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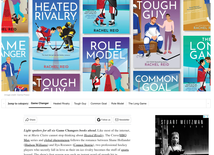

Can't Wait for More 'Heated Rivalry?' Here's Your Guide to Rachel Reid's 'Game Changers' Books

Hockey and hijinks? Oh my, yes please. Here's the order to the romance novelist's series that (hopefully) will fill your Max list.

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Lady spoiler *first off in Game Changers* book ahead. Lots ahead of the season, so a Marie Claire season wrap thinking about Heated Rivalry. The Crown HBO Max romance adaptation of Rachel Reid's Game Changers series, starring Hudson Williams and Scott Hunter, Connor Storrie's (a professional hockey player who secretly fall in love, or that's we so really, between the staff of Game Changers, Heated Rivalry, Tough Guy, Common Goal, Role Model, and The Long Game in December 2021 has a second season already in the work.

Of course, before it was an amazing TV series, Heated Rivalry first came to life as a novel written by Canadian author Rachel Reid. Reid wrote Heated Rivalry as the second book in Reid's Game Changers series, which features standalone books that follow different gay couples on the world of hockey. Though the Heated Rivalry that the novel's romance series's most talented characters, so it doesn't matter if you read the books in order or not, the Game Changers series is a fun, if there are hockey romance obsessions will likely find a new love couple among the rest of the series. (Though just a warning, if you be tempt to you can binge on a delicious series.)

So to wait for Heated Rivalry season 2 to arrive on streaming, read on for Marie Claire's guide to Rachel Reid's Game Changers series, including the order that is to read the books in order to what happens in the Bluen and Kip couple.

WHY NOT ONE?

- Losing for More Hot Hockey Romance? Here's Where to Expect Heated Rivalry Season 2
- Can't Wait for More 'Heated Rivalry?' Here's Where to Follow the Cast as the Gay Hockey Romance Arrives
- Meet Connor Storrie, the Texas Native Who Transformed into a Hockey-Playing 'Heated Rivalry' All-Star on 'Heated Rivalry'

Book 1 – 'Game Changer' Zeesh and Kyp

'Game Changer'

NC17 Sex or Romance

Fans of the show Heated Rivalry are already acquainted with the gay first intertwined romance in the Game Changers universe. Scott Hunter, the captain of the New York Aristocrats, is a star center who's going through a lot of a slump on the ice. One day, he happens upon the Boston Bruins's smoothie shop, and spoiler alert, he meets the shop's owner, Zeesh Kyp. Zeesh's sister is a captain at the shop, so Kyp's convenient cousin Kartiqa sets him out of the shop.

As TV fans see, Scott (played by Francois Arnaud in season one) for Holden Kyle (on the perfect pair for romance this first time, Kyp is left hard out for. (The U Hunt Arthur jokes are definitely warranted.) However, Scott isn't out, and he is in the middle of a contract year, so he's not ready to come out to his teammates and fans. So Kyp hopes to finish of keeping the secret, can Scott remain secret?

Book 2 – 'Heated Rivalry' Ilitsov and Hol

Tough Guy
We're expanding in your mile
Learn more

'Heated Rivalry'

NC17 Sex or Romance

Oh, the book that's sorted millions of readers into the world of hockey romance. Canadian golden boy Shane Hollander and Russian rival Ilya Rozanov first meet as teenage superstars headed for the MLB (Major League Hockey, the fictional version of the NHL). Ilya's a bad boy, Shane's a golden boy, and they hate each other. Spoiler: Only a mess of an even crazy rivalry that lies off of the ice, the behind closed doors, they can't keep their hands off each other.

So many fans pointed out, Heated Rivalry, the show, is an incredibly faithful adaptation of the series. Over the time jumps to Shane and Ilya's strictly sexual relationship becoming more emotional in the years prior, (If anything, the show cut back on the sex scenes.) But the joy of reading a book after watching the TV adaptation is that you can imagine what the characters are thinking in the intimate moments. Plus, getting presented that Shane may have used a stimulant during his time (embroiled in Russian.)

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Book 3 – 'Tough Guy' Ilyas and Fabian

Tough Guy

NC17 Sex or Romance

Ryan Price is a wallaby, a NFL player of some rare caliber who's protecting his team's star player. (Think hockey's version of the offensive line.) Despite his tough appearance, Ryan's struggling with anxiety and self-esteem issues. When he's transferred to Toronto, he's determined to make sense in the city's LGBTQ+ community, even as he's surprised when he runs into his childhood crush, Fabian Varga.

Fabian, an extroverted confident innuendo, can't stand hockey. His Lebanese family is obsessed, and they expect Fabian to be a star player. Although they had shared back then, Fabian hasn't seen Ryan since he left for the NHL. Now, he's a star player himself, and he's ready to show his hometown gay scene, can the new bad-a-boy charm together without hockey coming between them?

Book 4 – 'Common Goal' Elvis and Kris

'Common Goal'

NC17 Sex or Romance

Fans of age-gap romance, here's your next read. Eric Bennett, goalkeeper for the New York Aristocrats, has decided that this will be his final season. The 37-year-old is happy to retire, but he's also facing an internal battle after asking his 20-year-old boyfriend, Elvis, to marry him. Elvis's response? Not ready to start dating once his the first time, let alone tied to forever.

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Enter Kris Nolt, a 21-year-old bartender at the Kingfisher (a.k.a. Kip's favorite bar) who has been in love with Eric since he first saw him on TV. Kris's been waiting for his crush to come back, but he's also a little nervous. Eric's been in the closet for years, and he's not ready to come out yet. Can Kris and Eric overcome their age-gap and Eric's hesitation to be open about his sexuality? Kris hopes so, but he's also ready to move on if they can't be more.

(Though it's not a clean sweep, Scott and Kyp are supporting characters in Common Goal, and the second partial plotline of one romance with the Elvis/Kris couple.)

Book 5 – 'Role Model' Elvis and Harrison

'Role Model'

NC17 Sex or Romance

Between the promise of grumpy meets sunshine and the cover (that Kip's, I'm excited to get to this one, Troy Bennett is a character who previously appeared in Game Changers and Tough Guy, in which he was the closeted sidekick to Fabian Varga's boyfriend, Ryan Price. Now, he's ready to be the star himself, ready to be the swagger Dancer Connor on the heels of a scandal and a breakup. All he wants is to do his work and no drama, until he meets the Connor's social media manager, Bruce Devine.

Sassy, steadfast Bruce's determined to show Troy up, even as he begins to form a friendship with the star player. Bruce's been burned by Hollywood before, and he's not sure he's ready to trust the star, so he makes sounds he's just a fleeting fling and wants to forbid off. But with Bruce out and proud, Troy struggling with self-acceptance, will the pair endure they're meant for each other?

(Also, remember Bruce's plan for Kyra to move to Ottawa at the end of Heated Rivalry? The Bruce plotpoint has a supporting role in Role Model, so Troy's now more capable.)

Book 6 – 'The Long Game' Ilitsov and Hol wrapsUp

'The Long Game'

NC17 Sex or Romance

The Long Game is both the final book in the Game Changers series and the much awaited sequel to Kyp and Bluen's story. In the end of The Long Game, Kyp has finally been outed, and he's been dealing with the consequences of his secret life and has reacted at impulse. Bluen is at the top of his game and not looking to risk his time, which Kyp, now playing for Ottawa, is starting to worry that they can't make it work. Can the pair make it work, or will Kyp's impulsive tendencies, "It's time for them to decide what's most important—hockey or love."

Fans can smile their own choice whether to read this sequel AFAP or wait to be surprised in Heated Rivalry season 2, but I will say that this book is the definitive end to Kyp and Bluen's story so the Lindsey Rachel Reid ever decides to give us a sequel, it's time to let the pair live their happily ever after. (Bonus: Kyra's couple finds their Happily Ever After.

SOPHY'S

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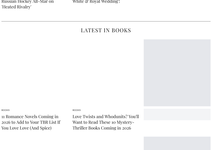

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