

THE D.C. STARS SERIES

Power Play



CHELSEA CURTO

*Power
Play*

CHELSEA CURTO

Copyright © 2024 by Chelsea Curto

Proofreading by April Editorial

Copy editing by Britt Tayler at Paperback Proofreader

Cover by Chloe Friedlein

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without written permission from the author, except for the use of brief quotations in a book review.

*For the ones who thought they wouldn't find love again.
I promise it's worth the wait.*

*(And for the readers who love to see the six-foot-two NHL goalie get on his
knees and search for his lost wedding ring—Liam Sullivan is for you)*

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Doris Burke, a veteran NBA announcer, became the first woman to serve as a television game analyst for a championship final in one of the four major professional U.S. sports league.

In 2024.

She's been a broadcaster with ESPN since 1991, and in 2017, she became the first woman assigned to a regular-season role covering NBA basketball as a game analyst.

Do we see a trend here?

Power Play is about hockey, not basketball, but at its core, it's about women in sports and how much harder they have to work to reach the milestones men somehow accomplish at a much quicker feat.

When I started thinking about this story, I knew I wanted Piper's journey in broadcasting to show her commitment to hockey while also highlighting the very real, very degrading conversations men have about women who occupy spaces like professional sports.

If you pull up any post on ESPN about the WNBA, about the Kraken hiring Jessica Campbell, about *anything related to women in the sports world*, you'll find hundreds of derogatory comments. You'll see words like *not qualified*. You'll read sentences like *get back to the kitchen* and *no one cares*.

I know you're about to dive into a fictional world, but I can't write about women in sports without adding disappointing touches of reality to these

pages.

That being said, some elements of the game of hockey have been altered to fit in a make believe world and be enjoyable for readers. Is the goalie really going to set the league record for most saves in a game? No. But in this book he is. Do athletes get drunk and married in Vegas after a win? No. But in this book they do.

Additionally, one of the main components of this book is Piper's sexual journey. It might seem silly that she was married for so many years and doesn't know how to give a blow job, but it happens. She's inexperienced, and while this book might contain the highest number of spicy scenes I've written, I hope I've laced them with emotion and feeling so you can see the growth and development of the two characters.

My DMs on Instagram are always open if you want to chat more, and I love hearing all of your unhinged thoughts as you read!

Enjoy!

Xoxo,

Chelsea

CONTENT WARNINGS

Power Play is a romantic comedy full of laughs, spice, and swoon, but I want to share a few content warnings that some readers might want to be aware of.

- explicit language
- multiple explicit sex scenes
- on page alcohol consumption
- on page physical violence (brief and not between the two main characters)
- sexist comments made by a side character (including a comment about non-consensual behavior)
- mention of infidelity
- mention of divorce
- mention of cancer (brief)
- mention of pregnancy (not the FMC)

As always, take care of yourselves and protect your heart. If you have any questions about any of the things listed below, please know my DMs are always open (@authorchelseacurto on IG).

DC Stars Roster

Maverick Miller - right winger

Finn Adams - left winger

Liam Sullivan - goalie

Hudson Hayes - defenseman

Riley Mitchell - defenseman

Ethan Richardson - center

Grant Everett - right winger

Connor McKenzie - center

Ryan Seymour - defenseman

Brody Saunders - head coach

ARC READERS

Hi, dear ARC reader!

Thank you so much for your patience with me. I know you expected to have this story earlier, and from the bottom of my heart, I apologize for the delay.

I'm never going to send out a book that's not 100% perfect, and this book took me much longer to get right.

Maverick and Emmy were easy. Piper and Liam were not. I don't love their story any less, but it's different. I had to tap into more emotions while writing. Different kinds of character development, and it was *hard*.

But we made it to the other side! Please remember this is NOT the final copy that will be uploaded later this week. I'm doing one more read of it myself, so any small typos should be caught prior to publication day. That being said, I ask that you rate and review based on plot/story/content etc, *not* on a misplaced comma.

Additionally, I'm sneaking in two more scenes that'll be live in the version that publishes on release day! I'll let you know what chapters they are so you can go in and read them if you want.

While I hope you love Piper and Liam's story, it's not a requirement. You're free to rate and review however you see fit, just please don't tag me in any posts below four stars.

My DMs are open if you want to chat. And, as a thank you for your patience and kindness, I'm going to be posting an Instagram story on

Wednesday, October 23rd, with a box for a code word. The code word is **carrot cake**. Drop that in the box, and I'll pick two people to receive the special signing exclusive editions of Face Off and Power Play! Open internationally, but you must be willing to share your mailing address with me!

Xoxo

Chelsea