It seemed a betrayal of what he'd had with Grace to think that. She'd been his first, and they'd made love, not fucked. Maybe the heat between him and Grace hadn't contained the combustible, animal attraction that seemed to explode every time he came within two feet of Kim, but there'd been affection, history . . . love.*

Way to reduce his connection to Kim as something vulgar and cheap! And it continued for a while yet . . .

*He'd had dinner with her, had shared with her, had comforted her. That made her more than a random one-night stand. And that felt like a betrayal to Grace, to her memory. He'd kept sex surface-level for just that reason. Grace had been his one shot at a happily ever after.*

*F\*ck, she drew him. Fascinated him. And the guilt of enjoying it - wanting it- sat so heavily on his chest, sometimes he couldn't inhale a breath without tasting the bitterness of disloyalty and betrayal.*

*...his brain argued that Grace wouldn't begrudge him this - the baby, the slices of happiness. But his heart . . .*

Is still in love with NOT the heroine. At 79% the constant reminders that the heroine and their baby were just second in his heart was just sad.

*He probably should've waited before coming; he was reeling. That meeting had unearthed memories and emotions - no, that wasn't entirely true. Because in order for them to be unearthed, they would've had to have been buried. And nothing pertaining to Grace was six feet under.*

@81%

*For a moment, his throat constricted. Grace. He was going to say her name aloud to another woman. A woman who . . . meant something to him, whether they kept having sex or somehow managed to settle into being just friends. That somehow seemed most blasphemous of all.*

**OM/OW drama** : The opening line has the H hiding from a clingy ONS but most of Ronin's drama happens internally and revolves around the dead gf. There were some cringe worthy moments where it spills out to Kim though.

*Ronin had been in love. Still loved, if his lingering grief was any indication. Ronin felt guilty for having a baby with her, felt that it was a betrayal to the memory of the woman he'd loved.*

Even Kim knew that although Ronin was a good guy, his heart wasn't ready to move on. That a romance doesn't not make, IMO.

**Separation** : After the ONS that ends in Kim's pregnancy, they are separated for 2 and a half months. Both remained celibate. (Which is weird, since Ronin claims to love and be in love with Grace but when she died, he couldn't keep in in his pants. The "only" way he could drown out the pain of loosing her was through meaningless sex, apparently. He basically becomes a manwhore for the next two years. So I guess Kim was special in the way that after sleeping with her, he was actually able to celibate for her afterwards.)

**Push/Pull** : Pushing away from both but I felt Ronin's was a bigger deal. I just had a hard time forgiving/believing his sudden change of heart when he clinged so hard to his first love.

**Main Pursuer of relationship** : Ironically, Ronin is the pursuer. I say ironic because he was also the one most dead set against anything real or lasting with Kim. He was the first to go after her and the first to drop her cold.

**Triggers** : Reformed manwhore H who is still in love with dead gf, slightly door-mattish herione, unplanned pregnancy, unconvincing insta-love, miscarriage (one in the past for h, off page – and a scare on-page.)

**HEA/HFN** : Ends on a HEA - epilogue 9 months later tells the reader the MCs have since married and we get a glimpse of their bundle of joy.

(hide spoiler)]

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**Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥ says**

<3 4 hot stars <3

Wow what a nice surprise, it's my first book from this author and I devour it. It was a quick read, super hot, funny at some points and light. I enjoyed both characters from the beginning, especially Ronin!

Ronin and Kim's romance has it all! They have a great connection. They were flirty, hot and passionate. Kim is strong, sassy and stubborn. Ronin is funny, sweet and super hot! They were perfect!

If you are looking for a refreshing and super hot story this is amazing! I'm definitely going to check the rest books in the series!!

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## **Ivy Deluca says**

### **The Good**

You had me at Polynesian Paul Bunyan, Ms. Simone.

My love for this book begins with Ronin, the laid back wide receiver in this diverse group of friends. The guy that I thought would be chill and supportive. I was not wrong. He was a HUGE part of my enjoyment of this story. He's the type of hero that's my kryptonite and I'd like to make a sandwich of him and Jackson Lau from Hard Pressed by Kate Canterbury. Please and thank you. I would need at least a week of personal time. Lawd.

But I digress. Ronin and Kim have a ONS that results in the titular baby, so I knew their sexual connection was going to be a big factor. And granted, yes they have great chemistry from the start, yet it's how their emotional relationship builds slowly and realistically that hooked me.

Ok, that, and the image of Jason Momoa in my brain while reading.

\*stares for a while\* What? Don't judge me.

Anyway, I think there's a good balance of heartfelt conversations regarding their concerns about being in a relationship and I respected the fact that Ms. Simone addressed some real concerns about how Kim would be perceived as Ronin's baby momma. Kim is a solid heroine who's gone through it in her life, I understood her issues and even when she pulled back, man her final grand gesture made it all worthwhile.

Plus, can I (again) applaud a football series where there are actual POC who are having the romance, as opposed to being just the sidekicks? Love that. Ronin is of Polynesian descent and Kim is biracial, with a supermodel black mother (second heroine with the same background this month, which is funny). Yay for diversity!

## **The Bad**

I think the story follows the same beats as the earlier books, so this may or may not be an issue for you. The romances are strong enough that it's more of a quibble than a real complaint. While the romance is center stage, I would have loved some relationships that exist outside the romance and aren't solely there to facilitate the "aha" moment at the end.

## **Everything in Between**

I liked the way the story tied in loosely with Ms. Simone's Bachelor Auction series, but isn't dependent on having read it. Just a nice treat for longtime fans. The ending ties up this story and gives a little treat for those who have read the series, so I was pleased and smiling when I closed my kindle.

I really enjoyed Kim and Ronin's romance and would recommend for contemporary rom fans who love this trope in particular or football romances in general. I'm ready for the next book in the series.

For more reviews, visit

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## **Carvanz says**

All the men in Kim's life have let her down, shown her to be less and not worth acknowledging. A move across the country with her job is her attempt to get her life together and prove that she is more than her brother's sister. What she didn't plan on was a one night stand with the sexy Ronin after he pulls her into a make believe scenario at a wedding expo. And she certainly never expected to find herself pregnant. But more than anything, she never expected to find herself involved with another professional football player.

Ronin is attracted to Kim the minute he lays eyes on her. In an attempt to politely repel a casual hookup that has turned clinger, he gets the benefit of putting his arms around her. He should be happy she hasn't called him after their one night together. There's a reason he doesn't do relationships and Kim has the potential to blow those reasons to smithereens. But his guilt can't allow that to happen.

I loved both of these characters. Kim was strong and independent but when she let her guard down she was approachable, sweet and fun. I enjoyed watching her morph from a woman who had preconceived opinions to one that was willing to lay everything she was on the line for love. Ronin had such a great sense of humor and he used it often to ease the distance Kim put between them. His response and future actions concerning the baby was heartwarming and totally swoon worthy. It also didn't hurt his case any that he was a total dirty talker.

This is a fast paced read that doesn't carry a lot of angst. There was a good bit of push and pull from Kim and just a tad from Ronin as they worked through their past issues. Kim's ex has a bit of a sideline but I'm not really sure what the purpose of that was. I was more concerned over Ronin's past and his ability to get

beyond it. Overall, this was a very nice read with awesome secondary characters that liven up the pages and plenty of steamy goodness between Kim and Ronin.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book provided by NetGalley and Entangled Publishing. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Dual POV

Safe (view spoiler)

Triggers (view spoiler)

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## **D.M. says**

Sexy, funny and sweet.

Kim Matlock isn't looking for love, in fact, she's still trying to get rid of the last mistake. Her divorce is still going through from her cheating ex. One thing she has learned, ballplayers cannot be trusted and she intends to avoid them. She is focused on helping to save her family's company and getting her life back on track.

Ronin, as you've guessed, is a sportsman. He's built like a footballer, he's confident like a ballplayer and he's an all alpha male. He's attending a wedding event with his sister when Kim catches his eye. The problem is she's not the only one with wandering eyes. Ronin has always been honest with women. He doesn't want a relationship. He's a one night kind of deal. Unfortunately, his latest conquest is struggling to get the message. He needs help to get rid of her and recruits Kim.

Kim doesn't know who this sexy hunk of a man is but he's only offering something she didn't realise she had missed. After some sexy time... the title of the book is a big giveaway... things get complicated. Can two people not looking for love find a family to share?

The WAGS series are all standalone stories.

4 stars out of 5. Naima Simone has good banter. The characters are loveable, funny and sweet in all the right places. I enjoyed this book. It's predictable but written well.

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## **Mindy Lou's Book Review says**

Ronin was an absolute treat to read about. For being a football player that isn't into relationships, he came off very charming, loyal and honest. He has a healthy respect for women because of his mother and sisters and he treated Kim very well despite the restrictions to their relationship.

Kim has been burned by not only her father but her ex-husband who also happens to be in the NFL. When she meets Ronin, she doesn't know who he is or she would have never given him the time of day. She already decided to give in to her attraction to him before she found out who he was.

Both characters have some heavy baggage that did take some of the fun, loving vibe out of the story but not

all of it. I laughed quite a bit because of Ronin and really enjoyed his easy manner when his past didn't pop up. That was a great read that is a bit on the shorter side and it has me intrigued to get the other players story.

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### **Auntee says**

Tons of sexual chemistry between the H/h in this one!

The heroine (business woman Kim Bishop) was initially a little stand-off-ish due to her past with her football playing ex (who really did her wrong, so she wanted *nothing* to do with the Jason Momoa-look alike hero (Ronin Paloma) when she found out he was a football player also! Aren't all football players party animals with no morals and are not to be trusted?

Yes, they did have one scorching night together (but that was *before* Kim knew who he was! This was just a one night stand!), but who knew she would turn up pregnant? And that Ronin would turn out to be this sweet, protective guy that refused to bail on her.

Kim had some additional baggage besides her divorce from a cheating ex; she was the 'bastard' daughter of a rather unfeeling corporate tycoon, who only saw her as a nuisance in his life. God, this guy was a real prince. His only son ran his business enterprise, and he hired Kim on (she had a good relationship with her half brother) to work for the company. For some reason, Kim was determined to prove to her 'father' that she was an asset to the company and his family. (I wouldn't have bothered with this loser).

So, will Kim give Ronin a chance to prove that not all football players/men are alike? That they can be loving, monogamous family men and not just good for one thing (scorching hot times between the sheets)?

I think I liked this hot number...I know I definitely liked Ronin.  
4 1/2 stars

*My thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for an ARC of this book.*

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### **Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says**

#### **4 STARS**

*Jesus. The man should come with a warning label: Causes Severe Case of Anal Agoraphobia. Or in layman's terms, causes severe case of not being able to get your head out of your ass.*

Well, hello there, Naima Simone, and welcome to my auto-buy list.

Firstly, I am seriously kicking myself for waiting this long to try this author because I have been missing out! Her writing is sexy, fun, lighthearted, and I couldn't get enough of it! If you're a fan of the surprise pregnancy trope, this will be your catnip. It was full of humor, delicious dirty talk, a little bit of angst thanks to two stubborn main characters, and some swoon mixed in.

*What I want,” he murmured, “is to hear that sexy moan again. The one you made while sucking on my tongue like you tasted something real good. “I want you to use that beautiful, tight control you got going on to dance and twist on my dick. Then I want to see you lose it, see that control crack right down the middle as you come so hard, I don’t have a choice but to go with you. And after that? I want to do it again and again all night until I limp home in the morning.”*

Kim was not a character I'd usually enjoy. While this is one strong alpha female, she has quite a bit of baggage that gives her judgmental tendencies. Burned by her pro-football player, cheating ex-husband, Kim has sworn off professional athletes. So when she finds out that her sizzling one-night stand is actually the wide receiver for the Washington Warriors, she doesn't hesitate before lumping him in with the rest. But Ronin is nothing like her ex. While he has some commitment issues for reasons of his own, he's caring, sweet, and doesn't hesitate to take responsibility when he learns that their one night together has resulted in a pregnancy neither of them expected.

Can I just tell you how much I adored Ronin. Let's set aside the fact that the man is sinfully sexy and has a mouth on him that will set any ovary aflame. But he also has a hidden sweet side to him that I loved seeing come out more and more with the bristly Kim. I loved the way he soothed her rough edges. And though Kim did frustrate me at times with the way she pushed Ronin away, I understood why she did.

Admittedly, what really brought it together for me was the ridiculously sweet ending and I particularly loved the twist to the typical romance grovel. I can't believe I just discovered this series and this author, but I'm also thrilled because now I have her entire backlist to binge one; starting with the first two books in the WAGs series.

*ARC courtesy of publisher in exchange for an honest review*

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