



End Game

Toni Aleo

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This is going to be Ryan Justice's year. It's his last year of college and his last year as a hockey player for the Bellevue Bullies. He's making all the plays in preparation for achieving his dream of being drafted into the NHL.

This is Sofia Castilleja's beginning. She is starting her college career as a star member of Bellevue's brand-new gymnastics team. She's going to tumble her way to success, first in school and then by realizing her dream of opening her own gym.

Ryan and Sofia didn't see each other coming, but once they meet, they can't look away. Their dreams are destined to take them in opposite directions. But it doesn't take them long to realize that waking up to reality together may be better than dreaming alone.

End Game Details

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From Reader Review End Game for online ebook

Kayla Ritenour (In Between The pages) says

Oh my goodness this book. I can't even begin with where to start. I loved everything about it so much.

I'm a die hard Toni Aleo fan, and even bigger hockey fan. So between the two I knew this sports romance would be right up my ally. And the wonderful thing about Toni's books is that they can all be read in order of the series, or as standalones. I highly suggest you read the others first just because they're awesome books. But if you wanted to. You could jump right into END GAME with no worries. (Also be aware that the Bellevue Bullies series runs very closely to Toni's Assassins series, and many characters cross over between them as well)

But let's really get into this book

Sofia and Ryan were just too fluffing adorable. They are both so driven and compassionate about their sport and the others in their lives. I've never seen two characters that are so similar but yet have these tiny differences that allow them to still grow and change slightly for the better. They're both so strong and so kind. And I loved to see them just build off each other.

And just let me tell you. I loved how different this story was in general.

It wasn't your average predictable sports romance. There wasn't that big bad conflict really. There was drama and there were choices that had to be made or decided on. And it did put strain on the characters. But there wasn't that defining moment that most sports romances have between its characters.

And I found that such a refreshing thing.

Plus these characters are just so adorable. There's build up like any good book needs. But Toni gives us such a pure and adorable romance. And I found myself loving the dynamic between everyone.

Also I like how Toni changed up the story some this time.

I wont say much on that so you can see for yourself what I'm talking about. but this one breaks the mold in some ways. And I loved it.

Plus we get so many familiar faces in this book. I'm such a nut when it comes to seeing some of my original Assassins favorites. Although let me tell you. When I first started this one, I was kinda overwhelmed. There were so many faces that I had to stop and just take a breath. They're all from the same family but after lord knows how many Bullies and Assassins books I had to really go back and remember where everyone was at this point in time haha.

I joked with another blogger friend about needing a family tree drawn out so I could keep everyone and their ages straight haha (So if anyone that has better drawing skills than me wants to give it a shot, I'll totally take it hehe)

Something else I want to say that is always a big sticking point for me, and something that I love about all the books Toni gives us. There are actually SPORTS happening in this SPORTS romance!!

We get a good amount of hockey and so much gymnastics. And it is something I appreciate so much from her. So many books now brand themselves as sports romances because their main character plays one. But then they rarely give us any of the actual sports. But Toni makes it a huge plot point in her stories and that carried through really well in END GAME as well.

And I guess the last point I want to make in this review, is just that I loved how sweet and pure the romance in general was. Don't get me wrong. There were some steamy steamy parts. But just the overall vibe going was so caring and sweet. I mean I'm not an emotional person in the least. And even I was all sunshine and rainbows during and after reading it haha ??

Toni just gives us such a good and happy story. And I honestly loved the lightness of it all for a summer read.

END GAME

is definitely a

?????5 STAR READ?????

Jill says

The Princess of Hockey Authors has done it again!

This book is a must for any hockey, romance, and dream chaser out there! I have read every book published by this Toni, and all I can say is her writing keeps getting stronger and evolving to a new level.

The story of Ryan Justice and Sofia Castilleja journey is poignant, moving, and quite inspirational.

Sofia's journey from a small desert town in Nevada with no way out but, to fight for you dreams. After a accident that left her unable to compete at a Olympic , she is given the chance of a lifetime to keep her dreams and goals alive and still supporting her physically impaired mother from 100's of miles away. Sofia is driven to succeed and make not only a name for herself, but to break records.

Or is she???

Enter the young man we fell in love with all those years ago in Toni's first book "Taking Shots" Ryan Justice. Ryan has dreams of his own to follow in his Uncle Shea's footsteps in making it to the NHL. He has all the connections and moves to go all the way both on and off the ice.

When Ryan meets Sofia ice melts and their driven world's turn right side up. I am so happy with how this story came together and I cannot wait for you to read it!

I was given this ARC for a fare and honest review.

Tpagirl says

End Game was the fourth book in the Bellevue Bullies series by Toni Aleo. I loved everything about it. It was a fast read without over the top drama and had a good, solid storyline.

I was hooked from the first chapter. It took me a minute to place Ryan, but Aleo caught me up quickly by reminding me Ryan was the nephew to Shea Adler (Nashville Assassins NHL book one). Aleo then went on to include every child aka cousin between the two families and catch us up. Based on the descriptions, the Assassin legacy stories will be coming soon.

Ryan Justice was a college senior hockey player for the Bellevue Bruins. He was destined for the NHL. His aunt owned an NHL hockey team and he had been coached by the best. He was focused and determined, not having time for girlfriends. He hooked up but it never went beyond that - anything else would be a distraction and a deterrent from his lifelong goals.

Sofia Castilleja was a freshman gymnast for the new Bellevue gymnastics team. She was on a full scholarship and was one of the best in her sport. She trained in elite gyms since she was young with a total focus on gymnastics. She was headed to the Olympics until an injury shattered that goal - so she adjusted her goals. She was fierce, focused, dedicated and determined. She never had friends or boyfriends because she trained 7 days a week and was home schooled. Now at college, she had that same focus but she had a roommate, a fellow gymnast, Amelia, who quickly became her best friend, even if Amelia's brother was a distraction.

Ryan knew the moment he laid eyes Sophia that he was a goner. He just didn't realize how far gone until after a long chase, he finally convinced her to spend time with him. I loved both Ryan and Sophia. They were strong, confident and totally worthy of their center stage. Aleo wove a sweet, sexy and fun tale. She dove into the challenges of a fierce competitor with very specific dreams and goals. I loved the angle. It wasn't the typical path and she portrayed the heartaches as well as the successes. I felt each decision as if it were my own.

Aleo also included a great secondary cast of characters, which added humor, depth and dimension. I loved the bonding between all of the cousins. It opened the door for many more books - both in this series or various other spin-off series. The next book seems to be from a new series, the NHL South Carolina IceCats, highlighting Moon (Ryan's college teammate) and Amelia (Ryan's sister/Sophia's best friend) in Juicy Rebound. It has promise to be explosive and I totally can't wait.

Heather andrews says

There are times Ryan's ego can't take a hit, "did I just get blown off? No. Yes, she just blew me off. Wait. Surely I'm imagining this." I think there are times Ryan likes embarrassing his girl, "his eyes are challenging as he says, "Well, sweetheart, I gotta keep things in place when I'm running." My brows come together for one second before I realize what he's saying. Of course, I look right down at his crotch, and because the universe likes fucking with me, I not only get an eyeful, but he sees the whole thing. "It's contained. For now." Ryan is all about compromise, "so much more , 'cause I'll just smother you with all of that and eat it off." I liked this book, I fell in love with Ryan and I loved that Sofia kept him on his toes.

Nancy The book junkie says

Review to come!

April Symes says

Ryan Justice is in his senior year playing for the Bellevue Bullies. He feels like this is HIS year to get drafted to play for the big leagues, the NHL. That is his plan and he doesn't plan to let anything or anyone stand in his way..that is, until his sister's roommate, Sofia Castilleja, comes into his life. Sofia is in her first year at Bellevue. She is this serious gymnastics with herself serious goals and is on a full ride scholarship. She cant afford to let anything stand in her way. But Ryan Justice comes into her life and wow suddenly her goals suddenly tend to take a backseat. Sofia and Ryan have huge sparks and sizzling chemistry from the moment they met. Their love story is full of emotional ups and downs, push/pull and is a great addition to the Bellevue Bullies series. I enjoyed reading the romance that blossomed between Sofia and Ryan and also getting to meet via read the additional secondary characters in this story. I look forward to more books in this series.

My Rating: 4.5 stars *****

"I received an advanced copy of this book from the author at no cost to me."

Suzi (Obsessive Reading Disorder) says

4.5 Stars

If you are ever looking for the perfect hockey romance, you need to pick up Toni Aleo's books. Her Assassin's and Bullies books are the perfect mix of sport, romance, alpha male and strong women who bring them two their knees.

This book takes us back to the Bullies and college hockey. But most important, it starts to give us a peek of the Assassin's Next Gen. Ryan is Shea Adler's nephew. All the Adler bunch is in this book. He plays good hockey. He likes hockey but the scouts are not looking at him. Sofia stumbles into his life and suddenly his future only concerns how much time he can spend with her.

Loved these two together. Ryan could not have been a more perfect boyfriend. Loved that they became friends first and then moved on to more.

Great addition to the series. Love everything!

*Complimentary copy provided for an honest review.

Diane Lynch says

Toni Aleo leads the league with END GAME, the fourth book in the Bellevue Bullies series. Senior, Ryan Justice, is hoping to make the NHL draft. Sofia Castilleja is a freshman on Bellevue's new gymnastics team. Neither one of them planned on letting a relationship distract them from their goals. END GAME takes place in Nashville, Tennessee. This contemporary sports romance is suitable for new adult audiences.

Ah, Ryan Justice swoon. Ryan is Shae Adler's nephew (Assassin's series). He is the son of Shae's twin sister, Grace. He goes through a great deal emotionally in this story. He does some soul searching. He is a great big brother and cousin. He is the oldest of the Adler/Justice kids. As a result, he wants to set a good example, and not disappoint anyone. He is protective, thoughtful, and smart.

Sofia is Ryan's younger sister, Amelia's roommate/teammate. She was once destined to be in the Olympics, but an injury shattered that dream. Now she is at Bellevue on a full gymnastic scholarship. I enjoyed her character. She never really had good friends growing up. Her life was all about gymnastics. She is hard working and determined. She is very concerned for her mother who has MS. She wants to make sure she is successful, so she can help provide for her.

I like how the story starts out on Halloween. The matching Halloween costumes of the Adler/Justice clan is classic. It shows how close the two families are.

I love when Sofia and Ryan meet. Ryan is not used to girls not throwing themselves at him. Sofia has no experience with boys and is nervous around them. Ryan is very determined to get Sofia to go out with him. They are adorable together. They have a lot in common and make each other stronger.

The plot was skillfully executed. I love how Sofia's sponsorship played out. Ryan had some interesting

obstacles. I swear Toni Aleo always makes me cry. Her stories are heartfelt and meaningful. This story is a good example of how life doesn't always take you on the path you wanted but your life can be just as rewarding or possibly more so. I voluntarily reviewed an advance reader copy of this book.

Jackie Wright says

End Game is Toni Aleo at her best, I thought this series had reached the top but boy was I wrong this author has taken us to a whole different playing field or should I say Ice Rink with book 4 in the Bellevue Bullies Series. This author knows romance but she also knows the game of hockey and for me that makes her one of the best hockey romance authors around and if you haven't already guessed I loved Sofia and Ryan's story. The End Game brings back all those wonderful memories of Ryan growing up with his Unky Shea but now as a grown man we get to see where life will take him when he realises he may never get that draft pick to the NHL, does he keep waiting or does he make a career move that will mean his dream will never be a reality. This story captivated me I loved the build up, the love, the romance and the passion that this author gives us in her characters and what can I say about the family that are so loyal and supportive apart from maybe wishing I had a family like them. This is a perfect addition to a brilliant series, this was a book that made me fall in love with this authors writing all over again and it left me needing to go back for a re read. Once again another 5 Star book from the very talented Toni Aleo

Tania's Book Blog says

Ryan and Sofia were so darn cute. They were young college kids with so much drive and dedication to achieve their goals. Him wanting to play in the NHL and her being the best damn gymnast and then open her own gym.

Ryan met Sofia his senior year of college and her freshman year. She just so happens to be his sister roommate. The minute he saw her he knew he had to meet her but she was hesitant. But he was persistent. And he never gave up until she caved.

These two had so much in common. They had things from their family that were sad, him losing his dad and her dealing with her mom sickness, but that never stopped them from being the best at what they set out to achieve. They were a force to be reckoned with. Added bonus was the strong family support.

Their drama was minor and made it more realistic because it's something that actually happens especially at their age. But love conquers all. I can't wait to see what's in store for these two in the future.

MillsyLovesBooks says

I so love a good sports romance and Toni Aleo really knows how to write a great story. End Game will give you some serious emotional feels! I laughed out loud and it pulled on my heartstrings. But all the emotional feels are so worth it to get a great story with new characters to fall in love with and old characters that we love and adore. If you have read the Assassins series, then you will remember Ryan Justice from when he was just a boy who loved his Unky Shea. Don't worry, if you haven't as these books can be read as stand

alone's.

Sofia is a freshman at Bellevue, she's on a full scholarship ride with the gymnastics team. She has always been driven to be the best in the gym and spent her childhood doing nothing but training in hopes of one day becoming an Olympian. When those dreams were cut short due to injury, the scholarship helped taken the burden away from her sick mother. With Sofia determined to make something of herself by competing in college and then furthering her love of gymnastics by opening her own gym and coaching.

Being strong and confident in her gymnastics comes naturally but she is shy and unsure about herself as a person. Because she didn't have the same experiences as most kids growing up and was often a loner. So having a roommate who is bubbly and outgoing and wants Sofia to embrace the full college experience is completely new for her.

Ryan is entering his senior year at Bellevue he is focused and determined to be drafted into the NHL. Following in his uncle's footsteps who he has hero worshipped throughout his life. Ryan made the tough decision to pass up an opportunity to go to the EHL so he could get an education to fall back on if the NHL didn't work out.

His well laid plans and preparations were all in place until he set his eyes on Sofia his sister Amelia's team and roommate. And he gets an opportunity with the trainers team of the Assassins. Both of these have him second guess if may be there was more to the fact that he wanted to stay in education and now his entire world flipped and he isn't sure what his dream is anymore.

Neither Ryan or Sofia were looking for a relationship but when they them meet, the connection was instant. They had so much in common with their love of family and their drive to be the best in their sport. Ryan did have to bring out the Justice charm to convince Sofia to take a chance on them, but once he does, their relationship blossomed.

I love each story we get from Toni Aleo and i can't wait to see what we get next.

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Ruthie Taylor says

~~I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads ~~

Having been a big Assassins fan, I was delighted to get the chance to read this book - but have not read the previous books in the series. I am a huge sports romance fan, but have to admit I do not read much YA, which I would definitely say this was for the most part. This is a substantial read, and would be a thick book in print.

We get to watch Sofia in her first year at college, and Ryan in his last. She is very innocent due to spending her every waking moment training as a gymnast. He has had no serious relationships, but a college life full of

experiences. That is until he sees Sofia and is hooked. I enjoyed that we get to see part of the life of a gymnast as well as a hockey players - as well as the family times when we get to catch up with Shea and Elli.

There are some really interesting themes around expectations, motivations and dreams, which I thought were handled really well. We generally only see one version of what success means, and this book deals with those issues in a sensitive and clever way. The shadow of Amelia and Drew and their separation due to sport, is a worthy foil to Sofia and Ryan.

I did find myself tearing up at some of the scenes, because I am sentimental! And, because they were sweet and what every teenage girl wants from her first love ... but very rarely gets.

I also laughed, a lot. There are some very funny moments which are beautifully understated and the timing is perfect!

All in all an entertaining read. I did feel there could have been a little less inner voice - but then teenage angst and confusion also needs it.

Rebecca says

The meaning of 'end game' varies based on its context. If someone asked a high school senior what his/her end game is, I'm sure they would respond with the college they plan to attend and the degree they plan to achieve. But in the sports' world, a place where possibilities seem endless, the ultimate end game for any athlete is to reach the professional level...to get paid for a sport s/he loves and to reap the benefits of everything that s/he gave up and endured in order to reach that pinnacle of success.

The end game for Ryan Justice who's a senior in college and Sofia Castilleja who's a freshman in college, while slightly different due to their collegiate level, center on the sport that they've dedicated their lives to, making the ultimate goal for Ryan – the NHL – and for Sofia, a solid four years as a gymnast for the Bellevue Bullies and a chance to take her gymnastic skills to the highest level.

Due to Ryan and Sofia's goal driven game plan along with their determination and ambition to succeed, neither one wanted any form of distraction to invade their life, but sometimes, the best kind of complication is the one that no one sees coming, and while it makes that person question what s/he wants out of life and if his/her dreams are worth sacrificing, ultimately, what matters most is what that person can't live without, and for Ryan and Sofia, even though it takes them a bit to realize what their heart was telling them from their very first encounter, their end game changes and expands to include more than just the sport they love, which offers more opportunities to live, to love, and to be happy.

I really enjoyed how Toni Aleo set up Ryan and Sofia's story line. Aleo does a great job of illustrating who these two dynamic athletes are, but she also allows readers to see who they are as human beings as well. Their attraction to one another was instantaneous, but they both fought it, which I think adds realism to the story; Ryan and Sofia have been focused on their sports 100%, so a distraction of someone who intrigues them...someone who they seem to connect with...someone who they have chemistry with could take their eyes off of their end game, and at the beginning, they don't know much about each other, but once they get to know each other, all bets are off and things between them start to heat up, forcing them to take a hard look

at their goals...at their desires...at the idea that maybe there's more to life than a sport and the need to be the best at it.

I'm a sports romance fanatic and each and every time I read one of Toni Aleo's hockey romances, I'm reminded of just why I love this troupe. Ryan and Sofia's story is a great read that explores people's goals and dreams and what they're willing to do when they're end game becomes about so much more than they ever thought it would.

4.5 Poison Apples (The Fairest of All Book Reviews)

Aurora - Whoo Gives A Hoot says

*** Read more of my reviews at Whoo Gives A Hoot ***

This story right here is the very reason why I have and always will freaking love and admire Toni Aleo's beautifully captivating writing style! I cannot even begin to express how excited I was when she announced that her upcoming release *End Game* was Ryan Justice's story. In case you don't know who he is, readers first meet him as a little boy in *Taking Shots*, the first book in the *Assassians* series. That is right...he is Shea Adler's nephew! And if you didn't know that, don't worry because this story is just as enjoyable as a standalone!

End Game introduces us to the next generation of the *Assassians/Bellevue Bullies*. I think that it is so fitting that the first book telling the story of the next generation is Ryan Justice's because he is the oldest and he was so freaking adorable as a little boy. Ryan and Sophia's story is one of a kind and perfectly shows all the reasons why I love these books so much!

Although there is a ton I want to tell readers about this book, I think that this is one of those books that you are going to want to experience firsthand! This is a beautiful story about two opposites who fall in love right before our eyes! I strongly recommend dropping everything you are doing right now and pick yourself up a copy of *End Game*!

Christy says

4 Stars!

I fell in love with Toni Aleo's books when I first read her Assassin's series. Those books and characters will always have a special place in my heart. When I saw that *End Game* was about Ryan Justice, who just happens to be the original Assassin, Shea Adler's nephew, I got crazy excited to read it. I love visiting these characters. Ryan and Sofia were perfect together and I adored their story!

Ryan Justice is in his senior year playing for the Bellevue Bullies. This is his year. He feels it. The year he finally, like his uncle, gets drafted into the NHL. That is his plan and he doesn't want any distractions to meet that goal. What he doesn't plan for is his sister's roommate, Sofia Castilleja. Sofia is in her first year at Bellevue. She is a serious gymnastics with serious goals and is on a full ride scholarship. She also wants no distractions. But Ryan Justice... he's hard to ignore.

Sparks fly between Sofia and Ryan from the moment they lay eyes on one another. They are so alike in so many ways, but also different. They complimented each other well. What I loved most about their relationship is it showed what love was supposed to be. Being 100% supportive of your partner and their goals and never wanting them to sacrifice their dreams.

The Assassins/Bullies series are by far my favorite hockey books. I cannot get enough and I hope Toni never stops writing them! If you're looking for a great sports romance that's sweet, sexy, romantic, and fun- this is one I highly recommend! It can be read as a stand-alone but do yourself a favor and read this series! It's great!

“It’s you, Sofia. No one else but you.”
