

## The Fletcher's Pride Synopsis

*The Fletcher's Pride* is the second book of the Cole Dillman trilogy which deals with the difficulties of a seventeen-year-old junior in high school struggling to find the right path in life. Coming from a dysfunctional family, he has ambitions to break the cycle of poverty and despair that have been the hallmark of his family for generations.

In the previous book, *The Angle of the Stone*, we witnessed Cole gaining the unexpected attention of everyone by a single act of gallantry. Lori Palmer and Karlin Brinn, two classmates who were most impressed by his deed, found themselves putting all their preconceived notions about fate to the test. Until then, they'd only known Cole as a scruffy malcontent, but their close friend, Lucy Fulmer, was all too sure that his actions were designed to impress them and ruin her life at the same time. With that in mind, she plotted to ensure he'd never interfere in her life again.

*The Fletcher's Pride* begins with Cole coming to the reality that everything he'd relied on previously, his superb physical abilities at work, were temporarily off-limits after an accident. But those that noticed both his abilities, work ethic, and moral compass were ready to give him an opportunity to turn his life around, and he takes it. Also in his corner are Lori who sees him as a big brother she never had, and Karlin whose extreme infatuation is beginning to wane as Cole becomes engrossed in his new job, and his new boss, Hal, is ready to take advantage of their situation.

As the story progresses, Cole begins to see how education and thought can be just as useful as a strong back if given the same amount of dedication. He finds a newfound appreciation for learning and purpose and gets the one thing he's always thrived on: The respect from others. However, his new achievements are like salt in an open wound to Lucy, who continues to see him as the cause of all her woes. She is just as determined to see him in defeat as he is in his quest for victory.

The road is not as smooth, though, as he struggles to try to keep the attention of Karlin. He's torn between his love of learning and progressing and trying to figure out what makes her happy. Karlin is no help to him because she a dilemma of her own: She's going to be moving far

away from him. Though she has deep feelings for Cole, they're feelings that she's not able to deal with yet and she sees the move as being an escape from all of the unpleasant realities surrounding her. So, she decides she'll wait until the last minute to tell anyone so that there's no time for anyone else to try to come to terms with it.

Though Cole seems to have become a model student, employee, and citizen, he is still seventeen. He's seduced by Lori's mother, the angelic May Palmer, during a time of struggle with Karlin, and this sets the table for potential disaster in the future. But if Lucy Fulmer has her way, Cole's future will be cut short and his reputation will be in tatters.

*The Fletcher's Pride* is currently at 101,254 words with changes still occurring subsequent to edits in the first book.

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