


Loving Him Off the Field

Jeanette Murray

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Sometimes the best defense is a good offense...

Aileen is a sports reporter trying to make a name for herself without relying on her looks, And what better way to do that than to break a scandal about one of the fastest rising stars on the Santa Fe Bobcats? Killian seems too good to be true, so she knows he must be hiding something...

It's hard enough breaking into the NFL—even more so when you're a single dad. Killian isn't proud that he's keeping his son a secret, but his ex has a reputation that could tarnish his squeaky clean image for good. So when Aileen starts sniffing around, Killian decides to distract her by any means necessary.

But Aileen is more than capable of giving as good as she gets...

Loving Him Off the Field Details

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From Reader Review *Loving Him Off the Field* for online ebook

ItsAboutTheBook says

Review can be read at It's About The Book

I honestly have to applaud Ms. Murray for her ingenuity. I've been a lifelong reader, and at the tender age of 50+ I've read... er, doing the math... a gajillion books by now, and I've never never never come across the twist that she uses as the reason that this football player plays hard to get in this inspired, sexy, contemporary sports romance about a Santa Fe Bobcats player and a sports journalist. It was awesome to be guessing and guessing and to have it revealed and think... wow. I would never have thought of that and it's actually a real reason. It's not that he's a panther shifter or something. It's real!

Perky tiny Aileen is a writer for an online sports magazine that teeters on the brink of being TMZ. It's part celebrity gossip, part hard-hitting sports news. Guess which one she gets to cover. Stories about groupies, tatoos on the wives of professional jocks, and more dot her resume. But she's out to get the harder hitting stuff. She'd love to move to broadcast news, but as she stares longingly at the Amazons of the business with their height, beauty and big boobs, she knows her flat chest, short hair and short stature take her totally out of the running. So she's aiming for what she thinks she can get. Written journalism. And she's got a good shot since she's a great writer, if only Bobby Mundane, the editor of *Off Season*, would give her a chance. He's told her she's got to get one of the "Great Whites" of the business—a news story that no one else can get. Either the story of the Prodigal Daughter (the story of Murray's previous book, *One Night with a Quarterback*) Cassie Wainwright, the team owner's daughter, or Killian Reeves, the illusive Santa Fe Bobcat.

Killian Reeves is the kicker for the Santa Fe Bobcats football team. The kicker is usually the redheaded stepchild on the football team—no one likes the kicker because he plays rarely but when he does, it's really important. But Killian hadn't even started out in football! He was a soccer player at heart. When he didn't made the cut for the soccer team in college his freshman year, as luck would have it the football coach had been watching. He saw something he could work with in Killian and asked him to come and try out for the empty kicker position. He did and was offered a position on the football team.

While football really wasn't his sport, Killian had worked hard to learn the new kicking position. And it turned out he was good at it—good enough to go pro. But as with all things that come too easily, Killian felt like he didn't deserve the life he had. He didn't respect himself and therefore didn't demand respect from anyone else either. Since the kicker's position was already a half-resented position, people were already inclined to doubt him, which made it a recipe for disaster. An incident his rookie year had marred his relationship with the certain players on the team, and even though they were gone, he still kept a wide gulf between himself and the others. So he was pretty lonely, and he had a pretty huge secret he was protecting.

So what else is Aileen to do but try to convince Killian to give her a story—any story—to help her move up the ladder at her job. She plays hard to get, using her new friends on the team as shields to get him jealous enough to pay attention to her. When he finally does, sparks ignite and the story gets hot between the journalist in search of a career-making story and the football player with a lot to loose with this particular lady in love...

Teri says

Hummmm... Definitely not as enjoyable as Trey's book. This story really centered around Killian's secret. There was no romance just lust that somehow became a HEA.

I loved the inclusion of the other players. I just wish the relationship part had been more built up.

Andrea says

I adored One Night with a Quarterback, and was excited to get the quiet, mysterious Killian's story. What made this one different was the fact he was a kicker, a mostly overlooked position. And he liked it that way, but why? Killian has a big secret, and sports journalist Aileen is curious. She follows him, looking for a story. Killian gives her thirty days, after that, she has to leave him alone. You can probably guess where the story goes from here yeah? A big-time attraction heats up, but still, Killian's holding something back. Something to do with his son and ex-girlfriend. I was hoping for something good, something worth the not knowing for almost all of the book. Luckily, the secret is a pretty good one, but I wasn't sure that it was totally worth the drama. I liked this one well enough, but the frustration over Killian did hamper that. Loving Him Off the Field wasn't all I'd hoped for, but a good read.

Rating: 3 stars

Favorite Quote

"Did you have something you wanted me to sign?"

"Oh, uh, no." She was wasting her one opportunity. Aileen fought for something--anything--then blurted out, "What the hell happened when you got hit?"

His annoyed frown turned into a scowl. "You know, you might be the worst groupie I've ever seen. You're supposed to make the guys feel like gods, not knock them down off the pedestal."

Lara says

Nothing really sets this apart from others like it. Ending seemed a little rushed.

Christi Snow says

My Review:

I loved the first book in this series and enjoyed this one just as much.

Killian is a pro NFL kicker with a secret. As a result, he doesn't let anyone into his life...not his teammates, not the fans, and sure not the media. He has a son who's he's sacrificed everyone in his world for...to protect

him. But that's the big mystery throughout so much of this book...why is it so important that NO ONE find out about this child? I couldn't see what could make that secret such a huge deal...until the author revealed the exact circumstances and then it all made sense. That part of the story line is perfectly played and written with the perfect levels of suspense to it.

On the flip side of all this is Aileen. She's a reporter who works for a sports themed blog. She does fluff pieces without stooping to paparazzi levels. She hates that aspect of the media and refuses to twist her own personal ideals for the sake of her job...although that is causing issues with her boss and the stability of her job. But Killian is so reclusive and closed-mouth that he's a hot commodity. One that Aileen has managed to ingratiate herself with. He's agreed to do an unheard of 30-day-all-access interview with Aileen...mainly because he's become intrigued with her unusual approach and the chemistry between them.

I loved Aileen and Killian together. They are so fun especially when he's grumpy and annoyed with her. But he can't seem to help but be drawn to her because she is just that honest and real with him and what she wants from him. I loved how unbending Aileen is with her personal rules for invasion of privacy no matter how difficult that makes her job as a journalist. She won't compromise her ideals for the sake of a juicy story. I admired and respected that about her...just like the other ball players in the story responded to that also.

The secret with Charlie, Killian's son, is such a huge one. I kept debating what the issue could be with Charlie to make his existence such a hard-kept secret, but I had no guesses and the tiny things I could come up with were no where close to what it truly was. I love it when an author can surprise me like that.

Killian has a huge character development arc in this story and it is so fun to watch him grow and learn to trust again...from his ability to trust his new-found friendships and camaraderie within his team to trusting Aileen as a journalist. I enjoyed watching their relationship grow and just the overall story on this one. It's just flat-out a fun-to-read story. I definitely recommend it and can't wait for more from this series.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Elizabeth says

I absolutely LOVED the first book in the series and was excited for the next one. When LOVING HIM OFF THE FIELD came out, I was a little skeptical. I'd been reading a lot of books lately that haven't been able to capture my interest and I was afraid that it might be the same with this one. I'm happy to report that this is not the case at all!

Killian is the kicker for the Santa Fe Bobcats NFL team. He's broody and severely private. He's got some huge secrets he wants to keep that way so he isolates himself from everyone, including his teammates. He's been burned before and can't risk opening up to someone, despite his loneliness.

Aileen is a freckle-faced 5-foot tall journalist stuck doing fluff pieces for an online news outlet trying to be taken seriously. While doing a report on the team's groupies, she spots Killian and his adverse effect on everyone and smells a story there.

When Aileen is tasked with bringing in a serious interview with the cranky kicker, she is totally on board; anything to establish herself as a serious journalist. When Killian denies her request for an interview, she starts hanging out after practice and games talking to fans and players while leaving him alone. He finds this

both irritating and intriguing.

Killian can't seem to stop thinking about the saucy spitfire but he can't afford his secret to get out either so he agrees to the interview, with some strict stipulations of course. Aileen agrees and somehow ends up striking a deal with Killian to interview him and also having him ask her questions in the process!

As Killian and Aileen spend more time together, passions ignite...and when they kiss, Ooooooh Fire! Can Killian trust Aileen with his secrets or will the past rear its ugly head and ruin everything, including a chance at love?

LOVING HIM OFF THE FIELD overlaps some of the timeline with the first book so we get some scenes with Trey and Cassie as well as spending time with a few other players on the team, Michael and Josiah and a scene with Cassie's sisters! The book is part of a series but can easily be read as a standalone.

This book blew me away! Killian and Aileen are amazing characters with realistic problems. Both have a wicked sense of humor, heavily laced with sarcasm that had me laughing every time they shared a scene. The plot was heartfelt and an absolute joy to read! You don't need to be a sports fan to love this series, but you do need to allot some lengthy reading time because you won't want to put this book down! I'm excited to find out which player takes the hot seat next!

I was gifted an eBook copy from the publisher via Net Galley in exchange for an honest review. All conclusions reached are my own

Kiltsandswords says

Loving Him off the Field by Jeanette Murray

It's nice to take a break now and then from historical romance novels and I was so interested to read a contemporary romance novel featuring sports celebrities. I really enjoyed the sports books by Jill Shalvis and Jaci Burton, so I was hoping this was along similar lines. It was a great read. I'm not a huge NFL fan. The most I know about it is that there are games on Sunday, Monday and Thursday nights and my hubby is glued to the tv. But with this book, you don't need intimate knowledge of the sport to enjoy the story. The author clearly explains all the sports information you need to know which lets you relax and enjoy the romance between the two characters.

Aileen is a reporter. She comes by this profession honestly as her parents were award winning journalists and photojournalists. She lost them when she was just a teenager and it feels like her chosen profession is homage to the lives they lived as a family. She is working for an online outlet that is certainly not in the major leagues. She likes her work, but is getting tired of working in fluff pieces about sports celebrities, like hidden talents, tailgating food and groupies. She longs for a good, meaty piece she can get her breakout hit with. Even though she is hungry for this big break, she has a moral streak running a mile wide. She despises some of the tactics other reporters resort to and feels her professionalism and integrity is what will make her stand apart from the rest – once she gets her career really going.

She determines that she is going to do a piece on the enigma Killian. He is the team kicker. I love how the author describes the position as the 'redheaded child' of the team. The position that isn't the highest profile and certainly not the flashiest. Call it intrigue or just knowing deep down that this is someone she is meant to connect with, Aileen makes it her mission to get the story on Killian.

This terrifies Killian. He is quiet and reserved. Even with his teammates, he keeps to himself. The loner of the team who won't even join them for an after game drink or pizza. He zealously guards his personal life and when the every trusty google fails to score any information on him, Aileen has no other choice but to wear him down for an interview.

Killian likes Aileen, even though he finds her a pest and a reporter (basically the worst enemy). He immediately nicknames her 'Freckles' and even though he tries really hard, he just can't shake her. Slowly he realizes he doesn't want to shake her off. He admires her professionalism. He begins to let his guard down with her and finds companionship. He eventually agrees to the piece on him and sets a timeline of a month for her to get her interview. He has one caveat though – he gets to interview her as well. Only later when he examines his conscious does he realize that he is falling for little 'Freckles'. This complication scares the pants off him as he doesn't do relationships. It also scares him because he is hiding a very big secret. He convinces himself that by agreeing to do the interview he can manage the information and keep his secret hidden.

The thirty days they spent together were like being on thirty dates. It was like watching two people get to know one another, discover the people they are together and fall in love. It gets steamy between the two quickly (the tree incident was hilarious), but they realize they are crossing a line between interviewer and interviewee. At times they examine what this will mean for the interview, for each other and for the future, but they just relish the time they spend together. The bedroom scenes are hot. Killian and Aileen are sensual lovers, as well as friends. Killian was very good between the sheets and his fascination with freckles made my toes curl.

When they are together, it's so fun to read about them trying to keep up with each other. Aileen almost keels over from hiking with Killian. Killian joins her at her bowling league and it becomes apparent that being athletic means you are good at all sports. There were really funny moments to this book and really tender ones as well.

You get the sense that Killian is a very good person, the kind of guy some woman would be lucky to have. Aileen has had a tough life and while she is not fragile, she needs a man like Killian who appreciates her choices in life and doesn't judge her. Although he heartily dislikes her frugality, especially her car and choice of apartment.

Killian's big secret is a ticking time bomb and it's only a matter of time before the truth is out. I respected how Aileen handled the story of a lifetime. She showed honour and integrity and it wound up giving her an even bigger shot at the big leagues of journalism.

The ending of the story was so perfect I had a tear in my eye. Of course these two would get their happily ever after, they deserved it! It didn't feel rushed; rather the author developed their relationship so well that it seemed only right that they find the happiness they deserve.

Reviewed for www.kiltsandswords.com Thank you Netgalley for an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review.

Nicole says

I love sports romance books, and while this one was good, it didn't really wow me like some others I've read. The writing was good and all that, I just wanted something more.

C+

Full review posted here: <http://thebookpushers.com/2014/10/17/...>

Lauren at Live Read and Breathe Reviews says

2.5 Not so much Stars!!

Source: eARC for Honest Review Courtesy of Intermix/Penguin

Okay, so the truth is sports romances are my guilty pleasure *blush* and I was excited to read this one after quite liking the first of the series One night with a quarterback sadly, this book didn't quite do it for me. :(

Here we have Killian who is the kicker of the Santa Fe Bobcats who happens to be a self imposed loner on and off the team. He chooses this because he has a secret that needs to be kept close to the belt.

Aileen is pixie like journalist who has integrity but also wants a good story. Her job wants her to run a story on the loner of the team ... Killian Reeves. As she starts to get her story, she also gets under Killian's skin. Killian is drawn to her but wants to keep her at hands reach because of his secret but their attraction is too strong to be denied so they cross the lines from professional to casual but don't know where it leads to.

To get the interview Aileen is supposed to interview Killian for 30 days but he negotiates it for him to interview her for half of it. They agree to alternate days. Here is the crux of the matter for me basically they are supposed to interview each other for a big chunk of the book but they never really asked each other anything. They went through the motions at times and the time frame went by but there was like maybe 6 questions asked back in forth in total. I think it was supposed to feel like the time was going by while in reality they were really getting to know each other, but it was really left flat for me as I was waiting and waiting and waiting for more. This in turn caused the progression of their relationship to move forward painfully slow and then once they turn the corner of their relationship bang it is full speed ahead.

Gah! I wanted to like it so much more. It is a part of a series but could be read as a stand alone however probably wouldn't make you want to move forward with the series as the first one did. In One night with the quarterback there was much better growth development with the other players. This book felt kind of out of no where with Killian being the loner of the team and not really part of the first book. I liked elements of it but I was bored and waiting for so much more from this book. Killian's secret was decent and I like how that all played out but it was such a quick reveal and perfectly worked out that it took away from the potential of backlash from the secret.

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Fernanda says

4 secret stars!

P.S.: I love when the couple have mature conversations after they fight and then they're honest with each other, it gets me all tingly inside LOL

Amandajane says

Another really good sports romance. I loved how the importance of integrity was portrayed in this story. The characters are great and it is a really enjoyable read.

Anna says

I would have given it 4 stars but the secret about the hero's son just dragged on too long.

♥Rachel♥ says

3.5 Stars

Aileen is struggling journalist trying to make a name for herself while keeping her integrity. She wanted to live up to her parent's example as trustworthy journalists. Finding a breakthrough story is proving difficult when she doesn't want to compromise her principals. That is until she spies Killian, the Bobcat's kicker and media mystery. He stays out of the spotlight and almost nothing is known about him. Looks like Aileen has her work cut out for her, though, because Killian is reluctant, bordering on hostile. Aileen won't take no for an answer and goes on wearing him down. She doesn't plan on falling for him in the process, and even though they go beyond their professional relationship, Aileen wonders what kind of future they could have if Killian never fully trusts her.

Killian is intrigued by the petite, freckled Aileen until he finds out she's a reporter. Killian avoids the media and press at all costs for the sake of his young son, Charlie. No one knows of his existence and if they did, it could stir up a hurtful past that Killian is trying to keep buried. Killian agrees to an interview, but on his terms in an effort to control what gets out. But the more he gets to know Aileen the more he falls for her.

I admired Aileen from the very beginning. It was evident from the start that she didn't want to be a trashy reporter capitalizing on other's drama and trauma. She has pressure from her boss to go after sensationalized stories, but she stands her ground and still keeps her integrity. Knowing she was basically on her own in the world after losing her parents at the age of eighteen made my heart go out to her even more. Aileen didn't let Killian's abrasiveness turn her away and didn't let his comments hurt her for the most part, but I hurt for her.

While I can understand where Killian was coming from once I found out exactly why he wanted to keep Charlie's existence secret, I didn't get an inkling what the secret was until about 72% into the book. This made it especially hard to make allowances in the meantime for Killian's gruff and rude behavior. Yes, he was attracted to Aileen and he couldn't keep his hands off her, but Killian was on constant guard and never completely trusted her until almost the end. Even though it was more than evident, IMO, that Aileen wasn't like other cutthroat reporters. Still, as a parent I can understand how his desire to protect Charlie would cause him to be so hesitant.

I did still enjoy their romance, and the fact that once Killian realized how amazing Aileen was, he went all in won me over. I was happy when Killian started seeing the big picture and let his walls down, not just with Aileen, but with his fellow teammates as well. They were able to provide support and friendship he'd been missing out on for so long. The ending of **Loving Him Off the Field** was everything that I hoped for.

A copy was provided by InterMix in exchange for an honest review.

This review is also posted at The Readers Den.

Roxanne says

Cute read, review to come

Mandy says

I love a good sports romance and this one was fantastic! I loved Aileen! She is smart and funny and goes after what she wants. Aileen is a journalist who is doing sports fluff pieces. Killian is the Bobcats kicker. He's a loner and pretty much just keeps to himself. He's keeping a secret and doesn't want anyone to find out about it. He's not happy when the adorable, freckled reporter starts following him for an interview. I loved these two characters! The chemistry between them was hot, they had some really great banter, they were unique and I just really liked both of them. I love this series! The first book, with Cassie and Trey was so good and I was so happy they made appearances in this book as well. I really enjoyed this book and I highly recommend it to anyone who loves a sweet and sexy romance or who loves a sports romance.

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review
