



Making a Play

Victoria Denault

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He'll do whatever it takes to win—on and off the ice.

Luc Richard is the hottest player in the NHL—and it has nothing to do with hockey. His racy relationship with his supermodel ex set the tabloids on fire but nearly put his career on ice. To avoid being traded, Luc agrees to take a break from the spotlight—and from women—and spend the off-season at home in Silver Bay, Maine. It's the perfect plan... until he reconnects with Rose.

Rose Caplan is tired of being shy, sweet, and safe. She's ready for passion, romance—and Luc. Having loved him longer than she can remember, she's finally ready to prove she's not the same innocent little girl he once knew. Off the ice Luc doesn't do games, but this new Rose makes him feel like playing a little dirty. If he's really got a shot at her heart then he's not just playing to win. He's playing for keeps.

Making a Play Details

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From Reader Review Making a Play for online ebook

Jennifer says

This was a very good follow up to book 1, One More Shot. Where One More Shot was riddled with editing errors, you can tell that the author has learned from this and did a much better job with book 2. I loved the storyline and it was much less angsty and flowed so much better. I was not a fan of middle sister Callie in book 1, but liked her so much better in Making a Play. This is a good thing because she's the main character in book 3, The Final Move. I'm jumping into book 3 now! I highly recommend to any fan that enjoys sports romance or the friends to lovers trope.

Amanda says

Overall, *Making a Play* is fairly standard protocol for any romance like this. What differentiates one romance from another is the particular minutia that fills out the story. Personally, I'm a total sucker for a friends to lover's romance. There's just something about these stories that gets me every time. *Making a Play* is a friends to lover's romance set in the professional Hockey world. Our heroine Rose has been in love with her French-Canadian hockey playing best friend Luc since they were kids. Even though Luc is also attracted to Rose, he never makes a move on her because he thinks she deserves more than he can give her....

As you can see, it's just the basic run of the mill premise for a story like this. In run of the mill stories, the characters aren't necessarily well developed and the story is nothing super extraordinary. However there do tend to be some legit funny moments as well as some steamy smutty scenes. Then of course there will be the stupid break up for some stupid reason so the characters can learn a lesson and get back together. *Making a Play* fits that rhetoric to a T. Fair warning: (view spoiler)

So, was *Making a Play* remarkable? No, it really wasn't. Was it light and fun with a dash of smut? Yes, very much so. This is the perfect story for someone who's trash over the friends to lover's trope and wants a quick light read. This isn't the book for you if you were looking for something super original and groundbreaking. This is book candy and honestly, why would anyone ever assume otherwise? Ha!

1-Click Addict Support Group says

Not only sweet nothings... but *French* sweet nothings....

Luc Richard is home for the summer and trying to keep things very low key. His ex-girlfriend has undermined his career in the NHL and he needs to build back his reputation both on and off the ice.

Rose Caplan has been his friend since they were kids and enjoyed the sense of family that their shared friends, the Garrison clan, provided them. Luc was determined to stay focused and out of the tabloids, so romance was off the table. It seems that Rose had other plans.

“Hot pieces of ass should not be celibate. It’s like a direct insult to women everywhere. He needs to be

someone's plaything. I think he should be yours."

Things were going to change this summer and it's hard to say who is the least, or most, ready!

Luc is a hot hockey player with a beautiful, sexy French Canadian accent. Well, I imagine it is beautiful, and sexy... Okay, I may have dreamed about it just a wee little bit. But there is definitely lots to love about him. Is he perfect? Not by a long shot. The missteps he makes with Rose are just wrong at times but you can't help but love his stumbling ways and his determination to make things right.

And Rose is definitely worth his time. She is young, and in many ways, so innocent. Watching her flirt and try to change things up with Luc is so much fun. The bikini scene had me smiling, a lot!

"Maybe if you climb him like a jungle gym, he'll be forced to face his feelings."

Is there drama between these two? Absolutely, but it's not the "fake" drama or the overdone, totally unrealistic kind. With friends and family at the ready to help, and hinder, them both, the sparks were flying in and out of the bedroom! Whether "dancing" up a storm (okay, dirty dancing) or plotting a charity event, they were just so... right for each other. In French or English, they had it going on. Oh and "orgasm speak"? Yup, that's in my dictionary now!

Great storytelling with a wonderful mix of love (friend, family and romantic), humor and saucy sexiness, I hope there will be many, many more books in this series. A tantalizing sneak peek at the next in the series has me anxiously waiting for Callie and Devin's story! ~ Diane, 4.5 stars

Melissa Rob says

Another great story by Victoria Denault. I'm really enjoying reading this series and can't wait to move onto Devin and Callie's book. I love Callie's attitude, she might be my favorite of the three girls!

Tina "IRead2Escape" says

4.5 Stars

Hotness Rating 3 out of 5

I loved this book! Making a Play was everything I need to make a sports romance not just good, but great in my opinion. The story was fast paced (although, the relationship wasn't so much), there was enough drama to keep my heart racing, but not so much as to get on my nerves, I totally related to the characters and was fully invested in their story. I wanted so much for this couple to get their happy ever after that I hurt when it looked like Luc had screwed that all up.

Luc grew up with the Garrison boys and anyone that was close to the Garrison boys automatically became close to the Caplan girls. Luc never saw Rosie Caplan quite the way she saw him, but now at the worst possible time that is changing. Luc's super-model ex-girlfriend has cost him a boatload of problems and

almost his career. His plan is to lay low in Silvery Bay, Maine where he grew up and get his life back under control.

Rosie was a girl after my own heart. She was a romantic that has always believed there is someone out there for everyone. She's had a crush on Luc for as long as she can remember and he's never returned that sentiment. But, now that he's back in town she's decided that this is her chance to make him see her as a woman rather than his childhood friend.

Luc's childhood was a tough one. It broke my heart really, but I hate when the author uses the whole "I can't make a good husband or boyfriend because of the man that my father was" device. However, there is something about Luc and Rosie that just made this plot work. I truly enjoyed their journey to finding each other. I can not wait to read more of this series.

This book was provided to me in exchange for my honest review.

Irina says

[(half secret relationship) (hide spoiler)]

Sybil aka Lala says

I have no idea how to even start this review. I feel like nothing I say could ever do it justice.

Luc and Rose grew up together. Both taken in by the Caplans and both with imperfect family situations, they form a deep friendship that lasts into adulthood. Rose has always been in love with Luc, but Luc sees her as something way too beautiful, special and sweet for the likes of him and so buries any romantic feelings he may have had towards her to rather take on the role of protector and friend.

The summer after her graduation, Rose decides to take the Frenchman by the pucks and make him see her as something other than the adorable little girl who became his best friend.

Friends to lovers, sports romance and taming the bad boy are well used, clichéd and predictable tropes in romance fiction but yet somehow in Victoria Denault's hands this story became fresh and exciting. Her plot devices never felt clichéd or predictable to me and she had the perfect mix of angst, scorching chemistry, humour and character and plot development that I absolutely devoured. I could not put this book down and I didn't want it to end.

I fell in love with all Victoria's characters in One More Shot and they didn't disappoint in Making a Play. Rose was innocent and naïve, and when so many of these heroines become frustratingly annoying, Rose tugged at your heart and made you only want the world to be a better place for her with all the rainbows and true love she wished for. I admired the fact that her childhood never made her hard or cynical and that she

had the strength to be so honest in her feelings and unquestioningly believed in true love even with all evidence to the contrary.

Luc was sexy as hell and he had all my important bits aflutter. He was the strong man fighting for his career, the hot hockey star being painted as an irresponsible playboy. I loved how this big strong Adonis turned into a fumbling puppy for Rose and I appreciated the exploration of his feelings around never feeling good enough, of loneliness and feeling like an outsider even with the love of all his friends and the family of friends he adopted.

These felt like real people to me, with actual honest, ‘normal’ feelings.

The chemistry between the two was insane. It went from a slow and aching burn, with moments of such angsty lust that I had to put my kindle down for a minute to catch my breath, to insanely erotic. The scene in the hotel will stand out as one the most beautiful and romantic and sexy I have ever read for a long time.

The scene in the club, as one of the hottest.

As with her first book, this one had way more than I expected. Humour, angst, sexy times, sadness, frustration, it was all there in one amazing package.

I would absolutely, definitely, without question recommend this book and I’ll be marking down the days until the next one in the series.

Ann says

There needs to be degrees of 3 star reads. The writing is not a problem with this one; it’s that the story was just w-a-y to whiney for me. Long time childhood friends Luc and Rose, French hockey player Luc flirts and teases, wants Rose but afraid to have her and just keeps things as friends. Rose has always wanted Luc but thinks she can’t have him and is relegated to the friend zone. Moping/wanting/whining ensues. They finally go for it but have to keep things in the closet because Luc’s got a bad rep with his hockey team and is playing the celibate card for the tabloids. Luc gets drunk and some puck bunny jumps in his bed and he’s too drunk to know whether or not they did anything. (Lovely right? I’m long past eye rolling at this point.) That gets resolved and now they’re together and smitten...The End.

Not much about hockey, it’s just used for the set up. The side characters here are a handful of couples that have no doubt had books in another series or possibly they all got together in bk 1. Evidently they all went through a lot of romantic drama (cheating/long estrangements/misunderstandings, blah, blah) from comments made in this story. I’m always up for a new author and a sports romance; this just wasn’t a

satisfying one for me.

Tara | Slow Readers Blog says

Sexy and sweet. The author brings to life characters that you can't help but love!

I just have to say that I am so impressed by Victoria Denault. She comes in here, all fresh-faced new author and just *owns it!* Her books are so easy to read! They just flow well, feel organic, and keep you intrigued and invested from start to finish.

I love her characters. They're all likeable and engaging and their relationships feel natural and not forced. They banter and make you laugh and I genuinely buy all of them. They all have free-standing personalities that don't blur into each other like supporting characters sometimes do. Even the most minor characters are distinctive.

I really loved Luc and Rose. Luc is sexy and when he speaks in French... I melt. If he called her "*ma Fleur*" one more time, I was going to hunt down the real Luc (surely he exists, right?) and keep him for myself. I'll change my name to Rose, I'll do it!

Rosie's such a kind, gentle soul who's sweet and believes in love in an almost naïve way. She sure as hell can stand up for herself when it's warranted though. I love that. Newsflash people: it *is* possible to be nice and not be a doormat!

There was just enough angst in this story to keep me intrigued and guessing without being over the top. I love it when a playboy finds love and changes his ways. It's all about the power of love, y'all.

Making a Play is really, truly a solid, well-written, all-around good book. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Victoria Denault is definitely a new author to watch. And read! So do it.

Angie Elle says

Thank you to GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING and Netgalley for providing a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

4.5 stars

Admittedly, I didn't have good luck with the first book in this series. But I liked enough about it to stick with it, and I am so glad I did! **Making a Play** was a sweet, and at times intense, read. Rose (or Fleur, as Luc likes to call her,) was the opposite of her sister, Jessie. She was endearing with a touch of naiveté, and I don't think she even knew what a grudge was. After years of crushing on her best friend Luc, Rosie lets her sister, Callie, talk her into pulling out all the stops to finally get his attention before she leaves their hometown of Silver Bay (and him) for good. It's not long before Rose has Luc eating out of the palm of her hand, and all her dreams are coming true. There's one hitch in her plan – Luc is under pressure from management and his agent to wash himself of his bad boy image, and a relationship with any woman, even one as sweet as Rosie,

is something the press will devour. So they have to keep their relationship a secret, which isn't as easy for Rose as she thought.

I really enjoyed Rose and Luc's journey. Navigating coupledom wasn't as easy as Luc thought, and he was inadvertently saying and doing things that pushed Rose away. But they had amazing chemistry, and I loved it every time they'd steam up my Kindle! As far as Rose is concerned, this almost felt like a coming of age story that came a little later in life than usual, and it really worked for her character. I enjoyed seeing her gain confidence and a backbone. One of my concerns was that she was so in love with Luc, I was afraid she'd walk on eggshells around him just to keep him, but that's not how she was. She was very vocal about how she wanted their relationship to go, and when she wasn't happy about something, she wasn't shy about letting Luc know. She was a strong heroine without being pushy, and while some of the decisions she made surprised me, I think they were true to who she was. I adored Luc's character. He didn't always do the right thing, but he definitely tried. And he was so hesitant to be with Rose because he knew she was a head in the clouds, romantic, flowers and candy kind of gal, and he wanted her to have that. He just didn't think he could give her those things.

Luc's interactions with the Garrison men in this book were a highlight for me; I loved the camaraderie. Their good-natured ribbing and determination to keep each other in line was so fun to read. As for Rose and her sisters, Rose is my favorite of the three. She is way more easy-going than the other two, though we did see more of that from Jessie in this book. Callie is a spitfire, and I'm a little anxious about what kind of heroine she'll be. But since I liked this book so much, I'm going to cross my fingers and give it a go.

While I don't think it's essential to read the first book in this series before reading this one, I do think the interactions between the sisters and Luc and the Garrison men give you an idea of how deep their connections are. To each other, and to their hometown of Silver Bay. **Making a Play** was a great addition to the **Hometown Players** series, and I'm excited to read more from this author!

This review was originally posted at Badass Book Reviews.

Claire Robinson says

5 - "If only my nuts were numb." Stars!

It's Live

The second book in Victoria Denault's *Hometown Players* series, takes off from where its predecessor *One More Shot* left off. Jordan and Jessie have sorted out their issues and are very much '*living the dream*' together. *Making a Play* brings the focus round to Rose, Jessie's younger sister, and her not-so-secret love for Ice Hockey player; Luc Richard, you are given a few hints as to how deep this couple's feelings are for each other in the first book, but up to this point neither of them has acted upon them.

Having known each other since they were children, Rose is fed up of being in the *friend-zone* with him and goes out of her way to ensure that Luc knows she's looking for more than a pat on the head and a friendly cuddle going forwards. Luc however has other plans, and trying to keep his nose clean and his face out of the press over the summer is proving harder than he thought it would be when Rose's attempts at seduction are

basically turning him into a walking hard-on.

Victoria got the perfect balance between drama, sexy-times and story development with *Making a Play* Luc and Rose having their joint pasts and back-story gave a great depth to the building of them moving from being friends to lovers. I adored being in Luc's head, and Rose was an easy to get along with character as well.

This book is definitely a little less angsty than *One More Shot* and it made a big difference for me in my overall reading enjoyment, don't get me wrong I really liked Jessie and Jordy's story, but Luc and Rose's issues and problems and the way they work their way through them as the book progresses, are broken up with a few laughs and a stellar set of secondary characters. The drama is there but it's relevant and not overplayed.

The Final Move, due December 2015, is also set up nicely in this book, and I cannot wait to see where Victoria takes the series next, it's definitely turning into an unforgettable set of stories.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, and it was my absolute pleasure to provide the above honest review.

Alexis says

So, I am still a bit in lust over the first book in the series Make a Shot, but dear Lord, Victoria seriously stepped up her game with *Making a Play*. I knew that Luc and Rosie's story was going to be great...but I wasn't expecting it to be this fabulous.

Luc is dubbed as the "French Disaster". He is not related to the Garrison brothers by blood by might as well be. He lived with them for years and the Caplan girls are just as important to him, especially Rose. After breaking up with his model girlfriend, he's back home for the off-season to work on his game and also his image. Rosie is still pining away for her one true-love, Luc and hopes this time back home will finally be the right time for him to realize she's more than just a friend.

Luc knows that Rose has feelings for him but he just doesn't realize that he also has those feelings for her. I swear there were points where I wanted to scream at the two of them to just get their sh*t together and just get a room.

When feelings FINALLY come out...the book hits its stride and at times made me swoon, tear-up and also want to throw my Kindle. There is one scene in the book that made me literally want to almost internally combust and there wasn't that much going on. That is a true testament as to how much sexual tension these two had going on.

"I feel you're my compass, Fleur. You guide me to be a better man."

I was so mad at Luc for a portion of the book and trust me you will be too. I am not so sure I would've done what Rose did. But you just can feel throughout the book that these two are meant for each other. There are a lot of bumps and turns in the road for these two but the journey is totally worth it for the reader.

Now that I've binge-read the first two books in this series I need to wait until December for the third book. I'm not a patient person but I know the wait will be completely worth it! Rose and Luc will melt your heart and give you one hell of a passionate love story.

Geri Reads says

Luc "The French Disaster" Richard grew up with the Garrison boys and by default, grew up with the Caplan girls, too. Rosie Caplan has been in love with Luc since they were young but he never noticed her in that way. Coming off a string of bad publicity, Luc is trying to rebuild his image as a hockey player while Rose is finally realizing that the only way to get a shot at Luc was to make him notice.

Making a Play is my first Victoria Denault book and it definitely won't be my last. To be honest, this was far from being a perfect book. There are a few plot devices that I normally don't like but it worked for me here because of the main characters. Simply put, I believed in this couple. I root for them to get their act together in order to get their HEA.

Rosie+Luc=Forever

Luc and Rosie had a bond. At first it was just as friends which became so much more later on. Luc's backstory was a sad one and it affected his view on love and life in general. Rose is the exact opposite of Luc. While Luc doesn't believe in love and happily ever after, Rose believes in them even though her own family life didn't give her a reason to. It's one of the reasons why I liked Rose. She's honest and allowed herself to be vulnerable.

There's a lot of drama in this book, which I obviously liked but if you're a reader who's drama averse, then the last 20% or so might annoy you. It was a bit predictable but whatever. I enjoyed it and ate it right up.

Side note: I loved the Garrison brothers. Jordan already had his story in the previous book, so I'm looking forward to Devin's story and possibly Cole?

Another side note: I'm a bit worried about Callie Caplan who's going to be the heroine in the next book because I didn't like her in this book.

Nevertheless, this series is definitely worth investing time in especially if you're a fan of sports romance.

ARC provided by Forever in exchange for an honest review.>

Lana ✶Dirty Girl Romance✶ says

4 Stars

Your life will be beautiful because you, Flower, are beautiful. And you will find someone who will love you for it."

When I first read One More Shot earlier this year, I was hooked on this series. Hot hockey players, angst, and steam, what else could I possibly ask for? Now if you haven't read One More Shot yet, I highly recommend you do, because it'll give you a much better background on the Caplan sisters and the dynamic they have between them. While you can easily read Making A Play as a standalone, I think you'd enjoy it more reading in order. Rose is first introduced in One More Shot as the youngest Caplan sister. Admittedly she's not exactly the type of heroine I enjoy reading about; she's shy, introverted, a little mousy and has been pining away for her Luc Richard as long as she's known him.

Luc Richard is a successful hockey player. He's basically grown up around Rose since her and her sisters were like family to the Garrison family who were like his family as well. While an attraction was always there, Luc always knew that Rose was just too good for the likes of him and so he friend zoned her. Now he's in town to lick his wounds after his ex almost cost him his career and attempt to stay away from the spotlight and the gossip column. Rosie is determined to get him out of the friend zone while Luc is just as determined to keep them solidly there.

The relationship between these two was both sexy and frustrating. There were many a time when I wanted to reach through my kindle and knock some sense into The French Disaster. I also wanted Rose to grow a bigger backbone and really stand up for herself and show some growth. She may not have been the sassy and smart mouthed woman like her sisters, but she does grow into her own and she did grow on me.

If angst isn't your thing, this book will probably frustrate the living hell out of you because it takes a good chunk of it (if not 3/4) for Luc to finally get his head out of his ass. I personally gobbled it up like the angst whore that I am.

I loved getting more of Jessie and Jordan in this one. It was great to get that continuation of their HEA and see where they are now. Then there was Callie; the oldest and the wild one of the three sisters.

Can you please say something snarky and inappropriate because if you get all sentimental and mushy, my heart will break for the millionth time in a week.

"Does he have a big dick?"

I laugh. "Thank you."

I'm not sure what it is about her, but I'm just so intrigued by her story. She almost comes off borderline brash at times, but I can't help but like her. There's just something about her that screams that she's hiding something. And that peek into what happened between her and Devin those years ago certainly whetted my appetite for the next book.

If you're a reader that enjoys some angst with your sports romance then you definitely need to get acquainted with this author. Was this book perfect? Not quite. I could probably nitpick a few things but at the end of it I truly enjoyed the book so why bother? I think I enjoyed book 1 a little bit more but this was still a fantastic addition. But the book I'm REALLY looking forward to is still to come. I simply can't wait to see how THAT turns out.

ARC courtesy of publisher via netgalley in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews visit

Red Cheeks Reads says

“Rose Caplan is sweet, smart and definitely beautiful, but she has all these fantastical ideas about love. She’s a romantic and she dreams of an epic love story with a Prince Charming and a happily ever after. She deserves nothing less, but I’m not at all interested in that.”

WOW, this book took me by surprise, I expected a fast and fun hockey book but I got so much more. I started this book late one night expecting to read a bit then pick it up in the morning some more but before I knew it two am rolled around and it was impossible to stop till I reached the very last page. I adored Luc and Rose simply stole my heart. I read a lot of hockey books and really enjoyed the first book in this series, but Making A Play out them all to shame.

“I don’t know what’s holding him back but I do know it won’t last forever. He’ll either fuck you senseless or spontaneously combust.” “Then Luc should start carrying a fire extinguisher with him,” I snark “Because I’m betting it’ll be the latter.”

The Hometown Players Series revolve around the Caplan sisters and the Garrison brothers and their surrogate brother Luc. Rose, the youngest of the Caplan girls, has very ideological views on love and knows that her romance story worthy love is out there and ever since she was 15 years old she has crushed on her good friend Luc. Luc is three years older than Rose and after having lived with an alcoholic single mother, he doesn’t want to be anyone’s prince charming.

‘I want to ask him what the hell he’s doing, but it’s a stupid question. I know what he’s doing – he’s dry-humping me within an inch of my life and pretending it’s dancing. I just can’t believe he’s doing it to me.’

After a breakup with his casual hookup Luc has been getting some bad press and add that to his team not performing great and he has a ton of pressure on his shoulders. He knows Rose is beautiful and one of his best friends but he can’t be what she needs so he treats her like a little sister which just infuriates her. Soon Rose is dressing sexier and acting more seductive and it is getting harder and harder to ignore the way he is feeling. But never able to fully give himself to her without damaging his career he makes the one girl who deserves the world to hide in the shadows.

‘She wants me. Fleur wants me. There is nothing else to say.’

There was so much I loved about this book. First off, Luc has been there for Rose since they were young and while he never gave into her crush he flirted and whispered sweet things in French to her that just melted my heart and panties. He was sex personified and everything that came out of his mouth had my heart thumping just a tad harder. Rose was silly and youthful. She was the kind of girl you wanted to be your friend because you know she would make spending time together a blast. There comes a time in this book like many other where incidents occur that will put a crack in perfection they could have been. My pulse raced and my brain refused to shut down until I got past the worst of it all. Sweet, sexy and with characters you root for the whole way through this is definitely a book I will be recommending to all sports romance loving readers. Every moment in this book was a joy and I cannot wait to get to the third book in the series.

~miranda

