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Empty Net (Scoring Chances Book 4)



Synopsis

A Scoring Chances NovelSpartanburg Spitfiresâ™ goalie and captain, Isaac Drake, ended last season with an unexpected trip to the playoffs. Heâ™s found a home and a family with his coach and mentor, Misha Samarin, and heâ™s looking forward to making a serious run for the Kelly Cup. But things take an interesting turn when Isaacâ™s archnemesi, Laurent St. Savoy, is traded to the Spitfires. After Laurentâ™s despicable behavior in the playoffs last year, Isaac wants nothing to do with himâ”no matter how gorgeous he is. But that changes when Isaac discovers the reason for Laurentâ™s attitude. Laurent St. Savoy grew up the only son of a legendary NHL goalie in a household rife with abuse. He was constantly treated like a disappointment, on and off the ice. When a desperate attempt to escape his fatherâ™s tyranny sends him to the Spitfires, the last thing Laurent wants is to make friends. But thereâ™s something about Isaac Drake that he canâ™t resist. Laurent has an opportunity to explore his sexuality for the first time, but heâ™s cracking under end-of-the-season pressures. When facing the playoffs and a rivalry turned personal vendetta, Isaacâ™s not sure heâ™s enough to hold on to Laurentâ”or their relationship.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I haven't read the previous book in this series which introduced both Isaac and Laurent but I took a chance on a new-to-me author because I liked the premise of enemies on the ice forced to become teammates. The reasons for Laurent's previous reprehensible behaviour turn out to be heartbreaking and his relationship with Isaac was very touching and enjoyable to read about. Laurent's physically and emotionally abusive father has left his son psychologically damaged. Isaac is the one who finally sees through Laurent's defences and starts to treat him with understanding and reassurance. Laurent gradually learns to trust Isaac, while Isaac tries to figure out the best ways to help Laurent overcome his harmful behaviours. The relationship between these two was heart-warming and very refreshing in a genre where hardly anything seems new to the jaded reader. The tortured hero who behaves badly is a romance novel staple but this book clearly and believably shows how Laurent's past experiences have caused his current demeanour and attitude. Isaac is also far from the typical opposite number to the stereotyped tortured hero. He is blue haired, pierced and short for a hockey goalie. He succeeds as an athlete largely due to dedication and love of the game, in contrast to Laurent's physical advantages. Isaac does not comfort Laurent with physical strength but with his lack of judgement and willingness to find new methods of communication that soothe Laurent's anxieties. There is no magic cure here but realistic improvement, one step at a time. I loved the relationship between the main characters, but I also liked the lower tier pro hockey setting, where the players barely make a living rather than being million dollar superstars.

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