



## Playing Passion's Game

*Lesley Davis*

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## **Playing Passion's Game** Lesley Davis

In most games, you play to win. In matters of the heart, you play for keeps.

Trent Williams's entire world revolves around her love of gaming. She has little time for romantic distractions and prefers instead to be with her closest friends who, like her, live for the thrill that comes from a competition well played. Happy in her job, seemingly content with her life, Trent still finds herself haunted by the past that threatens to keep her alone forever. The self-imposed solitude she places on her heart only leaves her all too aware of just how lonely she is.

All work and no play in her executive job forces Juliet Sullivan to search for a different direction in life. Disillusioned by it all, Juliet is desperate to seek out new horizons. When Trent unwittingly comes to the rescue of her younger sister, Juliet immediately finds herself drawn to Trent's silent strength and undeniable charm. Now the new direction Juliet so desperately desires seems intent on leading her straight into Trent's arms.

## **Playing Passion's Game Details**

Date : Published May 17th 2011 by Bold Strokes Books (first published May 2011)

ISBN : 9781602822238

Author : Lesley Davis

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Glbt, Lesbian, Romance, Lgbt, Butch Femme, Lesbian Romance, Lesbian Fiction

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# From Reader Review Playing Passion's Game for online ebook

## **KT says**

What can you say about it?

It's a fairly good, typical lesbian romance story that's a satisfying read but is nothing special.

Nothing wrong with that at all....

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## **CM Castillo says**

### **Heart warming!**

This is one of my favorite book among hundreds of books I have read. The romance, friendships and a new insight of a gamers world is fantastic. Can't help but read this book again and again.

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## **Rebekah Weatherspoon says**

I read this simply because the main character was a gamer - how often does that happen in romance - and I was not disappointed. Trent is such a lovable butch :) and Juliet was the perfect lady for her.

This story is low on drama and high on the family and friends, two things I actually seek out when reading romance. I think some readers wanted more drama between Juliet and Trent, but with contemporary romance that sort of drama always seems forced. Trent's back story and initial hesitation to get involved with Juliet were more than enough for me and I was very happy with the end of the story.

If you're looking for something light, fun, sexy (the sexing is hot) and different, definitely check out this one.

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## **Lexxi Kitty says**

I really need a better shelf than 'farmer-gardener', pfft. Right sorry.

Book involves a super tall woman who looks like a force of nature, super powerful, the ultimate of ultimate butches who . . . doesn't really see herself that way and who has trouble with the concept of relationships based entirely on her kid-years. She's a gamer – a professional game playing person who plays in tournaments, on a team, sponsored by her employer – a gaming store in a mall (most of her time is spent working there; or gaming back at her place; occasionally tournaments). This ultra-butch woman is Trent Williams. Gentle-giant type. Geeky. Small breasts (what, it came up in the book). Somewhere in her 30s.

Book also involves Juliet Sullivan – on the fast track at her bank but . . . the economy is crap, and companies are failing left and right. Her bank might even fail shortly. Also, more importantly, she's bloody tired of all the inter-office political crap that goes with being a banker and she is seriously thinking of joining her roommate working as a landscaper. Juliet is something like 27 and is girly and has large breasts (what, again,

it came up in the book - okay, technically they are described as 'ample' that spill out when 'released' and are 'more beautiful' than Trent ever imagined breasts could be).

"Fuck," Trent mumbled when Juliet's ample breasts were released. "They're more beautiful than I even imagined."

Juliet threw the scrap of clothing on top of her shirt. She leaned closer into Trent. "You've been imagining my breasts, have you?"

"Every damn minute I could get," Trent said, reaching up to hold them in her palms and . . .

play with them and stuff, what, it gets graphic and stuff. (61% into the book)

Juliet and Trent both have their point of views expressed in the book. There are other well-defined side characters, though, of importance. Like that roommate (I wish to go with 'Michelle'? Am I right? Crap, this is what happens when you take 4 days before you put your thoughts down - it's Monica) who is straight and working on being a landscaper, and Chuck Norris (not his actual name, see 'my brain is stupid and retains nothing and I took too long to write a review' above; his actual name is probably something like . . . um . . . Mitch . . . or Buck . . . or . . . Nacho . . . really, I have no idea - it's Elton, big bearded viking type). Elton is also a really tall person, though he's a man. One who likes wearing heavy make-up. No, not for that reason, but because he's a gamer. And he thinks it's important for him to wear make-up that looks like a skull. On his face. (he and Trent, and the rest of the people who work at their store, are called something like 'the Baydale Reapers' or something like that). Juliet's 10 year old sister is massively important also – what with that's how Juliet and Trent meet, then there's a birthday party, and stuff. Somewhat of lesser importance, but still there, are Elton's relatives, and the other people who work on the team and at the store. Another layer of character is that which has had a major impact on someone of importance, but does not actually appear in the book – except in flashbacks – like that massive religious dick that is Trent's father.

The interactions between the various people were fun. The romance was also nice. There was even some interesting sex that occurred. I was going to immediately read the next book in the series until I realized that it seems to have nothing much in connection to the first book (on the surface; well there's crippling nightmares mentioned in the second books description – that's a common theme, then there's Tweedy Contractors; which plays a part in the first book – indirectly . . . eventually). Neither of the characters appears to be gamers, though. Or geeky. So . . . that's a let-down. Got distracted.

Hmm. What else to say about this book . . . hmms. Not as much as the first book I read by this author ('Truth behind the mask'), but there's only a half star difference in ratings (which means both ended up as '4 stars' as far as GoodReads knows).

I need to stop taking so long to write reviews.

Rating: 4.00

January 27 2017

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## **Jae Jae says**

Trent, a gamer, rescues Juliet's ten-year-old sister from a bunch of boys and brings her home. There she meets Juliet for the first time.

Everyone who has a slightly obsessive hobby, be it gaming or writing, will be able to relate to some of the things in the book.

The story is entertaining, but lacks big conflicts that keep them apart.

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## **M says**

It has been a couple of months since I read this book and I have to say that this story and set of characters has stayed with me, while other books have faded into the background.

This book has delightful characters, with depth, issues, emotions and beauty. The plot is allowed to evolve and is richly seeded with appealing and thoughtfully developed secondary characters that add to both the plot and the world created by the author. From the elderly next door neighbour through to the gamers at the tournament, the author has an eye for character and the ability to make them come alive on the page.

Everything about this story felt authentic and unforced. I love Trent as a character and hope that she can make a subsequent appearance because she has so much more to give. Classic butch with a heart, but not a caricature.

I am looking forward to reading Truth Behind the Mask, heard some great things about this book as well.

Mags

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## **PJ says**

A book about a lesbian gamer! A direct line to my heart. Truly enjoyed this book and, especially if you're a gamer, you'll like it too.

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## **Sharon Tyler says**

Playing Passion's Game by Leslie Davis is a contemporary romance. Trent Williams's entire world revolves around her love of gaming. She has little time for romantic distractions and prefers instead to be with her closest friends who, like her, live for the thrill that comes from a competition well played. Happy in her job, seemingly content with her life, Trent still finds herself haunted by the past that threatens to keep her alone forever. The self-imposed solitude she places on her heart only leaves her all too aware of just how lonely

she is. All work and no play in her executive job forces Juliet Sullivan to search for a different direction in life. Disillusioned by it all, Juliet is desperate to seek out new horizons. When Trent unwittingly comes to the rescue of her younger sister, Juliet immediately finds herself drawn to Trent's silent strength and undeniable charm. Now the new direction Juliet so desperately desires seems intent on leading her straight into Trent's arms.

Playing Passion's Game is a wonderful read. As I expected from the author, both Trent and Juliet felt very real. They each had their faults, fears, and fallibilities just like the rest of us. Even though some stereotypes were touched upon, the majority of the time it was done in a way that pointed out the expectations of others, and the reality. I think readers that enjoy well written characters and realistic stories will find themselves completely caught up in the story. Honestly, the characters are people that I would love to hang out with and know in real life. The fact that the main characters are lesbians is more of a side note- the romance, characters, and struggles they face are so real that it was organic. The difference between an author that truly knows their characters and how they feel, and those that write to fill a niche market or for the love of money rather than the story is clear. Davis is obviously a writer that loves what they are writing, rather than writing to follow the money. Which will hopefully help them continue writing and find success- because I want more!

Playing Passion's Game might have a slightly corny title, but like the other books I have read from the author I quickly found myself lost in the story and caring deeply for all the characters. I adore the author, and will continue reading whatever they release. I am eagerly waiting for more!

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## **Alena says**

Don't get me started on the title. How corny can you get?

Although the bluntness of the title kinda lays out the scene for the book. The only reason I was interested in this is that the main character is a gamer. Don't have that very often, so I went and read.

Well, you gotta hand it to Lesley Davis that she manages to push many of my buttons ;) It's the first time I've even heard of her, but she has written quite a few books.

The story is so, so, so predictable, even little things you just know will pop up again. Empty rooms in the house? Symbolize her empty life that's just waiting to get meaning because of the woman she meets (gorgeous, of course) who can then move into the house to make it a home. You get my drift. The kid who jump starts the story then conveniently disappears when her job in the story is done, etc. So yeah, I knew it was a romance when I picked it up, but I didn't know the characters were so flat (troubled butch, anyone?). I did like the secondary characters Monica and Elton, and the kid.

Beyond the story though, the writing managed to annoy me greatly. Odd choices for tenses and prepositions here and there, no clear voice for the characters (odd phrases, sometimes sounded very posh), the same goes for the narrative, sometimes I had the feeling the author had the thesaurus too handy when writing dialog and using very casual language in the narrative. The bio at the end of the book then says the author is British. Hmm... that threw me for a loop, maybe some of the odd choices are British English, though I don't think so, and with the American English spelling that's really neither here nor there. It also takes place in the US, an imaginary town, I believe, so the characters should speak AE, as nothing else was indicated. Having AE dialog and BE narrative would just be weird, so I'm not sure that's the reason for the choices that were made. She also managed to put in my pet peeves: using wait on instead of wait for, I know that's spreading, but it

bugs me and I was not aware that it is BE as well. Using females when referring to women... argh. I'm also not quite sure she meant to say 'feminine company'. Also, the author used a lot of internal monologues to convey the inner life of both the main characters. I'm not sure if that's just lazy writing or bad writing when those monologues are the only instrument you have to let me look into your characters.

I did enjoy the beginning that was gaming heavy and the little kid was adorable, but overall the characters are flat and clichéd, and the story is too fabricated and artificial.

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### **Jodie Atkinson says**

I was excited to read *Playing Passion's Game* by Lesley Davis as I've totally enjoyed all her previous books, they all get a regular showing in my re-read list. However, I wondered if I'd like this one as much, considering there was no super heroes or magic or witchcraft or ghosts. The answer is a resounding, you bet I did!

The story is set in the world of gamers. Trent Williams lives for games, they're a constant in her life and don't leave much time for anything else, especially love. Not that she's looking, having kept herself closed off after an incident in her teenage years. She's happy with her games, playing them, working with them and competing in games tournaments with a close group of gaming friends. It's while setting up a hall for a games meeting with her best friend, boss and gaming team captain, Elton, that she meets 10 year old Kayleigh Sullivan.

Saving Kayleigh from a group of boys and walking her home is about to change Trent's life completely. Change comes in the form of Kayleigh's big sister Juliet. Her beauty instantly captures Trent's attention and has her longing for more than a quick fling. But the question is, can she overcome a lifetime of guarding her heart and risk it for a chance at happiness. Juliet just may be worth the risk.

This was a lovely sweet romance. Trent is wonderfully strong, gentle and kind, but with an inner fragility that is endearing and draws Juliet to her. I really liked how sensitive Juliet was and how gently she handled Trent, yet there was still wonderfully hot passion between them. The supporting characters of Trent's friend Elton and Juliet's friend Monica were great and added a wonderful touch to the story, as did all the other minor characters. *Playing Passion's Game* is a wonderful romance that I thoroughly enjoyed and look forward to reading again.

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### **Margaret L. Hedman says**

**I loved this book.**

I don't know why I never reviewed this book before. I've read it so many times. Excellent story. Great insider gaming talk. Great romance. I wish it would be made into an audio.

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**Bonnie says**

Refreshing to read a sweet romance without all of the conflict and angst usually found in this type of book.

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**Elisa Rolle says**

2011 Rainbow Awards Honorable Mention (5\* from at least 1 judge)

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**Tara says**

I loved this one. It made me so, so happy. There wasn't a lot of conflict, but all of the characters are great and fun to follow. They also show up in an equally lovely follow-up story in Amor and More: Love Everafter.

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