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A brooding hockey hunk learns to embrace life—and love—from a single mom who takes the world one puck at a time.

Big move . . . Jodie's motto is "Don't wait for the perfect moment - take the moment and make it perfect." And that's just what she decides to do when she moves to Chicago with her two-year-old daughter. Now all Jodie needs is a place to live, and her best friend's boyfriend has just the answer.

Big stick . . . Nick Balachov has zero interest in socializing, partying, or flirting right now. It's not that he doesn't like women. He loves them. It's just that hockey, casual hookups, and hanging out at home are enough for him these days. Now Nick has a big problem - because the woman living in his empty coach house is a major distraction.

Big deal? The more Nick tries to keep his distance, the more Jodie needs him - around the house, that is. First he helps with the snowstorm, then the power outage. Nick even finds himself trying to impress her little girl. What the hell is wrong with him? Jodie represents everything Nick doesn't want. But maybe she's just what he needs. . . .

Big Stick Details

Date : Published October 23rd 2018 by Loveswept

ISBN :

Author : Kelly Jamieson

Format : Kindle Edition 275 pages

Genre : Romance, Sports and Games, Sports, Contemporary Romance, Sports Romance, Contemporary, Hockey

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From Reader Review Big Stick for online ebook

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Author Kelly Jamieson offers up a romance filled with emotion, humor, and healing. A man determined to remain a bachelor and not be needed by anyone and a single mom by choice become an unlikely couple is the latest Ace's Hockey novel.

There are two things that keep Nick Balachov busy hockey and renovating his house. He doesn't date and while he has a friends with benefits relationship with a woman, he hasn't even made time for that lately. The last thing he wants is someone who depends on him for anything, after some terrible losses in his life he's decided to protect his heart by not having anyone to care about. So when his friends ask him to let their house guest move into his coach house he is reluctant, but eventually concedes.

Having a child on her own with a donor and now moving her life to Chicago to be near her best friend and their growing sex toy business, Jodie isn't afraid of hard work or change, but she never expected it would be so hard to find an appropriate place for her and her 2 year old Zyana. When her friends arrange for her to rent a coach house from a gruff, standoffish hockey player she isn't sure it's a good idea, but with nothing else working out she decides to accept even if it is only for a short while.

There was so much I loved about this book including watching Nick's chivalrous side come out almost the minute Jodie and Zyana moved on to his property. It was fun seeing Zyana go from calling Nick a grumpy giant to insisting he read to her and play hockey with her. The fact that Jodie was so strong and self sufficient I think made it easier for Nick to want to do things for her because she didn't expect it and while it was hard at times for her to accept, she found she liked having someone to lean on at times. Their relationship built over time while sharing their backgrounds and how they saw their lives going forward. While they made some mistakes, I appreciate that they were able to discuss and fix them without a whole lot of drama.

Big Stick was a feel good romance with characters I adored and I found impossible to put down.

Tpagirl says

Big Stick was the seventh book in the Aces Hockey series by Kelly Jamieson.

Jodie was the best friend and business partner to Kendra, Slap Shot, book five. They co-owned a sex toy company that recently relocated its headquarters to Chicago. She also was a single mother to a vivacious three year old.

Nick Balachov was an NHL forward for the Aces. He was known to be brooding and often isolating himself. He stated early on that he didn't much like people, yet he interacted well with his team members. We know there was a recent death in his life, but we didn't learn the details until later in the plot, which explained the significant impact it had on his life.

Nick and Jodie met through Kendra and Max (book five). Although attracted, they disliked each other at first

having opposite personalities. However, Jodie needed a place to live after having just relocated to Chicago and Nick had an available carriage house so they agreed on the living arrangements, which put them in direct contact frequently. Jamieson then took us through the relationship development while peeling back the layers of Nick's broodiness.

Big Stick's timeline overlapped with the previous book, *Playing Hurt*. Jamieson did well ensuring the facts from both books were accurate. Jamieson also gifted us with past favorite Ace couples from earlier books in the series.

All in all, it was well written, well developed, full of authentic hockey detail, an emotional and heart felt story and totally entertaining. Brick is up next in *Game On* and I can't wait!

A.BookNerd.Bookseller&Bibliophile.Blog says

Nick is a Aces hockey player who likes to be left alone to work on his house and hang with his few chosen friends. Jodi is a free spirit single mom who by chance is now living in Nick's guest house. Nick has never wanted a family, girlfriend, or even kids yet by doing a simple favor for a team mate he appears to have it all. Nick and Jodi have demons of their own to work through to be together.

Great emotional characters that have many sides to them. Loved that Jodi is a single mom who designs sex toys. I am loving the Aces series. I can't wait for more!!

Reviewed by: Alex L.

Chris says

My favorite Aces book yet!!! Nick is a self proclaimed loner. After losing his family, he's convinced he's not meant to have close relationships. He's fine with just having a few friends on the team and being alone working on his house and refinishing his antiques. Jodie is a single mom. She made the decision to be a single parent and isn't looking for a dad for her daughter or a man... she can take care of both of them herself. When Jodie and her daughter end up living in Nick's coach house, a sort of odd friendship develops between the two of them, which leads to more. I loved their banter, I loved how honest they were with each other and I loved Zyana, Jodie's daughter. It wasn't an "insta-dad" story, they had a slow build just like Nick and Jodie. It made their relationships seem all that more real. Looking forward to the next novel!!! *ARC provided for an honest review

Carol says

3.75 stars.

Kelly Jamieson writes such feel-good stories, they are usually fairly sweet, tender and more than a little heartwarming.

I especially like her hockey romances. They are entertaining, with character and charm not unlike her heroes and heroines.

There is often some drama but no major angst.

It took me a little while to get into this book but once I did, I loved the slow burn romance between Jodie and Nick.

I simply adored Jodie. I liked the fact that she was an independent but also kindhearted woman. She had really wanted to have a child and so bravely decided to go it alone and become a single mom. Zyana her daughter is super cute.

Jodie is definitely a woman that isn't afraid to pursue what she wants in life.

Nick(our hockey player hero) also had no problem worming his way into my affections as the slightly gruff loner with a sad past.

This was a sweet, sexy and lighthearted romance, not my favorite by this author but still a good read and very representative of her writing style.

This book is part of a series but can certainly be read as a standalone.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review.

Wendy's Thoughts says

3.5 Determined Stars

*** * * 1/2 Spoiler Free**

This was a winner for me. It is part of an ongoing Hockey series and I was able to jump right in.

You have a woman who has learned the hard way how life must be managed on her own terms. The foster system was the teacher. She figured out what she wanted and got it her way...a sperm bank daughter. She is happy with her life, devoted to her daughter and career.

He has been a success but the loss of his brother has rocked his world. He is in hidden pain. He thinks being the main guy with his team will be enough until she arrives and infiltrates his life. Never wanted a family of his own, never wanted to belong in a relationship but now that he is seeing her with her daughter and he is enjoying their company, he is having different thoughts...

Both of them are connecting and then they are feeling it.

This is a positive addition to the series.

A gifted copy was provided by author/publisher for an honest review.

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Taz Lozada says

Nick is a Aces hockey player who likes to be left alone to work on his house and hang with his few chosen friends. Jodi is a free spirit single mom who by chance is now living in Nick's guest house. Nick has never wanted a family, girlfriend, or even kids yet by doing a simple favor for a team mate he appears to have it all. Nick and Jodi have demons of their own to work through to be together.

Great emotional characters that have many sides to them. Loved that Jodi is a single mom who designs sex toys. Hello hockey hottie oh la la. I am loving the Aces series. I can't wait for more!!

Jackie Wright says

4.5 Stars for Big Stick which is book 7 in the Aces Hockey Series but everyone of this series can easily be read as stand-alone books. I love hockey and I love this series and I was excited to be back in Chicago with the Aces and I was not disappointed Kelly Jamieson delivered once again.

Jodie is a business owner and single mum she has just moved to Chicago with her best friend who also happens to be her business partner, life is moving in the right direction but that's about to change when she meets a hulk of a hockey player who is a teammate of her best friends man. Jodie needs a place to live and she ends up renting Nick's guest house, things don't start well for this couple but the more time they spend together the more they realise they have feelings for each other.

This book has all the feels you could ever want in a romance, it has its ups and downs, it has many obstacles to cross before you get a HEA and it has the most adorable little girl who has some brilliant one liners. A great addition to one of my favourite series.

Avid Reader says

Big Stick (Aces Hockey #7) by Kelly Jamieson

4 stars

M/F Romance

Triggers: Depression

I was given this book for an honest review by Wicked Reads.

This is the third book in the series that I've read. I really liked Jodie's perspective on life. She knew what she wanted and went for it. She was intelligent, vulnerable and strong all wrapped in to a tough package. She loved her daughter fiercely and would do anything for her. But in order to continue with her business, she moved to be near her partner. She's not looking for love, but that's mainly because she never thought she'd find it.

Nick is a loner to his core. After believing that he failed his family, he has taken it to heart. Despite his teammates trying to pull him in to their partying and night's out, Nick is content with his life. He wants to win the big cup for his brother and family; he wants what he does to be worthy. He also is not looking for love, but it comes up and bites him anyways.

There is a slow build up in the relationship between Jodie and Nick. I liked that they were friends - almost wary of each other to begin with. It made their relationship seem more realistic. I also loved the introduction of Jodie's daughter, Zyana. She was a breath of fresh air in this drama. It was a cute relationship and was

great to see each character grow.

Darcy says

This one was predictable from the start, but it was fun to see Nick and Jodie on their journey. The added bonus was Zyana, who was cute!

I liked that quickly Jodie figured out why Nick was so standoffish and even called Nick out on things. From there it gave them a base to start to build things. I also liked how Jodie asked that they take things one day at a time, but if it need to stop, they needed to be adults and talk about things.

You knew something would happen when Nick would run scared and it sure happened. It's easy to see why Nick got so scared, I probably would have too in the same situation. While I hated that Nick ran, I did like that he played by the rules and told Jodie he couldn't do it any more. What really sucked was Nick knew even as he said the words it was the wrong thing.

I was happy that 2 conversations with a couple of hockey people brought some great insight to Nick, that he realized what was important in his life and what was missing. It made the HEA all the more happy because now Nick was finally allowing himself to be happy.

Cheryl Whitty says

Reviewed on <http://bookaddict.blog>,

Big Stick is a super sweet story of Nick Balachov an Aces Hockey Player, and a super loner that has to force himself to go to his friend Hallsy party. Nick is going through a bad patch and Kendra's friend Jodie is driving him mad she just doesn't stop talking. Jodie and her toddler daughter Zyana need somewhere to stay, and Nick has an empty Coach House. Well I think we all know what happens after Jodie and Zyana move in. This is a sweet romance between a moody giant and Jodie a devoted mother and business woman.

I love a good sexy romance when I'm imagining the well-built athletic men turning into loving men and father figures. So it's the journey we enjoy in this sweet romance with a bit of sexy times thrown in.

Nick was so sweet with little Zyana, looking after when she was ill.

Elizabeth Clinton says

Aces Hockey at its best. Nick Balachov is the newest Aces player to get a story and what a story he has. Grumpy, Standoffish, but all with good reason. Life has been hard on him but a career with the Aces has changed everything but until he meets Jodie and her sweet daughter Zyana he never saw them coming. Jodie is a single mom by choice and a business owner with her best friend life is great and when a big burly Hockey Player crosses her path her life will never be the same.

Jodie & Nick may start off on the wrong foot but when circumstances have them spending a lot of time together they each see the other in a different light. You will see how they develop as a couple but they will have to endure many ups and downs and lots of different emotions but you will cheer them on to find that

HEA that both deserve.

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

Another fallen hockey hunk! This time we get Nick and Jodie's story. We got introduced to Jodie and her daughter in book 5 when her best friend and business partner, Kendra fell in love with Max.

I'm such a sucker for little kids in romance books that I was hoping for their story. It did not disappoint. I loved Zyana, she was so stinking cute. And there is nothing hotter than a guy with kids. ?

They had a rocky road ahead of them. Nick has isolated himself and Jodie has already resigned to not finding a forever guy. Despite the obstacles in their path, I enjoyed their journey.

There is hints of the next book and I gotta say, it sounds like we will be getting a hero that is ready to settle down. That makes me excited. I love a hero that goes after what he wants. ARC provided by NetGalley.

Samantha (WLABB) says

That's right - book 7, and I am still loving this series. In Big Stick, Jamieson gave me one of my favorite kind of heroes, the grumpy hero, and I really enjoyed watching Jodie help him reveal that heart of gold he had hidden for so long.

Who?

- Jodie - a single mother by choice and mechanical engineer, who was busy building her own business.
- Nick - the resident anti-social member of the Aces, who appeared to only want to save old furniture, but was secretly nursing some serious pain.

What?

Jodie was new to Chicago, and looking for a place to live. Nick had an empty guest house. As a favor to Hallsy, Nick invited Jodie to live in his guest house, but opening his home to Jodie may have resulted in opening himself to her as well.

Why?

I have no idea why, but I love the grumpy heroes. Maybe it's because I like seeing people really have to work for their affections, or maybe it's because they do generous things without seeking attention for doing it. Whatever the reason, I really enjoyed seeing Jodie penetrate Nick's walls.

She was able to tap into a side of him, that he had been keeping under wraps for many years. She was able to get close, when he normally help people at arms length. She was able to get him to open up, and acknowledge his fears, thus, helping him free himself, in a way.

It was both heartwarming and heartbreaking watching Jodie make all this progress. Heartbreaking, because

Nick had suffered so much in his past. Heartwarming, because it was gratifying to see him heal and take a step towards his future.

Nick and Jodie were great together. The physical connection was there, great chemistry, but I also thought there was a fantastic emotional connection between them. I am always amused, when the MCs are just "going to have some fun", because we all know that means they will fall for each other, and that happened here, but it was gradual. You saw lust turn to more as both Nick and Jodie became more invested in each other than originally anticipated.

My first Aces book was actually Hallsy's (I have since read them all), so I was happy that he shared a special bromance with Nick. If any of the Aces would be able to understand Nick's loss, it would be Hallsy, and Nick was lucky to have him in his corner. I greatly enjoyed their interactions, and I always like seeing that more sensitive side of men.

I also adored the interactions between Nick and Zyana, Jodie's daughter. Nick proclaimed he did not like kids, but his actions were very contrary to his words. Zyana was a cute little kid, and she was able to plow through Nick's barriers and get right to his heart. I definitely "awwwwed" quite a bit.

This book was about loss and dealing with that loss, but also about realizing that some loads are lighter when we allow others to help us shoulder it.

Overall

Another great Aces book, which was fun and emotional, and left me wanting even more of this series.

*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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Erin Lewis says

4 Star Review of Big Stick (Aces Hockey #7) by Kelly Jamieson

This is book 7 in the Aces hockey series and can be read as a standalone. Kelly Jamieson has done a great job with this series and this is Nick Balachov and Jodie's story.

When Jodie moves to Chicago she and her daughter need a place to stay, which is where Nick enters the picture when he lets them stay in his Coach house. All Nick wants to do is concentrate on hockey and have an occasional hook up. The last thing he wants is to be seriously attracted to any woman, least of all single mum Jodie and her gorgeous 2 year old daughter Zyana.

Nick has had a hard life with means he has closed himself off to those around him whilst Jodie is his opposite and seizes the moment. Initially they clash but as circumstance and fate continue to bring them together they slowly ease into a friendship with potential for so much more.

The chemistry between them is intense and Nick's affection and behaviour towards Zyana is heart warming. I really loved that Jodie knew what or who she wanted and wasn't afraid to move forward, her protectiveness

towards her daughter was inspiring.

The writing was strong and kept my attention and there were plenty of hot and passionate scenes.
