



Intercepted

Alexa Martin

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Marlee thought she scored the man of her dreams only to be scorched by a bad breakup. But there's a new player on the horizon, and he's in a league of his own...

Marlee Harper is the perfect girlfriend. She's definitely had enough practice by dating her NFL-star boyfriend for the last ten years. But when she discovers he has been tackling other women on the sly, she vows to never date an athlete again. There's just one problem: Gavin Pope, the new hotshot quarterback and a fling from the past, has Marlee in his sights.

Gavin fights to show Marlee he's nothing like her ex. Unfortunately, not everyone is ready to let her escape her past. The team's wives, who never led the welcome wagon, are not happy with Marlee's return. They have only one thing on their minds: taking her down. But when the gossip makes Marlee public enemy number one, she worries about more than just her reputation.

Between their own fumbles and the wicked wives, it will take a Hail Mary for Marlee and Gavin's relationship to survive the season.

Intercepted Details

Date : Published September 11th 2018 by Berkley Books

ISBN : 9780451491954

Author : Alexa Martin

Format : Paperback 308 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Sports and Games, Sports, Contemporary Romance, Fiction, Adult

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From Reader Review Intercepted for online ebook

Katie B says

Don't you just hate it when you are dating a professional football player and then a guy you had a one-night stand years ago joins the team? Totally awkward.

This was a fun sports romance with a main character, Marlee, who was easy to like. Humor was used well throughout the book although I thought hashtags were used a few too many times. I preferred the first half of the book over the second as it felt like the story was being dragged on just for drama's sake. I liked Gavin but at times he felt a little too simple and one-dimensional. Overall this is a decent read if you are looking for something light and easy.

Thank you to First to Read for the opportunity to read an advance digital copy! I was under no obligation to post a review and all views expressed are my honest opinion.

Christie«SHBBlogger» says

[Yes (hide spoiler)]

Eilonwy says

At 28, Marlee Harper has been an NFL girlfriend -- not wife -- for 10 years. Her boyfriend keeps putting off marriage, babies, or any kind of future, and Marlee's been going along with it. But when she finds evidence of his cheating, again, that's it. She moves out and finally starts to get on with her own, football-free life. What she wasn't counting on, though, was Gavin Pope, the one other guy she's ever slept with, becoming the new star quarterback for her ex's team ... and the steamy connection she and Gavin still have.

Everyone who reads my reviews knows I have a lot of issues with romances. (*Gee, Eilonwy, you don't say?* Yeah, I see that collective eyeroll.) So it's possible that I enjoyed this more than it deserves, because instead of ticking off all my issue boxes, it addresses them. Achieving about as equal a relationship as you can get between a man who's making multimillions a year and a woman who's making a normal income? Check. Awareness of and determination to maintain boundaries? Check. A modern hero who doesn't seem to have wandered out of a 1980's romance and somehow missed the past 30 years of social change? Check.

Let's get my criticisms out of the way first.

A big weakness for me were the wives of the other players, who are Mean Girls supreme and seem to be living in a 90's teen movie rather than an adult world of major privilege. The author was an NFL wife for 8 years, and maybe this really is the atmosphere of the wives' clubs, which is possible if they're full of women who married young and whose husbands started making millions of dollars at ages between 18 and 22 -- maybe the maturity level really is this low. But the pettiness and nastiness wore really thin for me really fast. Some of the one-liners really are clever and funny, but they're also base and cruel. I just didn't enjoy these

exchanges, and there are far too many of them.

A smaller weakness was that I never felt as much of a connection between Marlee and Gavin as I would have liked. They're very cute together and have good chemistry and some common interests, but at no point was "Why are these two The One for each other?" established to my satisfaction. But at the same time, maybe having them simply *want* to be together and promise to keep working to stay together is enough.

Overall, though, I loved this book. I really enjoyed Marlee's voice. She's a nice, normal mix of half feeling good about herself and half feeling the pressure to pick on herself that I think most women walk around with, and neither half is over-emphasized. She's super funny, with lots of laugh out loud moments (although her thinking-in-hashtags habit got a little overused). The other women in the story aside from the Mean Football Wives were mostly interesting and well-rounded. The stresses between Marlee and Gavin were mostly realistic, and the final Big Hurdle felt decently organic to what had come before and not just thrown in for last-minute tension (although at the same time, it kind of was).

This was the most enjoyable romance I've read in ages, and I loved nearly every word of it. In fact, I read it a little slowly on purpose just so I could savor it longer! It was just so much FUN. And like Susan Elizabeth Phillips's Chicago Stars romances, you really don't have to care a whit about football to enjoy the story here.

Alexa Martin, I hope you're writing your next book fast! I am really looking forward to reading more like this.

Jessica (Angie & Jessica's Dreamy Reads) says

Alexa Martin's debut novel, *Intercepted*, is a scrumptious, addictive sports romance that follows Marlee, the former girlfriend of an NFL receiver, and her steamy second chance at love with the team's new QB, Gavin Pope... and let me just tell you, I WAS HERE FOR ALL OF OF IT. This unputdownable story is sexy and steamy and so damn good, I can't even believe this was a debut. *Intercepted* is lush with romance and rich with humor, but it's also a juicy little glimpse into the competitive hierarchy of the NFL WAGS, a drama ridden group of wives and girlfriends that proves to be both fascinating and hilariously entertaining. From the very first snap to the final whistle, *Intercepted* had me RIVETED. With its steamy romance, sharp humor and captivating characters, *Intercepted* is a game changer for romance readers everywhere and Alexa Martin is the MVP.

Alexa Martin, who even are you and where the hell have you been all my damn life? Your words are my jam and your storytelling is my kryptonite. My cheese face looks ridiculous and I know this because I got called out on it by my husband and kids about eighty seven thousand times while I was reading *Intercepted*. I couldn't stop smiling. The writing in this book is SO ON POINT. It's so smart. So quick. So fresh. I couldn't stop smiling because even when things were legit terrible for Marlee, they were setting up to be all too good for the reader. This story is packed with drama both on and off the football field and all the antics Marlee got herself up to in her wild world as an NFL girlfriend had me laughing out loud and had my chin on the floor. I just KNEW this was going to be fantastic by, like, page two and I am not even exaggerating. I can't get over how delicious it really was.

I loved this book. This is an addictive sports romance, sure. Gavin Pope is the real deal. He's a gentleman, a family guy, a stellar athlete and a loyal teammate. I lost my mind over this guy every time he opened his mouth. But Marlee's own comeback, her story of finding herself after losing herself is what had me really

cheering from the sidelines. She broke the rule book repeatedly on these pages, going rogue, doing and saying the last thing I expected. And it paid off. It made for an unputdownable, feel good, MUST READ romance and I couldn't get enough. I'm ready for more where this came from, Alexa Martin. I'm ready to feel more of the giddy joy I felt while reading this book. I'm ready for more of that yummy heartache and the fury and the sweet romance. I'm here for all of it and I can't wait for more.

Sh3llraiser says

ARC generously provided by Berkley Jove imprint. Release date: September 11, 2018

Sheyla ✂ says

Intercepted was the perfect book to read over the weekend. It was fun, light and with plenty of hilarious situations. I would have finished it earlier but I have a new ten-week-old puppy.

#NoTimeToReadAnymore or I should say: #NoTimeForAnything

Anyway, **Intercepted** has a funny heroine, Marlee Harper. Marlee is the girlfriend of Chris Alexander, a pro football player. Her only boyfriend has been Chris. She did have a one-night stand four years ago while they were on a break but she tries to avoid thinking about that night.

Marlee loves marketing but it has been hard to do what she wants to do because she has dedicated herself to Chris. She even attends the Lady Mustangs meetings which usually only football players wives can attend and she's continuously attacked by Courtney, the QB's wife. Chris is nothing but self-involved and when she finds out he's cheating, she breaks their ten-year-old relationship and moves out.

Things get heated when Gavin Pope joins the team as the new QB. He's good at his job, he's hot and it turns out he's Marlee's one night stand! At first, Marlee tries to avoid him because she's with Chris and later on because she doesn't want to date another football player. But, Gavin is unrelenting. He makes it impossible for Marlee not to try to be with him.

As I said earlier, this book is quick, funny and light. It had the perfect combination to entertain you.

I love how Marlee defended herself from the mean WAGs. I like how she did have a true friend within the meanies. I like how she went through life using hashtags. I like how her relationship developed with Gavin. Gavin was just perfect except when he did something which was completely out of character for him. I guess, we needed some drama and that was the only way to create it. Even with his misstep, I still ended up liking him.

I'm looking forward to Fumbled, the next in this series.

4/5 Fangs

A complimentary copy was provided by Berkley Romance via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram

nick says

I've been dying to read *Intercepted* ever since I heard about it from a good friend. With its biracial heroine and its enticing plot surrounding the NFL, I knew that it would be just the perfect read for me. When a copy that I begged for (thank you, Berkley!!) showed up on my doorstep (and fought UPS for!), I immediately abandoned real life and started reading. What a ride it was! There's so much I want to discuss in my review for *Intercepted*, but I don't want to ruin the experience for potential new readers, so I'm going to give you four reasons why you should consider giving the book a try!

Reason #1: Marlee, Marlee, Marlee!

What a refreshing heroine this girl was! From the first scene, I knew that she and I would get along splendidly and I was right. Marlee has been with Chris, her famous NFL-star boyfriend, since high school. She soon finds out that the ass has been cheating on her for a while. Marlee had no patience whatsoever for the douchenozzle, so she immediately proceeded to dump his butt and didn't give him a chance to make up any excuses for his nonsense. I loved that even though she had been with the guy for so long, she didn't wallow. Instead, she picked up the pieces of her life and went ahead to continue on. She had a lot of self-respect and self-worth which was really awesome to read about because it makes you want to be the same. I just adored everything about her and for me, her independence, her sass, and her wiles were what made this book a success for me.

Reason #2: The Humor

I wasn't expecting this book to make me laugh as much as it did, but man, I was snorting left and right at Marlee's comments. This was a girl with absolutely no filter and I was here for her sass! I love a good book that can have me cracking up. The only thing that didn't entirely work for me was Marlee's use of hashtags in her thoughts. I thought it was a bit ridiculous that she constantly thought in hashtags because really, who does that in real life?

Reason #3: A Look At A Different Side of Football

Intercepted is unique from other sports romances in that it focused more on the wives and girlfriends of the football players as opposed to the football players themselves. I'm not a fan of football but I always love reading about it in romance books and I feel like I learned a lot here. I low-key loved all the cattiness, the drama, and the jealousy that existed between some of these women. Some of them were drama queens who were out to get Marlee. I grew to hate them all, but I was also very entertained by their methods of "torture". Thankfully, Marlee dished out exactly what they deserved. She wasn't a doormat and wasn't afraid to call the petty women out. Again, I'm not sure if this is, in fact, the reality for many WAGs, but Alexa Martin should know as she was a WAG herself!

Reason #4: Naomi, The BFF & Gavin, The Boo

The one person who was awesome and also a part of the WAGs was Naomi. Her friendship with Marlee was

one of the best fictional female friendship I've ever come across. These two ladies were there for each other and they were so comfortable around each other. It warmed my cold heart that Marlee had an awesome and supportive friend in Naomi. I also have to mention the text messages between these two that had me smiling like a goof!

Then there was Gavin. I don't want to talk too much about him because you all have to meet him yourself, but wow! Talk about a swoony gentleman. He was exactly the kind of boyfriend Marlee deserved after Chris. He was a complete sweetheart!

I hope these four reasons were enough to convince you to give Intercepted a try. I'm so happy that this book was a hit for me! I'm excited to read more from Alexa Martin who no doubt will easily become a favorite rom-com author of mine!

Stacee says

I loved this synopsis so I was able to overlook the cartoon-y cover and dive in.

I really liked Marlee and Gavin. Her inner monologue is hilarious {excluding the excessive use of hashtags because that was annoying af} and he was so genuine. I enjoyed their banter and the seemingly normal {under the circumstances} growth of their relationship.

Plot wise, it moved decently. There are a few rough patches that revolved around her wanting to stand up for herself and him taking over. As well as a few scenes of miscommunication and push and pull. That all makes it sound angsty, but it really was a lot of fluff. The conflict doesn't last too long.

Overall, it was a quick and fun read. I really enjoyed this group of characters and loved the epilogue.

FYI: there are several scenes of gross douchbaggery from men: including verbal abuse, Marlee getting attacked and punched, and groping.

****Huge thanks to Berkley Books for providing the arc free of charge****

Jennifer says

★★★★½

Intercepted is the first installment in a new sports romance series titled: Playbook. Being married to a former NFL player, author Alexa Martin knows firsthand all about the world of football, both on and off the field. As rich and glamorous as it may appear at first glance, you wouldn't catch me anywhere near that world if Martin's fictional debut is any indication of how cutthroat it all is. Inspired by her real life experiences when her husband played professional football, Intercepted deals with it all from backstabbing, envious, and aggressive WAGS (wives and girlfriends of high-profile athletes) to the strategy involved in handling the media, fans, other players, as well as over-protective family and friends.

Our heroine, Marlee, was burned one too many times when dating in the professional football world so the last thing she expects is to be reconnected with Gavin, a former one-night stand, who ... yes, you guessed it

... was just added to the team. Intercepted offers humor, diversity, plenty of romance, and even some unexpected suspense. There are these hilarious hashtags scattered throughout the novel that add clever zingers at the most appropriate times, and this was my favorite part of the book. Marlee is a strong character who still possesses surprising vulnerability, and she was easy to like. As a reader, I did get annoyed by her over-the-top independence, but trust issues impact people in a variety of ways. Overall, an enjoyable and easy-to-read romance.

My favorite quote:

"If they'll talk with you, they'll talk about you."

Pavlina Read more sleep less blog♥♥♥ says

4,5 stars

I loved it, it was so good! It has drama, it was fun and the romance was cute! Such a nice surprise from a new author to me! I have to admit from the moment I read the synopsis I couldn't wait to read it!

Gavin is the perfect hero, protective, swoon worthy and sexy! Marlee is fantastic, I liked her, she is so funny! I could easily relate with her! I loved that she is so down to earth and not like the other girls! I love the relationship between Marlee and Gavin! They are sweet and cute, they make me smile most of the time.

"You just complimented me while yelling at me. Now I don't know if we're still fighting or if I get to kiss you yet."

I love the writing it was refreshing and easy to read! I'm excited to read more books from Alexa Martin, I still can't believe it's her first book!

Julie says

Intercepted by Alexa Martin is a 2018 Berkley publication.

Hilarious and super sexy!!

Several years ago, Marlee had a one-night stand with a guy she thought was an investment banker, while on a break from her boyfriend.

Now, not only is she back with her boyfriend, who happens to be a professional football player, they are

engaged!! Life's good... Well, except when it comes to the catty football wives. Oh, and that one-night stand? He's the new star quarterback for the team!

For Marlee, her night with Gavin was unforgettable, scorched into her memory, but will he remember her after all this time?

This book was absolutely hilarious. I can't remember the last time I had so much fun reading a romance novel. Alexa Martin writes what she knows, since she spent eight years as the wife of an NFL football player. (now retired). Her experience gives readers a little insider's peak inside the cliques, competitions, rules, and politics of professional football.

Of course, this also means getting a look at the underbelly, which is not all that glamorous and could be offensive, at times. Although, I must put my own dig in here, and say that in reality I'm sure it's a thousand times worse than anything portrayed in this book.

For a debut novel, I thought this book was well constructed, and fleshed out nicely. The relationship drama might have dragged out a bit too long, however, that's better than feeling like the story was too rushed. The characterizations were very well done, from the good to the bad, and points in between.

The dialogue is razor sharp and ladies, Gavin!! OMG!! This guy had me melting into a puddle, going all dreamy eyed, and walking around with a big goofy grin on my face. There's some high drama, a little action, a little suspense, some steamy, sexy times, and a lovely diverse cast of characters.

Honestly, I had no idea what to expect when I started this book, since I don't read a lot of sports romance, especially if it is centered around football. While I don't think this life sounds all that appealing, if sports heroes are your secret fantasy, you don't want to miss this one.

But, even if you aren't a sports fan, you'll still love the romance, friendships, and humor... and GAVIN!! Unless I am mistaken, this novel is also the first of a planned series. I obviously enjoyed this one enough to sign up for the next one.

4 stars

Corina BookTwinsReviews says

This debut novel was right up my alley. Smart, witty and a sports romance – everything I love and adore.

INTERCEPTED was a typical sports romance. A cheating jock boyfriend, another ball carrying knight in shining armor and a feisty and hilarious heroine.

I read INTERCEPTED in one sitting, even took it with me to work and finished the last 50 pages there. Throughout the book I caught myself smiling quite a few times and wish I had such a hilarious personality like Marlee as my friend – with her, it would never be boring. I loved how independent Marlee was. Maybe a little too forgiving for my taste, but it all worked out for the better in the end.

Marlee was if I'm honest the personality that outshone everyone else.

She was fun, self confident, and always good for a chuckle. Her mouth was the star in this book. It was in all honestly never boring when Marlee was around – which was pretty much all the time – lol!

The story on its own was predictable, but satisfying nonetheless. Towards the end there were a few things that I thought were unnecessary, and the story would have been even better without them. A little too much back and forth for my taste. And a few hang ups that were blown out of proportion.

But all in all, this book was an amazing debut novel. Quick witted dialogues, a wonderful supporting cast and a sweet guy that swept Marlee off her feet if she wanted it or not.

So, if you love a quick and easy read, that makes you smile and chuckle, this book is for you.

ARC generously provided in exchange for an honest review.



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Astrid - The Bookish Sweet Tooth says

You probably haven't heard of Alexa Martin yet, so let me tell you that she's a debut author and I had the pleasure to read her first novel, INTERCEPTED. She is the wife of an NFL football player so it probably comes as no surprise that her first book is sports romance, specifically, yeah, you guessed it, football. Intercepted gives us a little insight into the not so glamorous life of a wife or girlfriend of a football player.

Marlee Harper just broke up with her football player boyfriend of ten years. Their relationship has always been a little rocky - Marlee knew that Chris cheated on her in the past so when she finds incriminating photos she's had enough. Her knight in shining armor is Gavin Pope, the team's new quarterback, who she had a fling with four years ago. He saves her on numerous occasions which not only strengthens their friendship but also increases exponentially their attraction. After Chris, however, Marlee doesn't have any inclination to date another athlete. If Gavin Pope wasn't so irresistibly scrumptious...

This story is written from Marlee's point of view and we get all her inner monologues which can get really boring, repetitive and tedious. Not so in Alexa Martin's debut. This author's voice is quick-witted, hilarious, smart and crisp to a point where it becomes absolutely addictive. I loved the snark and humor in *Intercepted* so much, I couldn't put the book down.

Marlee doesn't realize that her breakup and the relationship with Chris left scars. Only through Gavin she realizes how damaged she is and I have to say I was immensely impressed that she never took the easy way, her decisions might look selfish on the outside but it was actually a way for her to grow, to give everyone, not just Gavin, the best version of herself.

It's not that I'm not whole without him—I am. It's just that with him— next to him— everything shines brighter.

The group of WAGs Marlee used to be a part of is like hyenas. It's awful how they gang up on her and single her out. The vicious things they do and say...a weaker person would crumble. Marlee didn't always take the high road but her eloquent and sassy comebacks and the fact that she didn't let the (b)itches penetrate her thick skin made me admire her so much. Nobody was allowed to disrespect her. Nobody. She said and did the unexpected and I loved that she made the conscious choice to sort herself out.

Gavin is dreamy. He wants Marlee fiercely and there is always a sense of her being IT for him. He shows his appreciation in so many ways and makes her feel special. He definitely is the full package and while he did get a little over-protective at times it didn't really bother me. What bugged me a little bit is his final screw-up. He knew Marlee was as independent as they come, making a huge decision without involving her was TSTL and I thought a little out of character, too. This is where the hero's point of view would have come in handy since I wanted to know what the hell moved him to his actions. However, the issue was resolved and wrapped up nicely so in the end it didn't really change my overall enjoyment of *INTERCEPTED*.

He's giving himself to me in a way I've never experienced. Unselfishly. Without wanting anything in return except to let him love me.

If a snarky writing style is your jam and you love sports romance give this a chance. This book doesn't feel like a debut at all, it's solid, entertaining, funny and you'll be pulled into the story from the first page. I'm sure we'll hear more of Alexa Martin.

Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

3.75 - 4 Stars

This is Alexa Martin's debut novel and what a debut it is.

I really enjoyed her writing style, her characters, and her sense of humor.

I'm not going to rehash the blurb or story line at length; however, the main character (Marlee) is a longtime NFL girlfriend in a sea of NFL wives and, because Martin herself is a former NFL wife (her husband is retired), I felt like we were getting a backstage pass to one of those players' wives TV shows - with none of the cameras, but ALL the drama.

Part of me hopes that they aren't all really *this* heinous - and I'm sure some of the snark was dramatized for the story - but another part of me realizes some of the shit Marlee dealt with probably legit goes down.

I mean, we have all seen some of those wife interviews/comments in which they say, "Well, we WE got traded," or "when WE started with [insert team name], blah, blah, blah..."

I always think to myself, I don't see WE out there with the football, lady.

But alas, I'm letting my jealousy show...if only we could ALL be wives who lunch.

Or whatever it is that rich, ~~surgically~~ genetically gifted trophy wives do with their free time.

But I digress.

Back to the story.

Shit goes down, obviously, and Marlee is forced to...reassess her life circumstances a bit.

Insert romance.

I really liked the H here, although some of his actions in the end didn't feel like they jived with who he was up until that point.

Also, there was a LOT of fabricated OTT drama here, a little bit of funny hashtag insertion overkill as well..and let's just say the steamy times need some work; but all in all, this was a very enjoyable read and I look forward to more from Martin.

This as a debut novel bodes for a promising career.

This was

Ari says

I received a copy of this book from the author/publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Marlee Harper has played the role of the girlfriend to a pro football player for ten years. But that all comes crashing down when she finds out that her wide receiver boyfriend has been scoring more touchdowns off the field than on them. Swearing off athletes, Marlee tries to pick up the pieces and move on with her life but that plan is shot to hell when Gavin Pope, the new quarterback and an old fling, comes walking back into her life. Though she's resistant, Gavin is determined to make what happened between him and Marlee more than a one night thing, he just first has to convince her to take a chance on him.

Can I just say that Berkley has been killing it with their debut romances this year! First there was *The Wedding Date* which I absolutely adored. Then there was *The Kiss Quotient* which is my favorite read for this year. Now we have *Intercepted*, a drama-filled sports romance that had me glued to my eReader and laughing up a storm. *Intercepted* is definitely one of the most entertaining sports-romances I've read in a while. I legit felt like I was watching one of those reality housewives shows while reading this book. The writing was on point and I gotta say that Alexa Martin did a damn good job at creating these secondary characters because I hated all of them (though I think that was kind of the point). Marlee has the patience of a saint because these secondary characters in this book drove me up the wall and I wanted to fight all of them. They were so condescending and incredibly rude and it made me wonder if this how WAGs are in real life. You will definitely need some patience while reading this book because these characters will test your nerves, lol.

I loved Marlee from the start! She has no filter, she gives it to you straight and she is strong as hell considering all that she was put through throughout this book. She's a fighter and I loved that she didn't allow anyone to disrespect her nor does she change who she was just to fit it with the rest of the WAGs. The romance was angsty and though I wanted Marlee to let her guard down, I totally understand why she was so hesitant to let Gavin in. Gavin was so incredibly sweet and patient and is such a charmer. I thought he was perfect for Marlee and was happy with how things worked out for the both of them in the end.

There were only two things that didn't work for me in this book. The first being the use of hashtags within the internal dialogues. It was cute at first but I didn't think they were fitting for some of the more serious moments throughout the book. The second thing that didn't work for me was the ending. It felt a bit rushed. I mean most of the issues were resolved during the last 5% of the book and I felt like there should've been a chapter or two more before we got to the epilogue.

Minor issues aside, *Intercepted* was still an entertaining and fun sports romance so grab some popcorn, a glass of wine and charge up your eReaders because I promise you're not gonna want to miss out on this debut!
