



Singe

Aly Martinez

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She was my nightmare. Every time I closed my eyes, I watched her fall into that inferno. Over and over, I failed to save her.

I hadn't been able to reach her, and the guilt only burned hotter over time. Four years later, I was the unreachable one.

Heroes aren't always saints. Sometimes, we're nothing more than jaded sinners driven by sleepless nights and hearts full of darkness.

And then I met her. She was a dreamer who managed to soothe my scars and heal my wounds.

But, as the flames closed in around us, I feared I wasn't the right man to save her. That is until I realized she was the one woman I'd burn the world down to protect.

Singe Details

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From Reader Review Singe for online ebook

Wendy'sThoughts says

4 Nightmares and Dreams Stars

* * * * *Spoiler Free*

Aly Martinez took the idea of personal perception and shot it with steroids...There was a heightened intensity of what was real, what was dreamt and what was in between. We are taken on a journey that has many twists and turns... with all of them including a group of men known as the Guardian Protection Agency. This Agency will anchor the series.

This first entry has a complex love story about two people who crossed paths in a way no one should. Rhion was a woman caught in a burning inferno and Jude was an off duty police officer told to go to the site for assistance. He wasn't in regulation shape; he had been at a bar relaxing... but he was the only person able to report.

He did the best he could to save her, looking for a way for her to escape the flames...and some how they both survived...But not without scars...

Scars which would mark themthe kind you can see and the ones which live deep in the recesses of the mind long after the skin has healed. Both of these people moved forward in their own way... but it was the perception of what actually took place that night which is the key to this tale.

These two people are reunited 5 years after the accident.

Rhion has managed to rise from the ashes through all of the difficult operations, skin grafts and pain. She has covered her arms and body with tattoos and her scars are like silk threads. Her own personal therapy was writing. She had created a life where she was doing fine...but then her father died cutting out siblings and an ex wife, leaving everything to her. The inheritance has caused Rhion to be at odds with her brother. He has been threatening and this has caused Rhion to withdraw from the outside world. She has closed ranks.

Jude's life was not what he had dreamed of... all he ever wanted was to be a police man... the hero who helped others. He was stripped from the force and found a position with a security agency. They handled serious needs and he felt at least he was doing something worthy. But every night he was visited with the reoccurring nightmare of Rhion on the ledge, engulfed in flames... and his inability to make her safe. It was a constant in his mind and something he could never escape... like the thick scars on the back of his neck and skull.

The owner of Jude's company retires and closes the agency leaving him looking for work. Somehow Jude is referred to The Guardian Protection Agency and is hired.

This agency is run by a man who takes things personally... cares about his charges...This isn't just a security agency...This is the top, elite level....Lawmakers, Royalty, Celebrities etc.. are their clients and Non Disclosure Agreements are their middle names.

Rhion has been under their care for years and even lives in the same building as their offices. This has worked to provide Rhion with a surrogate family...with a rag tag group of Alpha men and a few woman who are partnered with them. They really are her life line and provide a sense of love and caring besides security.

It is when Rhion and Jude collide at a group get together where this tale takes off...and from that moment, perception of everything is key.

This is a love story where questions of trust, understanding, communication and just straight talking are the focus. These two have all the necessary chemistry to light a few blazes of their own...and Aly Martinez shows how it can be done... and done well.

She also has done a tremendous job in fleshing out all of the the other Guardian Guys... she didn't just give a few sentences to each... and then be done with it. She made all of the fellows real with each having their own quirks and issues. The groundwork has been laid for us to want to know more about each and every one of them.

This was my first Aly Martinez read but won't be my last.

~~~~~ **Before Reading** ~~~~~

*I know this may be a shock...*

*But this is my first Aly Martinez read...*

*For the past years, I have seen my friends rave about these books...*

*So I am excited to dive in...*

**Singe - February 6th 2017**

*A gifted copy was provided by author/publisher for an honest review.*

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**Christy says**

**5 stars!**

Aly Martinez is one of those authors that always delivers. I've not read one book by her that I haven't loved. *Singe* is the first book in her new Guardian Protection series, but ties in a bit to the Wrecked and Ruined series. Trust me when I say after reading this book, you're going to want books for ALL the guys from Guardian Protection! The first is about someone new to the gang, Jude.

Jude used to be a cop. One night, his entire life was shaken up. He took a call after hours to a fire. And that call changed his path. Several years later, he's back to the city he left working a new security job. Jude still has nightmares of his past, but he meets someone that can help them...

Rhion has also been through something traumatic that has shaped the person she is. One night, her entire life

was shaken up. Rhion doesn't have a lot of people in her life, but the guys of Guardian are like family to her. When she meets Jude, everything changes. Jude and Rhion have a strong connection. It took me a while to connect all the dots of their relationship and all the other factors, but when everything clicked into place, it was beautiful.

“I've always been real, Butterfly. Even when I didn't want to be.”

Aly does the best job of writing strong, protective, alpha men. Jude was all of those things. He was also damaged and broken (my favorite) and a fantastic step-dad. It seriously melts your heart. Rhion was a fantastic character. She has a lot of heart. For all she had been through, she has so much strength. I loved seeing these two connect and I loved watching their relationship grow. Both of them had issues, but things were easier and better when they were together.

“We can be beautifully flawed together.”

If you're looking for a passion filled romance that's sexy, swoony, full of alpha goodness and will give you the feels, *Singe* is one you need to check out. I loved Jude and Rhion's story and I'm so excited to read more about the rest of this gang!

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### **Jayme says**

4,5 stars! Aly Martinez wrote another winner for me. It's a fantastic story, emotional, exciting and burning hot, obviously. Also thrilling beginning for the new standalone series.

**About the plot:** Nearly four years ago Jude as a cop got a call that changed his whole life. Since that time he can't cope with what happened that night. Now he returns to Chicago to start a new job as a bodyguard in the Guardian Protection agency. He never would have expected where it leads him.

Rhion Park, although on the outside she looks like a cool chick with tattoos and wicked humor, inside has a lot of problems. There are not many people in her life, but the guys from Guardian Protection are her family. When she meets a new guy, a lot of things changes.

**“When something feels that right, it's bound to make you question all the things you thought you knew. Don't try to explain it. Or understand it. You just have to feel it.”**

**Final thoughts:** It's a kind of second chance romance. Our heroes, although never officially met, have their own complicated history. And I totally bought it and love it. Jude is a damaged alpha hero who can sweep you off your feet. He is caring, sweet and savage in bed. Is there a better combination? I also really liked our heroine. She is a bit crazy and a lot of fun. I love her interaction with the guys from the agency. These are funny scenes.

It's fantastically written and has great suspension of actions that incredibly turn up emotions. I have to admit that I read it with bated breath. Expectation for the moment when they get to know each other, develop their relationship and suspenseful action really draws me in.

***“The two of us shared a multitude of regrets. But kissing him. Touching him. Being with him would never be one of those. At least not for me.”***

It definitely has lot of great supporting characters. The whole team is amazing and I can not wait for the next parts of this series. There are some connections with the previous series, but nothing that will disturb your reading if it is your first book.

***“Because of him, I didn’t have to live in a fairytale to know that heroes were real.”***

I definitely can recommend all of Aly Martinez books. *Singe* will be good for you if you like staemy and emotional stories with tension and a cool group of friends.

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*ARC kindly provided for an honest review. Thank you!*

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### **Lana ✨Dirty Girl Romance✨ says**

This woman blows my mind every single time with her incredible talent. *Singe* was totally different from any of her previous books and it was beyond anything I ever expected. Raw, emotional, and downright sizzling (no pun intended), and filled with twists and turns that will blow your mind; I loved every single page of it.

If this book isn't on your TBRs, it NEEDS to be. Seriously.

*Beta read*

**Find me on:**

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### **Tijuana \*BookTwinsReviews\* says**

I'm totally hooked, addicted, and obsessed with this new series. It was so good. I need more of these fellows immediately!

The breakdown: Jude is a former Policeman who shares a traumatic past with our heroine Rhion. One awful night changed both their lives significantly. Jude responded to an emergency call while off duty. What he witnessed during that call has haunted him for years. He lost his job and suffers nightmares. Picking up the pieces of his lost career, he transitions to security. After signing on to a new firm in Chicago, he comes face to face with the face that haunts his dream. Singe is the story of two lost souls finding peace and love in the midst of the most tragic circumstances. It's at times, haunting and shocking. However, the overall story is not to be missed.

**Here's what I absolutely loved:** The unconventional story and heroine. Even her name is unconventional. Rhion has some major issues stemming from the trauma of the fire that changed her life. Not all scars are physical. She also has emotional traumas to overcome. I love that she makes it her mission to be better. She doesn't want the fire and her scars to impair her. She uses them to empower herself. I really got a kick out of her. Her ramblings were the stuff of legends.

I really wanted to love Jude, but the truth he reveals about the night of the fire really was a slap in the face for me. So, I had to settle for just liking him a bit.

The plot twists and witty secondary characters are fantastic. I'm on pins and needles waiting for the remaining stories to be written.

Overall, this is a very engaging and entertaining read. It's smoking hot with an exciting plot and is flawlessly executed. This was my first Aly Martinez read. I'm kicking myself for that oversight now. I'll definitely be reading more of works very soon!

**I rate it 4.25 Stars!**

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### **Olga therebelreader says**

I loved this book, I couldn't put it down once I started it. Aly Martinez does an amazing job at keeping you reeled in with her characters. From the very first word, this book dripped with emotion – it was filled with hope, love and trust. This story was sad and suspenseful but ended on an optimistic note.

Rhion's story was devastating and I rooted for her from the start, hoping she'd find happiness. I just wanted to hug her and tell her that everything would be ok. No-one knew the depth of pain Jude went through each day or the past that still haunted him that he'd love nothing more than to forget. He was slowly falling into a deep depression.

Jude and Rhion were two tortured souls with a difficult past. But, they had undeniable attraction and

chemistry that could not be ignored. It was beautiful. Their relationship was so much more than sex, love or the strong friendship they held. It was so much more. It was a connection like no other and while you're reading and falling in love with them both, their connection is what takes hold of you.

This is a beautiful love story full of pain and hurt, love and passion. About letting go of the past and learning how to survive. It's about living, breathing and healing and I highly recommend it.

In short:

**Hero 5/5 | Heroine 5/5 | Plot (Point, Originality) 4/5 | Writing Style 4/5 | Steam 4/5 | Romance 4/5 | Angst-Suspense 4/5 | Darkness 2/5 | Humor 3/5 | Secondary Characters 4/5 | Drama-Conflict 5/5 | Mystery 2/5 | Twists 4/5 | Pacing Steady | Action 4/5**

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### **Dilek VT says**

This is one of the sweetest books I have read. I loved it!

#### **Solid 4,5 stars**

With a bit more emotional epilogue, it could have been a 5-star read, but still highly recommended...

### **It had a bit of everything - awesome mix!**

It has romance and steam.

It has humor and fun.

It has its own crazy.

It has its own life lessons.

It has a bit of mystery, suspense & action.

The plot is decent. The writing is splendid. (dual point of view, except for one surprise chapter written by the villain/hero)

The main characters are awesome. The side characters are wonderful.

I am looking forward to the following books in the series. This one is a stand-alone and the next books will be about different characters.

I really had such a good time reading this book and I highly recommend it whenever you need a smile on your face ?...

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### **Surprises**

The book has little surprises all along. Not big shocks, small ones but still they feel good and the writing becomes more captivating because of them.

I mean you think something happened this way, and then a few chapters later, it turns out that it happened in another way.

The writer likes to play with the readers' mind a bit in this book. But as I said, it is not a mind-f\*ck - nothing major, just little changes to the story that you think you know... but you don't know...

I liked it every time I said, "Ahhh... really?"

This is the story of Rhion & Jude. They are both two tormented souls and this is their unique story of love, pain, suffering, hope, surviving, forgiving and healing.

I don't want to say much about their story because I don't want to spoil the writer's little surprises, so what I recommend is that you go in blind and read it.

By all means, it is worth reading.

**WARNING:** Please do not read spoilers anywhere, OK ??

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## Characters

The heroine, Rhion, reminded me Lucy in The Hating Game. She is crazy sweet.. a very different and interesting character. Someone impossible not to love! I would die for a friend like her because I love my crazy! She is smart, kind and has her own kind of crazy, which I loved!

The hero, Jude, is not a man-whore or a billionaire. (Huh, weird, right?) And as if this is not enough, he is not an as\*hole. Wow... such an ordinary dude! Yeap... But he has sandy blond hair and green eyes as a compensation, he is gorgeous :)))

As I said, Jude is by no means a perfect hero. He has his own flaws and weaknesses. Do not expect a man who always does the right thing and saves the day and the heroine!

Jude is just human, who sometimes makes mistakes, then regrets and tortures himself. If he can, he always tries to right his wrongs, though.

I loved both the heroine and the hero – but the heroine Rhion is super-awesome, she is something else so I cannot compare my love for her with my love for the hero...

**SAFETY:** Don't worry, no cheating, no sharing, no menage, no love triangle...

Further details about safety:

(view spoiler)

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## Quotations

Let me leave you a bit confused with some random but awesome quotes and then, hopefully, you'll go and pick up this book.

And please let me know if you read it and love it. Let me know what you think about its crazy :)

*I'd been dreaming of Butterfly for over four years. She always flew directly into the flames, screaming as I stood helpless to save her.*

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*“You dreamed about me?”*

*“A lot,” I found myself admitting.*

*“Jesus... Why?”*

*I shrugged. “You’re Jude.”*

*“I’m not going anywhere. You two have nothing to talk about,” I announced.*

*“Babe,” Johnson answered at the same time Jude said, Sweetheart.”*

*“Don’t alpha pet-name me!” I exclaimed. “You two have nothing to talk about. Actually, as of right this second, Jude, I forbid you from ever talking to Johnson.”*

*“Never,” I confirmed just to make sure he understood the seriousness of this situation.*

*“You forbid me?” he said slowly.*

*“Prohibit. Ban. Outlaw. I also forbid you from listening to him. If he starts talking, you run. Got it?”*

*“Run?” he asked, incredulous.*

*“Sprint. Race. Dash.”*

*Johnson piped up. “Babe, he works for me. He can’t run every time he sees me.”*

*After I grabbed my phone from my nightstand, I settled on my bed and typed out a text to my best friend.*

**Me:** *What about a stepbrother romance?*

**Brianna:** *Are you Penelope Ward?*

**Me:** *Well, no.*

**Brianna:** *Then no.*

*I groaned and stared up at the ceiling. I'd been brainstorming my newest book for what felt like forever, but writer's block was a real bitch.*

*Me: I hate you.*

*Brianna: You love me. What about a male/male? You've never done one of those.*

*Me: Yeah, well. I'm not Ella Frank, either. So, ya know.*

\*\*\*

*The world stood still like it had the first time I saw her... In that moment, nothing else existed.*

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*He was going to kiss me. I was sure of it. He didn't. But what he did do was whisper in my ear, "It was me."*

*"What?" I breathed, swaying toward him.*

*His hand caught the back of my neck. "The third guy. That was me."*

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*He shifted closer and whispered, "Baby, why didn't you tell me last night that you don't like to leave your apartment?"*

*"Um, because it's crazy. And I really don't want you to think I'm crazy," I confessed.*

*He smirked. "You told me you're an aquatic veterinarian to the stars, you have an ocean room, and you full-ass Thanksgiving. I already know you're a little crazy, Rhion."*

*"Okay, let me amend my statement: I don't want you to think I'm a lot crazy."*

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*"Yeah, baby. I remember. Not all of it. But enough to know something happened—something huge and something I remember enjoying a fuckuvalot. And something I'd fucking kill to have happen again. But I still don't know what started that something. So I'm gonna need you to open that sexy little mouth of yours and fill me in."*

*"You'd kill to have it happen again?"*

*Fuck. I would have. If being with her was even half as good as my drunken memories, I'd wage wars with innocent men to get her back there.*

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*"That has got to be the worst 'I love you' in the history of romance."*

*"This isn't romance, Rhion. This is real life."*

*"The two things are not mutually exclusive. Take it back and I'll give you a do-over later."*

*"I'm not taking shit back. I love you."*

*"No, you don't."*

*“Yeah, I fucking do.”*

*“Well, I don’t accept. You weren’t even smiling.”*

*All at once, he knifed up off the bed. His upper body crushed me as he landed on top of me. He dipped low so his face was close with mine. “Love rarely makes a man smile. Especially if said man is me and he has to deal with a crazy woman like you . That doesn’t mean I wouldn’t burn the world down for you. Extinguish an entire species. And then place their ashes at your feet if it meant you’d smile. But I probably won’t be grinning while I do it.”*

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**Nazanin says**

#### **4.25 Butterfly Stars**

*“I might have carried the majority of the scars of that night, but it was clear he was hurting-worse than ever had. While the flames had long since been extinguished for me, they still burned hotter than ever inside his conscience, and it shattered me.”*

Oh God, Aly Martinez, you did it again! I love your writing! I loved every minutes of this story. I like her special style to express feelings such as happiness, sadness, heartache, anger, guilt...

He is a cop. one of his duty is to save her but he failed and she fell. After that he has nightmares about her burning. Four years later, he meets her. Now they both have their own demons. He wants to help her but this time he can't fail her and meanwhile, she heals him.

Both H and h had their own flaws but at the same time they were perfect and their relationship was really beautiful and romantic. I liked her bubbling and her paragraphs and I liked he's being alpha. Characters, all of them, were perfect. I liked all of them specially Johnson and I am impatiently waiting for him to tell his story!

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**Jennifer Kyle says**

#### **3.75 Stars**

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**Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says**

**\*\*\*\*\*FOUR STARS\*\*\*\*\***

{ARC Generously Provided by Author}

**I lived in his nightmares. He lived in my dreams.**

**SINGE** is the first in a series of standalone novels surrounding each of the hotter than hell alpha males who work for the Guardian Protection Agency. There are a few series out there that have a similar flavor but Aly Martinez manages to give it her own flair--I wouldn't expect anything less from Ms. Martinez! I do have to mention that I found some of the drama to be a bit tiring and if some of it were cut out of the storyline then I feel it wouldn't have dragged on for me at times. More often than not, I love the Hero and the Heroine usually tends to grate on my nerves, but in *SINGE* it is the Hero that I wanted to slap around. No amount of hotness on his part helped me to overlook his childish behavior. But we get a bevy of sexy alpha males and an endearing Heroine who loves and writes romance novels, so overall the story won me over!

Rhion and Jude are bound to each other through a tragic event that will haunt them in different ways, years after it occurred. Rhion was stuck out on the ledge of the second floor of her burning house and Jude ends up being the only police officer within the vicinity who gets called while off duty and asked to investigate the situation. He had been off for a couple hours and had a few drinks at a local bar. He probably shouldn't have gone to the scene but no other officers were in the area and the dispatch operator convinces him to go and investigate the situation. When he sees Rhion surrounded by flames in an impossible situation he is crippled by his inability to save her. He does stay at the scene and tries to get her to climb to the roof, which is normally the one thing you should never do, but soon there is no choice but for Rhion to jump and then we are left wondering what happened to the both of them.

The story fast-forwards to about five years into the future. Rhion is living in a beautiful loft apartment which is one floor above the Guardian Protection Agency. She is one of their top clients and the guys have become more like family to her than employees. The agency is about to get a new employee—Jude Levitt, the cop who tried to save her from the flames that ended up scarring the both of them physically and mentally. As soon as they come face to face there is an instant spark of attraction between them. Jude has been living in Rhion's fantasies since that fateful night, but it hasn't been the same for Jude. He's been haunted by the beautiful butterfly who ended up getting burned by the flames. His guilt over being intoxicated and not doing more to help her has been eating away at him for all this time.

He ends up being given the assignment of becoming her protector as it becomes apparent that he is like a soothing balm to Rhion and also helps her to ease out of her agoraphobic tendencies. Their romance is

definitely what you might consider “insta-love” but I didn’t mind it too much since the schmexy was out of this world **HOT!!** What bothered me was Jude’s reaction to some of Rhion’s secrets. When they are revealed his reaction seemed childish and even idiotic. I was starting to lose interest but luckily there’s a reveal towards the last twenty-five percent of the story and added dose of suspense that had me on pins and needles, wondering how it was all going to end.

**SINGE** is currently available! Aly Martinez fans will not be disappointed!

Amazon US: <http://amzn.to/2kfNgXh>

Amazon UK: <http://amzn.to/2kfryRdL>

Kobo: <http://bit.ly/2kC4kru>

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**Elizabeth says**

**"Heal me, Jude."**

**Singe** is the first in the Guardian Protection Series. Aly Martinez makes her mark once again with this intense contemporary romance. With a heady blend of action, **Singe** offers a complex plot full of multiple twists and turn and smoking hot passion at its best.

**"Our bodies rolled together, a fluid rhythm the likes of waves joining in the sea. My every push, she met with a pull. And, each time I'd slide out, she'd welcome me back in."**

Jude is a hardworking police officer who takes a call one night that will change his life forever. With the physical and emotional scars branding his body, he has never forgotten the girl who now haunts his dreams. Despite his best efforts to start his life over and attempt to forget her, fate has other plans.

**"The last few weeks with her had been an awakening, and not just from the years after the fire. But in my entire life. Consuming me positively and negatively, physically and mentally."**

Rhion never forgot the man who saved her life. With plenty of money, friends, and a successful profession, she has managed to create a safe place for herself. When Jude is thrust back into her life again, she takes the opportunity to thank him and shower him with love. While he is like her dream, she reminds him of a nightmare. When love and passion collide, Jude and his beautiful broken butterfly must find a way to

overcome the demons of their past and find happiness and joy in their future.

**"Love rarely makes a man smile. Especially if said man is me and he has to deal with a crazy woman like you. That doesn't mean I wouldn't burn the world down for you. Extinguish and entire species. And then place their ashes at your feet if it meant you'd smile."**

Told in dual POV, **Singe** is a unique read with a very intricate plot. The circumstances are extreme, and the characters are forced into intense situations which warrant extreme responses. Rhion is by far the stand-out character for me in this read. I found her exuberance for life to be addictive, and her character exudes radiance. When considering the heartbreak she has faced, she is an absolute inspiration. Jude is a good match for Rhion, and although he wasn't my favorite hero, there were certainly moments that he commanded that took my breath away. In real Martinez style, the writing is absolute perfection. With smooth dialogue, and concrete character relationships the stakes are high for these characters to find their way. The action was intense, and although I found certain elements to be slightly over the top, everything was so well developed with 100 percent commitment that I believed in the love between Jude and Rhion and desperately wanted them to find their HEA. What is most exciting about this first installment is the introduction of the entire Guardian Protection family. With so many colorful characters, I have no doubt there will be many more amazing stories of this hot bunch to come!

I highly recommend **Singe** to Contemporary Romance fans who appreciate a second chance romance, a story of overcoming, action, suspense, and plenty of steam. If Aly Martinez is writing, I am ready to read. When it comes to the characters of Guardian Protection, sign me up. I am ready for my bodyguard to report to duty!

**\*ARC graciously provided in exchange for an honest review!**

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**Natalie The Biblioholic says**

I was so thrilled to see Leo and Sarah again. I surprisingly fell in love with them in Broken Course from the Wrecked and Ruined series, a series famous for linking broken and flawed people and helping them find redemption. This was a theme that also ran throughout **SINGE** and applied to its main characters, Jude and Rhion.

Jude was once a cop in Chicago when one fateful night drastically changed his life forever. He got a call regarding a routine house alarm, but he ended up being the first responder to what turned out to be a raging inferno. His actions that night and the woman who was rescued from that fire continued to haunt him for the next four years.

Rhion was the survivor and she wore her scars like badges of honor. It was impossible not to be impressed or to admire her character. Her true grit. She felt bonded with Jude and recognized that they could heal the souls that were fractured on that horrific night. The love that grew between them was wonderful to watch.

There were elements of suspense and the chemistry between Jude and Rhion made this one heck of an entertaining read and a brilliant introduction to this new series. With a full cast of amazing supportive characters, I can't wait to see what's in store for them ;)

*Release Date:* February 6, 2017

*Genre:* Contemporary Romance

*POV:* Dual - 1st person

*Steam:* 4 out of 5

*Book Type:* Standalone (Book One of the Guardian Protection series)

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## Aestas Book Blog says

***“No one in the entire world understands what it was like for me that night except you. I’ve never been ashamed of my scars, but our first night together, you traced over them and told me they were yours. You made me feel like they were something beautiful.”***

Alpha male romance fans, you're going to want to check this book out! I've enjoyed many of Aly Martinez's books over the last few years and true to her distinctive style, SINGE had a wonderful balance between sexy hotness, humor, strong feels, heartfelt romance, thrilling suspense, and even a surprising twist! If you love PROTECTIVE, POSSESSIVE, and BROKEN HEROES who fall completely in LOVE with their women, then don't miss this book!

***She was my nightmare. Every time I closed my eyes, I watched her fall into that inferno. Over and over, I failed to save her.***

***I hadn't been able to reach her, and the guilt only burned hotter over time. Four years later, I was the unreachable one.***

***Heroes aren't always saints. Sometimes, we're nothing more than jaded sinners driven by sleepless nights and hearts full of darkness.***

***And then I met her. She was a dreamer who managed to soothe my scars and heal my wounds.***

***But, as the flames closed in around us, I feared I wasn't the right man to save her. That is until I realized she was the one woman I'd burn the world down to protect.***

Our hero in this book is a cop who was haunted by one life-changing event years ago when he tried to save a woman from a blazing building. Her falling had haunted him, his dreams, and his conscience ever since.

Years later, he's divorced yet devoted to being the best step-father he could for his ex-wife's daughter. When he takes a new job with Guardian Protection as a body guard, it brings him back to the one woman he never thought he'd see again. Suddenly she was everywhere. There. In his life. And every feeling that had been haunting for years came rushing back to the forefront of his life. Desire. Regret. Remorse. Guilt. Longing. It all came back along with her...

While I guess you could possibly consider this a type of second chance romance (more in terms of the type of feels it evokes), I'd more consider it a romance about two people who shared an intense, traumatic, but deeply bonding experience being brought together and given an unexpected chance to rewrite their history with something new.

*"I wanted her. And not just with my hands and my mouth — though I couldn't deny that was part of it. My body came alive for that woman. But, with her, I wanted more. I wanted to know what she'd been up to for the last four years. Was she happy? What was she doing in Chicago? What did she actually do for a living? Why was she so private? Did that night haunt her dreams too? And, most of all, had she thought about me even a fraction of how often I had her over the years?"*

At its heart this is a story about a delightfully crazy girl and a broken Alpha hero reunited after years of pain and given a chance to reach for the happiness, healing, and love they both deserve.

They had such an intense, passionate connection but it was tempered by the fact that, as her new bodyguard, he was determined not to mix business with pleasure and I have to admit that it was damn sexy to see him ride that line between professional protection and personal desire. Seriously. IT. WAS. HOT!!!

*"My job is to protect people. Those people expect me to put my own life in the line of danger in order to keep them safe. And I absolutely would. Those are people who pay me. People I don't give a damn about." His fingers swept down my neck and traced over my collarbone before traveling to the subtle line of exposed cleavage, sending a shiver down my spine and a spark to my core. "And, Butterfly, I don't think I have to point out that those people are not you. There are no limitations to the lengths I will go to make sure you are safe. I lost you to the flames once. It won't happen again... You're safe with me. It's a truth. A fact. And a promise."*

Aly Martinez is one of the few authors who I recommend as "what to read after Kristen Ashley". You can always count on her books to have deliciously swoony Alpha heroes, seriously steamy heat, deep emotional feels, and a suspenseful element that'll keep your heart racing. Each time I read one of her books, I'm impressed with her ability to balance all of these qualities in a way that truly delivers a romantic, sexy, and thrilling read!

I read this book in one sitting and generally really enjoyed it! My only small complaint is that, at times, the story felt a little disjoined and there were so many side characters that I sometimes felt a little overwhelmed and had to re-read bits to keep things straight. But it wasn't a big deal. I still totally loved the story!

Ooooh and I have to mention that this book has some awesome 'inside jokes' directed at the reader world --

with special shout outs to Penelope Ward, Ella Frank, JR Ward and more -- that are sure to give a well-read romance reader a few extra chuckles!

*“Chaos broke out as the four women started laughing and talking in some kind of code that I was positive no person with a dick would ever be able to decipher. Something about cliffs, triangles, and HEA. None of us dated interrupt them.”*

As the book hurtled towards the finish line, its suspenseful elements really ramped up even surprising me with a twist I didn't see coming -- one that made me quite hopeful that a 'certain' character gets their own book soon!

This can be read as a standalone, but it is also the first standalone in a series of standalones about the Alpha bodyguards of Guardian Protection. There are slight connections to this author's previous books within the side characters but you don't have to read any other book first in order to enjoy this one. Aly Martinez's standalone series are always very well structured in that you could read any of them alone if you wanted, but you'll always get a special kick out of the story if you've read all her books. So really, you're good no matter how you approach it.

**Bottom line, if you're a fan of Alpha male romances that have a great balance of heat, humor, feels, and suspense, then this is a book you don't want to miss!**

**Rating: 4 - 4.5 stars. Can standalone. Adult Romance.**

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**Arabella ~?AB?~ says**

**★★★ 3.5 Stars ★★★**

This is going to be a short review, but I just wanted to share my opinions on this book because Aly Martinez is one of my faves. I really liked this story and thought it was a great opener to a new series, but alas it wasn't as loved as other books I've read by this author.

The Guardian Protection is a bodyguard agency run by Leo James (who we know from Broken Course, but

don't worry it's a spin off so you don't need to read that first). I loved meeting all the guys, and as usual with Martinez heroes, they are all sexy and swoon worthy.

I guess the thing missing here for me was the angst that I have come to expect from Martinez, it was definitely lacking the usual pizazz, but other than that it was a decent story and I enjoyed it for the most part.

**Singe is the first in a new series of standalone contemporary romance novels. Told from dual POV's**

*ARC gratefully received*

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**Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says**

**2.5 Stars**

Before I get started, I apologize for the...sparseness of this review. Edison is doing some "maintenance" in our area and I have no power AKA no internet connection on my laptop. Thus, I had to painstakingly tap this shit out on my phone - AFTER 3 glasses of wine.

I know. Fucking #skills

Anybullshit.

This book.

I ADORE Aly Martinez and I LOVE her writing...and so it pains me to say this...

But this book just did not resonate with me.

I don't know if I just wasn't in the right mind frame right now...if it's the distraction of my overwhelming personal life at the moment...or the fact that I have PMDD and it's a week before THAT time of the month...but I just couldn't get into this and, quite frankly, a lot of things about it irritated me.

The nickname used in the book - "Butterfly" - kept making me think of a Kristen Ashley book which used the same moniker - which is no fault of the author and ENTIRELY on me - but, again, it just took me out of the story every time it was used.

Which was a lot.

Also, Rhion's job as a romance author, the constant discussion of plot lines, author references (such as Penelope Ward and JR Ward), and Rhion's rhetoric on how the thought of bad reviews made her feel awful...it just kept taking me out of the story.

And, yes, I realize that this is an unpopular opinion to have - and I know that these are petty and completely personal reasons to dislike something - I am blatantly SAYING I know they are petty and personal reasons.

But reasons constitute opinions and this is mine.

That said, PLEASE take this review with a grain of salt. Aly Martinez is ridiculously talented, this book is very well written, and it has many moments that most people will adore.

I just couldn't connect with it; however, I am as always excited for the next book by Aly. And I'm bummed I didn't love this. Super bummed.

Maybe after my bitch uterus gets off her broom I will attempt a re-read. But then again, that bitch is me. So perhaps the results will be the same lol

Oh well.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Soooooo excited for this.

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