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Elizabeth Harmon

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The Biggest Season of her Career...

America's sweetheart Tabitha Turner is on track to win figure-skating gold in the Winter Games. Her family has sacrificed everything for her career, but the pressure is taking its toll. Burned out and living a lie, can Tabitha let off a little steam without melting the ice?

The Last Chance of His...

Russia's bad boy of skating Daniil Andreev is determined to prove the toughest thing about him is his competitive fight. When Tabitha tempts him to help her take a secret walk on the wild side, he gives her a taste of the freedom she craves, never expecting that one unforgettable night could turn into something more.

Two Hearts on Thin Ice...

Chicago, Vancouver, Paris... the international figure skating season unfolds. Tabitha and Daniil compete and fall in love, but as the pressure mounts in a make-or-break season, can they set aside their painful pasts and spiral into a shining future together... or will their dreams shatter like thin ice?

Shining Through Details

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From Reader Review Shining Through for online ebook

Ruthie Taylor says

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

This is the fourth book in the series - and whilst they are definitely linked, you could read this first and enjoy it in its own right (then go back and read the rest!).

This installment gets us situated within the competitive world of singles skating, and the way that a 23 year old woman is basically passed it already in that world. Tabitha however has a mission to retire on a high and repay her family for their dedication to her career. As her routine does not incite passion in her, she fears that her technical skills will not be enough.

I love how much sport there is in this book, and once we get Daniil's story woven in too, it is easy to get completely engaged and want them to do every routine perfectly. The issue of sponsorship, costs and coaches, as well as the requirements of diet and early nights all contribute to the story. But don't worry it is most definitely not all early nights!

The relationship between Tabitha and Daniil is intense from the very beginning, and fits the way that they live. Inevitably it is not smooth as the ice they skate on, but then nothing worthwhile ever is...

Suze Lavender says

Tabitha's figure-skating career would be complete if she'd win the Olympics. Tabitha has worked towards this goal her entire life. She has an impeccable reputation and has made a lot of sacrifices to get where she is today. The same goes for her family and Tabitha desperately wants to win to give something back to her mother and sister for what they've done for her. However, the pressure is immense and Tabitha has already failed before because of too much stress. Will she be able to handle it this time?

When Tabitha meets Russian bad boy skater Daniil she realizes she should have some fun for the first time in her life. He's just as determined as she is to win and they have a lot in common, so he understands where she's coming from. Unfortunately Daniil also has a reputation. Should Tabitha believe everything that's being said about him? After one magical night a tempting invitation follows. Should Tabitha accept? Would spending time with Daniil harm her career or will she get a boost through skating together? What will happen to them when the season is at its peak, will they both win at the games and in love or will they end up with a broken heart and shattered dreams?

Shining Through is a fascinating romantic story. I love ice skating and really enjoyed reading about Tabitha's career. She's a driven person, but she's also someone who doesn't always follow her dreams. Tabitha and Daniil come from different backgrounds and can learn from each other. Tabitha never takes anything for granted and has to work incredibly hard for every achievement. Daniil managed to get in trouble a few times, he never has to worry about money and he can do whatever he wants to do. He doesn't know what it's like to be loved though. He teaches Tabitha how to loosen up and she shows him how to take responsibility and put in as much effort as possible. Besides their common professional interests they have plenty of sparks and they are a good intellectual match as well, which is a great basis for a story.

Elizabeth Harmon writes about competing, winning, losing, passion, love and dreams in a great descriptive way. It's easy to understand her main characters. I enjoyed reading about the movement on ice, the choice of music, the being part of something and the creativity of the athletes and their trainers. I liked how Elizabeth Harmon combines this with a wonderful love story. Shining Through is a terrific book filled with unexpected twists and turns.

Antonella says

There is something very sweet in Elizabeth Harmon romance books.

The fact that it has figure ice skaters in it is a welcomed plus. I have fond memories watching competitions, from the safe distance aka on my couch with my grandma, and thinking how graceful and mesmerising they were. I have huge amount of respect!!! Because my clumsy ass (read scared of falling on hard cold ice) could never do it. Maybe another reason way I love hockey...watching it of course.

Cute and sweet story.

Can be read as standalone!

Not impressed...fine be that way;)

I mean come on...

For whoever care about these things:

- * heroine is a virgin
- * hero is misguided bad boy
- * family baggage
- * career over love fight
- * HEA

- * and some amazing music mentioned in all the skating routines.
-

Jas says

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

This is the first book in the series that I have read. It works as a stand alone. I will definitely be going back to read the previous books because I liked this one. I liked Harmon's writing and the world of figure skating. It was a new to me and interesting setting for a romance novel and I found it refreshing.

I liked Tabitha and Daniil. Daniil was not really a bad boy but the pressures he faces were compelling. Tabitha is a very sympathetic character. I would not last a minute being stuck in the perfect persona she needs to portray to the world. The conflict in their relationship seemed unconvincing (their argument seemed so forced) and honestly unnecessary but it was dealt with quickly. On the whole I found this a fun book to escape into for an evening and would recommend it to others looking to do the same.

Rissa says

Shining through 4.5??

Tabitha is the eldest to make it into the championship and is at the top of her game but to make it to the winter games she has to place in the top three but with teenagers taking over the skating world and life getting in her way the gold seems so far away.

Daniil is a bad boy with gold, sex and breaking all the rules on his mind while entering the rink but once he meets Tabitha and seeing her determination and passion he wants to work harder and be better (even though he is already amazing).

With Daniil and Tabitha getting closer and the finals getting nearer the gold seems to be slipping from her grasp. Then Daniil leaves and Tabitha feels worse and distracted and so many beautiful moments and I loved it.

It was beautifully written. I instantly feel in love with the characters and skating.

I had the pleasure of meeting the author and she told me of how Tabitha's routine came to be. It was a skater she knew and she took the routine and put it to words and it was beautiful.

Amanda says

Shining Through was a bit of a masochistic choice for me to read right now as I'm still dealing with sadness and disappointment stemming from the outcome of this year's US Nationals Figure Skating Championship. Although in a way, it ended up being a cathartic experience as I got to bask in the HEA of the leads which helped to quell any lingering heartache on my end. Well, that was an overly dramatic way to start a review. Let's get to the actual book, shall we?

Tabitha Turner, like many real life Olympic hopefuls, dreams of making it to the Winter Games. Known as the 'ice queen' of figure skating (I know, how original right?), Tabitha has always strived for absolute perfection. But with a fresh crop of talented young skaters nipping at her heels, stressful family drama at home, constant pressure from her coaches, all while the world watches and waits to see her either triumph or fail, Tabitha loses herself along the way. Gone is the passion and drive that has fueled her skating for as long as she can remember. Though her technique is virtually untouchable, inspiration has abandoned her and as figure skating is part athletic sport, part art, Tabitha knows she can't win this way. Somehow she has to find the place where perfection ends and the real Tabitha begins. Enter one Daniil Andreev aka the 'bad boy' of

figure skating. Bet you already know where this is going.

Mix one supposed ice queen and one alleged bad boy, two polar opposites in every way and you've got a fun, albeit predictable setup. I loved it though. Sure, the romance between Tabitha and Daniil was more than a little insta, but it was also very sweet. And I really felt like they had made a connection, especially when it came to skating. Whereas Tabitha was caught up in maintaining her perfect image on and off the ice, Daniil held nothing back and skated directly from his heart. They were well matched, even in their stark differences. Each offered the other an escape from the pressures of their chosen profession, while at the same time were always encouraging of each other's goals and dreams. There were no roles to be played, no masks to wear when Tabitha and Daniil were together; only their real selves. That's very special when you find someone you don't have to hide from and who you can just be yourself with. I loved this aspect of their relationship so much.

Something else I thought Elizabeth Harmon handled really well was her ability to believably convey just how difficult life is for professional, competitive figure skaters. It is not easy. In fact it's nearly impossible when you think about it. The combination of physical strength and mental fortitude someone would have to have in order to do what they do is hard to imagine sometimes. Going out there time and time again, throwing your body into the air atop a giant ice cube and praying you land a jump cleanly without gravely injuring yourself in the process. Add that with performing in front of large crowds of people, picky as hell judging panels that keep track of every little flaw they may or may not see, all while you must execute a perfect routine of athletic ability and artistic awareness. Couple ALL THAT with the knowledge that it could all come to an end in a single moment. As much as I love to watch figure skating, I know it's not an easy sport. And that's putting it mildly. And yes, IT IS A SPORT. Naysayers be damned. Back to the point at hand, the author tapped into something real with Tabitha's doubts, fears and dreams of gold. Her emotional journey was the heart of the book. I enjoyed watching her rediscover her passion for the sport that had dominated much of her life, all while falling in love with a really hot Russian. That said, I do feel like the writing itself could've been sharper as it read as a little too cheesy at times. But that's just a minor nitpick I suppose.

I'd definitely recommend this book to anyone who enjoys figure skating and is looking for a breezy romance to enjoy. It wasn't 4-star worthy in my opinion, but definitely worth the read.

Ana T. says

I'm really enjoying this ice skating series. Looking forward to the next one

Isha Coleman says

The career of her dreams has become the life of her nightmares. Perfection is the goal and Tabitha is determined to deliver the goods, even if her heart is no longer in the sport. *Shining Through* is an up close and personal look at the drama behind the glamour of ice skating. There's grace, heat and romance. Ms. Harmon spotlights two characters working their way back, in an atmosphere that is as cold as the stage on which they perform. The excitement of competition has nothing on the sparks that heat up the connection between Daniil and Tabitha.

Elaine says

Whilst this is part of the Red Hot Russians series, I believe it works well as a standalone and you don't need to read the others to appreciate and enjoy this story.

Sometimes what you dreamed of and worked so hard for just gets to be too much. Tabitha Turner is nicknamed Miss Perfect. She's America's golden girl, hoping to win gold in the Winter Olympic Games figure skating competition, the Ice Princess . . . Whilst she's still determined to succeed, she's also had enough of the expectations and pressure. She's ready for her own bit of 'me time'. Contrastingly, Russian Daniil Andreev is also just as competitive but he also has his wild side and rarely conforms. Can two such driven skaters find each other behind the glitz and glamour of the skating world? Can they trust each other and overcome the pressures to give their mutual attraction the chance to grown into more?

This is another brilliant book in this series, this time featuring two characters fighting against the odds to achieve their dreams. Watching their relationship develop through the story is great. The story provides lots of behind the scenes action and glimpses, putting the world of competitive figure skating under the spotlight as the story progresses. There are a multitude of secondary characters, from family to coaches, choreographers and so many others, all making their own contributions to the atmosphere and events. This is a fun read and I have no hesitation in recommending it and the other stories in the series!

I requested and received a copy of this novel, via NetGalley, with no obligation. This is my honest review after choosing to read it.

LadyTechie says

Shining through is the fourth in the Red Hot Russians series which I received a copy in exchange for an honest review from Barclay Publicity and Netgalley. Daniil is an amazing, gorgeous, Russian skater trying to make the Russian team for the Winter Olympics in Grenoble, however, he also always has one foot in the neighborhood of trouble. He also is the son of a well-known Russian gangster. Tabitha is America's darling who is also trying to make the USA Olympic team for Grenoble. This is her last chance because she is now 23 years old. Despite the fact that she is extremely gifted and still young, her competitors are teenagers. For ice skating, she is considered too old.

Danill has his eye on Tabitha and he hopes when he has a chance to meet her that she will be interested in him also. His hunch is right but there is so much against them. Russia and the US are not exactly friends and the Russian ice skating team is not exactly friendly with the US skating team. They also live in two different countries and Tabitha's public skating career is coming to an end while Danill's skating career continues. Tabitha is worried about her future and it makes it hard to focus on their relationship. Failing to make the Olympic team and win gold will mean an end to some of her more immediate dreams for helping her family. Shining through is a sweet love story for more than just Danill and Tabitha. It is also a great story about perseverance, dreams, goals and looking forward to the future. Review can also be seen at ladytechiesbookmusings.blogspot.com.

Becky says

As someone who can't stop on ice skates without using the boards (that's why they're there, surely?) I've always loved watching other people skating, whether it's competitive figure skating or hockey. (Those are the only two sports that compete at the winter Olympics, right?) So reading about figure skaters and hockey players? Totally right up my alley. So when I heard that there was a new Red Hot Russians book, my response was, "Yes, please!"

Shining Through was a solid addition to the series. Tabitha and Daniil are the couple who shouldn't work at all but somehow totally do. She's "America's Sweetheart" who's trying to finally bring home Olympic gold in her last competitive season, the girl whose family has made sacrifices for her to be able to skate her whole life. He's the son of a Russian oligarch who's rebelled against...well, pretty much everything...by being the bad boy of ice skating, so much so that his own country's program won't sponsor his career. They shouldn't work together, yet somehow they do. Until they almost don't...

I liked both Tabitha and Daniil--it was easy to root for them, both in their skating and in their relationship. Things were a tad bit rushed toward the end of the book, but as I was anxious for them to get to their HEA, I didn't mind too much. (Still--no actual page time for their Olympic routines was a bit of a bummer...)

Shining Through is the fifth book in the series, but could absolutely be read as a standalone--some of the other series characters make appearances, but it's not necessary to have read their stories (yet!) to enjoy this one.

Rating: 4 stars / B+

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.

Blue Falcon says

This review is of "Shining Through", book #4 in the "Red Hot Russians" series by Elizabeth Harmon.

"Shining Through" begins with an introduction to the heroine of the book, Tabitha Turner, 23. Tabitha is an American ladies singles skater who is hoping to win gold at the Olympics. We also learn about the dichotomy between Tabitha's carefully cultivated-by her coaches-image and her real background, which bears some resemblance to another former American ladies singles skater.

In Chapter 3, we are re-introduced to the hero of the book, Daniil Andreev. (Daniil appeared in "Red Hot Russians", #3, "Getting it Back), and was an obnoxious bastard. He's only slightly better here, as he is on trial for stealing a motorcycle. Once that issue is resolved, he travels to Chicago, where he meets Tabitha. (They share the same coaching teams). Tabitha and Daniil are immediately attracted to each other.

As Tabitha and Daniil spend more time together, he teaches her about passion-on and off the ice-and she lets him into one of her career wishes. They fall in love, become lovers, then break up, then get back together again, all the while trying to fulfill their Olympic dreams.

When Daniil finds himself in legal hot water at the Olympics, Tabitha puts her career-and reputation-on the line to save him. Daniil is exonerated, Tabitha fulfills her dreams and she and Daniil have their Happily Ever After.

Upside: Ms. Harmon has written two really strong lead characters. She does a great job of exploring her characters emotions, both on and off the ice. I really hope Ms. Harmon continues writing about figure

skaters, as I could see at least one character in this book getting their own story.

Downside: Ms. Harmon goes to the well again in “Shining Through”; by that I mean that this is yet another book featuring characters from broken homes. While I understand that people come from these circumstances-I have first-hand knowledge of this subject-this shows to me a lack of foresight and imagination on Ms. Harmon’s part.

Sex: Two relatively mild-to warm sex scenes.

Violence: Daniil is accused of assault and battery at the Olympics. The alleged assault occurs “off-screen”.

Bottom Line: “Shining Through” is not a 5 star book, but is a very good 4.8 star one.

Tracy- OMGReads says

Tabitha, an American figure skater, meets Daniil, the bad boy of Russian figure skating while out on the circuit. The two have an instant chemistry, both knowing of the other prior to meeting in person.

Tabitha is a worrier, she's focused and set on her path to the games. Daniil is determined to make it to the Winter Games as well. Their story, and watching their relationship develop over time was so cute. Their personalities suited each other well, both drawing strength from the other.

The story was well written, and paced well. I found the story to be unique, and a sport that you don't read much about these days. The technical aspect of figure skating went a bit over my head at points, but it did not distract much from the story. The characters were well developed and relatable. Shining Through is the fourth book of a series, but it can be read as a standalone or as an introduction to the series.

Review copy requested and reviewed on behalf of OMGReads

Books, Coffee & Passion says

Books, Coffee & Passion

Shining Through is the fourth book in the Red Hot Russians series but it can be read as a standalone. I’ve read the second book in this series (you can read my review of Turning it on here) and honestly, after reading Shining Through, I think I need to go back and read the complete series!

Tabitha is America’s golden girl, some call her The Ice Princess and she has a high chance of winning a gold medal on figure skating. The ultimate dream of any athlete. But Tabitha is starting to slip, after all everyone’s expectations are high, her trainer, her family, her country, but the highest of them all – her own. She wants to make it up to her family, after all that they sacrificed for her career, but she can’t seem to find her passion while performing, she’s struggling to connect with her inner self and to let her emotions shine in the rink. Even though her technique is flawless, she finds herself at odds with her program and she knows she has to get it all together to really have a chance to win gold. She’s aiming for perfection but she feels she is still far from it.

Daniil is the hottest bad boy in the rink, a figure skater too, he's known to get in trouble from time to time, oh well – most of the time. But Daniil is determined to succeed, he wants nothing more than to compete at his best level yet and to get a place at the Winter Games. He knows he's far from perfect but his competitive nature, his anger, his passion sets him apart from his competitors. He takes it all and leaves it all, flawlessly executed, in the rink. And he absolutely loves to prove people wrong!

Tabitha watches Daniil practicing and loves his passionate and emotional performance, she knows Daniil has in his program what she's been lacking and she's drawn to him even before knowing who he really is. Daniil watched one of Tabitha's interview during a troubling moment in his life and thinks she is stunningly beautiful, he actually hopes he gets to meet her and when he does... sparks are flying and their chemistry is undeniable. But... can they have a future together?

I loved how Elizabeth Harmon characterized both Daniil and Tabitha physically and emotionally. I have both of them perfectly pictured in my mind! There were a lot of secondary characters which some times could be a little distracting, even though I really enjoyed Tabitha's sister and the coaches/choreographers moments. Daniil and Tabitha's love story is unique, I loved the figure skating world: the pressure, the hard work, the competitiveness, the hopes and expectations. And mostly I loved how two strong characters that were fighting to reach their dreams, deeply needed one another to achieve something even more important than that: their true selves. Absolutely delightful!

If you love a heart warming romance I highly recommend Shinning Through: with hot Russians, intense chemistry, well developed characters, a not so glamorous figure ice skating world and a Winter Games competition, you won't be able to put it down.

Elizabeth Harmon says

One of the best parts of being an author is sitting down to read your just published book as a reader. Though I've read through the manuscript dozens of times while writing and editing, it's a different experience to get lost in the story, just as I would with any other. While I know what's coming next and how it all ends, it's extremely gratifying to see how all that hard work came together in a story I can be proud of. If you love nice guys heros, slow burn romance, and figure skating give Shining Through, or any of my series books a try!
