

Hopeless Romantic

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After co-creating Letterkenny and Shoresy, Jacob Tierney became Canada's go-to director of bro comedies. Now he's releasing Heated Rivalry, an erotic gay hockey love story. Life's funny that way

- BY COURTNEY SHEA



As the brain behind shows about dudes drinking beer and telling fart jokes, you're associated with frat-boy humour. A gay hockey romance feels like a departure, no?

Yes. I stepped back from the Letterkenny universe to do something different. I loved working on those shows, but I feel like I've put in my dude time. I told my agents, "If you send me any work related to sports, I'm going to kill you!" Then I presented them with Rachel Reid's gay hockey series, Game Changers. A sincere gay romance is very different from bro comedy.

You don't strike me as the typical romance reader.

I discovered Rachel's books during the pandemic. A friend suggested that I get into smutty gay romances. When I found *Game Changers*, I was hooked right away. And not ironically; it wasn't a guilty pleasure. I appreciated the storytelling: extremely sexy, funny and sweet.

And you thought, This is my next project?



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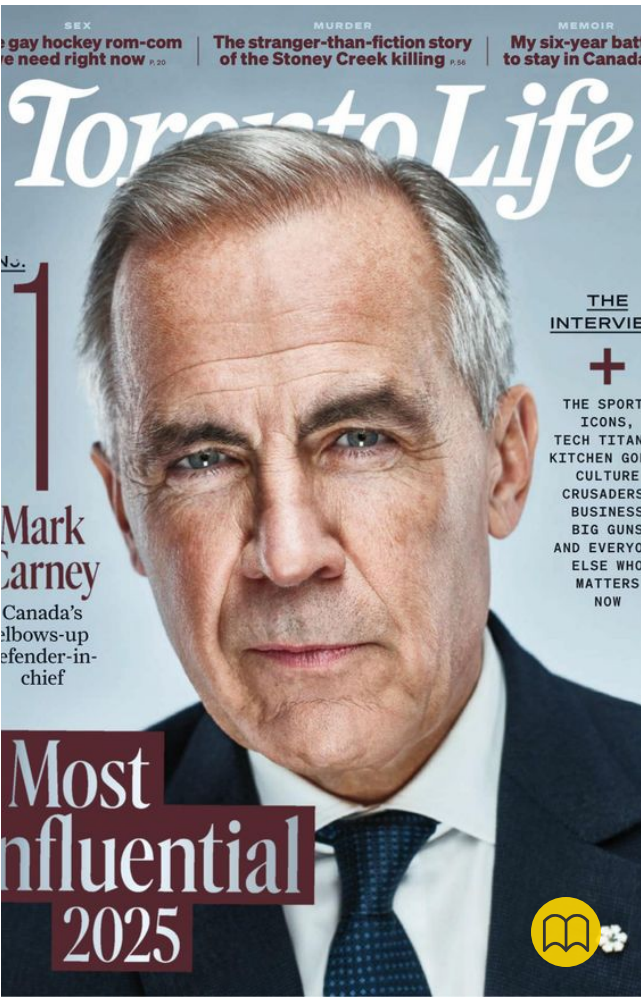
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