

# **All Played Out**

Cora Carmack

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#### All Played Out Cora Carmack

In the third book in New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Cora Carmack's Rusk University series, a good girl is about to find out what happens when she creates the ultimate college bucket list and she sets her sights on a jock.

First person in her family to go to college? CHECK.

Straight A's? CHECK.

On track to graduate early? CHECK.

Social life? .....yeah, about that....

With just a few weeks until she graduates, Antonella DeLuca's beginning to worry that maybe she hasn't had the full college experience. (Okay... Scratch that. She knows she hasn't had the full college experience).

So Nell does what a smart, dedicated girl like herself does best. She makes a "to do" list of normal college activities.

Item #1? Hook up with a jock.

Rusk University wide receiver Mateo Torres practically wrote the playbook for normal college living. When he's not on the field, he excels at partying, girls, and more partying. As long as he keeps things light and easy, it's impossible to get hurt... again. But something about the quiet, shy, sexy-as-hell Nell gets under his skin, and when he learns about her list, he makes it his mission to help her complete it.

Torres is the definition of confident (And sexy. And wild), and he opens up a side of Nell that she's never known. But as they begin to check off each crazy, exciting, normal item, Nell finds that her frivolous list leads to something more serious than she bargained for. And while Torres is used to taking risks on the field, he has to decide if he's willing to take the chance when it's more than just a game.

Together they will have to decide if what they have is just part of the experiment or a chance at something real.

#### All Played Out Details

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Contemporary Romance, Sports Romance

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# From Reader Review All Played Out for online ebook

### Michelle says

#### 5 I Want All Your Firsts Stars!

Nell is weeks away from graduating college. She's been so focused on her school work and graduating early that she's missed out on a lot of things. She starts to worry that maybe she hasn't had the full college experience. Well...she knows for sure that she hasn't had the full college experience. lol Nell decides to make a list of things to do. Things that would take her way out of her comfort zone.

She first has the help of her roommate. She then finds herself in the hands of Mateo.

Rusk University wide receiver Mateo Torres knows how to have a good time. When he's not practicing or playing football he is partying and has plenty of girls around. Mateo feels that as long as he keeps up this front he's perfected he won't get hurt again.

Something about the sexy girl genius Nell gets under his skin. When he accidentally comes across her list he makes it his mission to help her complete it. He wants all of her firsts.

So the adventure begins. Both of them have big plans for their future. Not sure if they are prepared for what happens during all of Nell's firsts.

At first I hated being in Mateos head! How he compared everything about Nell to his ex that hurt him. But damn Mateo was yummy so I just ignored it. lol Then later I understood why Mateo was the way he was. I loved watching these two slowly develop feelings for each other. Nell had zero experience and Mateo had plenty to show her. Nell and her list were awesome. I was super excited for her!

Loved Mateos list too! Loved the epilogue! Can't wait for more of this series. Ugh!! 2016 is so far away! lol If you like a quick laugh out loud read with some light steam then this is the book series for you!

#### Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says

[What I disliked the most was Mateo constantly referring to his first love Lina and always comparing her to the heroine Nell. It discredited the romance IMO. (hide spoiler)]

#### Valerie says

I've loved all three books in this series. Loved them hard. But I think Mateo is my favorite. I think this book is my favorite of the series. I think this book is in my top five for the year.

I love these characters. I'd met Torres before and he was charming and adorable but now I know Mateo and he'll never be Torres to me again. He wants all of Nell's firsts and with each one they share, he becomes more and more attached. He's patient with her and yet he challenges her. He needs her, he just doesn't realize it right away.

Nell needs Mateo too. He balances her and brings out feeling in her she thought would never happen, thought couldn't happen. Together they are yum. And most importantly, Nell can see the future better in Mateo's arms. I loved her logical mind and self doubt. She feels real to me.

The story didn't go quite the way I expected which made me very happy. I loved how I was surprised a few times as things played out between them. They didn't take the normal path, but why should they? They aren't the normal couple.

You want this book. You want this series. You want this author. Just read it.

#### **Anniebananie says**

#### 3.5 Sterne

Der dritte Band der Rusk University Reihe konnte mich leider nicht so sehr begeistern wie die ersten beiden. Wurde mit beiden Protagonisten irgendwie nicht so richtig warm und die Story war auch m. E. flacher als die anderen beiden. Trotz allem dank Cora Carmacks super Schreibstil ein Pageturner. Und ich freue mich wenn endlich der vierte Teil dieser Reihe auch auf deutsch erscheint:)

#### nicklein says

TORRES IS MY MAIN! I'm so excited to read his story and hopefully uni gives me a breather this coming weekend so I can read this as soon as possible.

YES. YES. YESSSSSSSSSS.

\*HAPPY FLAILS\*

#### Jaime Arkin says

Nell DeLuca has spent her college days focused on classes and grades and making her family proud by being the first in her family to go to college. She's graduating early and getting a head start on what comes next... but with her undergrad years coming to an end just around the corner, she can't help but worry that maybe she's missed out on getting the full college experience. In her last weeks of school she's determined to make a bucket list of all the "normal" thing college kids do... and do them.

Football, girls and parties. Those are the things Mateo Torres has excelled at in his college years. He's determined to keep things light and fun because there's one thing he's sure of ... he's not going to be hurt again. When he meets Nell, he's instantly intrigued by this quiet, shy and completely fascinating girl. Then and there he decides it would be the right thing to help her check off all the things on her list.

I'm not entirely sure how Cora does it, but I seem to fall harder for each boy she gives us in this series... I was pretty sure I was a diehard #teamSilas girl but as soon as I started to get to know Mateo Torres I was done for. He's so confident and charismatic and crazy and sexy and funny and sweet and just everything I love in my swoony guys. But he's also secretly a little bit vulnerable and unsure and that endeared him even more to me. But lets go back to how he makes me laugh...

"I prefer to view that particular gift of mine in a positive light. More like... I cross lines no one else is willing to cross. I go where no man has gone before. All boldly and shit."

Nell is probably my favorite female character Carmack has written. She's slightly awkward and totally nerdy and so easily relatable that it's practically impossible not to love her. But that's not all... she's smart and she's fierce and she is determined to cross things off her list and that means going outside her comfort zone to do it and she does whole-heartedly.

The chemistry between these two was intense and passionate and so, so sexy.

"I use the hand at her neck to draw her a little closer, dipping my own head down at the same time. "So the question is," I begin, "how much are you willing to give me, Nell?"

Her gaze flicks back and forth between my eyes, as if she might see something different in the left than the right. I draw a thumb over her bottom lip, pulling at it enough that I can feel the warm exhale of her breath on my skin. "This?" I ask her. "Can I have this?"

I lean down to take her mouth. The look in her eyes is response enough for me, but before I get there, she closes her lips over my thumb. The tentative slide of her tongue nearly brings me to my knees. Then she sucks at my finger, and just like that, she's stolen the control right from under me.

I absolutely love that these two are complete and utter opposites...

Because Mateo Torres is loud, and I'm quiet. Because he's reckless, and I'm cautious. Because he belongs everywhere, and I don't.

BUT they make it work soooooo well! They balance each other out and you guys... the end. Well, the end was perfection.

One of my favorite things about this series is that it's not all over-the-top drama and angst. I love that I can pick up Cora's books and know that I'll be engrossed in the story, that I'll find myself smiling and laughing along at times, nodding and commiserating at others... and that I'll totally fall in love with the characters that I'm reading about. To say I'm excited for Stella's story would be a gross understatement... Let's see if Cora can out do Mateo... my bet is on yes, but I'll just have to wait and see!

#### Fanny says

"Entiendo que la amabas. Pero cualquier tipo de amor en el que tengas que probar que eres merecedor es del tipo incorrecto. Y estas mejor sin ella."

All Played Out es el tercer libro de la serie Rusk University de Cora Carmack y tiene como protagonistas a Nell, amiga de la protagonista del segundo libro y Mateo, amigo de los protagonistas anteriores.

Todos los libros de Cora Carmack son un must read para mi, sobre todo desde que lei el primer libro de esta saga y me enamore de los personajes.

Amo la forma que tiene la autora de escribir, ademas es increible creando personajes, los hace tan reales y autenticos que siempre es un plus al leer sus historias.

Tenia unas expectativas altisimas con esta lectura y ahora que la he terminado puedo decir que All Played Out las supero con creces.

Otro aspecto que me gusta mucho de sus libros es como las relaciones entre los protagonistas no se dan de un capitulo para otro, tienen un ritmo muy pausado que es muy bienvenido despues de leer tantos libros con insta-love o insta-lust.

La verdad es que soy incapas de quedarme con un solo libro de esta serie, todas las historias son hermosas y con protagonistas maravillosos.

Totalmente recomendado! La historia de Nell y Mateo te enamorara desde la primera pagina.

5 Estrellas!!!

#### Susie DelMa says

Ich liebe es!! ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

### **Beverly says**

Nell has a list and plan for everything. She is currently executing her last list and plan, graduating early and securing her position in grad school. She has been following her plans for so long she has forgotten what living in the moment is like. When she sees her roommate's focus and priorities shift to include a guy and more extra curricular activities she decides to come up with a new list: **Normal College Things.** 

What I'm realizing is that living isn't about what you achieve, but how you achieve it.

During her first outing she meets Mateo. If you have been reading the *Rusk University Series* you know and remember Mateo, he is the outspoken, flashy wide receiver on the team. Nell is warned to stay away from

Mateo, but he has other plans. Nell isn't like the girls he usually hangs out with, but he reminds her of another girl, the girl that got away.

Mateo isn't going to let Nell brush him off, he is so intrigued by her and wants to know more. Once he sees her list of things to do there is no getting rid of Mateo, he volunteers to help her achieve all her *firsts*.

I loved the premise for this book. The list provides a reason for the two of them to hangout and get to know each other. During these moments I really fell in love with the characters, I could relate to both of them. Nell has her whole life ahead of her and all she can think about is the future. She is so wrapped up in the future she doesn't even take a second to live the moment. Mateo feels like football is all he has and failure isn't an option. He is chasing a ghost and doesn't even realize it.

But we haven't even kissed.

I've been thinking about kissing you again since the moment our last kiss stopped.

This story had me grinning from ear to ear. It was fun, flirty, had plenty of steam and tons of heart. I love stories that focus on college age and football teams. I am from the South we love our SEC football, so I can easily relate and get behind the importance of a game. But I also love the message in this book - it's just a game and these are just tests, but you only life once.

Maybe that isn't supposed to be the message, but it's what I could relate to. I have always taken things seriously, I worked full time in college, took a full load and made sure I made good grades. There were so many times I was more focused on tomorrow than today. Now I am not advocating for going to the other extreme, but I think there is a happy medium. That's what I loved about this story, Mateo and Nell finding their balance in life with each other.

There's no predicting it. How one thing can affect your life. There's no way to know until it's too late. Life's a bitch like that.

I highly recommend *All Played Out* it's a fun, sexy, addicting read. Like the rest in this series I read in pretty much one sitting and couldn't wait to turn the page. I have loved all these stories, so it's hard to say who my favorite couple is that this point, but *All Played Out* is my favorite story.

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

#### Geri Reads says

Just a quick sum-up.

This was one of the more enjoyable opposites attract trope that would have drove me nuts if not for Cora Carmack's wonderful writing. Plus, I loved both Torres and Nell. I liked their chemistry and despite being opposites, they click. I was invested in their journey as a couple as well as individually. I wasn't annoyed with Torres' thoughts about his ex or the fact that he initially noticed Nell because of her similarities to Lina. The book spanned about two months, so I wasn't upset that Torres thought about his ex since it was very early into their "relationship". I'm putting that in quotation because they weren't committed in any way.

This book was on the shorter side -- or at least it felt short because I was enjoying myself and I felt very invested in the story.

## K. says

I have a complicated relationship with new adult books. Periodically, my brain informs me that WE DESPERATELY NEED TO READ A NEW ADULT BOOK, PLEASE AND THANK YOU. And yet whenever I read new adult books, I inevitably find myself eternally frustrated over the way that the romantic relationships are written or the fact that there ALWAYS seems to be a secondary female character who gets raped by some douchenozzle and it's used as a way of furthering the storyline for a male character??

But I digress.

This one has been sitting on my Kindle for months now, just waiting for my brain to tell me that it was new adult time, thank you very much. And as far as the plot goes, I quite enjoyed this one. The gist of it is that Nell is about to graduate from college two years early thanks to overloading when she realises that she's never had, like, ANY of the traditional college experiences. And she decides to spend her last couple of months rectifying that. And when football player Mateo finds out about the to-do list she's made, he's determined to help out.

I liked Nell as a character. She's very shy, prone to blushing, incredibly studious, and constantly worried that she's making the right choices. Nell, girl, I can relate. Mateo was...generally sweet with Nell? And I loved that this book featured a Latino love interest.

#### However.

I could have done without being inside his head. There's a limit to how many times you can read "OMG HER TITS ARE AMAZING \*heart eyes emoji\*" without wanting to smack your head into a wall. Also, I don't think he went to class once. At all. Ever. Like, he went to a bunch of parties. And to football training. And played a handful of games. But class? Nah.

There were also occasionally some slightly cringey moments in the writing. The one that stands out the most was something about how Mateo had Nell's hands pinned while he "continued the assault on my neck". And yeeeeeah, maybe don't use the words "pinned" and "assault" that close together and expect your reader to find it hot? Because it wasn't. It was just...uncomfortable.

So yeah. It was fine. It was occasionally cute. It had a Latino love interest, so bonus points for that. I'll be veeeeeeeery interested to read Stella and Ryan's story when it eventually happens. But that's about it. (Also, the dudes in new adult books need to stop literally tearing their love interest's underwear off them. That shit is expensive, you ass.)

#### **Cora Carmack says**

I'm so excited to share this book with everyone.

I can't believe I've not written a character like Mateo Torres before. He's my favorite kind of guy... Fun, sweet, brazen, maybe a little perverted (okay... A lot). He's the class clown who knows how to make everyone else laugh, but there's a deeper, more vulnerable side to him that's hidden behind all the jokes. And the sexy?! GAH... Watch out Silas. Torres is looking to outdo you.;)

Nell is the ultimate fish out of water. She doesn't do well around people, but she does do well in the classroom. Her mind is her whole identity, but when she's not sure she can trust her own thoughts about the future, it's her heart's turn to come into play. She makes a bucket list of epic and crazy college-themed activities, hoping to break out of her box a little.

So Nell (with some help from Mateo) begins checking items off her list, and I have to say that this is the most fun I've had with a book since LOSING IT. Which is good, because after tackling some darker themes in both ALL BROKE DOWN and my new series INSPIRE, I needed some light and funny in my life. That break from the angst was especially crucial since I'm about to dive into Stella's book (Rusk University #4). And we all know that book is break me up into teeny, tiny pieces. In this book I also got to dive deeper into Rusk and show the school off the football field. And it was such a blast to work in campus traditions and secrets. \*cough\* sweet six \*cough\*

I hope you enjoy a break from the angst as well, and that you love Torres and Nell as much as I do.

## Sabrina says

Nell is about to graduate from college when she realizes she has nothing to show for her college experience. Nothing note worthy that she can one day look back on and smile at the memories. So she does what she always does in any situation and she makes a list.

- 1. Hook up with a jock
- 2. Make new friends
- 3. Go to a party...

Mateo is the number one playboy on campus, and he likes it that way. Getting any girl he wants with just a tilt of his lips. Well, he used to anyway. Now all he see's are couples pairing up around him and it makes him realize what he's missing. So when he meets Nell and finds out about her list, he decides maybe they can help each other. She wants wild and crazy, and he wants sweet and kind.

I loved how different these characters were, and how it brought them together. There really wasn't anything similar about them but it made their relationship very unique and interesting. It was great to see how they both had their own worries about the future, what it would bring, and how they would achieve their goals. I found it really realistic that the future fears were heavy in the story.

My only complaint is actually a weird one, but Mateo's ex was annoying me for a lot of the story. While I'm glad she never actually made an appearance, it was also a little annoying that she was mentioned a ridiculously large amount of times, and then it was like her importance kind of fizzled out. I would have much rather her name not have been brought up as much as it was.

Overall, I enjoyed this story and the sweet NA was exactly what I was in the mood for at the time. I can't wait for the next book in the series, but I'm also a little nervous for it. Which makes me very impatient to get it!

## Pearl Angeli says

#### **2.5 Stars**

Apparently, All Played Out is the only book in the series that I didn't quite enjoy. I loved the main character **Mateo Torres** and his goofiness and sense of humor. But **Antonella De Luca**? Not so much. Her POV, her immaturity, and her endless drama kind of annoyed me.

We've met these two characters in the previous books of *Rusk University* series. In this book, their paths crossed because they have friends in common who are also protagonists in the previous books. Biomech student Antonella otherwise known as "Nell", has always been so focused on school. Growing up in a conservative Italian family, she didn't have much of a social life ever since. One day she realized that she's missing out on a lot of things college people normally do-- like going to parties, hooking up with strangers, having sex with someone, etc.. These things pushed her to come up with a list of "to-do's". Luckily, there's Mateo (a.k.a "Torres"), wide receiver of the Rusk University football team, who's willing to help her achieve those things. But what if their meaningful hook-ups lead to something?

This book actually rings a bell. I've read a book with this "to-do" checklist concept before, specifically Getting Lucky Number Seven wherein the heroine wants to turn her nerdy self into a normal college party girl so I was not at all fascinated with the familiar storyline. Despite this issue, I still hoped that the story will blow me away. It didn't happen because of my inability to connect with the heroine.

The chemistry between the characters wasn't also that strong, so it was hard for me to really appreciate them as a couple. The writing of Cora Carmack, as usual, was good. However, it didn't save the book as a whole.

''Life is not a straight line. It will only matter that you took them. That you never let yourself stand still.''
Polly says
What didn't work for me? Lina
Yes you read that right. No she's not even in the book. However her name was said or thought of 44 times!!!
Because of the ex that may or may not even exist, I just couldn't connect the actual couples relationship.

I'm giving it 2.5 Stars because Torres's POV was entertaining and he's sexy af. :)