


Power Play

Nancy Warren

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Keep her hands to herself?

Not easy for Emily Saunders, who's in Elk Crossing, Idaho, for a family wedding. She's double booked in the same hotel room with a sexy cop attending--of all things!--a hockey tournament. As a massage therapist, Emily's soon *itching* to soothe Jonah Bett's gorgeous muscles--both on and off the ice.

Jonah can't believe his luck--a sexy single woman sharing his cozy room, albeit temporarily. Okay, her orange bridesmaid dress is a disaster and her family is convinced he's actually her boyfriend. He's ready to go along with it even as he makes his play...

Until Emily is suddenly calling for a TIME-OUT! Will Jonah's fantasies be permanently iced?

Power Play Details

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From Reader Review Power Play for online ebook

Ruth says

He's a Portland cop that plays hockey in an amateur league. She's a massage therapist from Portland who is in Elk Lodge, Idaho for a horrendous family wedding. He's there for the playoffs of his hockey league. Cute story, with a bit more of a dramatic kick at the end than I was expecting from the earlier tone.

Jane Stewart says

4 ½ stars. Fun, enjoyable romance. I was chuckling several times. Characters and plot worked well. Nothing annoyed me.

STORY BRIEF:

Emily is a health center massage therapist who is in town for her cousin's wedding. Her relatives take advantage of her by asking her to run errands, do wedding chores, etc. She's staying in a hotel to avoid the additional stress of staying with family members. Jonah is a detective who plays in an ice hockey league for guys over 30. He's in town for several days for a hockey tournament. The hotel is overbooked and puts them in the same room – a room they don't rent out due to a leaky roof and buckets catching water when it rains. Neither wants to leave the hotel which means they have to share the room. Jonah promises he won't make a pass at her, so they agree to share. Meanwhile, Emily's relatives are playing matchmaker for Emily with her repulsive orthodontist third cousin Buddy. When Leanne (the bride) calls the room, Jonah answers the phone. Leanne wants to know who the male voice is, so Emily lies saying he's her boyfriend. As events unfold, he plays along with it.

REVIEWER'S OPINION:

The main story was what I expect from a good romance novel. The only downside might be its short length - 206 pages. Most novels are over 300 pages.

There is a second story that was neat as well. Kirsten was bright with great possibilities in marketing and public relations, but she gave up on herself. She now works as a waitress and dates a loser. She meets Sadhu, one of Jonah's fellow hockey players, with some interesting results – different from what I expected.

DATA:

Story length: 206 pages. Swearing language: moderate. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: 2. Total number of sex scene pages: around 11. Setting: current day Elk Crossing, Idaho. Copyright: 2009. Genre: contemporary romance.

Anastasia says

I'm finding that the more I like a book, the quicker I gobble it up. Seems like an obvious cause/effect, but it really hit home when I finished Power Play in THREE HOURS!

The only things that stood out more than the steamy bedroom scenes were the unexpected and hilarious

laugh-til-you-cry scenes. It's been a while since I've literally laughed out loud when reading a book and there were multiple moments where I not only smiled and giggled, but I bellowed out full-on laughs during this book.

Good-girl Emily returns to her hometown as a bridesmaid in her cousin's wedding. Since she's single, she always been labeled the 'reliable one,' and constantly bends over backward for her family's requests. Dependable as she may be, Emily refuses to bunk at home and books a hotel room (far away from her family) for the week. As luck would have it, the hotel experiences a bedbug infestation the first night during her stay and she is booted from her room.

Jonah is staying across the hall from Emily when the infestation occurs and the evacuation definitely throws a wrench into his week-long hockey tournament. Because of a hotel mix-up -- and because they're both stubborn -- Jonah and Emily become roommates for the week. There is one up side to Emily's new roommate, however -- an excuse to get her family off her back, as she pretends Jonah is her boyfriend. The sheets sizzle between these two and their banter is absolutely hilarious!

Emily is quick-witted and multifaceted, enjoying a cold beer as much as painting her nails, while Jonah is as big (in a sexy, hover-over-you kind of way) and lovable as a teddy bear. The author also adds a secondary romance to the mix which at first seems confusing, but soon becomes a charming touch that adds another dimension to the story. Rounding things out is a climax with an unexpected clinch, and in the end I was left with a chuckling grin on my face.

Mella says

This book didn't seem to know whether it was romantic suspense or plain romance. The romantic suspense storyline was kind of a fail and added nothing to the story. It needed to be fleshed out more if going down that path. On the other hand the romance was sweet and enjoyable - when it wasn't destroyed by the other storyline. It also had very little to do with hockey. I liked both the main characters. The supporting characters were a little weak but the humour was funny and overall it was an easy read. Probably more 3 stars but I'm giving an extra one for just plain enjoyment. It made me laugh and swoon.

Audrey says

An appealing heroine, and hero who isn't a douchecanoe, an interesting premise and...a plot that beggars belief. And I understand that there's some amount of belief-suspension necessary to read a Blaze, but I didn't find the big plot twist near the end well executed.

Also, adding in a 3rd, minor character's POV 140 pages into a 200-page book kind of threw me for a loop. And despite having a heavily hirsute hero, the guy on the cover is smooth-chested. Eh.

Auntee says

This was a cute little romance between a massage therapist (Emily) who's come home to tiny Elk Crossing, Idaho for her cousin's big family wedding, and a cop (Jonah) who's entered a hockey tournament in the same

town. Through a series of somewhat unbelievable and often humorous circumstances (bedbugs!), they end up having to share the same hotel room. I know it all sounds a bit predictable, because you *know* what's bound to happen when you put two single, attractive people in the same hotel room in a romance novel...But, strangely enough, they waited a few days and actually got to know one another a bit before they followed up on the attraction. And also strangely enough, there was no big "massage" seduction scene. Not that I would've minded that...The hero, Jonah, was a stand-up, stick-to-his-word kind of guy, and he promised Emily that he wouldn't make any moves on her when they agreed they'd share a hotel room. So it was kind of cute (and hot) when Emily had to make the first move on the big, virile cop.

The author does a fair job of providing some background info on the two leads, going into detail about Emily's career and why she has trouble just saying "no" to all her extended family's demands (she's a bit of a doormat when it comes to them), and her feelings about love and marriage. I could have used a bit more info about Jonah, besides the fact that he was a detective in Portland, played hockey in a men's over-30 league, and was very hairy (but no back hair!), had to shave more than once a day, had abs of steel, and had similar ideas about marriage. Not much to go on, but I did like how he treated Emily, and while their love scenes were hot, I've read even hotter ones in some recent Blazes. And while they only knew each other for a week, I did like how the author built the relationship--neither was blurting out any "I love yous" (even though they were thinking it)--when the week was up, you knew they weren't quite ready to run off and get married. Score one for believability.

There were a couple of side plots about a friend of Emily's and a firefighter friend of Jonah's hooking up, and a distant relative of Emily's who was up to no good. The relative-gone-bad subplot added a bit of unexpected suspense near the end of the story (where Emily finally learned to just-say NO), and helped the H/H realize just how much the other meant to them.

So, not a bad escapist read. I wasn't totally wowed, but it was certainly good enough to hold my interest and entertain me. A solid 3 1/2+ stars.

Carrie says

TBR Challenge 2011- *Power Play* has been on my wish list for over 6 months. June Category: Contemporary

3.5*

Entertaining and humorous story with very likeable characters. The opening scene made me laugh, and set the tone for the entire book. The characters were great, but not perfect. The attraction was there, but we didn't have to read about tingling body parts every paragraph. There were several sub-plots and numerous characters that the author wove into the story quite smoothly.

The book was sexy, but not as graphic as some Blaze titles. The love scenes felt about right for the overall light-hearted story.

Norma says

What a fun story. I really enjoyed this. I knew I'd like Jonah when he was described as having more hair than necessary and then referred to as "hairy guy." LOL Jonah and Emily are fun and likable. No misunderstandings, no TSTL moments, no separation. Oh and they actually talk! Emily felt real and I felt like she was someone I could be friends with. She didn't feel like an untouchable heroine. Jonah, while he's the hero and a cop, is not an unrealistic alpha male. He, too, felt like any man. I think that might be part of what I liked so much. The story just flows and I enjoyed being part of the ride.

I also really enjoyed the side romance in this story. Kirsten was a likeable character and felt like a friend anyone of us could have.

I have one or two more by this author in my TBR and I'll be moving them to the top of my list.

If I had one complaint it would be that the book was too short.

Carolyne says

Ok, as a "Blaze" book it was as good as the rest, but since hockey is key to the plot you would think the author would have at least looked up a few things about the game. All the hockey talk was wrong and stupid.

1. hockey equipment is not called a "uniform"
2. hockey players do not carry around two pair of skates unless you are in the NHL
3. hockey skates do not have liners you remove
4. no one plays hockey only for the win or the exercise. they play for the love of the game
5. you cannot swim in full hockey equipment
6. a hockey net is not, is never, black. You would not be able to see the puck
7. when you rush off to rescue the fair maiden, you would take off the equipment as you cannot run, drive, swim, etc wearing hockey pants, shin pads, shoulder pads, etc. etc.
8. a goalie does not have "two huge gloves" aaarrrrrh
9. never are any hockey equipment called "padding"
10. all this hockey equipment in a hotel room and no one mentions the smell
11. the room shown on the cover is not a hockey dressing room. They don't have lockers.

and the hero is hairy. mentioned several times. Why is the guy on the cover shaved smooth?

Mojca says

READER'S NOTE

The blurb sucks by the way, having (almost) nothing to do with the story.

END OF READER'S NOTE

Emily is in Elk Crossing, Idaho, her home town, as a bridesmaid for her cousin's wedding. Jonah, a Portland cop, is in Elk Crossing to participate in the Over-Thirties-Hockey Tournament

A case of bed bugs and absolutely no vacancies thanks to the hockey tournament, forces them to share the last room available in the Elk Crossing Lodge. And an unfortunate incident of the wrong person answering the phone, now Emily's family think her forced roomie is her boyfriend.

Up to the second half of the eighteenth chapter (out of 21), this was a fun, sweet, sassy, and sexy little Blaze story. The beginning with the bedbug infestation was hilarious, and the forced roommate business predicted major chemistry and sparkage. And it delivered. Boy, did it ever.

Both Jonah and Emily were great characters, and even greater when they interacted with each other. The forced proximity quickly "matured" their relationship from reluctant friendship, through all the stages of dating (thanks to a thunderstorm that didn't let them sleep, so they talked through the night), to end up in explosive sexual chemistry, complete with dress-up fantasies involving champagne, strawberries, and a blindfold.

Then, in the second part of the 18th chapter, the sexy, sweet, sassy story took a plunge into a ridiculous suspense subplot that had neither head nor tail, but was used more as a cheap parlor trick to make the hero and heroine realize the truth about their feelings.

Also, the side love story involving a secondary-character (a page-count increaser already seen—and severely disliked—in *SEALED* and *Delivered*) was completely unnecessary. The author could've used those pages to devise a good and plausible reason for the H/h to "get the epiphany" without the stupid suspense subplot.

Still, the first 17 and a half chapters were amazing enough to earn this one 4 stars.
