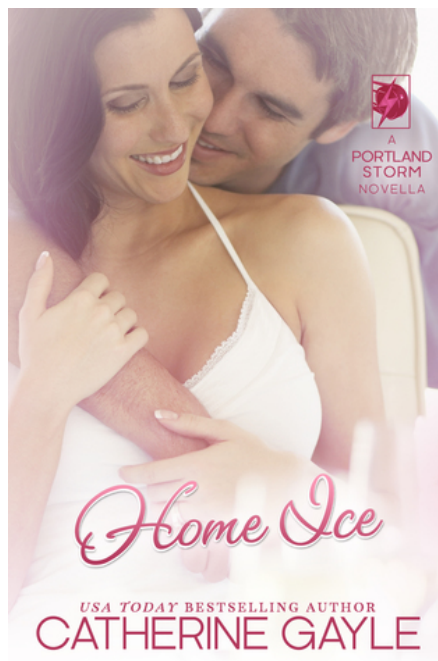




Home Ice

Catherine Gayle

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Tough-as-nails Portland Storm head coach Mattias Bergstrom is hard on his players, molding them into heroes on the ice. He'd never let them see his warm, soft side—something he saves only for his younger sister, who has special needs. But when a hockey event brings a sexy, single mother and her four rambunctious daughters into his life, that icy exterior quickly melts away for her youngest, who reminds him of his dear sister.

Paige Calhoun has her hands full with four teenage daughters who are beyond boy crazy. Throw crushes on hockey players into the mix, and they're almost too much to handle. But when Paige meets the Storm's all-business but irresistible coach, she finds herself as smitten as her girls, and Mattias couldn't be happier. With a Home Ice advantage, Mattias lets his icy exterior melt away to prove to Paige how hot they can be together.

Home Ice Details

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From Reader Review Home Ice for online ebook

Aly says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Catherine Gayle always creates hockey romances that make me fall in love with each character. And this is no different. It was certainly a different experience though to get the perspective of the Coach, as that isn't frequently a thing that happens when it comes to hockey romances.

Another thing I like about Catherine Gayle's books is that each book has one thing that sets it apart as different, whether this be dealing with the aftereffects of rape or having a child with Down Syndrome. But these things that each female protagonist face set these books apart and again, Home Ice is no different in this respect.

The writing style as well as the characters are well thought out and enjoyable. I don't think there's ever been a Portland Storm character I've hated, just ones that slightly annoyed me before I was able to get to know them better.

If you're looking for something to get you through until Hockey Season comes then definitely give Catherine Gayle's Portland Storm series a look!

Find this review and many more at Reading Shy With Aly

Dali says

An uplifting story that's guaranteed to pull at your heart strings, produce big smiles and happy tears. It's not just about hockey and romance, it's about a little girl who wouldn't settle and did what most would have thought impossible.

Everyone who's played with or for Mattias "Bergy" Bergstrom knows he's tough, surly and crusty. But he always leaves this front aside and is all smiles for his sister Linnea who has Down syndrome. With her living on the other side of the world though, his peers have never seen this side of him until Sophie decides to jump in Levi "501" Babcock's arms.

"If I wasn't careful, she was going to bring out some emotion in me that I'd kept locked away for a very long time."

Paige Calhoun is a single mom with four teenage hormone-riddled daughters. Keeping the four of them in check is a challenge, especially when taking them out to a hockey event where they come face to face with the object of their obsession. Her youngest Sophie, born with a heart of gold, the sweetest smile and Down syndrome, also has a single-minded determination to claim him.

Instantly delighted by Sophie who reminds him so much of his sister, Bergy decides to intervene by giving Paige and her daughters the royal treatment never intending to find happiness for himself. But the love and support this family gave was exactly what he needed but didn't know to look for.

“That was a panty-melting smile if ever there was one. Poof! My panties might as well be gone. Which meant my brain had already all but disappeared.”

Home Ice features the Storm’s head coach Mattias Bergstrom and Paige Calhoun. He’s older but still a drop dead sexy, good and patient man with a gooey side and she’s a fun character, totally devoted mother. They weren’t just drawn to each other, they were good for one another.

The romance was wonderful. Besides their attraction, right from the start Mattias and Paige understood each other. They were an easy fit, with great heady flirtation and deep connection.

“Tell me what it is you love to do, Paige.”

I didn’t even pause to think. Before I could stop myself, I said, **“To look at you.”**

But I’ll be completely honest, Sophie totally stole the show for me. Perhaps it’s because I know a child or two with incredible smiles like hers who have accomplished so much with their lives.

“You convince your mom to let me kiss her after our date tomorrow, and I’ll find a way to make it happen. I’ll help you learn to skate and play hockey.”

“I didn’t care how many of them had seen my smiles. I didn’t give a damn who had noticed the cracks in my armor. All I wanted to do was make one of Sophie’s dreams come true.”

I loved getting glimpses of Levi Babcock as well as some of the other guys from the Portland Storm team who will surely grace the next books in the series. And it was also a delight knowing more about the lives of some of the previous characters.

One of the things I love the most about Catherine’s writing is that she doesn’t settle with giving us sweet and sexy romance, and sports excitement. She has an amazing talent of writing about real life matters that will surely touch your soul.

Home Ice is a novella #7.5 in the Portland Storm series. It can be read as a standalone with interconnecting characters from previous books. With no cliffhanger and a happy ending.

Excerpt -> <http://catherinegayle.com/contemporar...>

Link for the complete list of the Portland Storm books -> <http://catherinegayle.com/contemporar...> Storm

Amazon -> <http://amzn.to/1PMIxSH>

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

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Anja says

There's only one person in the world that Mattias Bergstrom allows to see his soft side: his younger sister, who was born with Down syndrome. She lives with their parents in Sweden, so there's no worry of accidentally showing his players any part of himself other than the hard-assed former defenseman and current head coach of the Portland Storm. At least not until the doppelganger of Matti's sister snags one of his young D-men in the corridor before the team's skills exhibition event, and his frozen heart melts.

Paige Calhoun has her hands full with four exceedingly boy-crazy, hockey-loving daughters—three teenagers and one pre-teen with Down syndrome. Everyday life is hard enough, but then her ex-husband scores tickets for Paige to take the girls to the StormSkillz Competition. The magnitude of her task is further complicated when Sophie, her youngest, spots the hockey player of her dreams and barrels through the crowd to claim him as her own.

The team's sexy-as-sin coach intervenes, and suddenly Paige feels just as boy crazy as her daughters. This girl might not be Matti's sister, but he decides to give her and her sisters a weekend they'll never forget. Too bad it never crossed his mind that in the process he might end up giving himself an unexpected happy ever after with Paige.

#1 Breakaway
#2 On the Fly
#2.5 Taking A Shot
#3 Light the Lamp
#4 Delay of Game
#4.5 Double Major
#5 In the Zone
#5.5 Holiday Hat Trick
#6 Comeback
#7 Dropping Gloves
#7.5 Home Ice

Ruth says

I wanted this to be three or four times as long. I love reading about heroines and heroes in their late thirties and forties. Romance doesn't die when you hit thirty. And divorced mom of four and head coach of the Storm make a hurricane of love. They deserved more than a novella. We need more romance novels with grey hair and wrinkles.

And nice to see a character with Down Syndrome.

Lissa says

I can't think of any other way to describe Home Ice other than heartwarming. For a novella, it surely did pack a punch- not only was the relationship between Paige and Bergy charged with chemistry, but the way her daughters encouraged the romance had me laughing out loud. Seeing this side of Bergy was also quite the draw for this sweet addition to the world of the Portland Storm.

And now I'm in withdrawals until the next one is released...

Jac (For Love and Books) says

When I woke up to find Home Ice on my Kindle? Well, let's just say it made my day!! (I may have ran around my house like my 7 year old did when she opened her American Girl doll for Christmas!)

I have to be honest, I have never been a huge Bergy fan. He just never clicked with me, so if I didn't love Catherine Gayle so much? I may have just overlooked his book. Thank goodness that wasn't the case!! HOLY COW! I Adore him now. (And I totally understand why I wasn't a huge fan, why he was so sharp in what little we knew of him.)

But let's talk about why I REALLY loved this book. Paige is amazing. She's one of the best female leads I've read in awhile. As a single mom of FOUR daughters? She's obviously a strong lead. And I just really felt like she was "real" – which I LOVE when I'm reading. (I'm so over the non-realistic characters!!)

And of course, the connection was instant but the romance was slow – which is PERFECT!!!

I could gush on and on and on about this book. I love how Catherine Gayle has the ability to take a character I don't necessarily love and redeem them! (And it makes me want to re-read the entire series to see if I just felt wrong about him from the beginning!)

Either way? If you're not hooked on the Portland Storm? You need to be!! (This is an ok one to read on it's own, but you REALLY need to read the whole series from the start. (And if you haven't read my initial review of Breakaway? Then I apologize for dumping you in without setting it up – I love these people characters so much it's hard to forget that not everyone knows them so well!))

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

Some authors just have a way at touching my heart and Catherine Gayle is one of those authors, it's odd that until a year ago and strictly by accident I hadn't even read her but once I did I was hooked and I can't get enough of her hockey players and the women who win their hearts. In this case it is 5 women that win the hero's heart; a single mom and her four daughters but this is more than a romance this book is about taking chances and living your life to the fullest and that's a lesson we can all learn from. Completely heart-warming, a lot of humor mostly thanks to autocorrect and giggly teen girls with crushes, and some supreme sexiness made Home Ice another fantastic addition to Ms. Gayle's Portland Storm series.

When single mom Paige Calhoun takes her four girls (three teenagers and a pre teen) to an event featuring the Portland Storm she never expects her youngest daughter, Sophie, to latch on to her favorite player Levi (501) Babcock or for his coach to invite her and her daughters to spend a day as his guests with Levi as their personal guide. What she doesn't know is that Mattias Bergstrom sees a lot of his younger sister in Sophie as she too has Down's Syndrome and giving Sophie a special day is important to him, almost as important as getting to know Paige.

From the very beginning of this story until the very end it was so easy to get caught up in this special romance. Not only did I admire Paige for putting her girls first and understanding their love of hockey not to

mention the hot players but for not shying away when she realized Bergy was a special man, one she wanted to spend more time with. Sure she had some doubts and fears mostly because of Sophie, but Bergy had a way of putting her mind to ease and proved time and time again he was a man of his word. I loved that he enjoyed her girls and they felt the same way about him and it was interesting to see him not only want to help Sophie realize her dream of playing hockey but also in the way he decided to guide his young player, Levi and make him the best he could be.

With four impressionable daughters their private time was limited but they did manage some sexy times and let's just say her daughters were quite encouraging of her relationship with Bergy. This was a mature relationship that was built out of respect and understanding. While it was hard for Paige to back off where Sophie was concerned having Bergy to help her realize that while Sophie needed guidance she also needed choices and to have some say in her own life something he had dealt with in his own family.

I love that this author doesn't shy away from tough topics and writes books that will no doubt resonate with so many people; it not only makes them more realistic, it makes the reader understand that families from all walks of life deal with challenges every day. Home Ice is not only uplifting it proves that no matter where you are in your life, it is never too late to find love.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Dar says

Super sweet!

Meryl says

Adorable

Sophie is the youngest of four girls, all hockey mad, and has Down Syndrome. All she wants is to skate and play hockey like Levi, their hockey crush. Whilst at an event they meet Levi and Bergy. Bergy has a sister with Down Syndrome and befriends Sophie and also finds himself drawn to her mom, Paige. This big bear of a man hides a sweet and determined side. His interaction and affection for Paige's children is heartwarming.

Jennifer F says

This was a sweet little romance where a divorced mom of three with a special needs child meets a man to go to be true. He isn't, as he has a sister with the same affliction. Understanding, cooperation, and love bloom in this story. There is a great story line, plot development, and awesome characters.

Heather says

I received an ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review

Mattias Bergstrom, head coach of the Portland Storm, is known for keeping his softer side under wraps. He only wants his players to see the hard-assed former player they've always known about. The only person who really gets to see it is his sister Linnea who was born with Down syndrome. Bergy has been successful in keeping his private side private until he meets a young girl who reminds him of the sister he loves so much.

Paige Calhoun has brought her four daughters to the StormSkillz event and they couldn't be more excited. All four girls are giddy over the anticipation of seeing their favorite Storm players, especially 501 – Levi Babcock. When Paige's youngest daughter spots 501, she is off to claim him for herself and when the Storm's head coach steps in, Paige suddenly becomes as googlie-eyed as her daughters.

Bergy is immediately drawn to the young girl and sees so much of his sister in her. He decides to give Paige and her girls a weekend they are never going to forget. Will it end after the weekend, or is there more in store for Matti and Paige?

This book tugs at your heartstrings in the most delicious way. I loved the way this story unfolded and watching the normally closed off Matti interact so openly with Paige and her girls was wonderful. Catherine Gayle has once again crafted a story that you don't want to put down!

Christina Montminy says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book I wish it would've been a little longer but I'm hoping Mattias & Paige will be seen in future stories. A day at the arena watching her daughters favourite hockey players is going to change both Paige & Mattias's lives all because of one special little girl. They are drawn together by Paige's youngest daughter who has Down Syndrome & the special bond she create with Mattias. Paige & Mattias are hot together & steam up the pages with their flirting. Definitely recommend this book, it's a great addition to a fantastic series.

Diane Lynch says

Head coach, Mattias Bergstrom, attends a Portland Storm charity event where he meets a young girl with Down's syndrome, Sophie Calhoun. The girl reminds him of his sister in Sweden, and he instantly wants to supply her with a memory she will not forget. Then he meets the girl's mother, Paige Calhoun, and cannot deny his attraction to her.

Catherine Gayle created yet another uplifting story with real-life issues that made my heart melt.

I love Mattias. He is an ex-defense man turned hockey coach who seems to be tough but has a softer side. He loves his sister and would do anything for her. When he meets Sophie, he is instantly smitten. He understands her condition and is supportive. I appreciate that he seeks out challenges and strives to overcome them, especially where Sophie is concerned. He is patient and persistent. He is caring and a noble man. I like that he lives modestly and helps provide for his sister.

I really like Paige. It would not be easy to be a divorced mother with four daughters, the youngest having Down's syndrome. She is a good mother. She puts her girls' needs above her own and would do anything for them. I am glad she gives Mattias a chance. She deserves some happiness for herself, and he is the perfect

man for her and her family. They both give each other something they have been missing.

I appreciated learning more about Down syndrome. I do not know anyone with the condition so my knowledge was limited. I loved that when Mattias was working on his project for Sophie that other coaches and his team were so supportive, especially, Levi Babcock. I love their "do not give up" attitude.

The plot was inspiring and sweet. The characters are believable and likeable. Home Ice is an inspiring book that moved me. This series just keeps getting better.

Complimentary copy provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Moey17 says

Cute quick novella, charming!

Nancy Stopper says

Home Ice is a novella in the Portland Storm series and the only complaint I have is that it wasn't a longer book - it ended too soon. In typical Catherine Gayle fashion, she includes an aspect of a social element to each of her books and in Home Ice, it's living with a child with Downs Syndrome. The author wonderfully depicts the sweet innocence of Paige's daughter with DS. Mattias is immediately drawn to Paige's daughter because he has a sister with DS. And then he sees Paige, and he is a goner!

Also in typical Catherine Gayle fashion, Home Ice has plenty of heat. Having older children myself, I enjoyed seeing a bit more of a "mature" love relationship. The author demonstrates the challenge of dating with children, and planning around alternate weekends, and babysitters, and having to go out as a family instead of a couple. But that didn't take away from the heat that Mattias and Paige generate when they are away from the prying eyes of the kids. Woo Hoo - hot!

Paige's older, teenage kids also add a fun aspect to the story, with their giggling worship of the Portland Storm players, their teasing of their mother when Mattias asks her out, and even their horror when they try to text their mom and Mattias, and suffer the fate of autocorrect. It all made the love story seem very real and very relatable.

Another great contribution to the Portland Storm series.

Disclosure: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.
