



Cross Check

Kelly Jamieson

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A party girl and a clean-cut college hockey player discover that they're not so different in this sexy, soulful Bayard Hockey novel from the bestselling author of *Shut Out* and the Heller Brothers series.

Ella Verran has three goals this semester: get off academic probation, repair her relationship with her friend Skylar, and take some responsibility for her life. All of which are hard enough without hot, snobby hockey player Ben Buckingham around to distract her. Ella can't stand Ben, and she knows the feeling is mutual. But he's best friends with Skylar's boyfriend, so he's always around—taunting and tempting Ella in ways she never thought possible.

As the star forward of the Bayard College hockey team, Ben has goals too, like playing well enough to land a spot on an NHL roster. Ben is perfectly poised on the ice, so why can't he keep his cool around Ella? Her wild behavior rubs him in all the wrong ways—and a few of the right ones. But as they skate around each other, Ben learns that there's more to Ella than her bad reputation. And when the line between love and hate starts to blur, he can't resist crossing over and sweeping her off her feet.

“Kelly Jamieson is my go-to author for hockey romance.”—USA Today bestselling author Jami Davenport

The Aces Hockey series: **MAJOR MISCONDUCT | OFF LIMITS | ICING | TOP SHELF | BACK CHECK**

The Bayard Hockey series: **SHUT OUT | CROSS CHECK**

The standalone hockey romance: **DANCING IN THE RAIN**

And don't miss her Last Shot series: **BODY SHOT | HOT SHOT**

Includes an excerpt from another Loveswept title.

Cross Check Details

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From Reader Review Cross Check for online ebook

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

I love when an author can turn a character around when they get their own book in the series. Ella came off as the "girl gone wild" in the first book. Even going so far as fighting with Skyler, who she has been best friends with forever.

In Shut Out, the first book, we learn what both Skyler and Ella were dealing with as they try to tackle college life. At the end of that book, it looked like Ella was on the road to disaster.

Ella and Ben start out as an enemies to friends to lovers. While they may have started out as enemies, it wasn't so bad that it was annoying to read about before they got their act together.

Ella has always felt judged by Ben and assumes he's mister perfect. Ben assumes Ella is just out to have fun. They soon learn that the other is not what they seem as they are forced to spend time together.

While this book is still dealing with the heavy subjects from book one, I felt it had a lighter tone to it and ended up really liking this couple. I also really liked that the author shut down the slut shaming. It was handled very well.

ARC provided by NetGalley.

Charidy says

This is not your typical College Romance (or Hockey Romance)... it was SO MUCH MORE.

This wonderful romance follows mainly Ella and Ben and growing up.... rather more like learning to be what they think being an adult is. Ella is trying to deal with the loss of good friend and rebuilding her friendship with her best friend. Meanwhile she learns that Ben is not the stuck up guy always thought.

Ben has always thought he has to hide his past and where he came from, afraid that people will look down on him. He's only told his best friend (and teammate) Flash and now Ella. Together they learn to conquer their pasts. Ben is also one of the star hockey players for the college and is facing a possible NHL draft.

This book also covers serious social issues facing college students and college athletes. They characters are all very developed and relatable and the book keeps you glued. You want each character to succeed and root for them. She also is able to describe Hockey with enough description that you can easily picture the game in your head without it dragging.

The author keeps you entertained with the banter of the characters while you also experience their challenges. You cant help but feel like you have a new set of young friends. I look forward to reading other stories by this author.

Tracy *To the point Reviews* says

I loved the first book of this series.

This one... not so much. I really liked Ben the hero, because I guess a like a hero who has his shit together and who isn't a complete manwhore sometimes. But the heroine Ella, didn't make the cut. She was a complete and total bitch to her best friend Skylar in the first book of the series. And it was impossible for me to shake off. There really was no amount of trauma or excuses that would have redeemed her for me. She was neglectful, mean spirited, jealous and irresponsible throughout the first book.

She constantly makes bad decisions and then falls into the pits of self pity when things don't go her way. I found her to be rather snarky and nasty to the hero and the whole 'hate to love' thing just didn't work for me in this book. Mostly because I just couldn't see what he saw in her.

Nor could I reconcile that at the end of the book she suddenly becomes some beacon of self-awareness and wisdom after a few counselling sessions.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

4.5 stars

I've been a huge Kelly Jamieson fan for many years and I've enjoyed her work immensely, so it was easy for me to jump into her New Adult Banyard series and I've been very impressed. Having read the first book, Shut Out, I was well aware of the animosity between the hero and heroine featured in Cross Check. The thing I love about this series, is these characters are young, they make mistakes, sometimes they learn from them, sometimes they don't, but they do grow, change, and begin to realize the world is bigger than them and being a part of it means accepting responsibility, opening their minds, and learning that respect, friendship, trust, and love can make it all better.

Following an incident that rocked her world, sent her reeling, and had her on the outs with her best friend, Ella went a bit out of control. Refusing to focus on everything bad in her life, Ella chose to numb the pain with alcohol, parties, and sex and it cost her. She begins her 2nd year of college on academic probation, word of her partying ways got back to her older brother who has threatened to tell their parents if she doesn't change her ways, but more than that Ella realized that what she was doing made her feel empty and she's determined to be a better student, to repair her relationship with her best friend, and to find peace for herself. What she doesn't expect is for the hate she feels for Ben Buckingham (her best friend's boyfriend's roommate) to morph into something more. Ben is all too perfect; perfect hair, perfect clothes, and a superior attitude to match, but as Ella and Ben get to know one another they begin to see the person behind the façade they show to the world.

I enjoyed watching these two young people both who had not very high opinions of one another begin to realize that they had judged one another unfairly. While it was the heat and intensity between them that

brought them together, it was discovering every little thing about one another that grew their friendship into much more. They made misjudgments, they made mistakes, but they were also big enough to admit them when they realized they were wrong which I greatly appreciated. While there was some young adult angst, given everything going on in their lives it was warranted and it wasn't overly excessive. Ms. Jamieson did a great job of balancing the drama in their lives with the tender, sweet, and intimate moments giving this book an even and realistic feel.

Entertaining but also educational along with a side of romance, *Cross Check* is a fantastic addition to this exciting new adult hockey series.

Review copy provided for a voluntary review.

Tami says

4.5

My copy needed a little editing, but other than that, this is an extraordinary read.

This review is based on the ARC provided by the author and/or the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

Sheryl says

4.5 stars

ARC courtesy of Netgalley and Random House Publishing

Zoe says

3.5 Stars! Entertaining, sexy, and sincere!

Cross Check, the latest novel in the *Bayard Hockey* series, is a slightly more emotional tale about the heartbroken, grief-stricken Ella who has been neglecting her studies and masking her sorrow after the loss of one of her friends, and Ben the gorgeous, up-and-coming hockey star who seems positively perfect but has a few dark secrets of his own.

The writing is fluid. The plot is a heartfelt mix that tackles important contemporary issues faced by young people today including friendship, family, campus life, suicide, rape, mental illness, sex, relationships, love, and hockey. And the characters, including all the supporting characters, are kind, engaging, and supportive.

Overall, *Cross Check* is a romantic, sweet, moving read that has a nice amount of drama, angst, tension, humour, banter, attraction, dirty talk and chemistry and even though it's not my favourite Jamieson novel I think lovers of the new-age-college-romance genre will certainly enjoy it.

Thank you to NetGalley, especially Random House - Loveswept, for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

All my reviews can be found on my blog at <http://whatsbetterthanbooks.com>

Deanna (A Novel Glimpse) says

Original review: A Novel Glimpse

Note: I received an ARC from the publisher in exchange for an unbiased review.

Last month I read my first Kelly Jamieson novel. It was one of her contemporary hockey romances and I was really impressed. I loved her writing style and couldn't believe how well she pulled off third person dual point of view narration. I was excited to get another chance to read one of her upcoming novels, this time a new adult hockey romance. If I was impressed with the first book I read by Kelly Jamieson, *Cross Check* completely blew me away.

Cross Check was told in first person dual narration, and it was so much fun to read! I couldn't get enough of this enemies to lovers romance. The sexual tension rolling off Ella and Ben was explosive. I loved every minute of their hate to love fest.

Ella was a good person who had made some poor choices recently. Those choices had given her a reputation she wanted to get away from. That was hard to do knowing people, like Ben, were judging her. I loved the strength she showed making changes and getting the help she needed. Ella was a great role model for young women out there. She proved there isn't anything that can stand in your way of changing yourself if you want it bad enough. Ben had issues of his own. He thought he had moved past them, but really he was just hiding from them. I enjoyed the way he learned that he might have been judging Ella the way he didn't want to be judged. The way they taught each other to move on from the past was very sweet. Oh, and that sexual tension I mentioned before? Well, it was HOT, HOT, HOT when they finally acted on it.

The only thing I wish I could have changed was not having read the first *Bayard Hockey* novel before reading *Cross Check*. I felt like I was missing was a little bit of both Ben and Ella's past. They obviously had some deeply negative feelings about each other from what took place in the first book. I also would have liked to have a better understanding of what happened to make Ella who she was in this book. But all this is on me, not the author's writing ability. I should have read the first book! I need to go back and read it now.

Cross Check was a fun college hockey romance with some intense issues built into it. I loved every moment of it. I respected the way Kelly Jamieson made a fiery romance educational as well. I highly recommend this book to new adult fans out there.

Sandra says

Kelly Jamieson does it again! I loved book one in this series and eagerly looked forward to seeing Ella and Ben's love/hate relationship play out. Though the book started slow, the last half was fantastic. The thing that sets Jamieson apart from other hockey romance writers is her knowledge of the game and how much she puts

into showing readers the team dynamics. This is such a huge part of who an athlete is and so it's a huge part of the character she's writing about. She nails it every time.

Like the previous book in this series, Cross Check deals with serious issues on college campuses. In Shut Out, we met Ella as she was partying her way through the current semester at Bayard as she dealt with her friend's suicide. She became known as a party girl who liked to sleep around. A lot of Cross Check focuses on the double standard applied to young women who like to have sex and how they're viewed. While Ella's behavior was reckless and unhealthy because of her emotional state, being labeled a slut by her peers was even more damaging. As she seeks counseling, she learns to love herself, to stop judging herself and others, and to let go of the guilt she felt over her friend's suicide. To a larger extent, Cross Check addresses the prevalence of depression, low self-esteem, and anxiety on college campuses. As I always find with Kelly Jamieson, she teaches her readers as much as she entertains them. (though sometimes this resulting in stilted narrative)

I did struggle initially with Ben and Ella as a couple. Ben's a dick for at least the first 30% of the book and I had a tough time liking him. After a few weeks of supposed hate-filled chemistry, Ben and Ella give into their passion and, while I wouldn't recommend this as a way to start a relationship, it's the catalyst for them to connect emotionally. By the end I was definitely cheering for them and maybe shed a tear or two as their dreams came true.

My only real issue with Cross Check is one I've had before when reading books by Kelly Jamieson and that's too much sex. I'm all for it when love scenes move the story forward (for instance there's a wonderful scene that starts with a striptease that goes a long way in showing how comfortable Ella and Ben are together), but when it's more gratuitous than not, I end up skipping pages.

4 stars for Cross Check. Heat level: 3.5

I received a copy of Cross Check from NetGalley in exchange for honest feedback.

~Mandi~ says

Cross Check
Bayard Hockey #2
Kelly Jamieson
4 ????????

I just love a good sports romance. It also touches on some heavy subjects like rape and suicide. So you get a little bit of drama mixed in with your romance.

I really enjoy Kelly Jamieson's writing style and can't wait to read more of her books.
Thanks NetGalley for the arc in exchange for my honest review.

Carol says

3 stars.

Kelly Jamieson has a knack for writing really entertaining sports romances.

Having said that, this book just wasn't one of my favorites by this author.

It was a cute and enjoyable read but that was all, I really didn't feel any sort of emotional pull or connection with it.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.

Emma says

We were introduced to Ella and Ben in the first book, Shut Out, being best friends with the main characters, Skylar and Jacob, so we already know quite a bit of their background information.

I have to be honest and say I didn't connect with Ben and Ella in the same way I did with Skylar and Jacob. While I appreciated different people have different coping methods I found Ben and Ella's attitudes quite insular, they were very self-absorbed at the beginning of Cross Check, viewing the world in the way it affected them rather than realizing that actions have repercussions for other people, not just themselves.

Both Ben and Ella have a lot more in common than they would have thought. However, both have preconceived ideas as to the other. Ella has an established party girl reputation she has come to regret following a derailment of her life and emotions following her friend, Brendan's suicide. I liked the way in which Kelly tackled the role of slut-shaming in today's society and the double standard playing the field has for men and women. While I liked the empowering nature of women owning their sexuality and exploring their pleasure, I still felt as if there should be some discretion to the proceedings. The reputation as an 'easy' and 'party girl' once established are hard to shed and can create a vicious cycle of self-fulfilling prophecy. while Ben is seen as the perfectly groomed, fashionista around campus. Although Ben has his own skeletons in his closet that he hides behind his chose of clothes.

While Ben and Ella believe they have no interest in each other the attraction that sizzles between them tells another story. The inevitable physical combustion takes both of them by surprise and their deeper connection even more so. I really liked the way in which they were able to bring out the best in each other; developing into the well-adjusted adults they were destined to become. I liked the inclusion of the use of therapy to help work through emotional issues and the repercussions of them within the narrative.

Cross Check concentrates on the character development of both Ella and Ben, showing them overcome the mistakes and emotional barriers of the past to fulfill their dreams in the present. I especially liked seeing the continuation of Skylar and Jacob's story alongside that of Ben and Ella.

Lenore Kosinski says

<https://celebrityreaders.wordpress.co...>

3.75 stars -- I received a free copy through NetGalley in exchange for an honest and unbiased review/opinion.

I love it when an author surprises me with a character! We didn't really get that great of an impression of Ella in the first book, but I really enjoyed her in this one. I thought she really redeemed herself and getting a

look inside her head made me understand her more. Plus we just got to see more of what she's about, you know? I really appreciated her storyline of going off the rails after her friend's suicide, and then having to rein it in and settle down after going on academic probation. I enjoyed how Ms. Jamieson took a hard look at slut-shaming, and while Ella regretted some choices she made in partying/sleeping around, it wasn't all "down with the promiscuous girls" as you often see in some books. Ella really struggled with the labels she was given, and I thought we got an honest and refreshing look at the double standards between men and women, and how it's not the actions that she regretted so much as the reasons she was doing it, and how it made her feel.

I also really loved that the author took a good hard look at mental health, and that we got to see Ella's sessions with her therapist. I will admit that while I LOVED that this was all looked at, occasionally it felt a little heavy-handed. Which is funny, b/c this issue is really important to me. Or maybe not heavy-handed so much as not as natural to the story...I don't know, I don't know how to explain it.

Ella was spunky, but also really vulnerable and insecure. I really did feel for her, even if her penchant for pushing people away made me want to throttle her. It made her growth more satisfying though.

And then we get Ben!! We also got to see the slut-shaming from his perspective, and I loved that it really opened his eyes as well. I honestly thought we were going to get more from his background and past, but that wasn't as prominent as I'd expected. But I loved how we got an even deeper look at what it might be like for a hockey athlete looking to get drafted. I loved how vulnerable and scared and overwhelmed he was, and I guess that's sort of where we see the effects of his past. He felt so alone at times, and my heart broke for him. But I also really admired his dedication and determination, and I loved how Ella really showed him parts of himself to be proud of.

Their romance was cuter than I expected. I guess because I never really understood why they were enemies, since it was based on assumptions about the other person. But Ben was so adorable in his pursuit of Ella. He kind of made me swoon at times. Maybe because he was kind of vulnerable, but he still put himself out there. And I really loved their chemistry...holy heck could you feel it right from that dance scene!

I loved having more fun scenes with their group of friends! They often made me laugh out loud at their strange conversations and antics.

I will admit that occasionally certain transitions didn't feel smooth to me...but that could be in my head too. (Like those strange conversations with their friends didn't always flow as naturally for me)

So yeah, I was surprised that I enjoyed this one even more than the previous book! And again, if you love hockey, or love sports romances that actually showcase the sport, I think Ms. Jamieson is one of the best I've ever read for that! And now she's made me want to check out her Aces series!!

Dali says

#sale <http://amzn.to/2zli0f2> (10/13/2017)

A fun and sexy college hockey romance where a bad girl and a good guy hockey player discover that behind their animosity they have more in common than they ever thought.

After a tragic event, Ella Verran shoved responsibility out the window and threw caution to the wind, but

now she needs to face the consequences of her bad choices. She has to get her grades up and wants nothing more than to patch up her relationship with her BFF. But Ben, her BFF's boyfriend's hot and too perfect roommate, is always around and she hates his snobby guts as much as she loves his sexiness.

Ben Buckingham, Bayard's hockey team's star forward has one goal, to play in the NHL, and he can't afford to lose sight of this. But whenever he's around Ella, he can't think of anything else and that just can't happen. Because while he walks the straight and narrow, she likes to take a walk on the wild side. But as he gets to know the girl behind the bad reputation, the more he wants her to walk by his side.

I love sports romances and Kelly Jamieson's hockey love stories always hit the right spot. *Cross Check* is an appealing love-hate story about friendship, love, respect, trust and growing up that had me hooked from the very beginning.

Even though Ella and Ben hate each other, there's also an underlying current neither of them can deny and soon they're both breaching the animosity barriers by realizing they had misjudged the other and getting to know the things they hid behind their masks and had in common, building a relationship while also struggling with their achieving their goals.

I really enjoyed the college hockey backdrop in this series and how Jamieson continues to impress the importance of consent through Jacob and Skylar's (from *Shut Out*, book #1) efforts or raising awareness and has now added the value of getting help after a traumatic event with Ella's tribulations.

Jamieson balances hockey, romance and important issues with skill. The banter between the protagonists was fun and entertaining and their romantic and sexy moments were cute, intimate and hot. Ben was absolutely swoon worthy and I felt for Ella and loved that she took responsibility of her life and decided to grow up. I'm so glad she made up with her BFF!

The epilogue was awesome and I hope we get updates on both Ella and Ben, and Skylar and Jacob in future Jamieson's hockey novels.

Cross Check is book #2 in the Bayard Hockey series by Kelly Jamieson. It is a standalone, new adult, hockey romance and a great addition to the series. Told from both points of view and has a happy ending. A great read for any sports romance lover.

Amazon -> <http://amzn.to/2u9BEf0>

Pinterest board -> <https://es.pinterest.com/kellyjamieso...>

* I was given an ARC of this book courtesy of the author via NetGalley. The excerpts taken are from that copy. *

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Amber .:★Wild Heart Reviews★: says

Review coming!

ARC provided by NetGalley via Author in exchange for an honest review.
