

Review Username: Anonymous

Esperanza High School

Grade: Freshman

Book Title: *Heated Rivalry*

Book Author: Rachel Reid

Rating (1–5): 4

Heated Rivalry by Rachel Reid follows Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov, two professional hockey players who are famous for being rivals on the ice. Shane is known for being disciplined and focused, while Ilya has a confident personality and enjoys provoking his competition. Despite their public rivalry, the two develop a complicated relationship that neither of them expected. As their hockey careers progress, they must navigate their feelings while dealing with expectations, competition, and the pressure of keeping parts of their lives private. The story explores what happens when two people who are supposed to be enemies discover that their connection is more complicated than they imagined.

One thing I liked about the book was the contrast between Shane and Ilya's personalities. Their differences make their interactions interesting, and their conversations often add humor to the story. I also liked how the novel explores the pressure professional athletes can face when trying to balance their personal lives with their careers. However, some parts of the story felt repetitive, and I wanted more development in certain moments. Although the characters have an interesting dynamic, their decisions can sometimes be frustrating. Overall, I thought the book had engaging characters and an interesting central relationship, but not every part of the story worked equally well for me.

I would recommend *Heated Rivalry* to readers who enjoy sports fiction, character-driven romance, and stories about complicated relationships. Readers who like seeing characters grow and learn to trust one another may find the story engaging. However, the book is intended for adult readers because it contains explicit sexual content and mature themes. Its focus on rivalry, ambition, and personal identity gives the story more to explore than hockey alone. I rated it 3.5 out of 5 because I enjoyed the characters and their dynamic, even though some aspects of the writing and pacing did not completely work for me.