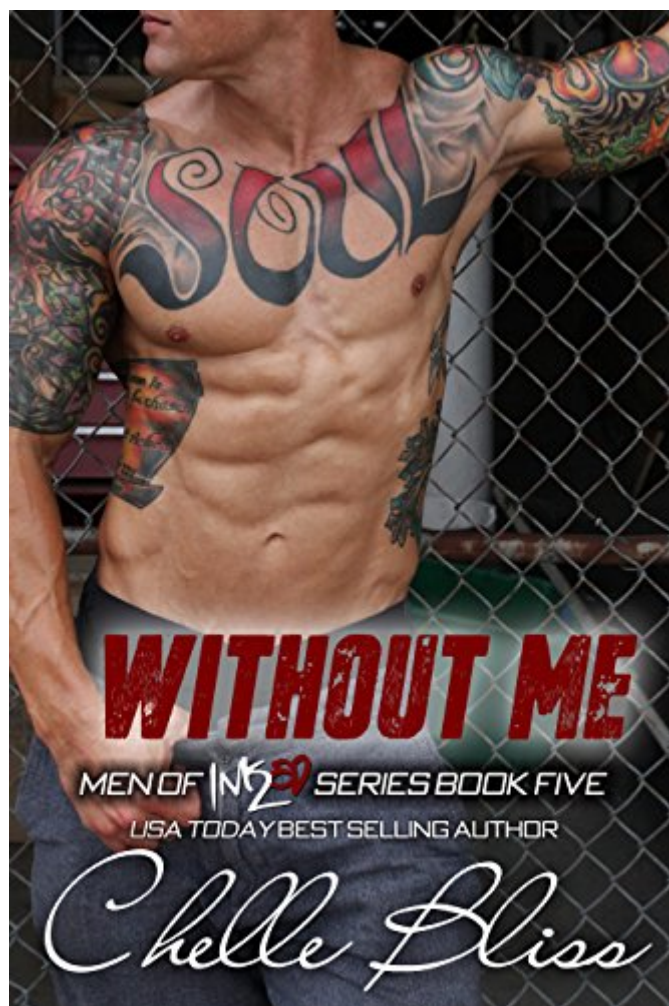


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Without Me (Men Of Inked Book 5)



Synopsis

I've led a selfish existence. I liked who I was. Hell, I loved myself. Women threw themselves at me and I took what they offered without remorse. I promised them nothing. I sank my teeth into life, holding on to the bitch like my very existence depended on it. Time passed. Women came and went. The second I let my guard down and released the hold I had on life— What was my reward for such carelessness? A love so spectacular and heart wrenching that it threw me for a loop. When I was in too deep to escape, my greatest fears became reality. This is my story. My downfall. My salvation. From USA Today Bestselling author Chelle Bliss, *Without Me* is the fifth book in her alpha male erotic romance series, *Men of Inked*. Genre: Romantic Erotica & Romantic Suspense/Interconnected Stand-Alone Novel~More *Men of Inked* in 2016~Chelle Bliss's *Men of Inked* series has hit the USA Today Bestsellers list five times. She has over 30,000 reviews and ratings.

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Customer Reviews

"Without Me" is Chelle Bliss' final book in the *Men of Inked* Series. In the seventh installment, we

meet Anthony Gallo, the oldest sibling of the Gallo family. What we already know of him, is that he's the single, sarcastic, s*** talking sidekick of Izzy in the shop and at Sunday dinners. He wants absolutely nothing to do with relationships, and prides himself on the music he makes and the insurmountable amount of women that fall in his lap. Then he meets Maxine (Max), and his world is tuned upside down. Max seems to be the female equivalent of Anthony, in the fact that she refuses any kind of relationship, and this fuels Anthony, as he is determined to be with the woman that he loves.

STORYLINE - 5 BOOKS I loved this story. I loved it so much, I read it twice. First of all, it had me at Rudy Huxtable...LOL! I knew one of the Gallo boys would be down with the swirl...LOL! All jokes aside, it is really an amazing story. I laughed. I cried. I swooned. (well, nearly) "Without Me" is hilarious, erotic, and heart warming.

CHARACTERS - 5 HEARTS Anthony Gallo, the man, the myth, and the MOUTH! OH THAT MOUTH. (You'll have to wait to wait until the section for me to elaborate on that! As cocky as Anthony is, he wears his heart on sleeve. Who doesn't LOVE, a character, or real person who does that. Anthony has just the right amount of arrogance and heart. Oh, I just love him. Maxine, is a tough cookie, sharp as tack, and quick witted. As much as Anthony dealt it out, she would not only match his hand, but would knock down his house of cards. I love that she is not weak or vulnerable. She's strong, but maybe a little too strong for own good. When it's revealed why and how she's come to be this way, she gets a pass....LOL! I love how her character is portrayed, because it reminds me of myself a little. We can all be strong, but scared of the unknown. What is there not LOVE about the Gallos? They have they hilarious, relatable, and each character/sibling's personality is portrayed exactly the same as they are in their respective books. We get to meet Ruth, Max's mother, who is very hands on with Anthony, and Uncle Earl who is clearly an "butt man". I enjoyed these characters, because they remind me so much of my family. Their antics and their banter were so relatable and enjoyable.

SCENES OF INTIMACY - 5 DRIPPIN' WET PANTIES OMG! Anthony, so cocksure, literally and figuratively... LOL! And a mouth of the Gods... OH THAT MOUTH. He used it well. Between the slick talking banter, the melodic serenade, and the toe curling multiple O's served by that MOUTH, Anthony's mouth is a character in itself...LOL! The scenes were hot. Some of my favorites ever. My favorite in the book, would have to be the scene in "The Confrontation". After that chapter, he damn near, had me saying, "It's yours." **LOVED THIS BOOK!!!!!! IT WAS SOOOO NICE, I READ IT TWICE!!!!!!**

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review! I had mixed feelings about reading this book. On the one hand, I was dying to read it. On the other, I was desperate not to. I knew that by reading this book, it would be the end of the beloved Men of Inked

Series, and that was something I would never be ready for. So I took a deep breath, and went in. There were a lot of really great things about this book. For me, this book was all about Anthony. I loved his transformation from cocky *sshole to caring, loyal and loving man. I wasn't sure what to expect from his story, because we all knew how much of an *sshole he could be to women. He definitely started out the story as a player still, and then he magically transformed into a man any woman would desire. Not that this was much of a surprise, because the author can write an enigmatic, alpha male that you will crave to no end. I really enjoyed Anthony in this book, although at times I felt he got more than he deserved, but he really proved himself to be a man with a heart of gold. He was so in love with Max that he stuck by her side through some pretty trying situations. I really loved that about him. It took him a long time to fall, but once he did, he fell extremely hard. Reading the teasers the author had posted sucked me in like nobody's business. I was so intrigued by the woman who was going to bring the Almighty Anthony Gallo to his knees. Max was definitely a woman with an attitude to rival Anthony's. She was very aloof and withdrawn, and gave him back everything he had ever done in spades. Karma was certainly a b*tch to Anthony in this book. Max was a woman shrouded in mystery, and that was one thing that kept Anthony coming back for more. As a man who was accustomed to getting every woman he had ever wanted, Max's behavior intrigued him and turned him on. This book had some crazy long, crazy hot sexathons. It was intense and uber-steamy. The sexual chemistry between these two was explosive. There were some very funny moments involving sex and family members, although I can't say more. Let me just say that the author is in great form with her humorous lines and family get togethers. There were some rather hilarious family introductions to say the least. This next part is really hard for me to write. I have rated every book in this series at 5 Stars because they were just that amazing. Each book took me on an incredible journey, and I enjoyed every part of them, from the writing to the characters and the love story. Unfortunately, I just didn't get that same feeling with this book. It was definitely a good read, but it didn't have that GREAT factor that I have loved from every other Gallo story. I felt that the love story was too rushed, and that the reasons for Max pushing Anthony away (her supposed reasons, and not the real reasons) were unsettling. I get why this may be an issue for some people, but I really didn't like this being thrown in here. I also didn't like that the differences between the two were mentioned several times. I get mentioning it the first time, as that is part of the story, and may be a big deal to some; however, I didn't feel the need to keep bringing it up. I also didn't care for Max for about 80% of the book. I never connected to her. I loved Anthony, and many times I wanted to scream that he should just let her go, and even when her background story was finally revealed, I wasn't fully committed to her. I just didn't really LIKE her. She grew on me more

towards the end, when we saw a little bit more of her vulnerability and love for Anthony, but what I got from this story was more of a sexual chemistry from her and real love from Anthony. That being said, I really enjoyed reading about something unique and I love that the author put herself out there with something so personal to her. That part of the story was well written, and incredibly believable. I imagine that many of us would react in the same way Max did, while others would feel like Anthony did. I have been a huge fan of this series, and I admire the author's ability to make the reader laugh, melt, get pissed off, and squirm all in one book. The Gallo family will always remain one of my favorites, and they have a permanent home in my all-time favorite series. I was sad to see the story end, but I liked that the author included all of the Gallo family members in this last book so we could see where their lives had gone. The epilogue was fantastic, and brought the series to a wonderful end. We also got a sneak peek at the next series by the author, ALFA Investigations book 1: Sinful Intent. This series will be a spin-off involving another Gallo family member, so fingers crossed we haven't truly seen the end of the Gallos we all know and love. Lastly, I loved the personal note that the author included at the end, and it just cemented in my head why I find her to be one of my favorite authors. She is incredibly talented and so genuine. Even though this wasn't one of my favorite books by the author, I absolutely recommend it. It is classic Men of Inked style, and one you won't want to miss.

I am actually pretty emotional about writing this review only because it's the last book in the series. I want them to continue!!!! Out of all the siblings throughout the series, Anthony has been the most quiet and laid back when it comes to love. Now yes he has hounded his brother and sister about being in love but he is actually pretty to himself most of the time. I knew there was something going on with Anthony in the last 2 books actually and I couldn't wait to find out. Anthony is cocky and arrogant and expects women to bow down to him but when he meets Max she flips his world upside down. I love MAX. She is just as strong if not stronger than Izzy in this series. She has a smart mouth and doesn't back down to Anthony at all. There were times I got pissed at her because of the back and forth stuff. One minute she wanted to be happy the next she did not. But I knew Max was hiding something I just had no idea what it was. I felt so bad for Max when I found out her secret. You will just have read in order to find out. This was one of my favorites out of the whole series. The change in Anthony was amazing and I loved every minute. I literally read all 7 books in 4 days! I was literally hooked right from the beginning and my mind is still thinking of these stories now even days later. I look forward from more from Chelle in the future!!!

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