

LEXXIE COUPER

She needs his  
protection...



## Muscle for Hire

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# Muscle for Hire

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## Muscle for Hire Lexxie Couper

Aslin Rhodes spent years as an SAS commando and then personal bodyguard. But his new career as a military consultant on a blockbuster film has put him slap bang in the middle of Hollyweird, where an American martial arts expert no taller than his chin promptly puts him on his arse.

Rowan Hemsworth is determined to protect herself and those she loves, especially her little brother as he navigates his newfound fame, but nothing prepared her for the British mountain of muscle who makes her knees go uncharacteristically weak.

When a string of “accidents” convinces Aslin that Rowan—and not her brother—is the target, things get tricky. Stubborn Rowan doesn’t believe she needs his protection, and keeping her close becomes his top priority. And there’s nowhere closer than right in his arms.

Each book in the Heart of Fame series is a standalone story that can be enjoyed out of order.

Series Order:

Book #1 Love’s Rhythm

Book #2 Muscle for Hire

Book #3 Guarded Desires

Book #4 Steady Beat

Book #5 Lead Me On

Book #6 Blame it on the Bass

Book #7 Getting Played

Book #8 Blackthorne

## Muscle for Hire Details

Date : Published May 10th 2017 by Entangled: Select Contemporary (first published January 29th 2013)

ISBN : 9781633759763

Author : Lexxie Couper

Format : 150 pages

Genre : Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Romantic Suspense, War, Military Fiction, Erotic Romance

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## **From Reader Review Muscle for Hire for online ebook**

### **Michelle the Romance Witch says**

4.25 stars. wow crazy as hell but i loved Aslin's story and that epilogue about made me squeal like a schoolgirl. can't wait for the next story.

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### **Slick says**

I'll admit I'm a big fan of Lexxie Couper. I love her writing style, I love the images her words make in my mind, I love her hunky, sexy, heroes, and I love that she's not afraid to write strong kick ass women. In *Muscle for Hire* she gives it all to us and in addition we get to hear conversations between Nick Blackthorn (be still my heart) and his bodyguard Aslin Rhodes. Just imagining Nick with his sexy accent talking to Aslin with his sexy accent is enough to put all kinds of kinky thoughts into this gal's head.....sorry, back to the review.

Aslin Rhodes is on "loan" to Chris Huntley an up and coming movie star. He's there as a military consultant to the film and to show Chris how to look like he's really fighting in this big budget film. Aslin is feeling a little out of sorts, after years as an SAS commando, he's spent the last almost 16 being a body guard to rock superstar Nick Blackthorn who has pretty much retired and doesn't need him around as much. He soon finds working on a movie set is quite a bit different than working for a rock star. Never does he imagine getting his ass kicked by a woman the first day on the job, but it happens and he's immediately intrigued.

Rowan Hemsworth (Chris' sister) is bound and determined to keep her brother grounded and away from bad influences. After they both witnessed their parent's brutal murder, she decided to never be a victim again. So she's trained with the best and she's a martial arts expert with multiple titles under her belt. She's made caring for Chris her life and pretty much ignored her own until she brings Aslin down and realizes she's affected by him like no other man ever.

Man I love this story! First off Rowan is such a strong and positive female character. I like that she doesn't expect a man to take care of her that she knows she can take care of herself. I truly believe she has Chris' best interests at heart even though he grumbles about them from time to time. It's interesting to watch her reactions to Aslin and how difficult it is for her to admit what she's feeling and what she wants from this man. Aslin....wow...I'm really surprised the guy doesn't have any super powers. I mean that's the effect he has on everyone around him. He just exudes confidence and calmness no matter what the hell is going on around him. Well he did, until Rowan was hurt in an explosion. I think that's when it became really evident that under that tough guy exterior, there lays a man who wants more out of life and he knows who he wants it with.

The sexual chemistry between these two makes me think of hot lava running out of a volcano. I mean, it just doesn't stop. Hot, hot, hot! The scene on the back of his bike, wow! Their other intimate scenes are even better. However, it becomes quite evident early on that this is way more than sex between them. They share a lot fairly easily with each other. When Aslin suspects that the crazy "accidents" happening around them are targeting Rowan and not Chris, he immediately hires a body guard for Chris and starts guarding Rowan all on his own. As you can imagine she has issues with needing someone to help her but let's just say that Aslin has a unique way of convincing her to accept his help.

Once again Lexxie Couper has written an engaging story filled with colorful and entertaining characters, an interesting plot line, witty and intelligent dialog, and enough raw and steamy sex to keep you highly entertained and of course wanting more. I love how Lexxie always manages to intertwine characters from her other books into her current one. It unifies her writing and makes it all that more special to those who have read her before without making someone feel like they must read all her previous works to enjoy this one. I didn't think Lexxie would be able to top Love's Rhythm and Nick Blackthorn and while Nick still edges out Aslin just a smidge, I think this is one of her best solo pieces of work. Well done!!

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## **Linda says**

Personal bodyguard Aslin takes on an extra assignment as a favor to his boss, switching the music scene for film. He never expected his new assignment would have a sister ready to knock him on his ass. Rowan is used to take care of herself, multiple black belts and skin on her nose, but this english hunk of a man is making her ready to lean on someone else.. When accidents start to happen they'll have to care for each other, and try to solve the puzzle of who's targeting who. Action, suspense and smutty fluff in a great combo, and a good narrator as well.

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

KcLu's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

5 Stars

We first got to meet Aslin Rhodes in Love's Rhythm as Nick Blackthorne's bodyguard, and I didn't think I could love him more than I did Nick. But LAWD!! In my opinion this bodyguard trumps his longtime boss!! His all-around sexiness pulls you in from the beginning and doesn't let go of you till the end!!

For sixteen years Aslin has been the bodyguard to the world's biggest rock star, but now that rock star has retired. He didn't believe Nick when he said the world would lose interest in him after a little while in retirement, but now they have and the biggest treat to Nick isn't big enough to keep Aslin from getting bored! So Nick loans Aslin to one of America's big TV stars as he films an action movie in Australia. What is supposed to be an easy assignment knocks Aslin for a loop and literally on his ass when he meets Chris's big sister.

Rowan Hemsworth has two goals in this life. One to keep her famous brother focused and from becoming another Hollywood statistic, and two to never be a helpless victim again. She proves her strength to Aslin seconds after meeting him, by putting him literally on his ass. But his very being threatens to put her on hers emotionally. A string of accidents on the set threaten to put her not her brother out of the picture for good. Can Aslin keep them both safe, and convince her that she belongs with him and in his heart??

I have to warn you gals that this bodyguard is going to steal a chunk of your heart! You just may end up with a new book boyfriend! If you are a fan of Lexxie's work like I am, then you know that she doesn't disappoint in the smoking hot department! Aslin and Rowan set your e-reader on fire! Read this one with a fan peeps!! I hope you enjoy it as much as I have!!

Review copy provided for an honest review.

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### **Michelle(Chelle) aka Nightshade - Cake Whisperer says**

Easily 4 1/2 star read.

Aslin Rhodes, ex-SOS commando and bodyguard to retired rock star Nick Blackthorne, has been loaned out to a movie production as some extra muscle and to consult on the fight scenes in the movie. Now that Nick has retired and is living quietly with his wife Lauren and their son Josh there just really isn't any imminent danger for him to be on the lookout for. Funny that in his first few hours on the job he is knocked on his ass by the star of the film's sister. Rowan Hemsworth is a professional martial artist and the older sister of Chris Huntsley the star of the picture that Aslin is working on. She feels it is her job to keep all the riff raff away from her brother and at first she thinks that includes Aslin.

The sexual chemistry between the two leaps off the page from the moment she takes him down and oh boy was it fun watching these two spar. Pantie melting sex scenes and a mystery, as it slowly appears that someone is actually trying to hurt and maybe even kill Rowan, make for a very exciting read.

I loved the sibling relationship between Rowan and Chris. She is super protective of him since the murder of their parents when the kids were in their teens. Both have different ways of coping with the horrific home invasion when their parents were beaten to death with a baseball bat right before their eyes. Rowan became a championship martial artist so she would never be made to feel weak again and Chris uses humor to hide his pain.

I hope Chris gets his own book and I am interested in Liev Reynolds as well.

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### **Tabatha says**

I'm absolutely loving this series and I was so excited to read Aslin's story after reading Love's Rhythm. Lexxie did a fantastic job by pairing him up with Rowan (who I have to say is such a refreshingly strong female character) and the two of them are just beyond cute together! The dynamics between the two of them really made them such a fantastic couple, and I enjoyed the well written dialog as well as the engaging plot. I was kind of surprised with Aslin being a bodyguard one would expect him to be a total Alpha male, but I loved that he actually enjoyed Rowan being such a strong woman and how he supported her. These two sizzled up the pages and were so much fun to read, so definitely don't miss out on this series guys!

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### **Mandie Foxylutely says**

This is the first book I have read of this author and I note it is linked to a previous book so not sure if my reading out of sequence has impacted on my enjoyment of it.

The story centres on Aslin Rhodes – an ex special forces soldier from the UK who for the last 16 years has been the personal bodyguard in the US for a rock star who has now retired. Hence Aslin finds himself at a moot point in his career when his boss offers his services to an actor out in Australia.

Rowan Hemsworth is the sister of the actor and is a kick ass martial arts specialist. She has always felt protective of her younger sibling ever since they both witnessed their parent's murder in a burglary gone wrong in their home.

From reading the blurb I thought this book would be right up my street but I found myself struggling with the relationship development. At the start Rowan was against getting involved with Aslin but kept having fantasies about what she would do with him. We also had the same fantasies from Aslin but nothing seemed to be going anywhere until one night he drags her into an alley (yes very classy) which then starts the “ I want you, I don't want you” dance which I find so annoying. But then whoo hoo they actually get to do the deed in his trailer and then follows with a night of passion in his hotel room. It is in this night that the relationship moves on but did the reader get to see this? NO. A whole chapter could have been written about this. So you can see the frustration of not understanding what happened to change the relationship and what had happened in that hotel room. This left me feeling left out of the loop as though the author was keeping secrets.

Other things annoyed me, especially him talking to himself and calling himself “boyo” – was he Welsh? Not that that would matter anyway it was just repetitive. As for the action going on his zipper – get on with it already man! I also wasn't hooked on his name but guess that's just something I could have got over.

I can't say it wasn't entertaining it was just OK but the suspense elements were rather predictable. Anyway an OK read for me but I can see other readers have loved this book so it's just one of those not for me at this time. It wouldn't put me off reading this author again; in fact I have the book that precedes this one on my kindle. I might enjoy that better due to it being about a rock star and that is my current kink right now in any genre!

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## **Emily says**

Aslin Rhodes has seen, done, and lived it all as an ex-SAS commando and bodyguard to a notorious rock star. Hired for his skills in the military to assist in making a film, Aslin finds himself going head to toe with the most unlikely person he ever met a martial arts expert who has no problem getting in his face.

Rowan Hemsworth vowed to herself never to be a victim again after witnessing her parents murder and raising her brother, who is now a famous actor. Everything about Aslin makes Rowan prickly, warm, and torn between wanting to jump his bones and keep at a distance. When Rowan finds herself in the center of mishaps on the set, Aslin draws close and becomes too much of a temptation to resist.

Full review on Sensual Reads

<http://sensualreads.com/?p=11311>

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## Lana ❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️ says

[She kicks his butt (hide spoiler)]

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### Ann says

Didn't read the 1st bk in this series (Love's Rhythm) but I'm sure I will since there's quite a bit Nick and Aslin mentioned in this bk. Liked Muscle for Hire, steamy hot with a little romantic suspense however there were a couple of WTH/unbelievable moments. One of course was the almost sex on Aslin's Ducati at night in an open hospital parking lot...Hot, YES, but REALLY?!? Another where Rowan has a major concussion and 2 broken ribs checks herself out of the hospital weak and barely able to walk. She then goes back to Aslin's hotel room and wants to jump his bones. Yea, uh huh, right. You ever had a concussion? Broken ribs? Aslin might be damn hot and hunkalicious but there's no way you'd feel like that. LOL! I guess this is why it's called "fiction". At least Aslin tried putting Rowan's well being first and they more or less "worked it out". ;-).

Was it just me or did the name Aslin bring to mind a great big lion with Liam Neesen's voice? :-.  
Anywho.....other than the couple of uh, uh, no way moments....overall a sexy read.

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### Sheryl says

**\*SIGH\* Aslin... you were EVERYTHING i remembered from Love's Rhythm and SO MUCH MORE!!!! Oh Lordy.... please will you just growl MY WAY...**

**Suffice to say i LOVED, LOVED, LOVED this book; sweet, sexy and humorous, and did i already say that Aslin was a freakin' WET DREAM????!!! Lexxie you are a GENIUS!!!**

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### Michele Realitybitesblog says

For more reviews check out <http://realitybites-letsgetlost.blogs...>

My Thoughts:

Aslin is a man with few words. After protecting a famous rock star for years, Aslin can handle Hollywood...right?? Or more importantly, can he handle the hot sister of the film star?? Aslin has seen well, everything following around Nick Blackstone and his wild ways. What he hasn't seen before is Rowan, who he is instantly entranced with.

I freaking loved their initial meeting! Her spunk and swiftness had me in awe! I loved how strong Rowan's character was. She was not this little weakling that needed protecting....oh no... She was strong, independent, a freaking fighter! Even though she had her weaknesses, she was so determined and headstrong.

Aslin is so dominate and a take what he wants type of man. I do love those....swoon! Him wanting to protect this strong woman ended up in the headstrong battle of chemistry! YUMMY!!! Aslin is totally the strong,



silent type! When he does talk, or stares at you with intensity...you top and listen. All his layers were fun to learn.

I loved the mystery throughout the book. It was a who done it???? It made me keep turning the pages at a fast rate! I wanted to know who would hurt Rowan. And oh 'boyo' do you find out!

Overall, really enjoyable mystery/romance book.

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### **Daniela says**

(Explícito) Bien. Se me hizo algo precipitada la relación de ellos dos. No me gustó que ella fuera supuestamente tannn desconfiada de él y que cuando las cosas subían de nivel ella fuera toda una experta, osea, de donde vino eso. Muy raro. Pero la trama en la que se basa el misterio está muy bien, ese final no lo veía venir. Si lo recomiendo.

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### **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

This was an enjoyable read but not as much as book #1.

I liked Aislin & Rowan (what's with the Rowie thing!!!!!!). They had a nice chemistry together.

I must admit that I was more interested in Rowan's brother, Chris and I can't wait to read his book.

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### **FV Angela says**

Review originally posted at <http://fictionvixen.com/review-muscle...>

After fifteen years as a bodyguard to a rock star Aslin Rhodes has pretty much seen it all and is happy with his life, but with his boss's retirement he is suddenly at loose ends. When his boss, Nick, asks him to help out on the set of a movie as a sort of fight scene expert to movie star Chris Huntley, he agrees. But this bodyguard/ex-soldier can't keep his instincts put away, especially when he spies what he thinks is someone breaking into Chris's trailer. That someone turns out to be Chris's sister Rowan Hemsworth, who happens to be a martial arts expert and shows Aslin that she doesn't take crap from anyone by drop kicking him on his ass. Despite their beginning, Rowan and Aslin share an immediate, intense attraction. They literally can't keep their hands off each other, and they don't really try to. The first day they meet they end it up against the wall in a back alley of a bar. Yes, folks, this couple doesn't seem to mind public sex. In fact this gets them in trouble later on....

Chris and Rowan are extremely dedicated to each other. These siblings endured quite an emotional trauma in their childhood, watching a home invasion turn into the beating deaths of both of their parents. This causes them to react in different ways, Chris is the too fun loving actor and Rowan has become an extreme martial arts expert so that she will never be the victim again. When it seemed that Chris was becoming the clichéd troubled movie star, with too many hangers-on and too much partying, his sister steps in to give him some

guidance and help keep him in control of his life. Other than competing in competitions, she's made her brother the top priority in her life.

This is one of those romantic suspense novels that you as a reader really need to suspend belief to read with enjoyment. There is off the charts, crazy, multiple, multiple orgasm sex (so multiple that at one point I think I snorted while reading), explosions, psycho fans, paparazzi, almost sex on top of a Ducati and instalove. To be honest I dealt pretty well with all the above except the instalove. I mean really, NO ONE falls in love in three days. Not a believable, long-lasting love anyway. Sex and lust yes, love no. The sex scenes were plentiful and smoking hot. Rowan is obviously not afraid to show her sexy side and her British lover isn't afraid to give her what she needs. Although, I will say, the sex scene on the day Rowan is caught in an explosion and has several cracked ribs might have been unnecessary.

I liked how Rowan dealt with her issues. She hasn't let life make her a victim, yet she isn't an over the top, ridiculous heroine. I have problems dealing with tough girl heroines who feel that being a uber bitch makes them more bad ass, Rowan might have talked tough, but she was also pretty likable. She and Aslin seem to be well matched and their chemistry was believable. Once they let each other in they really don't fight it much, no big misunderstandings, no too stupid to live moments, just lots of attraction, hot sex and falling in love. There is a mystery to be solved, and it played well in this over the top romance. There were so many crazy people I couldn't guess who the bad guy was.

I enjoyed reading my first Lexxie Couper romance. It turned out to be a fast, sexy read that was a lot of fun. I'm hoping that Chris gets his story next, I would love to meet the woman that makes him fall in love.

Favorite Quote:

His nostrils flared. "One of these days I'm really going to regret being bested by you."

"You are?"

Aslin shook his head. "No."

Rowan laughed, and then the sound faded away as Aslin's hand circled her ankle.

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