



Single

Collette West

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Underdog Luke “Single” Singleton is yearning to make a comeback. After getting hit in the neck with a pitch—an injury that nearly cost him his life—he has one last chance to play for his hometown team, the Stockton Beavers. But his mom has Alzheimer’s, and he’s all she has to depend on. How can he pursue his career, much less someone special?

Personal care aide Roberta Bennett is done dating baseball players. Having had her share of heartbreak, she heads to Stockton hoping for a fresh start. But after she finds Luke’s mom outside, lost, and alone, she can’t refuse when he hires her on the spot. Unbeknownst to Luke, Roberta is all too familiar with the violent tendencies of the pitcher who hit him.

Now that they’re living under the same roof, the last thing either of them is looking for is a relationship. But it’s not long before they find themselves drawn to each other. And right when Luke is thinking about finally making a change to his single status, a secret from Roberta’s past emerges with the power to tear them apart.

Single Details

Date :

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Author : Collette West

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From Reader Review Single for online ebook

Lustful Literature says

Beth's Review

I was first introduced to Collette West's writing when I decided to check out Game Winner, the fifth book in the New York King's series. I am a lover of sports romances and enjoyed Game Winner so when I saw that she had a new spin-off series coming out, I decided to check out Single.

Luke Singleton is not your typical cocky baseball jock. He is a sweet and very humble guy who just wants to get back to playing a game he loves, but also look after his mom. Luke's dad was always known as Mr. Beaver, a well-known baseball player for the Stockton Beavers who never made it to the majors. Before his dad died, he promised him he would look after his mom, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and keep her from having to go in a nursing home. Luke is now faced with a dilemma, he is trying to make a comeback after being badly injured by another player but at the same time he is trying to take care of his mom, who is quickly going downhill and getting much worse with her illness. Roberta Bennett is a personal care worker looking to start over in a new place and learns Luke's secret about his mom and agrees to help him out by moving in and looking after his mom so he can pursue his baseball career, but there is more between these two than just a professional relationship.

I really enjoyed Luke's character, he was so sweet and charming and so very humble. He wasn't a major league player making big money, he was just a guy who played a game he loved in the minors but was willing to give it all up to look after his mom. I loved how protective he was of his mom and later on Roberta. He was a true gentleman that was raised right. I loved that even though he could have any girl he pretty much wanted with being a favoured Stockton Beaver, his main focus was getting to play the way he used to and making sure his mom was looked after.

Having only read the 5th book in the prior series, I only got to see a glimpse of Roberta's character so I was intrigued to see what her full story was about. I really enjoyed her character, she too like Luke was a good and caring person. Even though not all of her choices in her past were great ones, we finally get to see why she was the way she was and that there was a lot more to her story that no one but herself knew. Roberta survived a lot of hurt and bad things in the past and truly was a strong character to come out all of it still standing.

Overall this was a nice sweet read that I enjoyed. I definitely would have loved to have seen more baseball action as part of the story, but I know not all readers enjoy having actual sport action written into the storyline but that truly makes a sports romance enjoyable for me. I enjoyed the dynamic the storyline took and that it wasn't your typical sports romance storyline, it was nice to have a fresh and different storyline. I also enjoyed that there were not too much drama added, just a nice level to keep the story engaging. There were a few parts that didn't work for me or felt a little unrealistic but as a whole, the story was a really good one and I look forward to see more of the Stockton Beaver players.

books are love says

Luke awww....Luke he is the epitome of everything we want in a guy. He is quiet but strong in his quiet way. he is strong inside and out. Kind, caring, smart, gentle, an alpha male without being seen as one. A rock without acting like one. Loyal and just all around everything we desire. He doesn't need to act a certain way and is comfortable with who he is. He treats people with respect and kindness. He has such strength and determination. Heck to go through what he did and come out not only alive but stronger and still loving the sport that could have taken his way of life from him still shows a quiet strength and beauty. The way he is with his mom is so heartwarming. Seeing him be himself and accept everyone for who they are and not judge is amazing. He is just what we all want and admire. He is quite simply amazing. And how he even after Roberta kept pushing him away and told him about his past stayed the course and showed her that she wasn't her past but more and loved her more was so so cryworthy amazeballs. This is a man that fights for those he loves and is loyal and loving. The ending with him and Summer was just so breathtaking adorable and precious. that is the word for this man Precious. A rare jewel not to be seen often but when you do you see how precious and incredible they are and it takes your breath away. He is this.

I have read Ms. West books of the King men and I have to say this one tops all those. Luke tops all those. This is his and Roberta's story. We get to see the real Roberta here. Not the perceived one but the real one. The hurting one that is dealing with the pain of her past and trying to overcome her fears and find love. We see her fight the attraction she has for Luke. We see how caring and kind she is but also strong and tough when needed. We see her vulnerable and we see her find love. We see Luke show her kindness, patience, compassion, support and love and because of this and his acceptance of her we see Roberta shine and let his love into her life.

This is their story. His story of struggling with his fear after the injury and overcoming it to become a stronger player on the field. His story about his mom and coming to terms with her illness and at peace with it. The story of Roberta confronting her fears and with the love and understanding support from Luke come out stronger and with the love of her life. The story of Roberta and Luke finding love and each other. The beautiful story of two strong yet vulnerable people finding their way to one another and accepting each other as is. Not only accepting one another but supporting each other and loving each other with all that they are.

A story that grips your heart and doesn't let it go. A amazing story that has you smile, cry and sigh.

Ruthie Taylor says

~~I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads ~~

I am a big fan of sports romances - and I am always delighted to find one which rocks the mold a bit. Luke has recently recovered from a life threatening injury sustained in a baseball game. He is young, and his whole life has been baseball, so in spite of his fears he needs to get back on the pitch. He is short, under-rated and his nickname single is due to his ongoing status. He is however most definitely one of the good guys, and reading about his commitment to his ailing mother, and his father's memory adds to his stand up character. He is so conflicted due to his feelings for Roberta, and we are drawn in so effectively as the heat builds and the scene is set.

Roberta is also someone with depth and strength that she hides well. But we also know she is hiding something else - and as in most cases it becomes more and more difficult to come clean, the longer she waits. She is always a good person, and we grow to understand and care for her, just as much as Luke. They really do deserve each other ... how does it work? well, get reading!

I am looking forward to future installments of this series, as being in the lower levels of the game gives more scope for interesting plot lines it would seem!

✿kawehi.reviews says

Beta read this amazing book!!

Lisse Cunha says

Não poderia ter começado o ano melhor do que com o meu debut com Collette West. Nunca tinha lido nada dessa autora e a surpresa teve um efeito muito positivo em mim por várias razões.

Com uma narrativa em 1º pessoa com ambos pontos de vistas, o primeiro volume da série Stockton Beavers tem muitos ingredientes na medida certa.

Luke e Roberta são um casal muito bonito de acompanhar. Ele é um jogador de beisebol em recuperação devido a uma lesão provocada por um rival na última temporada, que agora precisa unir sua vida familiar com o esporte que tanto ama. Já ela, vem de um passado conturbado e com vários segredos, mas que encontra numa cidade pacata e num time de beisebol, um motivo para recomeçar.

Luke está passando por um momento de indecisão onde precisa decidir se coloca sua família em primeiro lugar ou abandona a oportunidade após a melhora da sua lesão. Em muitos momentos ele realmente quer largar tudo da sua carreira para ajudar a família, e isso foi tão bonito de se ver. Qual jogador faria isso? A literatura é recheada de jogadores egocêntricos.

Quote: Eu franzo a testa em frustração, sabendo que ele está certo. Eu lhe dei tanto de mim, mais do que eu dei a qualquer outro homem. No entanto, eu ainda estou segurando uma parte de mim, e ele pode sentir isso. Tenho tanto medo de me permitir ser vulnerável, que eu me treinei para ser resistente, endurecendo meu coração contra todas as pessoas que chegam perto de mim.

E ao mesmo tempo, Roberta seguiu o mesmo caminho das personagens femininas que tenho gostado tanto. Ela não torna a própria dor um motivo para ser infeliz ou para maltratar os outros. Descobrimos alguns capítulos em que nos é contato o passado de Roberta. E na medida certa, Luke é o que Roberta precisa: companheirismo e um amor calmo.

Quote: "— Porque é que o caminho para chegar ao coração de um homem é sempre pelo estômago? Eu bato na sua bunda e tento me apressar para passar por ele, mas ele é muito rápido pra mim, então ele põe seus braços em volta de mim por trás, beijando meu pescoço.
— Você não tem que se preocupar com isso porque você já tem meu coração, todo ele."

Em alguns momentos, queria incentivar a Roberta com um abraço e dizer para ser mais sincera com Luke. Queria dar outro abraço nela também quando seus segredos vieram à tona, queria agradecê-la por ser tão boa com a mãe do Luke. Uma protagonista que é uma boa amiga e sustentou bem sua vida, mesmo que não

estivesse muito boa no momento, é digno de elogios.

A principal característica que amei é o livro inteiro não ter cenas sexuais. Foi ao mesmo tempo um alívio e uma renovação nos ânimos devido às várias cenas de sexo sem conteúdo e sem propósito que tenho encontrado em muitos livros ultimamente. O casal tem momentos íntimos, mas em nenhum momento durante a leitura me peguei curiosa em querer saber o que faziam em quatro paredes.

Quote: "— Está tudo bem. Você me inspirou, isso é tudo o que importa.

Eu sussurro, quase para mim mesma, — É só que é tão engraçado.

— O que é engraçado?

— Como você pode fazer um impacto na vida de alguém, e nem sequer saber disso?

— Você fez... — Ele faz uma pausa, sua voz começando a rachar. — Eu apenas pensei que tudo ia ficar bem, uma vez que você chegou a Stockton. Que, de alguma forma, você estivesse aqui para salvar o dia. — Ele inclina a cabeça. — Mas eu acho que o que você está tentando passar para minha cabeça dura é que, no final, nenhum de nós tem o que é preciso para manter minha mãe [...], e é devastador ter que aceitar isso."

Em contra partida, me vi envolvida demais nas emoções do casal, e o que acontecia na vida e dentro da cabeça de cada um. Além de Collette West escrever com o coração, muitas vezes durante a narrativa me senti muito ligada com os personagens, como se eu também fosse uma personagem e não expectadora dos eventos.

Para todos os efeitos, achei Luke muito normal, um adulto de verdade, e mesmo sendo famoso e tendo que morar numa cidade onde seu pai - um jogador que deixou um legado - quer seguir seus passos. E também um aspecto físico do Luke fez a caracterização do próprio personagem ser mais bonita, e somando a isso ao fato de ser diferente e ser uma coisa que faz Roberta gostar mais dele, me deixou muito feliz em sair do clichê.

Então, diferente de outros livros de jogadores que li, Single é um alento, pois não tem a farra de um campus universitário e nem a ânsia do protagonista masculino em ser o garanhão do pedaço. E tem a sinceridade e o impacto de uma rotina diária de uma pessoa normal, com seus contratempos da atividade doméstica e o amor que permeia uma família.

Michelle says

You can see this full review and more at Book Briefs: <http://bookbriefs.net>

Single is the first book in the new spin off series of the New York Kings Series by Collette West, called Stockton Beavers. While I have not read the entire New York Kings series, yet, I have read a couple of the books and I really enjoyed them, so I knew that I was probably going to enjoy this one just as much. It was a tough read for me, because of the subject matter but I loved the story and romance. Luke and Roberta are a great match, and Single is a really great story. Collette West always does a good job with her books. I loved that this one is the start of a new series, but still takes place in the New York Kings world.

Luke has been dealt a rough hand. I felt for him so much. To be dealing with a career changing injury as well as taking care of a parent with Alzheimer's. It was an emotional read for me. I loved Luke so much though. He is such a sweet, caring person. you just want to see something good happen to him. And having Roberta be that something good was a bit of an interesting take for me. I loved that she is the other main character in this story, and I think fans of the New York Kings series will know why. She is a side character in the series that did not always come across in the best light. But we really get to know her in Single, and I enjoyed that a

lot. I'm glad that Collette West chose her for the first book in the Stockton Beavers series. I think I might even enjoy this series more than the New York Kings Series. I love the setting.

Single is a different kind of sports romance for me. Like I said earlier, this book really hit me hard. I deal with the elderly a lot in my job and Alzheimer's is always so tough. Especially on the family members. Luke will hold a special place in my heart after reading this book. Roberta too. Being a caregiver is not an easy job.

Bottom line: If you like Sports romances with heart, Single is the book for you. Even if you have not read the New York Kings series, give this book a try. It is a good introduction to their world, and if you enjoy it you can always go back and read about the Kings players after. Single is a great

This review was originally posted on Book Briefs

Sybil aka Lala says

So I don't know anything about baseball but apparently I love it's players because reading romance novels featuring these delicious men has been my new kick for a while. Obviously then Single was an immediate must read for me but it was also unlike any other sports romance novel I've ever read.

The biggest reason for this was the hero who was so refreshingly different. He wasn't the cocky player, or the manwhore or the star player with the reputation. He wasn't big and tall and bountiful muscle and lascivious grins. No, Luke 'Single' Singleton is the underdog. He's recovering from an injury that nearly cost him his life, he's battling a debilitating fear every time he steps onto the field he's taking care of his mother who is going off her rocker at a steady rate and his reputation and nickname come from him never being seen with a woman. And he was absolutely loveable.

Luke proves that you simply don't need the cocky manwhore to get you all hot and bothered because the chemistry and tension in this book was off the charts. It was a bit of a slow burn romance that took it's time but there were definite moments that had my pulse racing. On top of this sweet yet hot romance, there were also plots bubbling underneath the surface promising that everything would soon come to a dramatic head.

With so much else happening in this book this was just a really entertaining read that had me turning pages until I read the very last word. This was a great and intriguing book with a great hero and a great romance. Recommended for all fans of sports romance!

(ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review)

Bff Book Blog says

I love Luke Singleton! If you love the Sports Romance genre, specifically baseball. You'll be very pleased with this overall story. If I look at this book/audiobook as a whole, I am overall pleased with the story. If I pick it apart, not as much.

I really like Luke's storyline and Luke's character! He's an athlete coming back from an injury dealing with some pretty serious stuff in his home life. But, he's helped through it all by Roberta. She's kind, caring, compassionate and it's impossible for her to resist those same characteristics in Luke. The baseball, recovery and romance aspects of this story were spot on and I really really enjoyed them.

There were a couple of things that bothered me. Please take them with a grain of salt. Semi-Spoiler-Alert: There is an adoption storyline toward the end of this book. Many of you may know that our son is adopted and this is a very personal issue for me. There were just too many inconsistencies for me between the story and real life. I couldn't reconcile the inconsistencies and it made it hard for me to enjoy the ending of the story. But, if this isn't a personal issue for you, I think the conclusion could be really fulfilling, so don't let this stop you if that's not an hot button for you!

I love audiobooks. I listen to 2-3 a week, some are better than others and I'm able to overcome a lot of small annoyances. I loved the male narrator! I think he did an excellent job and I enjoyed his interpretation of the story. However, I did not care for the female narrator. Her voice had an awkward cadence. She maintained that rhythm regardless of the content of the sentences and dialogue. I would often find myself re-phrasing the passages in my head so they made better sense. And, I could never match her voice with the images in my head of the characters.

I think this is one instance where I would have liked to read the book more than listen to the audio. I'm basing my ratings on the overall story. I would say this is a good, solid, sports romance that delivers what you're expecting from the genre. If you can be forgiving about some oddities in narration, I think this is a story you can really enjoy.

A copy of this audiobook was received from the author. Receipt of this copy did not impact the content or independence of this review. BFF Book Blog also uses a set of icon ratings. This book received additional ratings for: character development, tension, romance and hero.

BethyMac says

a 4 star sweet read that I enjoyed, loved Luke's character, he truly was not your typical baseball jock and I enjoyed that fact... full review at <http://lustfulliterature.com/single-b...>

Jody says

After falling in love with the men of Ms. West's New York Kings series, I was excited for the chance to get to know about the men and lives of a small town team far away from the glitz and glamour of the Big Leagues. Again Ms. West doesn't disappoint as she's crafted a story long on emotions as two bruised souls try to recover from their painful pasts at the hands of one man. Throw in a sweet romance and a deft and careful handling of the weighty issues of domestic abuse, and the all-encompassing ravages of those afflicted with Alzheimer's, and you end up with a memorable and thought provoking read.

Luke Singleton is still recovering from a horrific injury at the hands of a jealous and violent ball player, still working through the fear of being hit again and not making it to the Big Leagues in honor of his father.

That's not the only thing weighing on his mind though as he's also dealing with his mother's Alzheimer's disease getting worse. Luke's a sweet person, caring and loyal, who's desperate to do right by his mother and care for her at home. It's getting harder to do that though and it's starting to put his career in jeopardy. With no one else to turn to he calls on the woman he's long been enamored with to help him keep his secret. Roberta still fascinates him but their entwined pasts keep her from giving in to the feelings he inspires in her. He's not one to give up on anyone though and becomes her friend while subtly working his way to being more. Luke's a wonderful character, not my typical book boyfriend as his sweet side far outweighs any Alpha pushiness. He's a loving son, not ashamed to sing to his mother to make her smile, and cares for her in a way that lets her keep her dignity despite her disease taking her away from him bit by bit. He's humble too, supportive of his teammates as seen in playful banter on and off the field. His romance with Roberta is sensual but not scorching but that in no way makes it any less satisfying. On so many levels Luke is the quintessential hero, from his aw-shucks attitude to his unwavering support of others to those sentimental moments of love he's not afraid to display, and is a fine addition to the heavy hitters Ms. West is so good at creating.

Roberta's a character that we've met before in the world of the New York Kings and the impressions she left me with weren't positive. She appeared cold and calculating, a shrew who made others miserable. I never thought she'd become a person you'd cheer for but it speaks volumes as to Ms. West's talent that she was able to redeem someone so irredeemable. We get to know the real Roberta here and she ends up being a survivor, a caring person with demons of her own at the hands of an abusive and stalking ex-husband. Her former life left her damaged, unwilling to believe in love, but the time she spends with the kindhearted Luke tempts her greatly. Roberta's a caretaker in this story, and a very good one, as she cares for Luke's mom just as lovingly as he does and it endeared her to me. I enjoyed this softer, less self-assured side, as it made her more relatable. Her issues with her ex were heartbreakingly real and the connection it has to Luke might've broken apart any other couple but it's a credit to Luke's ability to forgive that he wholeheartedly stays by Roberta's side, never forcing her to confide in him until she's ready.

This was a sweet story that dealt with some heavy issues in a respectful yet powerful way. Small town living, with all its colorful denizens, was on display here too to charm me and further immerse me in the lives of the ball players trying to make it to New York. I enjoyed the witty and playful banter between the players, the unwavering support when one of their own is threatened, which has me excited for more stories as I found myself drawn to Danny and Rob. The scenes on the field were vividly depicted and had me cheering along with the fans who start to feel like family as we get to see a few of them up close and personal. I normally like my romances to be on the steamier side but the sweeter and gentler interludes here were a reflection of Luke's personality and character and felt just as satisfying. Roberta's redemption was unexpected but perfectly played out to make it believable and the HEA she has with Luke is richly rewarding because of it. All in all this is a delightful start to a new series and shows once again why I consider Ms. West the best when it comes to romances set in the world of baseball!

Casey says

Find this review and more at [Ramblings From This Chick](#)

Single is the first book in the new Stockton Beavers series from Collette West. This series is a spin-off of her New York Kings series, so if you have read any of those books you will recognize a few familiar faces here. Don't worry if you haven't though as Single is a complete standalone and you do not need to have read any of those to understand this one.

After getting hit in the neck with a pitch, Luke "Single" Singleton not only lost his career, but nearly his life. So when he is offered a chance to play for his hometown team the Stockton Beavers, Luke knows that this could be his one chance to make it to the majors. But Luke's mom has Alzheimer's and he promised his dad he wouldn't put her in a facility, leaving him as her sole care provider. So when Roberta Bennett comes to town, he knows that she could be the solution to all his problems since she is a personal care aide. Soon Roberta has accepted the job and is living under the same roof as Luke while she cares for his mom and things between them start to heat up. Though neither of them were looking for a relationship, they can't fight the connection between them. But Roberta has a past that she is trying to hide from, and when her secret comes out it could destroy everything they have been building together.

I have to admit that when I first saw Roberta was going to be the heroine here I was worried. She was definitely not my favorite character in the New York Kings series and I was nervous that I wouldn't like her or be able to connect with her. That was absolutely not the case here though. There was so much more to her than we had seen and it was a case of how one should never assume they have all the facts when looking in from the outside. Roberta was easy to like right from the start of this book, and I felt like she was very easy to relate to. Luke was amazing. He was sweet and humble, not like your typical cocky athlete at all. It was great to see a guy that cared more about his mother and taking care of her than pursuing a career that could make him rich and famous. He was willing to give it all up for her, and I really admired that about him. At the same time he was hard working, and gave baseball everything he had. I thought that he was great with Roberta too, and these two had great chemistry and a connection that I really enjoyed seeing form.

I will say that Single had less heat than other books I have read from Collette West and there were times that this book felt a bit slower than her others have. But I really enjoyed the story and the characters and didn't mind that this one had a bit of a different feel to it. Collette is a great writer, and I really liked seeing this more emotional and inspirational type of writing from her. Not that I don't enjoy a good amount of steam with my books, but I felt like in this case the story was so good that I didn't miss it. If you haven't read anything by her I would recommend checking them out, especially if you are a sports romance fan. I have really enjoyed everything I have read from her, and I am looking forward to reading more from her in the future.

ARC Provided by Good Choice Reading

Nerdy Dirty & Flirty says

Single
Collette West
4 stars

I have to say, the best part about this book for me was the male lead. I loved that Luke wasn't the typical book boyfriend we all latch onto. He wasn't a all-star player, or a ladies man. He is an underdog.

After suffering a serious injury and now dealing with an ailing mother, Luke's focus is off and he's scattered trying to take care of everything at home while improving his game.

Roberta has past experience as a caregiver, it's like fate when she shows up on his doorstep. Luke hires her to care for his mom so he can get back to improving himself to get back in the game.

I really enjoyed both characters, I felt they had great chemistry and I loved that the author had them build a friendship before moving onto a romantic relationship. It really gave me as a reader time to fall in love with both of them individually before seeing the two of them together.

Although Single is a spin off of Collette West's New York Kings series, I didn't feel like I was lost by not having read them first. The writing was really good, and I enjoyed reading a sports romance that actually included some sports in it.

It was an easy read for me. And the start of what looks like will continue to be a fun series.

Audiobook

This story was awesome. Luke is a baseball player that was injured badly by a vicious and cruel player on a rival team. After struggling to recover he finally gets a shot to play again, but his mother isn't well and needs him. He doesn't know how he can manage having a baseball career and taking care of his mother. Until Roberta comes to town.

Roberta is hiding from her past and looking for a fresh start. And while she thinks it's a bad idea to get involved in any way with Luke, she quickly discovers how badly in need of her help he is for his mom. Her caregiver background won't allow her to walk away. But the two will need to deal with Luke's career and the challenges of making a come back, Luke's mother and her steady decline, and Roberta's past all while navigating their growing attraction to each other.

This book ended up containing twists I didn't anticipate and unexpected hurdles thrown in along the way. I enjoyed it all. Luke wasn't portrayed as your stereotypical leading man, he had hang ups about himself, he was down to earth and easy to relate to. The narrator for him I felt fit well. Soft voice, not overly deep, gruff, or gravelly.

Roberta was so strong and so kind and such a well written character. The things she had to overcome and was hiding from were just heartbreaking. I loved her. But I honestly didn't love her narrator. The voice was a little high, and I felt the tone and cadence of her reading was very repetitive. I couldn't hear any real emotion in her voice and often just felt the rise and falls came at the wrong time and didn't match what was going on or what was being said by the characters.

But with that being said, the story was still great. I'm still so happy I had the chance to listen to this story, the female narrator just wasn't a hit for me. I look forward to checking out more stories by this author in future.

Books Laid Bare says

Now, as a convert to the merits of baseball by the sheer enjoyment of Collette West New York Kings, I was delighted that she had another series coming out and when I discovered that there were cross over characters, well it was sure to be a blissful experience...but was I right?

I was always a little, wary in the past at to Roberta's motivations, she was one of those characters that seemed to always be there or there about's but never quite opened up enough to let you get a good fix on whether she was someone you could like or not.

I knew she had been through a lot but it wasn't until this story that I finally understood her...and by that I mean all of her.

She has had it worse than I could have ever considered and I thank the author for holding her whole story close for so long but I think she deserved this opportunity to let her demons go and it wasn't until the secure arms of Luke Singleton were finally surrounding her that she felt able to do that, he provided her a security that she never really thought she would have or in a way thought she deserved.

Luke, oh where do I start?

Serious injury forced him into a position that he never considered possible and many never thought he would recover from and the true extent of his injury and rehabilitation is not something that the world has ever had a handle on. An intensely private man he has secreted himself away at home with his mother but not everything there is what it seems.

Luke's mother's health is deteriorating, her mental capacity is diminished and she needs full time care, which is something Luke is not willing to even contemplate. He is working his fingers to the bone in a desperate attempt to care for her himself and keep her at home as long as possible but with the new season about to kick in, he needs help and that can only come in the shape of the woman he has secretly longed after... Roberta.

Supposition, misunderstanding and miscommunication all seem to be ganging up on the pair of them initially but when she eventually realises what is going on with Luke's mother, Roberta's natural care giver springs to the fore. This is what she is born to do, it is what she needs most in life, she thrives on looking after people and by caring for his mum she is also caring for him.

I liked the fact they kept their arrangement under wraps, I like the time they took to almost grow into a relationship, the details that they slowly uncovered about each other and the honesty that the love they felt for each other was willing to give them both.

There is of course a blip along the way and that comes in the shape of the demon that haunts both their pasts, but he cannot halt their future, Luke won't allow it!

I liked the other guys in the team, I liked that some of the Kings got in on the act, I liked the fact that we are set up nicely for yet another barn stormer of a series but most of all I liked the fact that this was an out an out romance, it had characters that had been hurt and needed time and attention, that oozed love and empathy and with Luke especially, I loved that it was willing to show respect, kindness and devotion, he was a beautiful role model for the modern romantic- just saying!

Ambur says

When I first heard about SINGLE I was a little unsure of it because I hadn't been a big fan of Roberta in Collette West's New York Kings books, but as I read more and more excerpts and sneak peeks, I grew more and more excited to meet Luke and to finally learn Roberta's story! So, when Collette West asked me if I'd like to help her out by beta reading SINGLE, I jumped at the chance! It was definitely the right choice because I was hooked from the start. I'm so glad that I kept reading excerpts, and gave SINGLE a chance because it was fantastic, and I really did grow to love Roberta...I actually feel a bit bad about how strongly I disliked her before! :P

While SINGLE isn't part of the New York Kings series, it does exist in the same world and takes place after the most recent NYK book, GAME WINNER, and we have seen Stockton before in Collette's first book NIGHT GAMES. I loved getting to see Stockton again, and it was really interesting to see the dynamics of a different team. I loved seeing Luke improve as a player and gain confidence after facing a horrible accident, and I really loved seeing his relationship with his teammates. I loved how close he and Danny were, and I really enjoyed seeing him and Rob grow closer. And Hoff! He's a gruff, older player with a chip on his shoulder, but he really surprised me and was there for Luke when it really mattered. :D

As for Luke himself, well I loved him! He was such an amazing and genuinely kind person. I loved how he always did everything that he could for others, and how he constantly had a positive outlook. I could definitely relate to him, and I sensed a kindred spirit in him (he's totally a fellow Hufflepuff, I just know it :P). I loved how much he cared for his mom, and how hard he worked to make sure that she had the best care that she could get. And I really loved him as a romantic lead! He was so considerate, thoughtful, and he never pressured Roberta to share more than she was ready to tell him. He let her decide when she was ready to confide in him, and when she kept things from him, he was so understanding. It was really refreshing to see a male lead like him. I'm not saying other male leads are inconsiderate douche-buckets, but they're definitely not usually as understanding as Luke was, and I think that largely came from how he treated his mother. Family was everything to him, and he's one of those characters that will fight to the ends of the world to protect someone that he considers part of his family, including his friends. Along with being just an all-around amazing guy, he was definitely sexy...which I always appreciate in my leading dudes. ;)

And Roberta. Roberta, Roberta, Roberta...well, as I said at the beginning of the review, I was pretty unsure of her as a main character, but I'm willing to admit that I was so wrong. We've always seen her as the foil (or one of the foils) to the relationship that we're rooting for in the New York Kings series, so in SINGLE, we're finally seeing things from her side. Yes, she totally hooked up with some of the Kings players, but they're a lot more to her story and a lot more to her. She's a strong, independent, and sassy woman, which is something we didn't get to see much of in Collette West's other series, but in SINGLE we see it all. We finally see why Roberta was resisting getting into relationships and we finally see the real relationship that she has with Mike Landry. I absolutely loved getting to see it all, and in the end, I really loved Roberta. I loved her compassion for Luke's mother and how much she genuinely wanted to help others. I really, really empathized with the hardships she faced in her past, and I was so happy when she finally opened up to Luke and she let herself enjoy a loving relationship with a wonderful man. And most of all, I just loved her and Luke together so much!

Overall, I loved SINGLE. It was a fantastic story, and a great start to the STOCKTON BEAVERS series! I already can't wait for more from Collette West!

Becky says

Luke "Single" Singleton, Jr. is absolutely the perfect beta, baseball-playing hero!

I loved him from the first page--his determination to take care of his mother, even if he has to forgo his lifelong dream, was just so sweet, and though we didn't see most of it directly, the way he fought even to get back on the field in the first place after a horrific injury was just amazing. Clearly, this is not a guy who's going to give up on anything easily.

Really, Roberta should have known better than to try and resist him for as long as she did.

Single is the first book in Ms. West's new series, a spin-off of her *New York Kings* one. I've only read the last book in that series so far, *Game Winner*, and it was a while ago so I don't remember much of Jake's "crazy ex" (aka Roberta) other than thinking at the time that their relationship was pretty messed up...fortunately, Ms. West gives Roberta a chance to explain why she's the way she is here, and she becomes a much more sympathetic character.

Maybe even one who deserves the awesomeness that is Luke Singleton. ;)

Their romance develops as a slow burn--both have so much going on in their lives, and in the case of Roberta, so much from the past to deal with--and it felt very realistic. I loved the way that everything managed to come together in the end, especially when I finished the book and then glanced back at the book's dedication on my way back to the front cover. (Do yourself a favor if you're reading this one. Re-read that dedication once you've finished Luke an Roberta's story. Trust me on this one--it's a total "awwww!" moment :))

I didn't quite understand why Luke was so determined to keep his mother's illness a secret from everyone, especially since he brought her to so many of his games (honestly, it's a miracle more people didn't figure it out), but it does work out well in the end, so it ended up being just a minor head scratcher in an otherwise enjoyable read.

I am definitely signing up for more of this series--I can't wait to find out what's going on with Danny and his new woman!

Rating: 4 stars / B+

I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.
