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Heated Rivalry Author Rachel Reid Has Good News for Readers & Viewers

Author Rachel Reid had some great news to share with fans of the Heated Rivalry series and Reid's "Game Changers" book series.

Published Thu, 06 Aug 2026 17:46:10 -0500 by [Ray Flook](#) | [Comments](#)

Article Summary

- Heated Rivalry fans got a big Rachel Reid update as Unrivaled, the next Game Changers novel, is now finished.
- Unrivaled is the third Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov book, with release plans shifted from 2026 to June 2027.
- Heated Rivalry Season 2 is preparing to film, with Jacob Tierney asking fans to give cast and crew space on set.

- Bell Media says Heated Rivalry Season 2 scripts are coming together, while Tierney teases a deeper Shane-Ilya arc.
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As *Crave*, HBO Max, and series creator **Jacob Tierney's Connor Storrie** and **Hudson Williams**-starring *Heated Rivalry* gets ready to roll the cameras on the second season of the hit series, author **Rachel Reid** had some good news to share with both viewers and readers of Reid's "Game Changers" book series. On Thursday, Reid posted [a major update on Instagram](#) about *Unrivaled*, the seventh book in the series and the third to spotlight Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov. "I hope you guys like Ilya and Shane..." Reid wrote as the caption to a post that included an image of what we're safely assuming is the new novel finished – with a pen on top to drive the point home. Kicking off work on *Unrivaled* in 2025, the novel's original September 2026 release date was pushed to June 2027 after Reid was hit with health issues.

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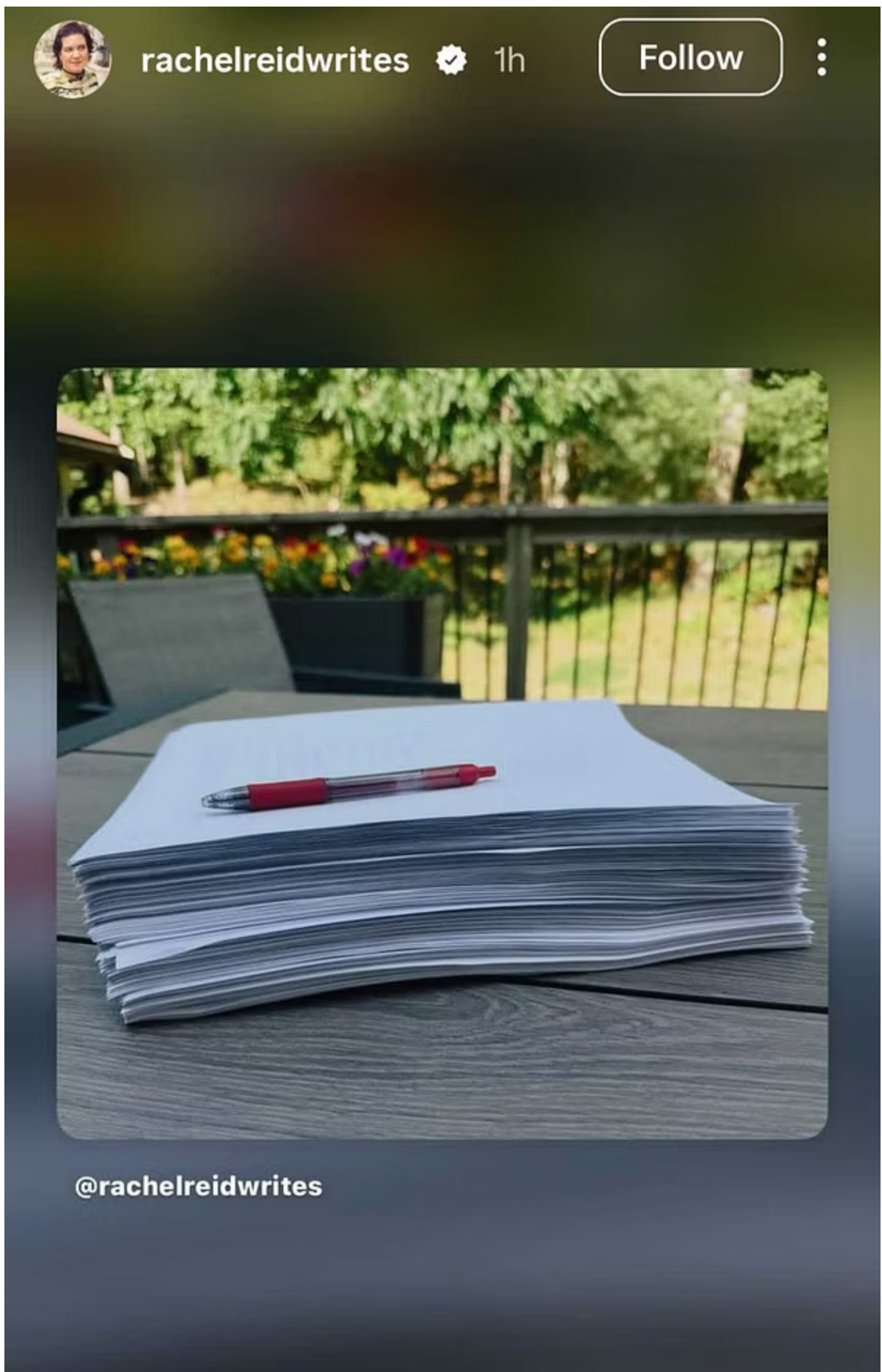


Image: Instagram Stories Screenshot

"To our incredible fans and everyone who's been sharing in the excitement for the show: Your support, enthusiasm, and kindness have meant the world to us. As we gear up for more 'Heated Rivalry,' please help us in making it the best it can be," [Tierney wrote in an Instagram post on Tuesday](#). "If you happen to come across one of our filming locations, please give our cast and crew the space they need to do what they do best. We promise it'll be worth the wait!" it continued, signed by "Your 'Heated Rivalry' Family."

In June, Bell Media VP of Global Content **Justin Stockman** and Bell Media General Manager of Original Programming **Carlyn Klebuc** offered an update on Season 2 during the company's Upfronts presentation. [According to Stockman](#), "The scripts are coming together really well, and I don't think anyone will be disappointed." Klebuc added, "We would have liked it faster, but Jacob is writing and directing, and he needs the time to make another beautiful season, which we're confident he will do."





Image: Instagram Stories Screenshot

Heated Rivalry Creator on Love, Sex & Season 2

Previously, Tierney shared some insights about the second season of *Heated Rivalry*, which is drawing inspiration from author **Rachel Reid's** *The Long Game*. Released in 2022, the story spotlights Shane Hollander and Ilya Rosanov (played by Storrie and **Hudson Williams** in the series, respectively) ten years later, their relationship still a secret to the league and those close to them. Shane fears what going public would do to them personally and professionally, but (according to Reid's website), "Ilya is sick of secrets. Shane has gotten so good at hiding his feelings, sometimes Ilya questions if they even exist." Speaking with [Variety](#), Tierney was asked how the series will handle the sex scenes between Shane and Ilya in the second season, given where the couple is by the end of the finale, and whether viewers can expect more nonsexual, intimate moments.

"You know, Rachel [Reid] talks a lot about the promise that I made to her to take her characters seriously. She takes them very seriously in 'The Long Game,' and that doesn't mean there's no sex. There's quite a bit of sex in 'The Long Game.' But I think it functions differently in the second book, and that's just what I want to do. The journey of this show, no matter how long it goes on for, will always be centered around the relationship between Shane and Ilya. Sex will always be a big part of it, like it is with any romantic relationship," Tierney explained. "But it's really about continuing that progress of what happens after that first blush of love, what happens after you decide you're in love, and how do you sustain it? That's a very adult question: 'We love each other, and now what? Does that mean everything's easy?' No, it does not. There's loads of challenges that get thrown Shane and Ilya's way. Beyond what's in the books, I really don't have an agenda besides that I love this couple, and I love these characters, and I want to just hang out with them more and watch them grow more and watch them become better for each other."



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About Ray Flook

Serving as Television Editor since 2018, Ray began five years earlier as a contributing writer/photographer before being brought onto the core BC team in 2017.



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Ryan Murphy (American Horror Story: 13) revealed that he's working on a "vampire story" next and dropped some interesting clues about it.

American Horror Story 14 Planning Underway; Murphy on Grande, Lange

Confirming that American Horror Story 14 was being mapped out, Ryan Murphy discussed Ariana Grande's

departure and Jessica Lange's joining.

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Check out our updated preview for tonight's episode of HBO Max's Stuart Fails to Save the Universe, S01E03: "Spoiler: Bert is Magic."

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Bethesda Reveals New Fallout Pip-Boy 3000 Overseer's Edition

Bethesda Softworks has released a brand-new version of their IRL Pip-Boy during QuakeCon, with the Pip-Boy 3000 Overseer's Edition

Trolli Spicy Crawlers Reveals Lil Kicks Shoes By Jeff Cole

Trolli has released Lil Kicks sneakers designed in collaboration with artist and sneaker designer Jeff Cole

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CORSAIR has acquired the assets of racing-sim gear manufacturer Trak Racer, expanding its presence in sim racing and flight simulation.

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AEW Continental Challenge Cup Puts Too Much Wrestling in Wrestling

AEW's Continental Challenge Cup is 16 wrestlers wrestling with no interference, and The Chadster is cheesed off because too much wrestling ruins sports entertainment!

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