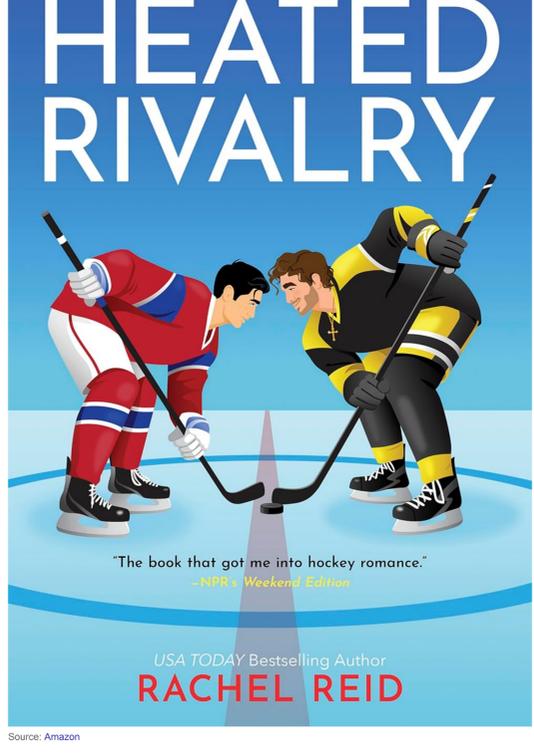


instinct

'Heated Rivalry' Doesn't Just Subvert the Sports Drama — It Queers It

June 8, 2025 by Eugene Sun

Listen — the gays have waited long enough. We've suffered through years of "intense male friendships," slow-mo locker room glances, and NHL bromances so homoerotic they practically come with a playlist of Lorde B-sides. But finally, *finally*, the gay hockey romance is here — and it's not subtext anymore.



Source: Amazon

Heated Rivalry, based on Rachel Reid's beloved novel (read: hot, heartfelt, and extremely re-readable), is skating its way onto Crave with *actual* queer characters, *actual* romantic stakes, and enough chemistry to fog up every rink in Canada.

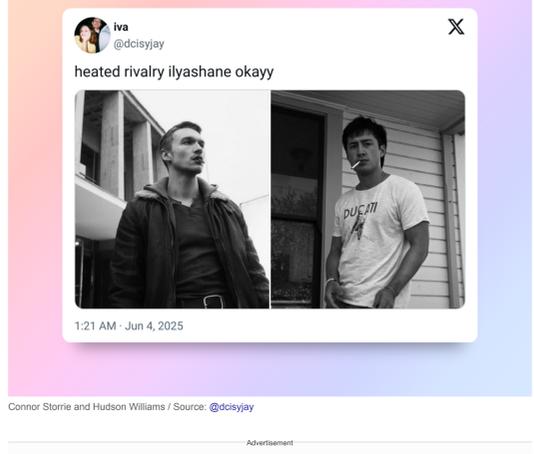
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Jacob Tierney / Source: Rotten Tomatoes

Directed by queer-fave Canadian Jacob Tierney (*Letterkenny*, *Good Neighbors*), the series stars Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie as Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov — rival pro hockey players who are basically enemies with benefits. Think: enemies-to-lovers, but with slapshots, shared hotel rooms, and years of unresolved sexual tension buried under layers of team colors and denial.

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Connor Storrie and Hudson Williams / Source: @dcisjyay

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What starts as a secret teenage hookup becomes an epic, 8-year saga of love, lust, and low-key emotional devastation. It's *Call Me by Your Name* on ice. It's *Brokeback Mountain* but with power plays and ESPN contracts. It's what would happen if every queer fanfiction trope you adore got scouted by the NHL.

Source: @buckleydiaz

Tierney gets it. "*Heated Rivalry* had me hooked from the very first chapter," he said. "At its core, it's a beautiful love story with characters who feel real and so deeply human."

Yes, baby. Give us feelings *and* body checks.

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Source: Hollywood Reporter



#adaptation, #filmadaptation, #GayFilm, #JacobTierney

J.D. June 9, 2025 at 2:23 am

Crave ?? So can anyone outside of Canada find this show anywhere ?

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