



Power Play

Cara Dee

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I was my own worst enemy. For as much as I depended on order and a structured life to easier manage my bipolar disorder, fire was irresistible and indisputably my favorite toy to play with. On the ice, it turned me into a hotheaded hockey player. In the bedroom, my attitude was my last defense, a front I wanted to see tumbling down. But lately, all I got was burned.

Love sucked. Correction: it sucked when you were in love with your parents' closest friend and he didn't feel the same. I admitted my feelings for Madigan Monroe over a year ago, and I was still waiting for a response. Now my balance was gone. My anxiety was all over the place, my fits of rage had just earned me a suspension from the team, I questioned myself at every turn, and being home for two weeks was gonna make it impossible to avoid Madigan.

I used to be his Abel, his sweetheart, his trouble. It'd been the two of us against the world since I was a kid. I'd even discovered we had kink in common! On paper, I was seemingly perfect for him. Maybe that was why his nonverbal rejection hurt so much. Or maybe it was because, recently, he seemed hell-bent on us "being friends" again.

Whatever. I was a loser, and I couldn't resist him for crap.

(DD/lb-dynamic.)

Power Play Details

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From Reader Review Power Play for online ebook

Ele says

4.5 stars

"I wasn't some hotshot hockey player with a big chip on his shoulder. I was a blubbering little boy getting ravaged by his Daddy."

Cara Dee...I just love you. That's all.

Christelle says

Another addition to the Camassia Cove series. I think it can be read as a standalone (I haven't read the MF books of this series and I think it's enough to know that previous characters are just part either of Abel's family or his circle of friends).

So, here, we get the story of Abel, 21, hockey-player, bipolar, who grew up nicely surrounded by his adopted family and Madigan, a friend of his biological father and of his adopted parents. But, see, when Abel was 12, he professed he would spend his life with Madigan and now that he's a young man, his feelings are still deep. But are they reciprocated ? Is Madigan seeing him, not anymore as a child to take care of nor as a friend, but as a lover ?

Trust Cara Dee to come up with another great story. I'm a fan of her writing, of the characters she draws, of the hotness between MCs and the banter she always includes. No disappointment here. And it was nice to get more of specific characters from this Camassia's "band" and glimpses of this group. However, I knew when I started that I might not enjoy the particular dynamics between Abel and Madigan....Daddy kink and all....(view spoiler).

The kink is well handled in my opinion. It's just that, as it's not my taste and don't find it hot, it didn't work for me. Nothing too cringy, just I couldn't relate. That said, I'm glad I tried it because Cara Dee is just that good and kink aside, I really enjoyed Abel and Madigan and that they got their HEA (because it was an evidence), being in Abel's head (we get only Abel's POV) and how he deals with his unconventional relationship, with his family and with his bipolarity, the banter and the spotlight on Gray, Abel's friend (I liked this guy -presumably the MC for Cara' next book).

another great BR with Karen and Josy : thank you for a great time sharing our reading. And thanks for Simone and Jan for stepping by.

Jan says

*** 3.5 Stars ***

Susan says

I loved this! Wonderful wonderful Daddy kink. It was believable and totally fit the characters in every way. This was not just a 'call me Daddy in the bedroom' kind of book. No, these guys fully embraced the Daddy/boy dynamics while still being equals in every way and without forgetting about the friendship they already had. But it wasn't full on age play either.

Abel is 5 when his father dies. He and his brother are left in the care of their stepmother, Adeline, who provides a stable home for them. Abel and his brother grow up in a loving home, with Adeline as their mother, and Lincoln, her new husband, as their father. Despite them not being their biological parents, Abel and Jesse are their kids in every way.

Madigan was a close friend of Abel and Jesse's father, and is still a close friend of Adeline and Lincoln. He has seen Abel grow up and has always had a very special bond with the boy. When Abel is 20 he texts Madigan that he has been in love with him for quite some time now. Madigan feels the attraction too, but can't ever let himself act on those feelings. Abel is the son of his closest friends!

Abel is hurt when Madigan doesn't respond to his text, but is even more upset that he distances himself from Abel. They used to be close friends, but now Abel messed everything up by telling Madigan the truth.

Abel is a professional hockey player and needs a lot of structure in his life due to him being bipolar. He is getting a bit out of control ever since Madigan broke off their friendship. Abel is getting more depressed by the day, but doesn't know what to do about it. Thank god he still had Gray, his best friend.

When Madigan visits his friends he sees how much he has hurt Abel with his actions and promises to do better. And that's how Abel and Madigan become friends once again. But when Abel tells Madigan he has explored his more kinky side in the past and needs some guidance, Madigan knows he has to help Abel, or some other Dom will.

Madigan tells Abel more about the Daddy kink Abel is interested in. But it's just helping out, there is no relationship between them. But just when Abel thinks he has to do everything in his power to forget about his feelings, Madigan has had enough and gives in to his own feelings....

I really loved this. Both Abel and Madigan were wonderful characters. I loved Abel and all his insecurities and how much he needed Madigan. There was so much comfort Madigan provided for Abel.

The daddy kink was very well done. I felt they were both totally on board with this type of relationship. It was nice that they went in with all their cards on the table already. Mad really was a Daddy Dom and Abel just wanted to let go and not be an adult at times.

This kink was more for both of them than just a simple 'Daddy' in the bedroom, but it wasn't as if they were only Daddy and boy. No, they were friends too. It had a really nice balance of both these aspects in their romantic relationship.

There was a part in this book that would have me frowning in other books, as I usually hate a scene like that. But here I loved it. So anyone who is like me and who doesn't like a threesome or another bed partner in

their books, hear me out before you dismiss this book.

(view spoiler)

I read the excerpt of Gray's book at the end and OMG, I can't wait to read it!!!!

This was a wonderful BDSM book with a May-December romance and enough Daddy kink to make me a very happy girl.

An ARC of Power Play was generously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

This review has been cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.

~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

~4.5~

I was hesitant to read this book. I am usually not a fan of Daddy kink. But this is Cara Dee we're talking about, so all bets are off.

Turns out I LOVE Daddy kink when it's done right.

Mad isn't Abel's father; Lincoln is, and he's the coolest dad ever. But Mad has looked out for Abel since Abel's biological father died when Abel was 5.

And Abel needs a keeper: he's a professional hockey player plagued by depression and anxiety. Abel is biopolar and doesn't adult well. He forgets to eat. He's an impulsive shopper. He pulls his baby sister out of school because he's restless and bored.

When Abel was 12, he knew he'd marry Madigan one day.

When Abel was 19, Madigan saw him as a man for the first time.

When Abel was 20, Madigan pushed him away because he was ashamed of his desire to own Abel.

When Abel was 21, Madigan became Abel's Daddy and Abel his boy.

While I prefer the terms *Sir* and *Master* when it comes to D/s relationships, *Daddy* worked for Abel and Mad. Abel needed someone to take care of him completely, to own him. Even though Abel explores the Daddy/Little dynamic, I didn't read him as a Little. He never acted like a child, more like an unruly teenager who needed discipline.

Abel was powerful when he was powerless.

The kinky sex was out of this world hot, and once Abel and Mad came together there was no relationship angst at all. When Mad was in, he was ALL in. He became the Dom, the Daddy, no doubts, no guilt.

Abel's friendship with Gray was touching and full of warmth. I was warned about the threesome scene in this book involving Gray. I was worried I'd hate it. But I didn't! I actually kind of loved it. It was sexy as fuck and absolutely perfect. It FIT Abel and Gray's friendship, something Mad understood.

Abel is the first-person narrator of *Power Play*, and being in his head was exhausting at times. He was up and down, unsettled, anxious. It all came through in the narration. But then, subtly, slowly, Abel's voice changed. **He became calmer, more focused, happier, as he let go and let God Mad.**

The conflict involves Abel's parents, Ade and Lincoln, freaking out when they find out their best friend Madigan, who's older than Ade, is in a relationship with their son. There's a reason for this, and I liked the way Dee handled this aspect of the story.

This book is another homerun (goal?) for Cara Dee. The epilogue made my, um, allergies act up, because is there anything sweeter than a Dom on his knees?

DarienMoya says

4.5

~DADDY WILL YOU PLAY WITH ME~

Can I get a Amen and simultaneous call for 911 because Power Play was hot fire ?. Like how haven't I read Care Dee before this? It's like she reached in my brain and found out my love for dirty talk and put that ish all in a book. Like their were words so many very very good words.

Abel is in love with his bestfriend. Well bestfriend is an understatement because his relationship with Madigan transcends a word or label. Upside he knows he would be perfect for him, downside Madigan has known him since he was a kid and he's his parents bestfriend. The odds are very much against them. Their relationship is a bit on the fritz since Abel confessed his feelings and Mads told him "hell no" that shit ain't happening but when new information that Madigan might feel the same comes alright Abel knows he's all in and he's gonna go get his man or should I say Daddy ?

What then ensues is some of the sexiest shit I've ever read. I'm a girl who loves words and dirty talk. Yes, sex scenes can be hot but if you ain't talking dirty then I don't wanna talk. Mads out here killing me with is words and having Abel going up in flames, like sir you better fucking stop.

Was there plot ? I ponders....well Abel does have bipolar disorder and has bad anxiety so there's that, but it doesn't play a very big role in the story. There's a lot of talk but not much show you know I would have liked if that was explored properly. I also felt like things got smooth way too quick, I'm a girl that enjoys the push and pull and once Mads was in it he most definitely was in it ? and I wanted some of that UST back.

Overall I freaking loved it and Cara Dee is going on my auto buy list because I feel she got my dirty talk for me. Loved Mads and Abel and the whole DD/lb dynamic. Whenever I think seeing someone say Daddy in a book won't be hot, I eat my words everytime. I need all the DD/lb books now.

“Yes Daddy”

Judith says

4.5

Well,Daddy likes it filthy....damn this was hot and pushed all my buttons....

Who would have thought this book would be a total hit for me?

I didn't read the blurb,all I saw was that Cara Dee had a new book out.

BDSM and DD/lb isn't normally my thing at all.I've read a few books about Daddy Kink and it's never really got me going...in fact I've found them quite cringing.

WELL my opinion definitely changed here.I absolutely loved this.I'm definitely not an expert on BDSM but I would say this isn't hard core at all....

It's more about the kink and it was just delicious.

Abel and Madigan have a special relationship.When Abel was 12 he declared he was going to marry *his Mad* when he got older.Madigan was a family friend of his parents,always there to look out for Abel and protect him.....until he saw Abel,aged 19,not looking like a boy anymore...looking like someone he desired....

In reality Madigan never stood a chance as Abel moved in to seduce him,igniting both their kinks.....

“My sweet trouble...” he whispered against my skin. “I can’t fucking stay away from you anymore.”

And it was definitely kinky,with some of the best dirty talk ever

There was a great,believable connection between them.I simply adored them.....I could have read their story forever.....as they would face all the inevitable struggles couples go through...I just know they would have their HEA in the Sun.

And a massive plus,for me,a chapter towards the end when things got a whole lot hotter....it's most definitely my thing!!

Another fantastic book by this Author,she can deliver a romantic story with a whole lot of filth so well.

Highly Recommended!!

An Arc of Power Play was kindly provided to DirtyBooksObsession in exchange for an honest review.

My reviews are posted on DirtyBooksObsession

Renée says

I had to look up DD/lb before I started reading this one. And I knew going in it wasn't going to be my cuppa.

So why would I read this, then?

Because Cara Dee.

I read it if she writes it.

And I'm glad I did, because some of it was hot! Some of it wasn't the best. One thing made me cringe.

But I loved the story and the way Dee can make me **feel**.

My heart was breaking for Abel within the first few chapters. My eyes may have even been leaking.

To be in love with someone for so long, only to have your heart shattered. Damn. Dee can write.

Just because he was perfect for me didn't mean I was perfect for him.

But Madigan isn't immune to Abel, as he would have him believe. He winds up breaking his own heart in the process. What's holding him back is that he's known Abel since Abel was six. He's Abel's parents' best friend. How could he possibly go there?

In a perfect world, I'd be your Daddy,

Once they become "friends" again, you're back in the Camassia Cove world where the last book with Casey and Ellis left off.

The dynamics of Madigan and Abel's preferences were a joy to explore. Dee made me understand them a whole lot better than I did prior to this book.

And did I mention how many **feelz** Dee provoked? It's worth it to say again. This is why I read her, every single time.

There was one scene, toward the end that I didn't like so much. I feel the need to mention it in case it's a hard limit for some readers. It involves a third brought into their bedroom. And while it wasn't a *typical* third situation, it's still not a personal taste of mine, so I wish I'd be able to unread it.

Other than that, every word was a joy. The emotions, the prose, the character and relationship building were so on point. Recommended!

"My sweet trouble..." he whispered against my skin. "I can't fucking stay away from you anymore."

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

3.5 stars

That's right, it's DADDY KINK, baby!!

I'm a huge, huge lover of daddy kink. I love it in DD (domestic discipline) relationships and I love it in big/little relationships. I've read a number of DD/lg books but fewer DD/lb (more if you count "novellas" on

some, uh, story websites **cough, nifty, cough**). I was BEYOND excited to try this one, and a lot of the story worked for me. Unfortunately, some of it didn't.

Some warnings before going into this one:

It's AGE PLAY, folks. If you are uncomfortable with age/regression play and a full-time daddy/boy lifestyle, don't read this one. I happen to LOVE that dynamic, but it icks some people out.

There is a threesome in the book. Yeah, I guess that's a little spoiler-y, but I think it is really important for readers to know before going into it. Some readers don't mind other partners, some are strongly against it. I happen to take it on a case-by-case basis, but I **didn't like it here**. I thought it came really out of the blue, and I thought it detracted from the daddy/little dynamic a ton. Threesomes are fine for erotica and novellas for me, but in this setting it just seemed weird.

The main character is bipolar and his condition features centrally in the story... but I'm not sure how accurate the depiction was. I have a good friend who is bipolar and I didn't recognize her in the actions of the MC in this book, but I'm FAR from an expert at all-things bipolar. I'm just a little concerned that the mindset and treatment of someone who is bipolar might not be entirely accurate here. Just something to be aware of.

Now, my favorite part of the story was the **dirty talk**, by far. I could have used even more daddy/boy scenes and more time with them exploring their sexual chemistry (ALONE). I also wanted more discipline, more of their actual daily interactions on page. A lot of the book is the buildup of them getting together, which is fine, but I could have used more of them in their daily life. I also found them to be a bit too mushy as a couple (something I thought I would *never* say). It seemed like they just got together and already they were talking about love up to an eleven. I know these two have an extensive background (which, to be honest, also squeaked me out a bit), but I like more relationship building on page.

I also struggled with the fact that I haven't read the Camassia Cove series, and there are a TON of characters from previous books. While Power Play can be read as a stand-alone, I felt like I needed a bit more background on all of the piles of secondary characters.

I thought this book had some SUPER hot and really great moments, but it needed a few tweaks to make it perfect for my particular taste. But, honestly, I'm THRILLED to discover another daddy kink author, and I think all DD/lb fans would enjoy this one.

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review

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***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

3.5 Stars!

Well, I think it's safe to say DD/lb...

Daddy kink I am apparently okay with, little boy...not so much.

That being said, this wasn't a *bad* book. The writing was good. Cara Dee is very hit or miss for me. I wouldn't say this was miss levels for me. I think it comes down more to personal preference, and there were parts of this one that made me legit cringe.

I was always invested and there were parts that *were* hot.

I also agree with Line's review that too many characters from the other series' were present in this book. I haven't read all of the books in the series, nor do I want to. So I was confused as to who some characters were.

Shockingly I wasn't bothered by the "threesome" with Gray. Speaking of, the sneak peek of his book was soooooo confusing.

Basically I'm going to chalk this one up to being "it's me, not you".

Line says

In this instance I can say with 100% accuracy: *"it was definitely me!"*

Hah, not really *"unique"* though, but I have found my squeak-limit and it begins with the 'Oreo O's', goes through tickling, giggling, apple juice boxes and ends with a piggy bank for a rich hockey player, where he stashes his allowance ***blushes furiously***.

I am all for expanding my horizons, and this was a pre-order as soon as Ms. Dee announced that it was up for grabs.

The writing, the people, the 'town' of Camassia Cove and the smexy times were **PURE** Ms. Dee, and that wasn't really the problem.

The problem was that I squirmed a **LOT**, but this was not the fun kind of squirming.

No, this was the kind where you're covering your own eyes, you're having a hard time finding a comfortable seat and every time they did something 'Daddy-Little-like' I found myself looking around the room thinking of decorations for the walls.

And I just want to make it absolutely clear: I am in no way kink-shaming! If you find yourself in a loving, consensual relationship (or if you're single or poly or whatever else you can be, the operative word being 'consensual') where you're the 'Little' (*is that an upper case thing?*) and your Daddy Dom takes care of you, I will defend your right to do so, I will support you and I will not judge anything you do, however I might be blushing like crazy every time something DD/I happens (*?? What's with the difference in lower and upper cases for these titles?*).

I just got a wee bit too squeaky when reading this, though not in an awful way, it was just not to my overall tastes.

I do have another smaller issue with this series. And that is the amount of names of family members and friends, that are mentioned in every other chapter.

It **IS** a stand-alone book, but there are just too many people dragged into this, and it yanks me out of the story every time I try to place *who, what, where?*

I only read MM (which is my own choice/fault), but these people take up a lot of space in this book/series, and it's a wee bit too much -IMO.

As for solutions: the lovely Susan told me she ignored the names, so that's a possibility and the wonderful Ele pointed me towards this Family Tree for the Camassia Cove-people. I just thinks it's crazy that I need to have a **FAMILY TREE** on hand to figure out who's who.

Which brings me to another 'issue' with the DD-thing: when Abel said Daddy and Dad (about Lincoln) in almost the same sentence, it was quite... ~~Weird? Squirm-inducing? Eye-opening?~~ Real!

I didn't really have any issues with the scene towards the end, that have been mentioned on other reviews (Ele and Rene's I think). But I want to mention it, just to be on the safe side, since this might be a 'no-no' for some, in regards to extras in the bedroom (view spoiler)

My last niggle was the progression of the relationship.

Abel confesses his love --> Mad rejects him --> they don't talk for a year --> Abel asks Mad to 'mentor' --> suddenly Mad gives in on the whole 'shebang'.

It was a little jarring, and I felt like there was a disconnect somewhere, from where Mad decided he would be Abel's mentor, to his decision to go all-out with the DD/I-thing (*Seriously??*)

I don't know if I missed something, but I felt it came out of the blue.

However in the end my biggest issue was that I couldn't see the "*child-like*" behaviour for what it was. And that is definitely on me.

I am not finished with Camassia Cove or Ms. Dee though, and I am looking forward to Gray's story a whole hell of a lot.

Jewel says

4.5 Stars

In a perfect world, I'd be your Daddy.

If Cara Dee writes it, I will read it. Full Stop. I admit I was feeling cautious here, being as how that the dynamic is DD/lb, and I was very unfamiliar with it. I had to do a little bit of research so that I would have an idea of what to expect. Honestly, though, I needn't have worried -- *Power Play* was damn near perfect. I loved it!

They bonded over Nutella and formed a friendship so strong, neither Abel nor Madigan ever thought it would break.

Four a.m. was for broken hearts and fools.

Take it from Abel, who is still nursing a broken heart and suffering the loss of *his Mad*. Madigan, who made Abel feel safe and normal. Madigan, whom Abel knew he wanted to marry, even when he was a kid. Madigan, who he's barely seen since sending that text over a year ago.

I think ive been in love with u since I was 12.

Madigan was stubborn, though. He had trouble reconciling the fact that he watched Abel grow up with the fact that Abel is now, all grown up. He had trouble getting past feeling like he was betraying Morgan, not to mention Ade and Lincoln by having feelings for their son. And then there is the little issue of kink and Madigan not believing that they could possibly have that in common.

“My sweet trouble...” he whispered against my skin. “I can’t fucking stay away from you anymore.”

I absolutely **loved** all the feels in this book. Cara Dee sure can write. I was sucked into the story and really felt for the characters. My heart broke when Abel was in pain and it soared when Madigan admitted his feelings, too.

Abel, who is bipolar and also suffers from anxiety and depression, needs structure and guidance. Things that Madigan had always given him. And Madigan with his bone deep need to nurture and care for Abel, while far from perfect, he was perfect for Abel. Both men felt very real to me and I loved their dynamic. It simply fit.

The kink, I thought, was well done. It was not a "sometimes" dynamic, at all, but rather Madigan was always Daddy, and Abel was always his little boy. I loved how, while they were definitely equals, Madigan was always watching out for Abel and making sure he had what he needed to thrive. Their entire relationship was very symbiotic.

I knew that the day I caved, there would be no going back for me.

I appreciated that there wasn't unnecessary melodrama. There was angst, but it felt organic. The relationship development was spot on and their romance felt special. I was in love.

I also loved Abel's relationship with Gray. Gray kept Abel sane during the year that Madigan stepped away, and they had something that, while not entirely platonic, it was not a romantic connection. They each filled a void in the other. And while your mileage may vary, I loved how Madigan nurtured that relationship rather than changing it.

Power Play just worked for me, there is no question. Recommended.

*ARC of **Power Play** was generously provided by the author, in exchange for an honest review.*

Wendy says

Definitely the best "Daddy" kink book I have ever read ;)

review to come

Chris says

This was Daddy kink with a ton of sweetness and love ♥? Cara did a great job with this book and got into the relationship fast - Abel announced his love for Mad via text, putting every emotion on the line and Mad basically ran away ... for two years ! Mad is best friends with Abel's parents and while he has loved and protected Abel forever he couldn't cross the line. However, Abel being the persistent one, thanks to Grey, was relentless. Once he broke Mad there was no going back ! I adored these guys and their chemistry. Their Daddy / little dynamic was well written and was more protective than just sex, mind you Mad sure knew how to rock Abel's world ? Another great Cara Dee book

River says

I see a lot of high rating reviews here so apparently I'm going to be in the minority here. It pains me to do this review because I normally I really enjoy Cara's books but I have to stick my guns and I personally didn't like this book.

First of all, when I hear DD/lb I instantly think of the hardcore daddy/little relationships so I was wary going in because I had no idea if it was going to be just mild play or full on diapers, bottles and stuff.

It wasn't as weird as I thought, actually my three big issues with the story are not even about the DD/lb thing per se.. it was more about the background.

1. Abel's personality was a mess, his way of thinking was very mature sometimes but other's he would be super weird about adult stuff, very child like, and I would've understood that if it happened with Madigan but no, in general he stammered through sex talks which I think its just weird.

He had bipolar disorder but it was portrayed like it was only mood swings, we really didn't get more of "it comes with high highs and low lows". It wasn't really explored and it bothered me.

2. Abel's father situation. here's the thing, I haven't read the books in this series that include female MCs so I don't the story behind Abel's family, what I know is what it was mentioned here and in here it was implied that Abel's dad loved him but he died of cancer when Abel was 6.

throughout the story his father is called by everyone "biological father" and it bothered me so much. I get the

fact that Abel loves his adoptive dad but here's the thing, he can perfectly have two dads. and us as readers are smart enough to differentiate "father" and "dad" or hell they could have done the whole "dad x" and "dad x" using the names but nooo it was super important to make us understand that Lincoln was the super great dad that everyone loves. I find it disrespectful as hell, specially after Abel yells at his brother for not calling Lincoln "Dad", may I point out the fact that Jesse was 14 when his father died? he knew his father, people shouldn't impose on him how he should call people. ugh the whole thing pissed me off.

3. My biggest issue with this book: Madigan was friends with Abel's father, hell they even shared sexual history. He first met Abel when Abel was 6 years old. So this guy went to say goodbye to his friend/lover and met his kids and 14 years later is fucking one of them and treating him like a boy. Can you explain to me how is that not weird? I would have respected this story way more if these guys met in the story as adults but the fact that Madigan knew Abel since childhood is creepy as fuck.

(view spoiler)
