



Ace

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At twenty-two years old, World No.6 and England's No.1, Brian Scagill has the tennis world at his feet. Last year's semifinalist, this year Brian enters England's biggest tournament determined to win. A Grand Slam on home turf is calling to him and he's not going to let anything stand in the way of victory - certainly not a cute Croatian who doesn't even play in the same league.

Fooling around with Lexi might be an easy distraction but the last thing Brian needs right now is to be distracted, and there's more than this tournament at stake.

Complete Novel - 84,000 Words

Ace Details

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Author : Kate Aaron

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From Reader Review Ace for online ebook

Lisa The Novel Approach says

3.5 Stars

... the author did a great job of helping me to dislike, and outright loath, a few of the characters in the book, but she also made me love more than a few as well, so it was a great balance of emotion while watching Brian and Lexi be sabotaged at nearly every turn, then triumph off the court rather than on when it becomes clear to them that life is about so much more than the way one chooses to make a living.

Ace is a Love-Love game (you knew it was coming) of romance that tennis enthusiasts should truly enjoy.

You can read the rest of this review at The Novel Approach

Theo Fenraven says

Back when I had time to watch TV, Wimbledon was one competition I paid attention to. Why? Hell if I know. But watching contestants bat the ball back and forth was thrilling. Those lean bodies, those intense stares. Tennis rocks!

In *Ace*, Kate Aaron captures that excitement in words, an amazing feat.

This is the beginning of the story of Brian and Lexi. In short, I loved it. You get the behind the scenes stuff, and what happens on court and in the media. At one point, I was shouting in delight, I was so caught up in the story.

Get it, read it. Enjoy. :)

J says

After enjoying this title by Kate Aaron, I have another author's catalog I can now explore. The writing was solid, and I liked some of the choices she made which shaped Brian's character in new and fresh ways. Both MCs acted and spoke their age, although I did sense that a "frisson of sensation" was one of Aaron's favored personal phrases.

As much I like the sports aspects of stories, even when a tad overdone (think: Nora Sakavic's *The Foxhole Court*), the game-set-match sequences were right at my limit. I think that's a function of the games itself and its centrality to the story, though, and Aaron kept the exposition as terse as possible.

Since reviews are really meant to entice, inform, and warn prospective readers, and I usually indulge in selfishly writing a more personal reflection sans synopsis, let me include two *morsels*. You'll develop a not-so-mysterious craving for fruit salad with whip cream as you come across quotes like this, "He experienced second-hand the shock waves reverberating through my flesh."

On to the second in the series for me.

Becky Condit says

**Please leave comments for Petra's 4 sweet pea review of Ace at
<http://mrsconditreadsbooks.com/index....>**

Right there in that moment it didn't matter if we were about to part ways and never speak again, or if we were to become fuckbuddies or perhaps something more. All that mattered was savouring what we'd shared and simply enjoying it for what it was.

I am a tennis nut so was really excited to read this book and it was great! The insight you get into the life of a professional sportsman was phenomenal, what they are thinking on court, how they act towards other players, how their life is micro managed. Having watched many documentaries over the summer about real tennis player Andy Murray it seemed very accurate. And talking of Andy Murray when you start reading the book and realise that Brian is the British Number one you can't help but think of Andy Murray but the two are wonderfully different. There is also lots of description of the actual game in the book. The author does helpfully go over the appropriate rules so if you are not a fan you won't be lost although it is a fair chunk of the book so if you are not a fan of sport this is really not the book for you. Tennis IS the main story it doesn't take a back seat. I did notice that the same rules were gone over more than once on a couple of occasions which I imagine is due to the fact that this was originally published in serial although this does not detract from the read. The other thing that irritated me slightly was that in an early chapter players such as Federer, Nadal and Djokovic were mentioned but then they never appeared in the tournament. Whilst I can totally understand the reason for this I would have been happier if the entire tennis world had been fictional otherwise Brian was playing in a tournament where he was number 6 in the world and 3 of the 5 people above him were not there. Again however unless you are a tennis snob and a perfectionist like me you are unlikely to notice and it certainly does not detract from a great story. Brian and Lexi make a great couple, I also love the interactions of their 2 coaches, as well as the rest of Brian's "team". Brian's parents are also well written and when I feel the need to slap someone you know the character is good. I suggest you pour a glass of Pimms, settle down with some strawberries and cream and grab this book to relive the great British summer :-)

Diverse says

I'm actually not a tennis fan. At. All. Never have been. So when I started this book I did it with a silent prayer that it would be good. Well, it was far better than good. It was GREAT! Yes, there is tennis talk, yes I may or may not have had to google what "Love" when referring to tennis was. I loved it! I love that Kate Aaron was able to hold my attention, taught me about something I really thought I hated and of course fall in love with two extremely awesome characters!!! This is book 1 and I am on to Book 2 with flutters of excitement! Great read!

Kevin says

This was a fabulous story about a tennis pro and his relationships with his parents, his staff, and another

player. I really enjoyed the suspense of the plot. What I did not enjoy was the tedious, overly technical play-by-play of the tennis matches. I also skipped the blow-by-blow descriptions of lovemaking. This is a pet peeve, but this author uses sex as a pseudonym: "his sex was enlarged and erect." I noticed the author mistook too for to, to for too, and teamed for teemed. Despite this, it is a worthwhile book and I plan to continue this series.

Holly says

Although I know absolutely nothing about tennis, Kate Aaron did a good job of increasing the suspense during the matches so I felt like I knew what was going on, even though I didn't. Unfortunately, I still don't understand how tennis is played/scored, even after reading two books (this and the following Match), but they were definitely good reads. I enjoyed them.

Nancy says

Cross-posted at Shelf Inflicted and at Outlaw Reviews

I like tennis. It's a graceful, elegant and stylish sport that requires technical, mental and physical skills and an amazing amount of stamina. While I enjoy watching it on TV now and then, it's also the kind of sport that I can easily switch off and return to at any time without feeling that I've missed anything. I'm old enough to remember the meltdowns of Andre Agassi, John McEnroe, and Jimmy Connors and more recently, Serena Williams and David Nalbandian. While their antics were sometimes amusing, they would be far more acceptable in high-action, contact sports like football or soccer, but have no place in a "gentleman's sport."

After reading this story, I no longer believe that tennis is a "gentleman's sport." 22-year-old Brian Scagill is sixth-seeded in the world and best of the UK. Though he is fiercely competitive and very focused on winning, lower-ranked Croatian player, Lexi Horvat, captures his interest. As they both have busy lives and do a lot of traveling, Brian and Lexi's relationship has a richness and passion to it that comes from living in the moment without expectations.

Their sex is sweet, tender, and very erotic, involving fruits and whipped cream, rivaling the dripping peach scene in André Aciman's *Call Me by Your Name*.

There is a vivid cast of secondary characters, including a supportive coach, a prickly manager, a loving father, and a domineering mother who ultimately wants what she thinks is best for Brian, but ends up wrecking his life.

If tennis is not your thing, the sport details may be a bit excessive. I found them interesting, realistic, and sufficient enough to convey the intensity of competition pressures, the physical challenges, and the conflict between fulfilling media and professional obligations while trying to have a personal life.

I thoroughly enjoyed this story and look forward to the sequel.

Thanks to *Nan* from Bookie Nookie's Erotic Lending Group for lending this to me.

Joan says

I loved this book, even though tennis is not a game that I watch avidly. There are several aspects that make this a cut above all those 'boy meets boy, boy loses boy, boy finds boy again' m/m stories.

For a start, the characters are believable men not immature boys whose idea of sensual dialogue is confined to the ever boring 'Want you'. And yes, the writer had the courage to write a sex scene at the start which was pure lust. No insta-lurve, just fun sex (and very erotic fun sex!). The tennis scenes were, in places, overly detailed to my mind, (which is why it should get 4.5 stars as opposed to 5 but I rounded it up) but I could see how the writer used them to build the tension and draw us into the rather cruel and harsh world of professional tennis players.

All in all this was one of those books where I never once stopped reading to think 'Well THAT is complete rubbish!!' as so often happens. Nothing in the writing jars, nothing grates; the research is impeccable and it flows seamlessly, building the relationship between the two men, and developing the characters at a gradual pace.

Readers like me who appreciate a well-crafted, thoughtful tale of growing love set in a realistic world will love this novel.

Matthew Lee says

Really liked this book! the characters were lovely to follow and I loved the sports drama that always happen. Unfortunately its always the same drama because that's what is expected in the sports world. Nonetheless it was a great story and I love the characters... even the mom.....

Anita says

Really a 4.5 but I so enjoyed it that I rounded up. Incredibly engaging, relatable read. Uber hot. I used to be quite the tennis buff so found myself mesmerized by the tennis games. On the edge of my seat!! Lexi and Brian were very well defined characters in a very believable relationship. Deeply sensual and emotional writing. Very British. Also a little odd wording of sentences but nothing that took my out of the story. You could feel the connection between Brian and Lexi. Good secondary characters, too. Rooted for them to get their hea and lucky me - there's a book 2!! More Lexi and Brian!!! You, can, if you wanted to, use this book as a standalone - but you won't want to!

Intricacy Alterite says

I really enjoyed this book, and the fact I know next to nothing about tennis(I think the last time I watched a Roland Garros match was about 10 years ago) was no hindrance at all.

I really liked how the author writes 1st person pov. Very natural and believable and the characters were very

lovable in all their flaws.

Dani Elle Maas says

This is the story of Brian and Lexi all the way. The story of being a gay athlete and finding your love in the contents of a supposedly all-straight sport world. Of dealing with attraction and especially the outlet around a man in the spotlight not only as a tennis player, but perhaps even more so being the centre of his “team” – his mother, his manager, his trainer...

When we meet Brian he's playing one of the most prestigious tennis tournaments in the world, a Grand Slam. Being highly ranked, there is quite a lot at stake, but Brian's focus changes when he runs into Lexi, a lower-rated Croatian tennis player.

They hit it off instantly, pairing up (in more ways than one), playing tennis and Brian even invites Lexi to stay with him at his rented house when Lexi drops out of the tournament.

Finding himself experiencing feelings for the young tennis player, Brian has to deal with everything around that. His mother (hard to not dislike that character I tell you that) and his manager who only seem to be more concerned for his tennis career and his fame than for the person Brian is.

When Brian, without giving it any real thought, openly outs himself and Lexi in front of the public at the tennis court and on camera for the world to see, things really seem to get out of control fast.

Some much needed support is given by his dad and his coach but even with all their good intentions and Brian's they cannot help Lexi running/being pushed away.

What we see happening then is the struggle of a man trying to find his way in life, having to make choices and searching for answers himself.

Reading this book will also give you a nice lessons in the game of tennis. Author Kate Aaron knows what she is talking about, teaching ground rules and game play during this book. Perhaps a bit too much if you are not into the game of tennis? Maybe, it depends on the reader I think.

What stands out is the struggle of a public name trying to get out of the pressure he is under, finding love in an unexpected place while learning and struggling to make a way through it. And finding part of himself along the way.

I do have to say the ending left me wanting a little more – feeling a bit unsatisfied, so to be honest I am happy I get to read the next book in the series right away.

Review posted at :
<http://sidlove.com/2014/02/03/series-...>

Christina says

3.5 stars. Ok till 81% I mostly found the book boring maybe because the Tennis World isn't something I am interested in. It is a book you read easily and forget fast. The mc are ok but not more, only Brians Father, he is a real cool Dad. I like him very much. The last 20% changed my mind and I want to give it a better rating because of the sweet happy end.

Steelwhisper says

Actually read last year, but re-read partly this week. This is fun, sexy, turned me on quite a bit (and starts off with a fabulous sex scene!) and made me like tennis even though I used to switch channels on that sport ;) By my measure it means this book achieved more than many others!
