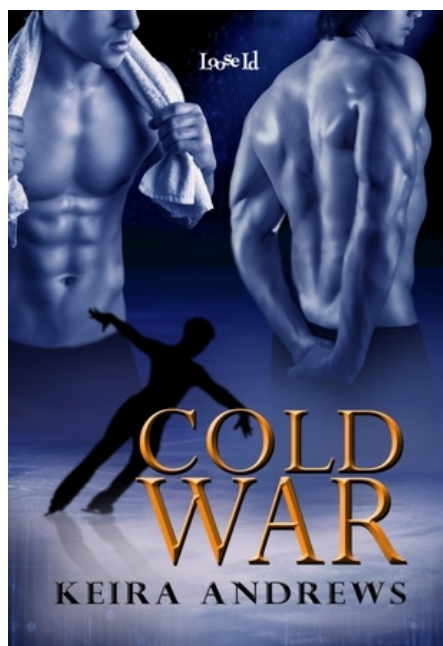




Cold War

Keira Andrews

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After an explosive locker room confrontation with his Russian rival ends in the most surprising and intense sex of his life, American pairs skater Dev Avira needs to refocus. He's worked for years to win Olympic gold, and he can't let himself—or his partner—down. Distraction in the form of steely and smoldering Mikhail Reznikov is the last thing he needs as he prepares for the biggest competition of his life.

But with the Games only days away, they can't keep their hands off each other. Dev soon learns that beneath Mikhail's arrogant and aloof exterior is Misha, a passionate man who warms Dev's heart and scorches his bed. They're both determined to win, but for Misha his freedom could be on the line. Can Dev put his deepening feelings on ice as he goes for gold?

Cold War Details

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From Reader Review Cold War for online ebook

Jewel says

3.25 Stars

While I did enjoy this story, I didn't think that Keira Andrews really captured the angst and heartache that I know she is very capable of doing. I think that if this book were expanded from a novella to a novel, she could really nail it.

I liked Dev and Misha together, I thought their frenemy encounters were pretty hot and once they got to know one another and moved beyond that, they heated up even more. The execution of the resolution was kind of meh for me, though. Not bad, but not great either.

So, not really my favorite Keira Andrews story, but I enjoyed it well enough.

Jilrene ♥ says

Enjoyable read and hot sex. A little angst to make the HEA sweet. I really loved the skating bits.

Susan says

I've heard from the other members of our review team that Keira Andrews is a must-read author. Her book *The Chimera Affair* has been highly recommended to me...and I probably should have started there.

To be honest, I think Andrews is a good writer. The book "Cold War" was fairly entertaining and a quick read.

However, I'll admit I didn't love it.

The blurb tells us a story about 2 figure skaters, one Russian and one American, and a kind-of forbidden love. I actually thought, based on the blurb and the title, that this might have taken place in the past...maybe in the 80's when US/Soviet relations were at their most tenuous. So, it caught me off guard a bit that it actually takes place in the current times. I understand that being gay in Russia is not accepted (as we're hearing all over the news about the Sochi Olympics), but it still had a real cold-war-KGB-is-watching-you feel to it. And I wasn't quite sure how much was based on fact and how much was based on stereotypes.

The author clearly did her research or understands the international skating community and I was impressed with how much of the inner-workers she included in the short book (though it sometimes felt a bit like "look at me! I did research! Now let me tell you everything I found out so my story will feel legit!")

My real problem with the book is that the relationship between Dev & Misha felt very...forced. I didn't really believe the attraction. I didn't believe the emotion. And it read just very shallow and flat. I got bits and pieces about their lives, but I didn't really buy-in to the depth of the feelings for one another. Look, I like a good insta-love like the rest of 'em, but this one didn't sell me.

Being a fairly short book, it feels like a fun thing to read in time for the Sochi Winter Olympics...like a M/M spin on the games...maybe even a slash fanfic'ish type book. I will give The Chimera Affair a try. And I recommend this if you have a quick moment and are in the mood for some Olympics fun. But otherwise, I don't know if it's worth moving up to high on your TBR list...

Natalie says

3.5 stars. I *love* the Olympics, so this was a fun read, and the timing was perfect. I really enjoyed the skating details. Overall, I liked the relationship between Dev and Misha. There were a couple of scenes where I felt the story concentrated more on sex than the tension/emotional connection between them, but it's not unrealistic that they would deal with their stress this way. Given the length, I think it does strike a good balance between plot and lust, and the ending is hopeful.

~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

3.5 stars

My favorite part of the book was the shout-out to Matty Marcus at the beginning. As Dev and his skating partner, Bailey, are discussing the finer points of giving interviews, Bailey says:

Honestly, what figure skating in America needs is personality. When we're all pleasant little ciphers, it doesn't draw in the viewers. Remember Matty Marcus? He was the best. That's what we need. Personality.

And if you don't know who Matty Marcus is, go read Leta Blake's brilliant *Training Season* right this minute. Sadly, this book falters a bit by comparison (and maybe that's an unfair comparison to draw, because who can really compete with Matty and Rob?).

That's not to say I didn't enjoy it. I DID, but the focus here was more the glitz and surface of skating, the winning, the medals, rather than the pain, the sacrifices, the LOSS.

Dev and Bailey are America's golden figure skating pair, poised to win big in the Olympics. Their biggest competition are the Russians (of course), the aloof and icy (of course) Mikhail and Kisa. But a stolen moment in the dressing room (need I say it? OF COURSE) leads Dev to believe there's more to Mikhail, aka Misha, than meets the eye.

Dev and Misha's relationship isn't very well developed. It's hatred to love turned, and it's all about the insta lust, but because we don't see the slow burn leading up to the first grope, it felt very sudden.

The book is short at 100 pages, and it feels rushed, even though all the elements are there: the friendship Dev has with Bailey, Dev's family support, the pressure Misha feels from the Soviet system to win for Mother Russia (which, based on my rather intimate knowledge of Eastern Europe, is probably not exaggerated). Misha having to hide his homosexuality also felt very current, considering Russia's shameful state-endorsed

homophobia. Clearly, Andrews did her research. But perhaps everything is laid out and wrapped up a little TOO neatly?

There are some hot scenes between Dev and Misha, and there's a sweet, if slightly eye-roll inducing, HEA. This was a quick read, an easy one. And yet something was missing; I wanted more spark, more passion, more romance. Don't we all?

LauraSt says

3 GOLD STARS

I have to say, this was a very enjoyable read. Nothing out of the ordinary or world shattering. But I did enjoy it and didn't stop reading till I finished.

Misha and Dev are professional ice skaters, they are pretty much enemies till one faithful little spat turned into more than they bargained for.

I loved the relationship between Dev and his partner Bailey. They were so cute together and sweet. She was like this amazing sister and he was this lovable big brother to her, they made a perfect match as friends and on the ice -kinda wanted to know if she and Andrew ever actually did something-

Guess I have nothing else to say, nothing remarkable, kinda hot at times but yeah, felt mostly detached. But enjoyable. Maybe Training Season ruined all ice skating stories for me...

*P*u*r*p*l*e* Masochist says

3.5 stars

*"I'm not your friend." Dev was simply stating a fact.
Mikhail--Misha--smiled softly. "No. You are my ...little rebellion."*

2 famous, top-leading skaters: a Russian & an Indian American. Two **sworn rivals** competing in one of the most important competitions of their careers. With eyes only on the prize. Until one heated argument in the locker room changes everything.

Fast-paced, fun, emotional and smoking hot enemies-to-lovers mm romance.

3.5 stars and only because some situations were rushed and that drama near the end which could have done a bit better in my opinion. Other than that I loved the palpable chemistry between the Mcs and their opposite personalities- Misha, the cold, calculated and always in control Russian who became a totally another person when behind closed bedroom, shower or locker room doors with the sweet and outgoing Dev.

Review posted on Way Too Hot Books.

Heller says

3.75

I liked this one. Sexy short read about two rival skaters, Dev and Misha, who get involved right before the Olympics. I think it would have been a stellar longer read because I found things a bit rushed but I really enjoyed the characters and what we got to know of them.

Riina Y.T. says

Great writing. Loveable characters. **Great chemistry.** Incredibly **hot** and yummy.

I had no idea what to expect from this story but I am quite pleased. Personally I would have wished for more romance perhaps, but I enjoyed the "can't resist the enemy" theme a lot. Especially when they got together. Yum.

Maybe after all it was a bit too much figure skating for my liking - made my head spin at times - but all in all a **very enjoyable read!!** :)

Bitchie says

I love figure skating, and I love Keira Andrews, so I figured this one would be a slam dunk for me! Unfortunately, this was a rare miss from this author. I felt that there was just wasn't enough time spent between the guys getting to know each other. It starts out with Dev having Mikhail, then they are screaming at each other in the locker room, which of course turns into getting off on each other. We end up 36% into the story, on our third sexual encounter between the two, and the only words that have been exchanged thus far was the earlier fight. So, for me anyway, there wasn't enough getting to know each other, basically, not enough plot and substance. Sadly, this is barely worth 3 stars for me.

Leta Blake says

Helping Keira edit this book was such a wonderful pleasure! I am a sucker for an enemies-to-lovers romance and with the Winter Olympics starting momentarily, what better place to explore that dynamic than on the ice!

First, I love the character of Dev. I loved how seamlessly Keira worked his Indian heritage and family life was incorporated into his world. We don't see enough people of color in books, and to see it done so nicely was really rewarding for me.

Next, there was Misha and his prickly exterior. Rowr. That's my favorite kind! Because you know the inside

is warm, sensual, and delicious, mmm-mmm, good!

I enjoyed the external conflict of Dev having to continue to compete against someone that he has feelings for, and for whom he now has a lot more empathy and understanding. When you care about someone, you tend to want them to succeed, but how can Dev want that when it butts up against his own goals in life and everything he's worked for so long?

There was one sex scene that I found so smokin' hot. The unexpected blow job? I won't say more because you should read its hotness for yourself. I just loved the neediness of it. *shivers* So very good!

Then there was the other drama! Injuries! Heroic come backs! So absolutely Olympic and wonderful! And the side characters were adorable, too. The character of Dev's partner, Bailey, was so fierce and charming. I adored her.

I recommend this book highly for all fans of figure skating, m/m romance, enemies-to-lovers, and sports romance! Great work, Keira! Can't wait until the sequel comes out! :D

SheReadsALot says

THREE & A HALF HEARTS--Ever pictured two male skaters getting it on? Think it'd be a smexy time? Me too.

I was very excited to read "Cold War" when I saw the cover. I'm not what you'd call a sports-nista (I can imagine a few of the other unicorns attesting to this) but I like watching figure skaters. So you know I'm excited when the Winter Olympics comes around. Don't think I become glued to the TV set during this time of the year, I'm an amateur at best. But after reading one of last year's buzz books (Leta Blake's *Training Season*) which featured a figure skater main character, I saw the appeal of romance starring a skating athlete. When I saw that Leta Blake's writing partner, Keira Andrews was coming out with a figure skater MM romance, you can believe I was all over it.

Is this book another *Training Season*? **NO!** And I'm happy too because *Training Season* is totally separate from *Cold War*. (We do get a brief Matty Marcus mention - I smiled and agreed with Dev.)

Cold War is a novella about two competing pairs' figure skaters, Dev (America) and Mikhail or Misha (Russia). They are gearing up for the Winter Olympics and both men and their skating partners want gold. They have worked for this very hard and made sacrifices, for one of them even being forced into a closet. The reader is introduced to the competitive world of skating that will not leave you lost if you are not an avid skating fan.

This is an enemies to lovers theme (a favorite theme of mine) but it's not angst heavy. It's lighter than I expected. The story gets straight to the matter at hand, Dev and Mikhail don't like each other but that doesn't mean they can't get off together. They were both gay but could not let their dalliance known due to their skating careers. Dev is the underdog skater paired with a sassy redhead best friend, Bailey and Mikhail (Misha) is the ice king paired with his fellow automaton skater, Kisa.

Dev started off hating the man but Misha didn't really come off as someone to hate. He didn't really seem cold. Once Dev and the reader got to know Misha, it is shown that he's deeper than he seems. The enemy lines get blurred once the lust is brought in. And boy was it brought in. (*whispers* the locker room and bathroom stall...yum)

What I really enjoyed?

- The multiculturalism: I loved that there was an Indian American main character and the culture embrace in the story was not heavy handed.

- The smut: Very hot. For the amount of story, we get some hot scenes including some nice rimming and fingering and...*wipes mouth* let's just say Dev and Misha can heat up the e-reader screen. For vanilla sex, it was hot. No corn mazes, folks. You're safe. ;D

"I want to fuck you every way I can. I want your ass and your mouth and your cock. I want to come all over you. I want you to come all over me."

- The pairs' skating talk: I admit I'm an amateur when it comes to watching so I appreciate not having to search for skating terms and the like while reading. It was easy to understand, so non-skating fans can give this book a try as well. And I was swept up into the competition, that I rooted and yelled (I even closed my eyes for a bit during one particular scene) for both teams at the Olympics...like it was an actual skating team on my television screen.

- The spotlight brought to Russia's anti-gay laws: It was done tastefully. And it sucks. The end.

My...concerns (if you will):

- The beginning chemistry - Dev and Misha heat up the scenes when crossing the forbidden sex line. It's hot. I get it. But in the beginning, these men hated each other. I question their intensity for starting their sexual relationship in the beginning. Maybe another scene (or two), to show Dev's love/hate for Mikhail. It was sort of 1..2..BAM! They're boinking now. As the story progressed, I began to understand (mostly). But I wanted to know more of what drove these two men together. We just get the candy coated shell, I want the filling too.

I spied there will be a sequel coming out later this year. I like this a lot and will keep my eye out for it. I really liked Dev and Misha...maybe we can get a little deeper with those two?

Light, easy, sexy fun that ends with a light HEA/ heavy HFN finish. I'm down for round two.

Lucy says

As a dedicated Olympics fangirl, I was worried that a story about pairs skating would delve into the realm of the unbelievable. I am so happy to say, this did not.

Dev and Bailey are the US favorites for Olympic gold but they have never been able to beat the technique flawless but robotic Kisa and Mikhail from Russia. The Russians are aloof and cold and they are the enemies to beat. Both teams, Dev and Bailey and Kisa and Mikhail, have been together for years and are pushing for first place.

While the US teams are under the watchful eye of the “Feds”, US Skating Federation, they are required to “show no personality and are blandly inoffensive”. Turns out better than the Russians, who are controlled by the Russian Skating Federation.

It is difficult for Dev (I think more so than for Mikhail) when this explosive chemistry they have makes them come together, first in Kyoto and then at the Games. Dev feels so torn, this is a man he wants to keep as the one to beat, a man he and Bailey have worked hard to defeat, and now he’s considering him, well, a man and not a machine. It’s the Olympics. It’s their last Olympics at that, as Dev and Bailey are retiring after this. Still worse, Dev and Bailey “made a pact their first year together to always tell the truth, even if it was ugly”. They are best friends as well as teammates and he tells her everything. Until now. This affects her so much and he knows it.

It’s a really conflicted situation and as you get to know Mikhail, you really feel for him, which makes the story more interesting, because I couldn’t decide who I wanted to win the gold. I loved the portrayal of the Olympic Village as a fuckfest because I could see that happening.

This is a character-driven story, with just enough skating elements included to make it real but not so much you’d glaze over if you aren’t a skating fan. I loved the ending, yes very sweet and all, but it worked so well. Recommended.

Ami says

2.5 stars

I like Keira Andrews's stories -- The Chimera Affair being my most favorite, and I enjoy her fairy-tale remake collaboration with Leta Blake too. So I came to this story with that particular fact.

Unfortunately, this one was a HUGE MEH read for me. Which means it is my least favorite of hers.

The good thing about it? It was a quick read -- and I actually enjoyed everything related to the figure skating situation. From how Dev and his partner dealt with the media, the politics inside the sport, and the competition itself. It was good and it captured my attention.

The bad thing? The relationship. It felt very superficial and contrived. From the very first chapter when I just read about how Dev felt and suddenly (view spoiler), I was like, WHAAAT?!?!

Look, I am not a huge fan of insta-love, but sometimes I can give leeway if they are done right. For example, believable chemistry or convincing connection between the characters. Insta-lust or insta-attraction, I can also enjoy at some level. But this? This felt like it was coming out of nowhere. There wasn't enough tension, there wasn't enough ground for me to believe in their attraction.

Maybe it worked on visual media, with some eye glaring or facial expression between the actors. But in pages like in this book? Nope, not buying it.

Since I expected ROMANCE, I couldn't even give this 3-stars due to my disappointment for the romance element. So there, 2.5 stars instead.

Ingie says

Written March 14, 2014

3.3 Stars - pretty sweet, hot and romantic directly from the tough Figure Skating circus and gold medal hunt at an exciting winter Olympics

There are a lot of fantastic athletes to watch on TV a *Winter Olympic* winter as this one. I tried to watch as much I'd time for (...my small country is a great "winter sports" nation). One of my favorite sports (to watch) is always the figure skating. They are all so amazing talented, well trained and they always do it all so very beautiful.

I also LOVED Leta Blake's great novel *Training Season* about dear *Matty M.* (5 stars from me). They're actually mentioning him here:

“...Remember *Matty Marcus*? He was the *best*. That's what we need. Personality.”

Another new figure skater romance in the M/M genre felt like a *must read* for me.

...almost a month later.

As you might suspect, wasn't this skater romance completely overwhelming and hugely engrossing, but it was good enough after all. It took me almost a whole month before I finally read the last pages, and it was smartly done, because I'm nevertheless quite pleased overall.

~~*~~*~~*~~*~~*~~*~~

Cold War is, in my opinion, a quite simple "*bang on*"-story. It's hot and straight on, run on pretty hard in bed, a lot of anxiety and fear, emotions and a lot of doubt in quantity and of course, a lot of sugar-sweet and cute scenes too. ~ It is about two figure skating guys, **the American, Dev Avira and the Russian, Mikhail Reznikov**.

They are both the male partner in two very successful "pairs", both there to win and "take", for all figure skaters, that most desirable of all medals, the glimmering Olympic gold medal.

‘First off, robots didn't cry, and second, they weren't even friendly, let alone friends.’

Dev and Mikhail have met and competed against each other in competitions for many years, but they really know hardly anything about each other. They've barely even had a normal nice friendly conversation. Most of all, they despise each other based on prejudice and bad corridor talk. But then a few months before the Olympics, something unexpected happens in the men's locker room.

The adventure towards the olympic finale has begun.

...hot, enthralling, tough and so d@mn hard. ~ and in this case quite smexy.

‘It felt like the judges had decided Kostina/Reznikov were the winners before any of the pairs even stepped on the ice.’

What I maybe liked most in *Cold War* was to know more about this colorful, sometimes sentimental, but always shimmering figure skating world. They are all talented and well-trained athletes, and they all dream of gold and glory. It's make or break.

It was extra fun to read about the tittle-tattle, the cruel gossip and all "bullshit talk" outside the ice arena. We have maybe all heard about **these always so very feared Russians pair-skaters**. The fluffy interviews. These always smiling athletes, the pain, injuries and the hard training. And of course this sometimes ridiculous PR and not to forget, their (cheesy or beautiful?) glittering costumes. ~ It is kind of the same "prattle" I here from the experts and sports reporters at the TV broadcasts that I look at. Fun and interesting to read about.

“I'm not your friend.” Dev was simply stating a fact.
Mikhail--*Misha*--smiled softly. “No. You are my ...little rebellion.”

If you like this glimmering (and tough) Figure Skating sport, and boys who loves boys and the *Kiss and Cry* area, I think you may appreciate a lot of this story. A lot besides the romance and steam - which was both cute romantic and wonderfully hot. Moreover, this book (Yes actually - for the rest of you...) is pretty quick read. It is only about 100 pages.

What happens in the end, who wins?

Only one lucky figure skating pair can win the Olympic Gold Medal, and their chance comes only once every four years. Which one of these pairs, the U.S. or this, until now so far superior, Russian couple, that might win the gold this time, in this novel, am I not going to tell you here. But the significant "gold winner" is perhaps so much happier.

What can be better than getting the chance to eternal love, hot kisses and much more, and the man you really want to be with? Nothing, right?

~~*~~*~~*~~*~~*~~*~~*~~

As I said in an update: Well, it's maybe a so-so story, but kind of touching and sweet after all. The two MC's were both hot together and in the end I belived, and felt for, their love. Keira Andrews is a new author for me. I'm sure I will read more by her in the future.

And now? ~ I just wish these former pair skater guys all luck for a grand and happy future together. ~ Why not skate together in a gay competition. (A pic: (view spoiler)

(hide spoiler))

I LIKE - I always love figure skating more or less
