



# Breakaway

*Avon Gale*

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## **Breakaway** Avon Gale

Drafted to play for the Jacksonville Sea Storm, an NHL affiliate, twenty-year-old Lane Courtnall's future looks bright, apart from the awkwardness he feels as a gay man playing on a minor league hockey team. He's put his foot in his mouth a few times and alienated his teammates. Then, during a rivalry game, Lane throws off his gloves against Jared Shore, enforcer for the Savannah Renegades. It's a strange way to begin a relationship.

Jared's been playing minor league hockey for most of his career. He's bisexual and doesn't care if anyone knows. But he's determined to avoid another love affair after the last one left him devastated. Out of nowhere a one-nighter with rookie Lane Courtnall gives him second thoughts. Lane reminds Jared why he loves the game and why love might be worth the risk. In turn, Jared hopes to show Lane how to be comfortable with himself on and off the ice. But they're at different points in their careers, and both men will have to decide what they value most.

## **Breakaway Details**

Date : Published November 27th 2015 by Dreamspinner Press

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Author : Avon Gale

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# From Reader Review Breakaway for online ebook

**Debra says**

**Review originally posted at Sinfully.**

**4.5 stars**

Lane is 20 years old and just starting what looks to be a promising career in professional hockey with minor league team the Sea Storm. He's just moved from Canada to Jacksonville, Florida. Too bad he has alienated most of his team before the first game starts with his inability to filter his thoughts before speaking. At 31, Jared Shore knows his time playing hockey is nearing an end. Cast as the villain enforcer for the Renegades, Jared's used to fighting on the ice, and when rookie Lane Courtnall drops his gloves to instigate a fight in his first game, Jared knows just why he is doing it. When he runs into Lane at a bar later that night, things get strange, then they get hot and then they can't wait to do it again. Good thing their teams are rivals with plenty of games to look forward to, not that Jared's looking for a relationship or that Lane even knows what's going on!

I really enjoyed this story. Once again Avon Gale has created a quirky and loveable character in the socially awkward Lane. He's "not good at feelings" and says things as they pop into his head, often taking what other people say quite literally. He needs to pause to think about things he's not sure he understands, even if it occurs in the middle of sex. Lane is not very experienced, but is eager to learn everything he can from Jared, who is more than happy to oblige.

Jared is a sweetheart. He knows where he stands in the league and that he needs to start considering life after hockey. While Lane is learning a lot from him, Jared also starts seeing things differently after spending time with Lane, realizing how the events that started his career were still holding him back after so many years. The way he embraces the "weird" that is Lane just made me smile.

The dual point of view works great and the two MC's have very different personalities. They fall very easily into their relationship with no unnecessary drama between them. It's not often that I find myself laughing in the middle of a hot sex scene before getting right back to it. I loved the way Jared and Lane kept their rivalry on the ice and each played to win, trash talk and all. You don't have to be a hockey lover to enjoy the entertaining on-ice scenes.

The biggest issues that both men have to deal with concern their parents and, for Lane, coming out to his team. Both had different experiences, good and bad, as far as their families supporting their interests and responding to their sexualities, but neither has been all that good communicating about it and tensions grow throughout the story.

In addition to Jared and Lane, there are a number of well written supporting characters including Lane's new best friend Zoe, his roommates Riley and Ryan, and the rest of the Storm and Renegades players. I'm really looking forward to the next story about quiet Sea Storm goalie Riley.

Breakaway is a completely different book than Avon Gale's debut, Let the Wrong Light In. This is a straight forward romance about two men falling in love and incorporating each other into their lives, with no major angst or drama. There are still bumps in the road of course, but it's a lighter, feel good love story. If you like

sports themed romances with a touch of humor, a quirky MC and a wonderful supporting cast you'll have fun with this story.

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### **Norah Una Sumner says**

Boy, did this series get better with each sequel. This one was a hot mess, but still a bit better than the second book, in my opinion. Anyway, maybe I made a mistake of reading the third and fourth book first and then the first two because Avon Gale absolutely blew my mind with the third and fourth one. The first two are... really a hot mess. I really liked Lane though. He's the character that I connected with the most.

But seriously, Avon Gale's writing is what I love about her the most - she has a very interesting way with words. Makes me feel like I'd even read a grocery list if she writes it. :)

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### **Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

**I always say that sports romances aren't really my thing, but I think I have to be changing my tune. Another hockey romance, another BIG success for me! This audiobook was fab!**

Sometimes it takes me a little while to warm up to a book, especially an audiobook. That was certainly the case with Breakaway. At first I was really confused about the character of Lane. Is he supposed to be autistic or on the spectrum? Is he supposed to be simple-minded? Just socially awkward? What's his *deal*?? But finally I just decided that it didn't matter: **Lane is Lane... weird and competitive and horny**, and I simply took his character for who he was.

Same with the narration. **At first, I found Scott R. Smith's reading style to be difficult to follow.** I played with the speed a little bit, trying to find a way to "get" the reading, and I wasn't sure if I was going to enjoy it. I think it was the way he emphasized certain words that made it sound... less organic, for some reason.

However, his narration grew on me too. I just LOVED his voice for Jared (sexy and raspy), and I liked his cadence for Lane. **His range of voices was very impressive, and I grew really addicted to listening to the audiobook.** In fact, I'm waiting on the rest of the books until they come out in audio, just because I KNOW that Scott R. Smith will only get better and better.

I found the whole book to be really special. The romance was nicely done, and though there were a few bumps and miscommunications along the way, the **majority of the book was drama-free**. I appreciated that. It was a great listen with a nicely paced plot, and I gladly tuned in to the audiobook for hours on end, a sure sign of a successful story.

While it wasn't my favorite hockey romance (yeah, I'm looking at you, Him!!), **I really enjoyed this one.** If you are into MCs with no filter and fewer social skills, and an age-gap romance with a sexy, **bisexual** athlete (the bi details are very nicely done, BTW), you should pick this one up. And I'm beside myself with glee because I hear that this series continues being awesome with each passing book. SCORE!

\*Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review\*

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## **Kaje Harper says**

4.5 stars, rounded up for being such a pleasant surprise.

This book was just FUN. It features a young, talented Canadian hockey player who personifies honesty, a good heart and no filters. And an older, talented American hockey player with a fading career and a bruised heart. Together, they are silly and warm and sexy and confused and comforting and frustrating. There are several good secondary characters, family issues that are not OTT, some minor hockey action that seems relatively low-key and simple even for non-fans, and some sex that is well done but not extensive or highly erotic.

Some of Lane's innocence and confusion might be a bit unlikely, but I'm related to a bunch of clueless, geeky Canadian men and it worked for me. (Other than the hate for Nickelback, because I like Nickelback LOL.)

I laughed, sighed once or twice, and will definitely buy the next book in the series.

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## **~Kristin~ says**

### **5 Stars**

Before I decided to read this I skimmed the reviews, the first one stated it was "**Awkward**", and that she just couldn't connect to the socially awkward Lane. So I thought, maybe this wasn't for me, and decided to move on to something else. Well this book kept popping up on my status feed, and I gave it another looksie. I've got to say the original reviewer wasn't wrong, Lane is awkward as fuck, but unlike her he cracked me up! I do realize that for a 42 year old I have the sense of humor of my 16 year old son, so I totally laughed at all the stupid things he said. I loved how he and Jared just got each other, I think Jared got that Lane just processed things a little differently and loved that about him. These two stole my heart, completely! We are talking swooning here.

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## **Gigi says**

**November 27: Happy release day to Avon Gale! Loved this one!**

Hockey player gay romance! Oh, one of my absolute favorite genres, without a doubt. Avon Gale follows-up her fabulous, intense *Let the Wrong Light In* with this easy, breezy, sweet romance.

Lane Courtnall starts his hockey career with the Jacksonville Sea Storm, naive and excited, with a serious case of foot-in-mouth syndrome. He doesn't seem to have a filter which gets him in trouble with many of his teammates. In an effort to show his dedication to the game to his teammates, he instigates a brawl on this ice with notorious bad boy Jared Shore, enforcer for the Savannah Renegades. The move works and Lane earns some hard-won respect but when he meets Jared again after hours, his filter is once again off and he can't hide his lust for the older, more experienced Jared.

I found Lane's lack of social graces and filterless approach to life to be endearing, sweet and charming. One of those "not a bad bone in his body" types.

*Lane tried the same move he had last time, but the Renegades defense knocked him over and called him a stupid motherfucker.*

*"Your mom's not hot enough. Sorry," Lane snapped back, and the defenseman actually snorted before he went back to trash talking.*

*Lane wondered if that guy's mom was there, and then he felt bad.*

Throughout the course of the book, Lane is able to melt Jared's icy heart and the men eventually fall in love. Jared is pleasantly surprised at Lane's eagerness, lack of experience and willingness to learn **EVERYTHING** in bed.

*"Yeah. I thought about it. Do you like that?" His hand rubbed over Lane through his boxers, and Lane made a noise Jared had never heard in bed before, not with anyone, and immediately wanted to hear again.*

*"I thought about you sucking me off."*

*"Did thinking about it get you off?" Jared bit him on the shoulder at a sudden wave of lust. Lane kept being very, very not shy at strange moments, and it was unexpected and also incredibly attractive.*

The hockey scenes here are real and dramatic, a big plus for me, and the sex is unreserved and *scorchingly* hot. I absolutely loved the sexual dynamic between these two men and we learn so much about them as they experiment in bed and eventually make love. Lane and Jared are fanatic characters and their idiosyncrasies make them even more charming and lovable.

The secondary characters are also a big plus for me. Lane meets and befriends Zoe, a spunky woman covered in tattoos who eventually starts dating Lane's roommate. And Riley Hunter, the quiet, intense goalie for the Sea Storm is the subject in the next book of the series, *Save the Game*.

I can **highly recommend** this book. For those that read and loved Avon's first book *Let the Wrong Light In*, you will especially love this more warm-and-fluffy tale with a dynamic between the main characters that is just as strong and passionate.

*This review is also posted at Gay Book Reviews*

*Galley copy of Breakaway provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange of an honest review.*

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## Heidi Cullinan says

A short review because it's a migraine morning, but goddamn, I love Lane. And Zoe. Ohhhh, Zoe. Damn but I was hoping for a three-way scene. Oh well. In my mind...

Super cute, super fun, sweet, sexy as hell, all the feels. So much character. And goddamn but this woman has chops. Watch this one. She's going places.

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## ? Todd says

Okay, after reading this first story in the series, I'm officially a fan now.

SCORE!

Lane's unfiltered blurting was utterly endearing, especially when he repeatedly said the exact wrong thing at the exact wrong time. And it was epic.

Also, Jared, the gruff enforcer from Lane's rival team? Yeah, he never stood a chance against the adorkable tsunami of awkward that was Lane Courtnall.

Other than the fact that it seemed that Jared gave into his aversion for relationships, breaking out those 3 little words a bit too quickly to be fully believable, I didn't have a single niggle about this book.

The story was low angst and pretty damn feel good, which was an extremely pleasant surprise, as I was expecting tons of homophobic trash talking and long separations due to team trades, etc, but thankfully none of that ever came.

The book ends with the beginnings of a fulfilling and flirty HEA, with no complaints from me in the flip-floppy steam department, either.

I'd rate this story at a strong 4.5 stars and will definitely be working my way through the rest of the books in

this series.

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## **J \*deep in the heart of Texas\* says**

### **No rating!**

I didn't make it very far in this one, but I could tell pretty quick that the writing wasn't going to work for me. There was just something about it....too wordy, trying too hard, something. It's almost like the sentences were more complicated then they needed to be.

I don't want to have to re-read sentences multiple times to get what is trying to be said. It took me out of the story and kept me from connecting with the characters.

I kind of thought I would pause it and try to come back to it, but it's not really calling to me at this point.

Personal preference on this one!

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### **.Lili. says**

This book did not work out for me. I was so excited going in- I love sports romance and age difference tropes so it seemed like it would be a win-win, but sadly it missed the mark.

I'll start with the negatives first:

\*Lane's personality. I wasn't sure if his lack of social skills and verbal diarrhea were meant to be funny- I'm assuming it was- but the humor fell flat. If it wasn't meant to be funny- it just made the flow of the dialogue awkward. His social awkwardness seemed forced- the writing was trying too hard to make him (for lack of a better word) awkward.

\*Lane's wanting to pet (view spoiler) I was reading it and thinking- what? Why? What is this adding to the story or his character? It felt so unnecessary.

\*The story flow. You know, I was struggling early on but kept going in hopes the story would pick up. It didn't. I really had to push through.

\*His quick rise in the team. It wasn't believable.

Now to the positives:



\*Jared. I had a different experience with his character. Where Lane's felt forced and contrived- Jared's didn't. His character, dialogue felt natural- the author sold what she was selling with him.

\*The secondary cast of characters.

\*It was told from a dual POV.

\*It had a real nice epilogue.

All in all this was a 2-2.5 Star read. The writing style and I didn't mesh. Would I recommend it? Well... I wouldn't dissuade anyone from reading a book. As I've said before- no two readers read the same book, and we all react differently. Please read Gigi's review as she had a completely different experience than I did.

*\*\*ARC kindly provided by the author for an honest review.\*\**

*\*\*This review is cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.\*\**

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## **Karla says**

3 stars!

So I have mix feeling about this one I didn't love it or hate it for that matter you can say I liked enough.

Lane and Jared are hockey players and play on opposite teams during a game they have a confrontation that soon turns into a sexual attraction.

The biggest problem for me with this book was that it drag, too many details of everything one thought turned into another and another. Then there was Lane, at first I thought he was cute, his personality so innocent, curious and funny without realizing it. But then it got a little too much for me. Also there was a character that for me wasn't necessary that person felt a lot like a third wheel.

I did like Lane and Jared together they were sexy and I did have my moments where their banter had me laughing.

Regardless I'm definitely not given up on this series will see how the next one goes.♥?

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## **Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says**

??????\*Eh\*??????

Cute, but boring. NHL affiliate for the Jacksonville Sea Storm **Lane 'Courts' Edward Courtnall** (20, turns 21) and enforcer for the Savannah Renegades **Jared 'J' Shore** (31, turns 32) were a nice couple, but still, I struggled a bit to *see* them as a couple. I didn't feel their connection all that much. Also, though Lane was cute in his cluelessness, it sometimes became a bit too much and I started wondering if he was a bit dumb... **Overall, it was a nice read**, but not something to write home about. Do I regret my decision to still read this one EVEN though I had already check it as a '*checked-wont-read*' book... a tiny bit. But luckily not much :P

Guess I'll just start on book #2, since I've read all the others in the series already...

*“If I made you love hockey again, then that’s good, and we’re even. ‘Cause you taught me how to fight. For myself.”*

**Quick basic facts:**

**Genre:** - (Adult?) Contemporary Romance (M/M)

**Series:** - Series, (Can Be Read As A Standalone), Book One.

**Love triangle?** - (view spoiler)

**Cheating?** - (view spoiler)

**HEA?** - (view spoiler)

**Favorite character?** - Both?

**Would I read more by this author/or of series?** - Sure.

**Would I recommend this book/series?** - Sure, I did like some of the others in the series.

**Will I read this again in the future?** - No.

**Rating** - 2.5 stars.

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**Jewel says**

When I started reading *Breakaway*, I knew next to nothing about hockey. And now? Heh, I still don't. But I didn't let that little thing keep me from enjoying this fun, low-angst story.

Lane Courtnall is a 20 year old rookie, with the Jacksonville Sea Storm, with a lot of potential on the ice and not a lot of social skills off it. He's not the sharpest tool in the shed, and he's blurty as all hell, and by that I mean he has absolutely no filter, but he's got a good heart, once you figure out he really isn't trying to be mean. I've got to say, though, Jared has the patience of a saint. If I had to live with someone like Lane, it would probably end in homicide. In the story, though, I found Lane oddly endearing. Lane is gay, but doesn't have any sexual experience. Most people find him a little odd. Maybe because he is a bit odd.

Jared Shore, is a bit older at 32 and is currently the enforcer for the Savannah Renegades. He's been playing hockey a long time and he's got a reputation as being a fighter. A well-earned reputation. Jared knows that his professional hockey playing days are numbered, but he doesn't have any idea what he wants to do after, so he just tries not to think too much about it. Sexually speaking, Jared is up for pretty much anything with whomever, male or female. Jared lost his love for the game a long time ago, but he still plays.

While I could much more easily identify with Jared, I really loved them both together. Lane took to sex like he's breathing air and their dirty talk was pretty hot. Lane and Jared were also really good for each other. Lane helped Jared remember why he loved playing hockey and Jared helped Lane be a better player by helping his confidence and helping him know when to stand up for himself. So it was really a win-win for them both.

I also actually loved all the trash-talk on the ice. And that the opposing teams would brawl on the ice and drink and party together off it, gave me a whole new perspective on sports. Maybe I should try to figure out this hockey thing (I probably won't, though).

The story ends on a strong HFN, and I don't really doubt our boys will progress to an HEA.

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## Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

review removed fr/GR

*An ARC was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.*

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### wesley says

I'm kind of sad that this did not live up to my expectations because I loved Gale's *Let the Wrong Light In*. I think I kept finding the same things I loved in the latter, that I ended up majorly disappointed when I wasn't able to find those in this book.

I think the biggest deal for me was the narration. It was just lengthy and felt all over the place. There were chapters when I was utterly confused because at one point, it talked about this moment and the next thing I knew, it was already narrating something that happened at another point in time. Then back again. Back and forth; on and on. It was just messy for me.

Also, I felt that the romance was lacking – like it wasn't given enough focus. I think this was a hockey novel, more than anything. And yes, although I am not a hockey fan, but I've also read *Heart in Hand* by *salifiable* which heavily revolved around the sport and I loved it. I don't know. I guess it has something to do with the story construction and just having that right balance of everything.

I quite enjoyed the characters, though. Both primary and secondary characters were very engaging, although a lot of times, the humor felt flat. The intimate scenes were sizzling but like I said, I wanted to see more of the *kinky shit* like in Gale's first book, so I was kind of frustrated when there were only little pinches of salt and implied discussions of it in this book, but no real action.

I would still look forward to the second installment of *Scoring Chances*, but I would prefer it if Gale toned down the heavy focus on the games and the hockey talk to appeal to a wider audience. Just my two cents, though. **2.5 stars** rounded up.

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