

Slap Shot

Kelly Jamieson

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My name's Max Hall, and I need to f***. As a pro hockey player who's been away from the game for over a year, my libido has picked one hell of an an inconvenient time to come roaring back to life.

After my wife died from a rare form of cancer, sex was the last thing on my mind. Same with hockey, the *other* love of my life. Now, after fifteen months of eating too much, drinking too much, and generally just feeling sorry for myself, I'm facing a steep uphill battle to get my ass in shape and play my way back onto the Chicago Aces.

So I'm not looking for a relationship. Just sex. Yeah, I know how that makes me sound. But the truth is, I'll never love another woman the way I loved my wife. When I meet a sexy bridesmaid at my teammate's wedding, I decide to scratch that itch. A fling with Kendra Armstrong in her posh hotel room could be just what the trainer ordered.

Not only is Kendra smokin' hot, she's dynamite in bed—one of the perks of being a sex toy designer. Since she lives in New York anyway, we agree to keep things casual, no strings attached. The arrangement is perfect . . . until one of us falls in love. And it's not me.

Kelly Jamieson's USA Today bestselling Aces Hockey series can be read together or separately:

MAJOR MISCONDUCT

OFF LIMITS

ICING

TOP SHELF

BACK CHECK

SLAP SHOT

Don't miss any of Kelly's alluring reads:

The Bayard Hockey series: SHUT OUT | CROSS CHECK

The Last Shot series: **BODY SHOT** | **HOT SHOT** The standalone novel: **DANCING IN THE RAIN**

This ebook includes an excerpt from another Loveswept title.

Slap Shot Details

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Contemporary

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From Reader Review Slap Shot for online ebook

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

Well... don't I feel like a heel?

Not only have I had this book for approximately 7.345678 kagrillon years, but to add insult to injury, I didn't particularly like it.

So let me keep this short. Because I'm an asshole.

I had trouble getting into this mostly because of the prose. It's stuffed to the gills with interior decorating, menus of what Max can eat on his super strict training diet and his exercise regimen. And him **constantly bitching** about said exercise regimen.

The whole story is told from Max's perspective except the epilogue and there were some... questionable things that went through his head. There were also some eyebrow raising events that transpired. Things that I questioned whether or not a professional athlete would engage in. Things that made me go...

He meets Kendra at a wedding and they quickly make their way to her hotel room. After deciding they have oodles of chemistry they start a "no strings" sexual relationship. Because he can **never love again** after losing his wife to cancer a little over a year ago. Predictably, one of them becomes attached.

There is a lot of sex. Some of it was spicy but after a certain point it became a rinse and repeat sitch. I started skimming the sex scenes. Her being a sex toy maker and him *supposedly* being sexually adventurous had me hoping for more spice. Those hopes never came to fruition.

Kendra is a nice girl and Max is a nice guy but neither of them are dynamic characters, nor was their romance. I could've done with a lot less of Max's denial antics. I appreciate that he didn't want to disrespect his wife but after you realize you're lying to yourself AND that you're being an asshole to your for all intents and purposes girlfriend...

I typically enjoy sports romance but this takes place during the offseason after Max took off a significant amount of time. He's out of shape but determined to make the starting roster of the Chicago Aces again so most of the story revolves around him training to achieve that goal rather than sports or team dynamics, which is what I crave from a sports romance.

Jamieson seems to strive for realism in her books and Slap Shot fits that bill. I appreciate that these characters and their journey were relatable but I needed a little more pizazz to make me really invest in their journey.

If any of the above appeals to you, Slap Shot is a book you will enjoy. As always, my opinions are my own and YMMV.

A copy was provided by NetGalley.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

I have thoroughly enjoyed each and every book in Kelly Jamieson's Chicago Aces series, but Slap Shot has a bit of an added bonus and two of her characters from her New Adult Bayard Hockey series make cameo appearances giving readers a bit of a look at what the future of the Aces might look like. Slap Shot takes a realistic look at grief and Ms. Jamieson does a fantastic job as a young widower tries to get back to his life in all ways; trying to regain his spot on his team by working hard, moving forward without forgetting his past, making mistakes, accepting happiness, and yes...falling in love again. At times heart breaking, at times frustrating, at times joyful, and at times sexy this was a book full of hope and new beginnings and my favorite book in this series to date.

Fifteen months after Max Hall's wife passed away from a rare form of cancer, and following a bout of depression, and the inability to care about anything in his life including hockey Max is working with a new trainer and is determined to be in the best shape he can by training camp. At one of his teammates wedding's Max suddenly finds him interested in sex again, something that hasn't happened in a very long time, but the bride's cousin Kendra Armstrong catches his eye despite the fact she is nothing like his usual type and perhaps that's exactly what he needs.

I appreciated that upfront these two both wanted sex, period. They talked and given they live in different states and both are dedicated to their careers they were mature enough to agree to enjoy each other's bodies fully and say good-bye. But, one night turns into two and then a weekend they don't plan, and before long they have friends with benefits type of arrangement going on and soon were sharing their personal histories and their current lives. Given that Kendra was a therapist turned sex toy designer and company owner she was very in tune with her sexuality and astute in understanding Max's grief and his dedication to getting healthy and earning his place back on his team. I like that she treated him like a man, she didn't try to "fix" him, she didn't offer platitudes but did try and help him when he asked or seemed to be struggling. While Kendra was smart and self sufficient she had some baggage that made her a bit vulnerable. I loved that Max was interested in her business, that he appreciated her drive, and that he was protective of her when it came to dealing with her family. While the parameters of their relationship changed over time, they never really discussed it leading to quite a bit of upheaval. I couldn't help but respect the fact that despite being at odds, they both truly wanted what was best for one another proving they were both in deeper than they even intended to be.

One thing I really loved was watching Max push himself to the limit to get healthy and back to his team. I especially loved the scenes with the young players from Bayard College and those with his current teammates who more than wanted to see him healthy and happy again. It is this camaraderie that makes these books so special and entertaining.

Pack full of emotion, an outstanding plot, and characters that worm their way into your heart, Kelly Jamieson's Slap Shot is exactly what I look for in a romance and 5 stars of perfection.

Zoe says

Steamy, heartfelt, and deliciously sexy!

Slap Shot, the fifth book in the Aces Hockey series, is a sporty, contemporary romance featuring Max a tough, honest, hockey player who is struggling to come to grips with not only the grief he continues to feel over the loss of his wife but the guilt associated with potentially moving on.

The writing is clear and emotive. The characters are genuine, believable and charming. And the plot is an impassioned tale filled with sizzling tension, scorching chemistry, poignant moments, hilarious innuendoes, flirty banter, and a swoon-worthy ending.

What more can I say, when it comes to writing entertaining, enjoyable novels about hunky hotshots who fall hard Jamieson is one of the best and Slap Shot with its heart, humour, heat, and hockey is no exception.

Thank you to NetGalley, especially Random House – Loveswept, for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

All my reviews can be found on my blog at https://whatsbetterthanbooks.com

Tpagirl says

Slap Shot by Kelly Jamieson was the fifth book in the Aces Hockey series.

Max Hall had lost his wife to cancer a little over a year ago. He sat out of hockey during her cancer and for the entire season following. He was now starting to fight for a position in the team again. It was a long road to healing and he wasn't there yet, but he wanted hockey.

Kendra Armstrong was the cousin to Duncan (Icing, book three) and Lovey (Major Misconduct, book one). She was a trained therapist with her own company in New York; however, she traveled to Chicago on business.

Max and Kendra met at Lovey's wedding. They were single and hooked up for the time she was in town. It was sex and only sex and both were in agreement. It was told with a single POV, Max's; however, we were gifted with Kendra's POV for the epilogue.

The story started slow for me and the chemistry wasn't strong; however, once I progressed further in the book, I began enjoying their interactions. They were developing a strong friendship, with benefits. I also liked that Kendra was helping him heal mentally, which had nothing to do with the "benefits" side of the relationship.

Jamieson also simultaneously included both occupations, by tracking Max's countdown to training camp and detailing Kendra's challenges with her new products. As a huge hockey fan (#gobolts), I enjoyed the intricacies of training camp that Jamieson included. Oh and for Jamieson, yea I loved the mascot take down

scene too. Lastly, she also enter twined Kendra's childhood issues throughout the plot. All stories eventually merged into one, providing dimension and complexity to the storyline.

All in all, it was enjoyable and a fairly quick read (once I got past the first several chapters). It was a journey of acceptance, healing, hope and love. Although not announced yet, Jamieson set the stage for the next book in the series by sprinkling more Aces team members into the saga. I look forward to where Jamieson leads us next.

Carvanz says

Max and Kendra meet at her cousin's wedding and decide to hook up. When the night doesn't end exactly as they plan, Kendra isn't shy about letting Max know they can remedy that problem. Soon they are embroiled in a hot and heavy sex only relationship that involves lots of sexting.

From the beginning Max declares that their set up can be nothing but sex. He's lost his wife and didn't think he'd survive the agony. He won't put himself in that position again. When he realizes that Kendra has crossed that line and fallen in love, he is lost as to how to deal with it.

I didn't realize this was going to be about a widower. I struggle with this trope because I need the hero to love the heroine more than he's ever loved anyone before. If I can feel that and believe that the heroine isn't second best then I'm happy.

Unfortunately, that didn't happen here. Despite the occasional comparisons Max made between the two women, his thoughts are that he truly loved his wife and will remember and miss her forever. I get that in real life such is the case but when I read, I'm reading for the fantasy, the fairytale. However, I will say that this was written in a manner to show that while Max might not love Kendra more than his deceased wife – again, the wife he had some uncharitable thoughts about- he certainly loved her equally. I'm still processing that.

The characters in Slap Shot were fun and witty and I'm sure we'll be seeing even more of them in future books. Kelly Jamieson definitely knows how to write hot and steamy scenes as well as great dialogue and a fast upbeat story. Overall, I enjoyed this book and if the deceased spouse isn't an issue for you, you're going to love it.

This is an honest review of an advanced copy provided by NetGalley and Loveswept.

Mainly hero POV with a tad of heroine Safe No apparent triggers

Samantha (WLABB) says

I am trash for hockey romances and this one did exactly what I wanted it to - it made me smile, grin, swoon, laugh, and even cry a little.

Who?

Max, a professional hockey player, who is trying to get back on the roster after taking time off following his wife's death. Kendra, an intelligent and independent entrepreneur, who was a sort of "fixer" with a big heart.

What?

After a wedding encounter, where sparks flew, the two mutually decided to a strings-free, physical relationship.

Why?

I instantly shipped these two. They had a natural ease with each other, and I loved that Kendra was able to get through Max's numb layers, and help him slowly climb out from under his grief.

I was really impressed with the amount of sports talk in this book. We are taken through Max's comeback process, as well as, training camp and some games. I enjoyed reading about all that stuff a lot more than I expected, but let's be honest, I was all about the romance, and this one did its job taking me through a whole spectrum of emotions.

It was fun to watch their relationship grow and change. They kept saying it was all sex, but you could see there was a lot more to it through their interactions, their texts, their phone calls, but the road to their HEA was not an easy one. Max was still grieving and trying to reconcile his growing feelings for Kendra with his love for his late wife. He struggled, and Kendra struggled, and I sighed and cried a little, but in the end, I think Jamieson did an admirable job finding a balanced solution.

I usually read duel POV romance stories, so this was a little bit of a change for me, as it is told almost predominately from Max's POV. It worked really well though, because the major obstacles to this relationship were Max's issues, and I think it was important to be inside his head, and see things from his perspective. It was great seeing the juxtaposition of his manly and mushy side, and overhearing the conversations between him and his teammates, who were also his friends and confidants.

Overall: A fun and heartfelt friends-with-benefits to more romance, which features a hero and heroine you couldn't help but love.

**I would like to thank the publishers for the advance copy of this book.

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Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

The story holds the reader's attention and can read without having read the previous ones in the series. I love the heroine and she was the one that made me read till the end. An independent and mature woman who knows what she wants and isn't afraid to show her feelings.

"Don't apologize for safe sex."

Our hero is held guilty for moving on without his dead wife until about 70% of the book. I was fed up with his attitude.

I enjoyed and recommend.

Kendra was the first woman I've slept with since Ariana died and I can be grateful to her for making it so good. Now I've done it, I can sleep with someone else. The girl beside me is attractive. She's clearly interested in me. Why not take her home and fuck her?

The truth is..." I pause and lower my voice. "I'm never going to love someone again the way I loved Ariana."

Yeah, I thought about hooking up with other women. I had chances. I just wasn't feeling it.

My wife just died sixteen months ago. She was the love of my life. I'll never love someone like that again,

But no matter how much time passes, I'll never forget her and I'll never stop loving her.

"I can't replace Ariana. I won't replace Ariana."

I've fucking hurt her because I can't love her back. Because I can't betray my wife.

Auntee says

I loved this one and I love this series. Review coming closer to publication date...

~Mandi~ says

Slap Shot Aces Hockey #5 Kelly Jamieson 4????????

Not your typical sport romance. This one included so much more. Definitely made you feel some emotions while reading this one. And as usual Kelly Jamieson did a great job writing this sweet story.

Thanks NetGalley for the arc in exchange for my honest review.

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

If you have read the previous book in the series then you would already know Max Hall. He's the one that broke our hearts when we learned his wife was dying of cancer. In Slap Shot, Kelly Jamieson brought him back to show us how he was dealing with that loss and helping him to come back to life from his grief.

I'm not always a fan of stories that have one of the main characters finding love again after a deceased spouse. I think it's not an easy thing to accomplish having that character properly mourn the spouse without making them too much of the focus in the new relationship or being too callous about the death.

I think Kelly did a good job with Max's story. At least, for me I was satisfied with how she handled everything. He did still mourn his wife and truly believed he would never find love again or more like he was afraid to find love again, but I never felt like the deceased spouse took over in the story.

We got to see Max open up to Kendra even when he was in denial. He wasn't perfect, which you really can't expect from someone that is coming out of grief. Overall, I really enjoyed the story and I'm so happy that Max found Kendra. They were so great together.

If you are taking request Kelly Jamieson, I want to see Kendra's best friend and business partner get a book. We only got one scene with her little girl but she was adorable and I want to see one of these strapping hockey players come into their lives.

ARC provided by NetGalley.

Jessica (Angie & Jessica's Dreamy Reads) says

This was a surprise. I expected a cliche sports romance when I picked up this book and what I found instead was a refreshing storyline that pulled me in from, quite literally, page one. I loved the premise, the characters were both relatable and real, and I was overjoyed to discover that this author write's fantastic male POV. I didn't even realize going in that this was the 5th installment in this sports series, so after thoroughly enjoying this one, I'll definitely plan on going back and reading the others. This was an emotional read, an incredibly sexy story, angsty at times, heartwarming at others... all in all, a really solid story. I really liked it!

Alex? says

"Pain is inevitable, but suffering is optional."

Dalai Lama

Loved loved this book, or to be honest LOVED LOVED FREAKING LOVED THE HEROINE!

One of the best books I read this year.

Thanks God there are still authors, who write strong, confident, generous female characters!

I can't express how much I loved the heroine. I wish I could write beautiful sophisticated reviews like many of my friends. But I can still try, don't I? ;-)

Heroine – 5+ stars Hero – 4 stars Story – 4.5 stars

Kendra is a woman I'd like to have as my friend.

She is strong, she is self-confident, she has a freaking big and amazing heart – she is one of the best fictional humans I read.

A woman after my heart.

How freaking incredible is it to read about sexually experienced and sexually courageous woman? Damn, after 2365 virgins and celibate nuns constantly blushing and whimpering, it was like a breath of fresh air! She wasn't slutty (I hate this word *ugh*); she was bold, but also feminine and gentle.

She designed sex toys for women; she was a psychologist with an interest in sexuality, she did counselling in the past and built her own company with her BFF. Hell yeah!!! And she was proud of herself, and she wasn't ashamed to tell the others about her business. Double hell yeah!!!

"I guess most parents don't really want to think about their daughter having sex."

"But it's okay for their sons?" She pounces on my words, her chin lifting.

"I didn't say that...but you're right, there probably is a double standard there."

"Sure. Guys who like to have sex are studs. Girls who like to have sex are sluts. Why should it be different?"

"Not gonna argue with you on that." I hold up my hands.

She slumps a little. "Sorry. Slut-shaming is a hot button for me."

For me too!!!

But she was much more. She had such huge and loving heart, I envy her. She was very wise and very human.

It's not a secret/spoiler that the hero lost his wife on cancer. She died 15 months ago and he gave up his career to take care of her. He grieved, he still loved her and till the end of the story he didn't gave up on her memory. I know, that dead spouse is a trigger for many readers and many of my friends. I can totally understand it. It's not mine though. I read fiction, but I love a healthy part of reality in my books. And in real life, the same for fiction, I don't like when they 'just forget and move on'. I'm a weird one to feel for both sides – for the gone person and for the one who lives. I despise, when they bash dead (she/he wasn't good/kind/sexy etc enough, he/she cheated, betrayed, lied and so on) – it's the easiest way out. This author made an incredible good job – she wrote perfect 'solution', for my preference of course.

I loved, that the heroine spoke with him about his late wife; she respected her and her memory. Incredible woman, my kind of a person!

"It's totally normal. When people start to live again and enjoy their life, they often feel they're betraying the loved one they've lost."

I don't want to talk about this. I don't want to listen to this.

"You can't replace what you lost." Her tone is so even and reassuring I can't help but let the words filter through my sudden tension. "But you can make connections, have new relationships, new inter-dependencies. Denying your feelings doesn't help...you should listen to them."

"I never wanted to talk about Ariana to you. I thought maybe it would bother you."

"That I'd be jealous?"

"I guess."

"Well, as a psychologist I can tell you that jealousy is about a fear of losing something you have to someone else. How could I be jealous of her?" I touch his face. "I could be envious, though, of what you two had. And maybe I was a little."

I honestly adored the heroine.

I liked the hero, but I didn't love him. Sorry, but his character was a bit shallow at the beginning. The heroine described him to the point – poor baby. I respected him for his love and devotion to his wife, I respected him for his doubts, I was angry at him when he hurt the heroine, but I could understand why.

Some readers would say the heroine was his 2nd best, I disagree. For me it was perfectly clear, that he loved her very much. He still loved and would always love his wife, but his love for the heroine was strong and deep – I was convinced.

Their story began light and sexy and I loved loved loved, how cool the heroine was. No drooling, nada clingy, zero doormatishness. Really cool and confident.

I could feel how their feelings changed, how they both fell hard for each other. And I applauded her for revealing her love first. Actually not my coppa, I like the man to say it first, but here it fitted, it was just right. I'm not a writer (not yet *lol*), I can't describe it, you just need to read the book *lol*

No insta-love. And no insta HEA. When he 'came to his senses' and fought for her, she didn't jumped and said yes immediately. She took her time, she didn't want to rush, she gave him and herself time and space. Kinda not romantic *lol* We all used to fireworks and wet panties after a man crocks his finger *cough cough*. Well, not with this amazing girl!

The book was told solely from his POV (except 1 last chapter)—loved it. I always fear they write her thoughts and ruin her character — general 'issue' with many romance books. She 'plays' cool and then.. bummer — ott needy and ready to fall to her knees and worship the ground he walks on.

Lucky me, like really lucky me – the author didn't ruin her character. She was constant incredible. Not that there were no signs of her vulnerability and feelings, there were plenty, but it was written so freaking good and it just fitted. See, my lack of sophisticated writing is showing *lol* Blah blah -> I loved her!

I believe it's because we had both reached the place in our lives where we were ready for

this...even though it took Max a while to realize that. We've both been through tough times—hurt and heartbreak and disappointment. We've both used those challenges to grow and learn more about ourselves. It's taken me years to truly know that I can't fix everyone.

That the only person I can save is myself.

That the only person I can control is myself. And that I can meet my needs for support, love, and affection in ways other than by trying to fix others.

Safety:(view spoiler)

Note for my friends: despite I floved this book, it still has dead spouse and grief. If it's your trigger, think twice. I loved it and I was fine with everything, but it could be an 'issue' for you.

I would be happy, if one of my close friends would read it and share her thoughts with me. If not, I drink alone *lol*

P.S. You though it was all? *lol*

What did Alex not like? Please excuse my freaking attitude - I don't like model's look on the cover. Sorry! Don't hate me. Or do *lol* He is definitely a very handsome man, but his face expression is a bit odd. Am I the only one? Sorry again!!!

There were many talks about hero's diet. Too many for my taste.

And... I kinda wished for an epilogue with babies and jazz. Ugh!

Dali says

Kelly Jamieson pens a hockey romance with a brilliant balance between touching, flirty, fun and steamy where a young widower tries to move on with his life with the help of his friends, family and a very attractive sex toy designer.

When Max Hall's wife was diagnosed with cancer, he left hockey to be with her. Feeling sorry for himself after she died, it was hard for him to put the pieces of his life back together. Getting back in shape to fight for a spot on the Chicago Aces will not be an easy task, especially not when after fifteen months of rest, his libido is back with a vengeance.

Unable to picture himself in another relationship or loving another woman the way he loved his wife, he decides to hook up with one of his teammate's bridesmaid. But Kendra Armstrong's allure is too much for one night and soon their attraction compels them to turn things to casual and then some. Can Max find a way to get past his grief and guilt in order to open his heart to another chance at love?

Kelly Jamieson has a knack for writing hockey romances that pull all the right strings. Slap Shot is an engaging story about the final stages of grief, new beginnings, friendship and love that made me immerse myself in Max's journey through all this from start to finish.

I really felt for Max and was grateful that he didn't sugar coat his desire for Kendra and a no strings attached fling just as much as her maturity to do the same, especially when a relationship was geographically difficult not to mention emotional impossible at the time.

As they get to know each other via very flirty texts and smoking hot visits, Kendra's former psychologist background enabled her to listen and support Max's dedication toward his career and desire to move on with his life.

Kendra was a kick @\$\$ heroine in her own right. She's strong and independent, caring and patient. A business owner who wanted what was best for her and Max and didn't try to fix him but definitely helped him move forward without forgetting the past. They were definitely a perfect match.

I loved having a couple of the guys from Jamieson's Bayard Hockey series make cameo appearances as well as reading about the other couples from previous books in the series. I really enjoyed the hockey backdrop, which included Max's grueling training.

Slap Shot is book #5 in the Aces Hockey series by Kelly Jamieson. It is a standalone, hockey romance and a wonderful addition to the series with a great plot and wonderful characters. Told from the hero's point of view and has a happy ending. A great read for Aces Hockey fans or any sports romance lover.

Amazon -> http://amzn.to/2xMTH7N

Pinterest board -> https://www.pinterest.com/kellyjamies...

* I was given an ARC of this book courtesy of the author via NetGalley. The excerpts taken are from that copy. *

More reviews * Stalk us on FaceBook * As well as Twitter * Pinterest Board for Book Teasers

Laura says

|Review coming soon|

3.8 stars

Carol says

4.5 stars.

I looked at a few other reviews of this book before I started writing this and I realized that I really like Kelly Jamieson and the way she writes books and this one was no exception.

It is probably impossible to write a romance that involves a dead wife without receiving some criticism about how you treat the subject and not everybody will necessarily like this story for that reason alone.

What I personally like about her books is that her characters do have flaws and they feel more realistic to me (maybe because of this).

Max is getting over his wife's death and he is not looking for a relationship but when he meets Kendra(a beautiful bridesmaid) at a teammates wedding he is attracted to her and they spend the night together after agreeing to a no-strings attached arrangement. When he unexpectedly meets up with her again, he realizes that they are good together and he likes her. She lives in New York and he lives in Chicago and they both

agree to a casual relationship with no expectations.

Max is working hard, trying to restart his stalled hockey career and Kendra is developing her business selling sex toys to women.

This story is very much about grieving, letting go of that personal grief and moving on to where you can open your heart to somebody else and something new.

I really liked Kendra. Her sweet personality along with her kindness and forgiving nature made her strong in my eyes even though she may be perceived as weak by some readers.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review from netgalley.