



The Athlete

Elin Peer

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How do you win a soccer game when you're not just playing against the other team, but your captain too?

When Hunter Hercules, the biggest soccer star in the Northlands, is transferred to play in the Motherlands, he's mad as hell. Not only is their style of soccer different, but they have mixed teams and his female captain, Emanuela, calls him unsophisticated and claims that she's a better player than him. What a fucking joke!

The whole thing is ridiculous and infuriating to Hunter. That's why when the soccer club sends all the players on a team-building trip, Hunter shows up determined to put the little woman in her place. It should have been easy, but Emanuela isn't a normal sweet Motlander he can push around. She's competitive to the bone, and when Hunter plays dirty she's fast to adapt and hit him back tenfold.

Someone should have warned her not to mess with an Nman.

The Athlete is book #8 in Elin Peer's highly praised series *Men of the North*. Readers call these books "unputdownable" because of the sharp dialogue, fast pace, and depths of the characters.

If you like strong women, alpha males, and a roller-coaster ride of emotions, then this romantic sci-fi is a safe pick for you.

Buy it on pre-sale today and have it delivered straight to your Kindle on release day, November 20th 2018.

The Athlete Details

Date : Published November 20th 2018

ISBN :

Author : Elin Peer

Format : Kindle Edition 297 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Romance, Dystopia, Futuristic, Science Fiction Romance

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From Reader Review The Athlete for online ebook

She Always Reads says

Elin Peer has not only used her creative juices to give the readers what they wanted but she also managed to excel in her own work.

I didn't think that it was possible for the series to keep on improving, but nothing is slower her down and The Athlete, book 8 of the men of the north series will not disappoint. Dare I say that it is by far my favorite of the series.

While I was sure that it would follow the usual path that I've come to adore enjoy of opposites attract, Hunter and Emanuela's start seems that way. The more the story developed the more you saw that this is not the case with Book 8.

I enjoyed the added touches of a reminder that this takes place in the future with the theme park and the mentions of technological breakthroughs from our former cast member Shelly of The Genius (Men of the North, Book 6)

With The Athlete have the very common sport (soccer) being a major role in the novel I was interestedly see how both sides of the border would treat the sport and was pleased with both ways repressing the nation they played for.

The chemistry between our main characters was spot on. The banter and confusion they faced kept me laughing but also gave me an overall feeling satisfied and in awe.

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Teri says

He just wanted the woman he was with to love him. He didn't want to try out multiple partners, he was afraid if he slept with a woman he might mix up lust with love and be hurt again. He didn't understand or condone the free love attitude of the Motlanders, or their sex houses. Hunter had a different way of thinking about sex than most of his friends but he was okay with that. Being in the Motlanders world playing soccer meant he had to deal with their way of things and it's hilarious watching him cringe and deal with them thinking his not showering with them has to be due to his "deformed" cock. Ema is perfect for this man and pushes all of his buttons, but he has as much fun pushing hers. This is different than the other books but also the same. It's fun seeing how these men and women will shock while educating each other. This series is awesome and so is the author. Growing with the emotionally challenged, protective, infuriatingly all male men and the (I don't even know how to describe them) women is sometimes painful but always fun. Each story is different. Each character special. Each book better than the last. This is the series to read.

Marianne W says

Finished with "The Athlete", and like the 7 other books, it also caught me.

The whole ping pong between Hunter and Ema is so amazingly written that once you start the book, you do not want to put it back again.

The way in which Elin Peer writes is in every way catchy, and that she is able to bring the previous people together makes you still hear how it goes with them.

I can hardly wait until the next book "The Fighter" is released.

I can only recommend this series.

Michele says

This is book 8 of the series. This is a fantastic series by the way. This book is absolutely fabulous. I loved the sass and bantering between Ema and Hunter. I loved that at times Hunter is left speechless and Ema isn't afraid to say the things needed to do that to him. Their chemistry is blistering hot. I really enjoyed how their relationship and love evolve throughout this story. The emotions were intense. I did not want to put it down. A must read! Get your copy and see what I am talking about. I am voluntarily leaving my review after reading a free copy of the book through bookfunnel and I bought it! I can not wait for the next book!

Angel says

I enjoyed this book. I'll admit reading about Emanuela and her attitude was interesting, but a nice change of pace from other leadin ladies who are very predictable. I read about 13 books a month on average and that doesn't include the books that I tods because the first 20 pages are boring as sin. So it was a quick enough paced book that kept my interest and I enjoy this series I'm looking forward to the last two books and to see what else the author has in store.

Also, thank you thank you for reading through your publish before submitting it to amazon. Soo many books have grammatical, spelling or confuse characters names or say he instead of she in the books on kindle that it is frustrating. Thank you for not being one of them!

Brianne says

This is hands down one of the best series I've ever read!! Each book gets better and better, the situations and characters are dynamic and sexy. Hunter has moved to the Motherlands to play Soccer. Ema is the team Captain, and they immediately are at odds with each other because of their strong personalities. When their passion for the game turns into passion for each other, they have to decide what's really important. Fantastic writing, the characters will draw you in immediately. I love this series.

Ruby Tuesday says

I'd highly recommend this installment of the Men of the North Series it's everything you've come to expect

from the series but without making you feel like the story's already been told. These stories just keep getting better! I can't wait for the next one. As always this book can be read as a stand-alone but it's recommended that you read the rest of the series to get a background on the characters.

Hunter is sent as a PR stunt to play soccer in the Motherlands. Not only is there a massive cultural difference but they even play the sport differently. Luckily (or unluckily in his opinion) the team captain Emanuela is there to show him the way whether he wants to see it or not. This book is a play on the classic enemies to friends to lovers theme, even though you know where it's going you're excited to see how it all plays out.

While there is a ton of culture clashing it was nice to see another side to the Motlanders. In previous books we are lead to believe they are all overly polite. Emanuela and her family are a little rough around the edges and it definitely helps make Hunter more comfortable. Emanuela is a great character she's seen as flawed by her friends and her employers but yet she's one hundred percent perfect for Hunter. All the things that she has to work on are things that make her relatable to Hunter.

We also got to see Willow and Solos wedding. In attendance were all of our favorite characters. We also got to have a touching moment between Hunter and Willow. This book seems to give us a little bit of set up for future books showing us how each of the kids is doing as well as introducing us to our first male council member! Fingers crossed Jonah gets his own book. I love how much detail and thought is put in to secondary characters whether they're getting their own book or they previously had a book they aren't just a blip on the radar they have personalities that shine and storylines that you want to find out what happens with. Overall 5-star read!

D. Thornton says

Once again, Elin Peer has outdone herself. This book is now tied with The Genius for my favorite from the series.

I am enamored with both Hunter and Emanuela. In The Dancer, Hunter was left as the token of peace offered by the Northlands, and him suffering the emotional betrayal by Willow, Hunter has a hard time coming to terms with the shock of Willow "choosing" Solomon over him. He feels abandoned and alone when he starts his time playing with the Dolphins and his defenses are in overdrive. He also suffers from the same uncomfortable affliction that every other Nman does: being around women. Throughout the book, Hunter tries to justify his defense against Emanuela because of her actions instead of admitting that he is picking fights with her because he is trying to run away from his own feelings. Not only does he have these reactions to Ema, he has to negotiate his way around other pitfalls like dodging women who are only interested in a physical relationship and interacting with his female teammates. By the time Hunter returns to the Northlands to visit Willow, he has done some soul searching and some rationalization that helps smooth his interactions out with Solomon and Emanuela. His growth is amazing in the book, and I think that's in large part due to him being confronted with different opinions from Motlanders, especially ones who question his methods, like Jonah.

Emanuela is one of the most relatable people in the entire series. While she is a Motlander, and a strong female lead, she also has many of the same pitfalls that the Nmen suffer from. She KNOWS what is expected of her, but, she also doubts herself when she is around Hunter. I'm reluctant to state that this is a love-at-first-sight or that it is enemies-to-lovers type deal. I think Elin did a great job of making Emanuela curious and

rough around the edges to make her the perfect fit for Hunter; she is strong and opinionated and challenges Hunter, but is soft enough to get him to let his guard down. She also seems to be the most strong personality of her siblings as well, which I think helps develop the relationship between her and Hunter.

One of the best parts about this book in the series is that you get to experience more of the Motherlands than you do in either The Mentor, The Seducer, or The Warrior. I'm glad to see that the world-building continues in this book, and all the other characters that you're introduced to in the other books are still impacting the main story lines of each book. I also love that there isn't a clear dynamic between the old-guard (Boulder/Christina, Khan/Pearl, Archer/Kya, Finn/Athena, Magni/Laura) and the new-guard (Marco/Shelly, Solo/Willow, Hunter/Emanuela, Leo/Raven, [Unnamed guy, probably (view spoiler)]/Mila).

By far this book is tied for my favorite in the series. I can't wait for the next books. I will also be sad to see the stories end.

Jelena says

It is fabulous book and story is beautiful written and has your attention whole time. Characters are perfect and energy between them is cracking and hypnotic which is the reason why you must read it. Whole series is great and every story is better than previous. Excellent work Elin and just go like that...

George Hancock says

The Athlete, by Elin Peer.

This is the 8th and most mature novel in the ongoing series Men of the North, by author Elin Peer.

In it, the two protagonists--Emanuela, captain of the nearly all-female Motherlands soccer team the Dolphins, and Hunter Hercules, star Northman soccer player--battle it out for personal supremacy.

The first half of the book deals with the ever-increasing conflict between the pair, and the efforts of various team coaches and advisors to ameliorate it for the sake of the team. I can just hear the words of former life-coach Elin Peer emerge from the mouth of team psychologist, coach Donna, as she struggles to help the pair come to some amicable arrangement. Some of her suggestions are almost unbearably outrageous, as are the Ten Questions about very intimate personal matters the pair are called upon to answer.

Along the way we are treated to some very deep philosophical discussions about gender, sex, violence, forgiveness, and how to change fixed cultural attitudes that block the way to friendship and understanding. Yet these discussions are never sermons. They emerge from the mouths of various characters who interact with the conflicted pair. Thus, the novel becomes almost a guidebook to personal relationships and how to affect them. Yet it never preaches. It whispers, coaxes, suggests, yet leaves you questioning your own beliefs.

As such, it is almost as if Peer has created a new genre of romantic literature. It is vastly different from traditional romance writing, yet at its heart are still romantic relationships.

The conflict becomes so strenuous that you begin to wonder if the pair will ever overcome their hostility

towards each other. Some of their verbal exchanges are so toxic you wonder if they can ever be forgiven. Yet slowly, gradually, the pair come to realize they have deep feelings for one another and the hostility begins to abate.

So many of Peer's characters contribute to this change. There is Jonah, Ema's brother, the first elected male councilor on the Motherland ruling council. Willow, Hunter's twin sister, from whom he has been estranged by her affair with Solo, her childhood sweetheart. As well there is a cast of characters we have met in other books in the series--Mila, Leo, Raven, Zasquash, Magni, Khan, Pearl.

As a footnote, I must comment on the fact that many of the characters in these stories own pets, and that some of these pets die. If you have ever owned a pet that has come to the end of its life you will know the deep sadness that can overwhelm you, the owner. Peer slips such moments into her writing in such a way that they emphasize the action of the story. This is so cleverly done that they give the reader that real burst of pain that accompanies the death of a loved one. Pure genius writing.

I simply don't know how Elin keeps it all together, and continues to weave one of the most amazing series I have ever read. I take my hat off to this woman who has not only created a new type of romance, but also created a series of great love stories with characters that are unforgettable.

★ Belle The Bibliophile ★ says

[I don't care

Kat Hall says

How do you know you are in love if you have never been in love? If you are raised in a pacifist society where you are to remain calm at all times, how do you determine that the feelings you have are love? And when you have a major fight with that person that has created these new feelings in you, what are you to do? Motlanders are pacifist and NMen are combative. Two very diverse cultures that are trying to integrate. Some Motlanders are not pacifist and remain under the radar in their world. Hunter and Emanuela are thrown together against their will. Both are head strong and dominant. He knows what love is and has wanted it since he was 12. Emanuela has never encountered it. Jealousy abounds when Hunter decides he should try one of the sexbots. There is so much sexual tension in this book and the ensuing calamity from it is fabulous. Emanuela doesn't want marriage or children. She only wants her career. What catastrophe does it take to get these two together? Or can they get past their cultures at all?

I love reading this series. In today's society, cultures are trying to mesh together all the time and some are able to merge their cultures, while others fail at it. Just like in the future with this series, humans are still trying to find that ideal balance.

Bailey Morris says

I have read the entire Men of the North series by Elin Peer and I have to say this is probably the best one yet. Elin's writing continues to develop and grow, and it is so much fun to read. I've loved all the characters in this series but Emanuela is possibly my favorite.

She is so strong and she seems so real. I loved that she didn't fit any mold for what Motlanders we're supposed to be. She is different and she is comfortable in her own skin. It's such a refreshing turn for me. Emma still had insecurities and she still overreacted to things, but that's what made her so likable!

Hunter is younger, but he was still a wonderful Hero. He was stubborn and head strong, but his personal growth was wonderful to experience.

I loved see how much has changed from the first book until this one, how much growth and evolution has happened to both countries. I am already dying to read Ravens book!

Masja says

A classic enemies to lovers setting. But what a ride! Just had to keep reading. Ms Peer has done it again! Love this series!

Wendy Douglas says

I am a fan of the Men of the North books and always look forward to the next one. This one was no exception, because Hunter was kind of a dick in The Dancer. He had is reasons and I understood them, and I knew Elin would pull him through. I was right!

The heroine was a little difficult to like at first--and I say this only to encourage readers to stick with her through the book. She's kind of an anomaly for women in the Motherlands, and she really doesn't have any tools for being different. Meeting Hunter helps her there.

I loved the seeing former characters again, seeing the very different lifestyle of Emanuela's family, and how meeting the Nmen and seeing the Northlands gave her a whole new perspective. Hunter was a tough nut to crack, based on the way he was raised and his past experiences, and this story worked perfectly for them both!

Absolutely recommended.
