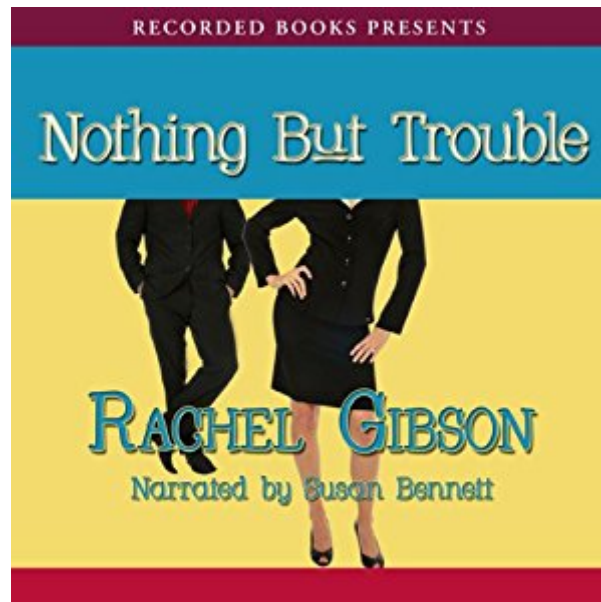




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Nothing But Trouble



Synopsis

Rachel Gibson's "eloquent prose" (Publishers Weekly) has earned the author a number of coveted awards, including the RITA, Golden Heart, and National Reader's Choice. *Nothing But Trouble* features an injured, prickly Seattle Chinooks hockey player who is none too pleased to be bedridden. Taking on the unenviable task of personal assistant to the fallen star is Chelsea Ross, a Hollywood scream queen awaiting her big break. From the jump they're a match made in H-E-double hockey sticks, but once the gloves come off, a heated attraction threatens to melt both their resolves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When he woke up in the hospital after a car accident that almost cost him his life, Mark Bressler knew his hockey career was over. Months later, the slow and incredibly painful rehabilitation process is no more crippling than the dark morass of self pity into which he's slid. Morose and beaten, he's lost everything that ever meant anything to him, and when his team wins the coveted Stanley Cup without him, it almost kills him. All he wants to do is sit in his huge house and be left alone with his Vicodin. The last thing he wants is another team-hired home health worker shoved in his face, doing everything but wiping his butt. Chelsea Ross isn't in health care. In fact, she's an actress...sort of. Her short, busty appearance has landed her a few rolls as screaming victims in B-grade horror movies, and she's had a few other walk-on rolls in soaps and commercials. After hockey player Mark Bressler had fired, scared off, or offended all six of the health care professionals the team sent to him to help him recover at his home, Chelsea's twin sister Bo got her a shot at

going in another direction. For a meager salary but a much-needed ten thousand dollar bonus if she can put up with the surly, rude bastard for three months, Chelsea is determined to use a combination of her acting skills and experience as an assistant to LA's near-elite to put up with him. Even if he is a total Tool. Broken and wounded, Mark's bitter self pity lashes out at Chelsea again and again. Chelsea grits her teeth and takes it. Neither like each other very much. Or...you know...at all. But the sparks can't help but fly when the unstoppable Chelsea clashes with the immovable Mark, and the longer the friction, the hotter the fire. Despite the fact that every sports-themed romance series I've read has at least one book centered around the player that can no longer play and the spunky, irrepressible woman who pulls him out of his funk, I didn't mind the plot of *Nothing But Trouble*. While it lacked originality, it was cute and entertaining, and had a slick, quickly-paced narrative with plenty of sharp back-and-forth dialogue that appealed. I wasn't always thrilled with Mark, whose self pity wore on me as it progressed long into the book. A portion of his personality is understandable. He lost his career, almost lost his life, and spent months in constant, chronic pain. I can sympathize with that...to a point. Because in the end, it's still a light sports romance and should be entertaining. For my tastes, Mark's attitude needed adjustment sooner than it happened here. Chelsea, on the other hand, was at turns enchanting and adorable, with a nice blend of quirky individuality and steady control. I liked her, and frankly, I liked Mark the best when he was interacting with her, though I suppose that's rather the point. There were plenty of good points through most of the book and I enjoyed most of it as the light, fun read it's intended to be. And then suddenly, things took a less pleasing turn in the final two chapters. The formula of the romance almost demands that moment of exploding conflict between the protagonists, in fact, my overall impression of romances often rests on that conflict and subsequent resolution. The problem for me here was the impetus of the conflict seemed contrived, the conflict itself didn't seem very conflict-worthy, and Mark's reactions seemed inflated. The resolution compounded the problem. From a story perspective, I felt Mark didn't redeem himself quite enough and Chelsea grabbed for that HEA too quickly despite it. More troubling for me was a perplexing timeline conflict that jarred me right out of the story (details containing spoilers provided below). I have a fondness for light, sports-themed romances, and most of this book gave me several hours of reading entertainment. A couple of changes here or there and the final two chapters could have easily matched the preceding ones. I'm disappointed they didn't. ~* WARNING ~*~ SPOILERS AHEAD ~*~ WARNING ~*~ The conflict in the timeline centers around this comment Mark makes to Chelsea when he goes to her new job to apologize and tell her he loves her: "The Chinooks sent another health care worker to my door this morning." If that's true, that means he goes to Chelsea the same day that he has done the

following: * Shut the door in the home health care worker's face * Found out about Chelsea quitting the week before * Contacted Jules to find out where Chelsea was and have him steal her cell phone * Bought a CD * Learned to program Chelsea's cell phone with a ringtone of one of the songs on that CD (which he admitted took awhile) * Put in an offer on a new home * Bought a very ostentatious ring

Busy day. Not to mention that it was already established that Chelsea's cell phone disappeared the day before Mark shows up to talk to her. Jules would have had to snitch it before Mark even returned from Vegas and found out about Chelsea quitting. The rest, while I suppose was theoretically possible, was still implausible. And for the record, when a man intimates you're a well paid whore, he really should apologize for more than just not believing he loves you. Just saying.~*~*~*~

Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

NOTHING BUT TROUBLE is the fifth book in the Chinooks Hockey Team series. It is the story of Mark Bressler, whose playing days ended when he was involved in a serious car accident. Chelsea Ross is a struggling actress who agrees to become Mark's personal assistant, despite the fact that he doesn't want one. This is a story of two people who have had their dreams smashed and learn to build new ones. I liked this book except for the resolution. Things get fixed with this couple way too quickly. That seems to be my problem with many of Gibson's books. There is no time to enjoy the couple having overcome their obstacles because it seems to happen in the second half of the last chapter every time. I liked the development of the relationship, but I am left unhappy at the ending. I'd give this one a 3.5 based on the quality of the characters and the fact that I smiled a lot during the story.

If you have read Rachel Gibson, then this one is another winner in her hockey series themed love stories. Good entertainment. If you have never read Rachel Gibson, then I recommend this author as a master of the genre. She writes beautifully and gives us highly entertaining modern romances with enough plot and characterizations to enjoy the story.

I read all the books in the Chinooks series. They're excellent. In this series she has covered all the emotions possible while reading a book. Each book is a completely different story; while tying in the Chinooks connection. Hope you all enjoy them as much as I did

I liked this book, but didn't love it. I read many of RG books, and this is not one of my favorites. I liked Chelsea and still think the character could've been better explored, but Mark is a little hard to

like. Ok, he almost died and lost he loved career, but he's 38, old for hockey player standards, so its not like he didnt had a great career, won a lot a money,etc... He was entitled to a little self pity, but he just goes on and on about how he's nothing if he cant play and treats chealsea badly, kiss her, and then decides is better to ignore her. THEN suddenly, he decides he wants her after all... The conflict in this book is obvious and predictable and, quite frankly, silly (so she didnt tell him about the bonus... BIG DEAL! After all the crap she had from him, I couldnt simpatize with him even a little bit and that was before he called her a hooker just to be mean...). I usualloy can forgive a hero almost anything when there's good groveling after, but the ending was poorly made and abrupt, and there was no climax at all in this book. Anyway, its a ok read, but there are a few plot problems that spoils it.

First off I really liked this book. I thought the characters of Mark Bressler & Chelsea Ross really clicked & their mutual attraction for each other was entirely plausible. Don't you always despise the one you secretly crave, at first? The side story about Jules & Bo was also thrilling & I kind of wish they had their own novel to explore that development. That being said, I can't give this book a perfect score because Ms. Gibson resorted to a hackneyed method to humanize her male protagonist: the introduction of the precocious little boy. Oh how I DESPISED the character of Derek. If I had been there I probably would've knocked him over on his blades, that's how much he annoyed me. And his description was so cliched...the little red-headed, freckled & bespectacled boy with no father-figure in his life who is awkward & clumsy. All that was missing was a lisp & braces. I honestly didn't think he was integral to the story in anyway. All he was was a nuisance with an attitude problem. Despite him the story itself was refreshing & incredibly funny. I did find myself almost crying at one point (it was unfortunate that I was reading the book while on my commute & made several people uncomfortable with my obvious attempts not to cry in public). I highly recommend it.

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