

Playing for Keeps

The ultimate guide to
fake-dating sports
romances.

Because the only thing better than a
champion athlete is one who has to
pretend to be your boyfriend.

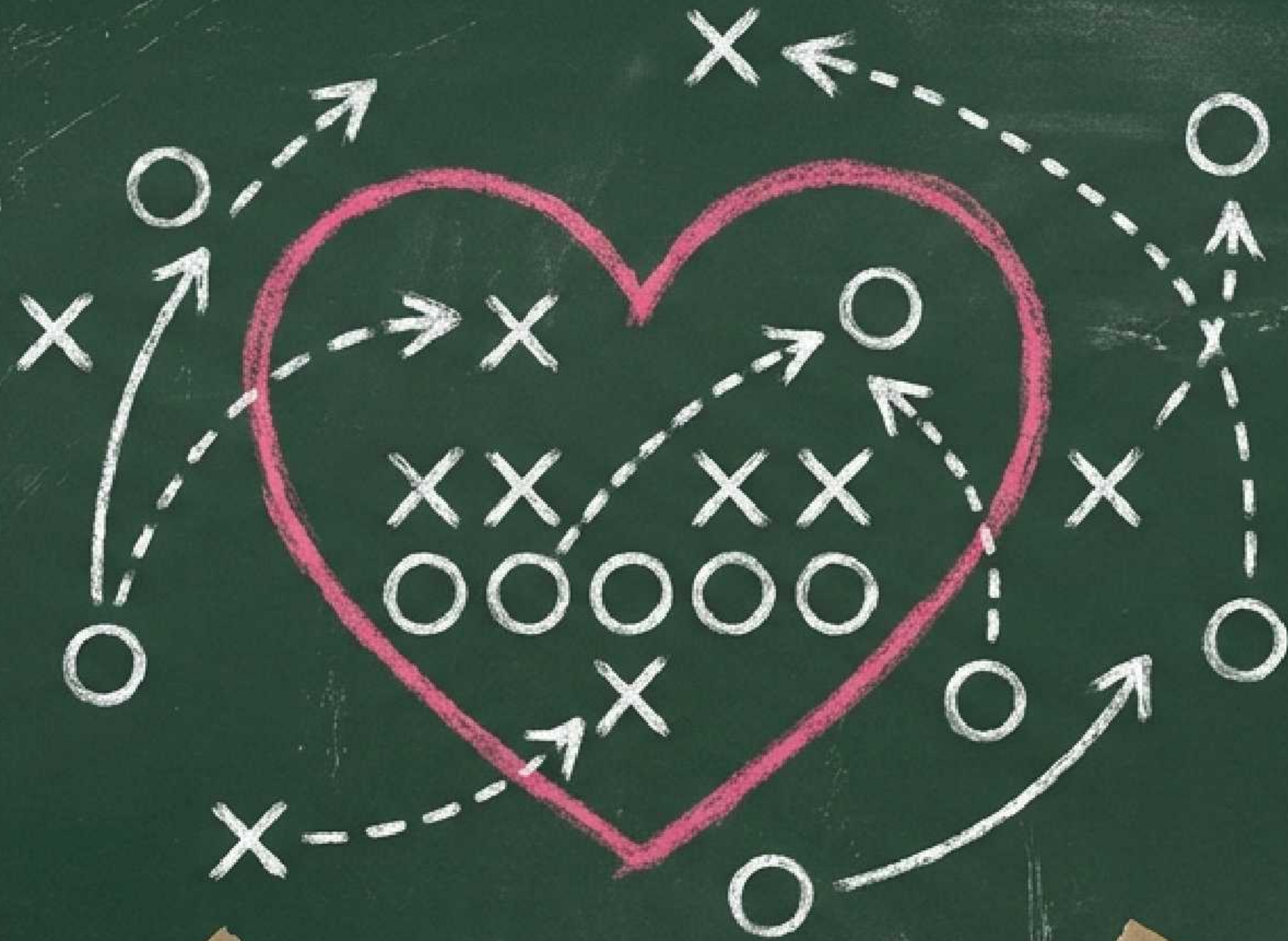


WHY WE ARE OBSESSED WITH THIS PLAYBOOK



1. The Catalyst

A viral PR disaster, an angry sponsor, or a desperate need to impress a scout. The stakes are instantly sky-high.



2. The Deal

We just hold hands for the cameras. A mutually beneficial, strictly professional contract.



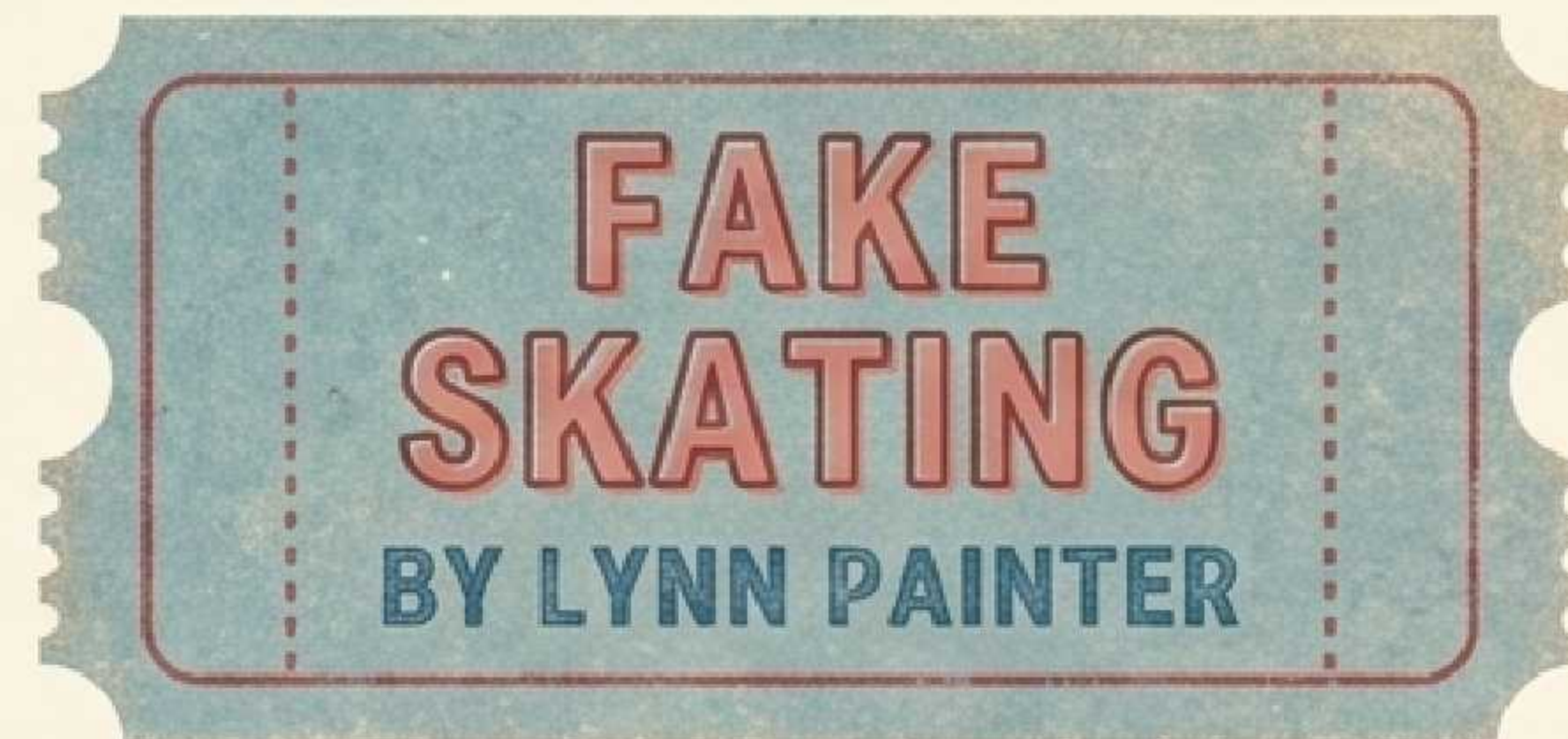
3. The Game Changer

Forced proximity in cramped locker rooms and wild victory celebrations makes the lines blur. Fast.



On the Ice: Hockey & Figure Skating

Where the rinks are freezing, but
the chemistry is absolute fire.



player stats

Sport: 🏒 Hockey

Trope: Childhood Sweethearts + Fake Dating

Heat Level: 🍰 Sweet (YA)



The Vibe: Dani and Alec were inseparable as kids before losing touch. Now, he's the town's hockey god with a damaged reputation, and she needs an extracurricular boost to get off the Harvard waitlist. Their fake-dating pact delivers incredible banter, complicated family secrets, and that delicious realization that they never really got over each other. Pure feel-good gold!

Perfectly Faked


BY GRACE WORTHINGTON



player stats

Sport:  Figure Skating x  Hockey

Trope: Coach's Daughter + Second Chance

Heat Level:  Sweet (Closed Door)

The Vibe: Victoria's figure skating dreams are sidelined just as her dad (a hockey coach) forces her to pair up with Leo—the benched, hot-headed hockey star who also happens to be her ex-boyfriend. They fake a relationship for sponsorships and ice time, proving that pretending to love your ex is the fastest way to fall right back in.



ADMISSION

It's a Love/Skate Relationship

by Carli J. Corson

ADMISSION

player stats

Sport: 🏒 Hockey x 🛼 Figure Skating

Trope: Sapphic Enemies-to-Lovers

Heat Level: 🍰 Sweet (YA)

The Vibe: Hotheaded hockey player Charlie and elegant ice princess Alexa strike an impossible deal after a rink brawl ruins both their seasons. Charlie will learn to figure skate to be Alexa's partner, and Alexa's Olympian mom will get Charlie in front of D-1 scouts. Watch their frosty, polar-opposite dynamic melt into a fiercely charming partnership.



NORTH U



NORTH U

ADMISSION

Falling

ADMISSION

by Janisha Boswell

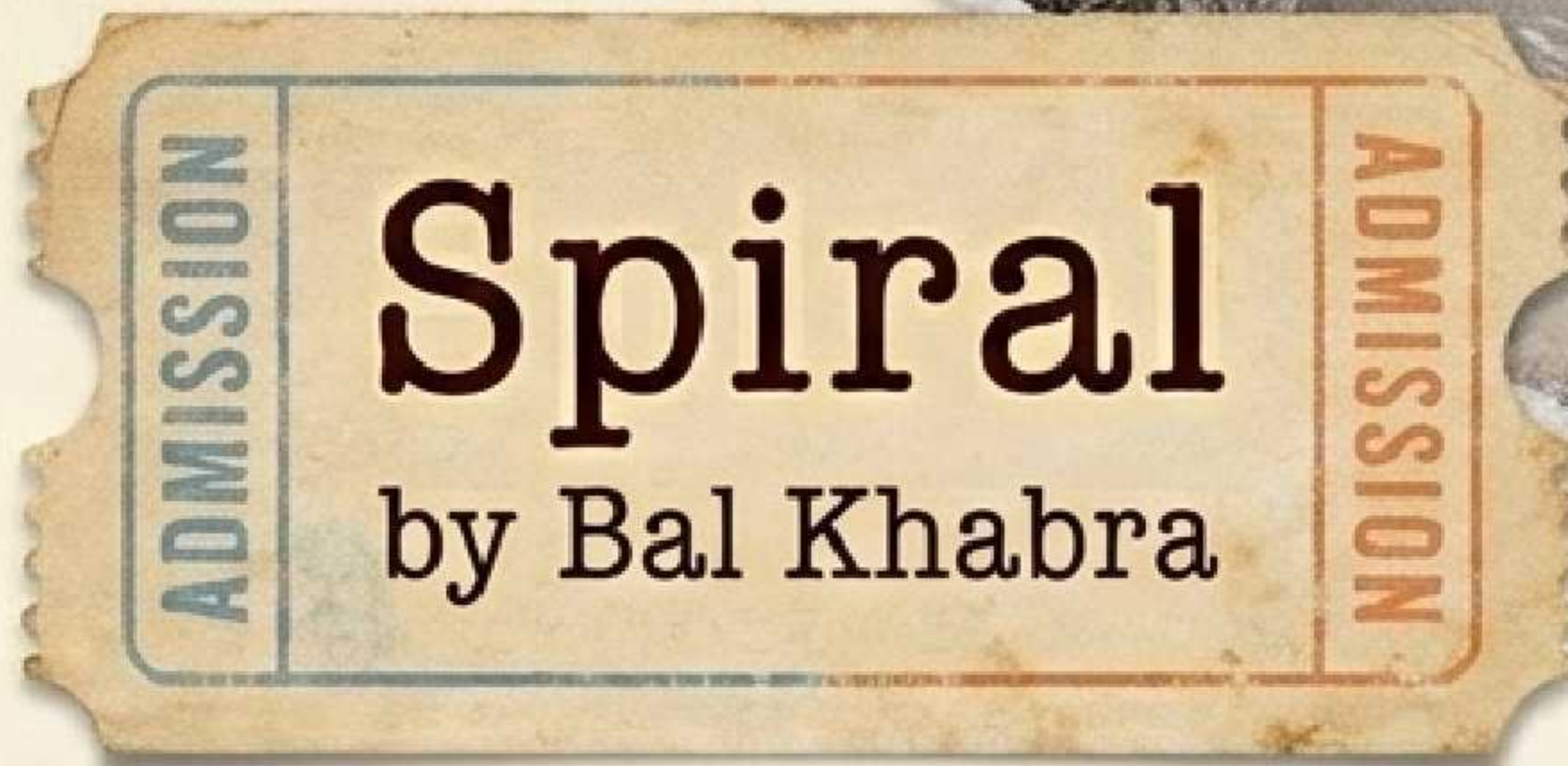
player stats

Sport: Figure Skating x Hockey

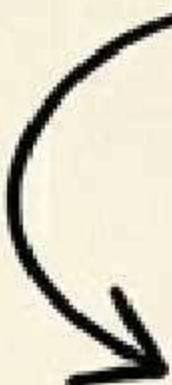
Trope: Reverse Grumpy-Sunshine + Found Family

Heat Level: Spicy

The Vibe: Welcome to North University! Wren is a grumpy figure skater desperate for a comeback, and Miles is the golden-retriever hockey star struggling to bounce back from a team tragedy. A bet turns into a fake-dating pact to save their reputations and team funding, leading to some serious he falls first energy and heart-melting spice.



player stats	
Sport:	🏒 Hockey x 🩰 Ballet
Trope:	Fame & Media Scrutiny
Heat Level:	🌶️🌶️🌶️ Very Spicy



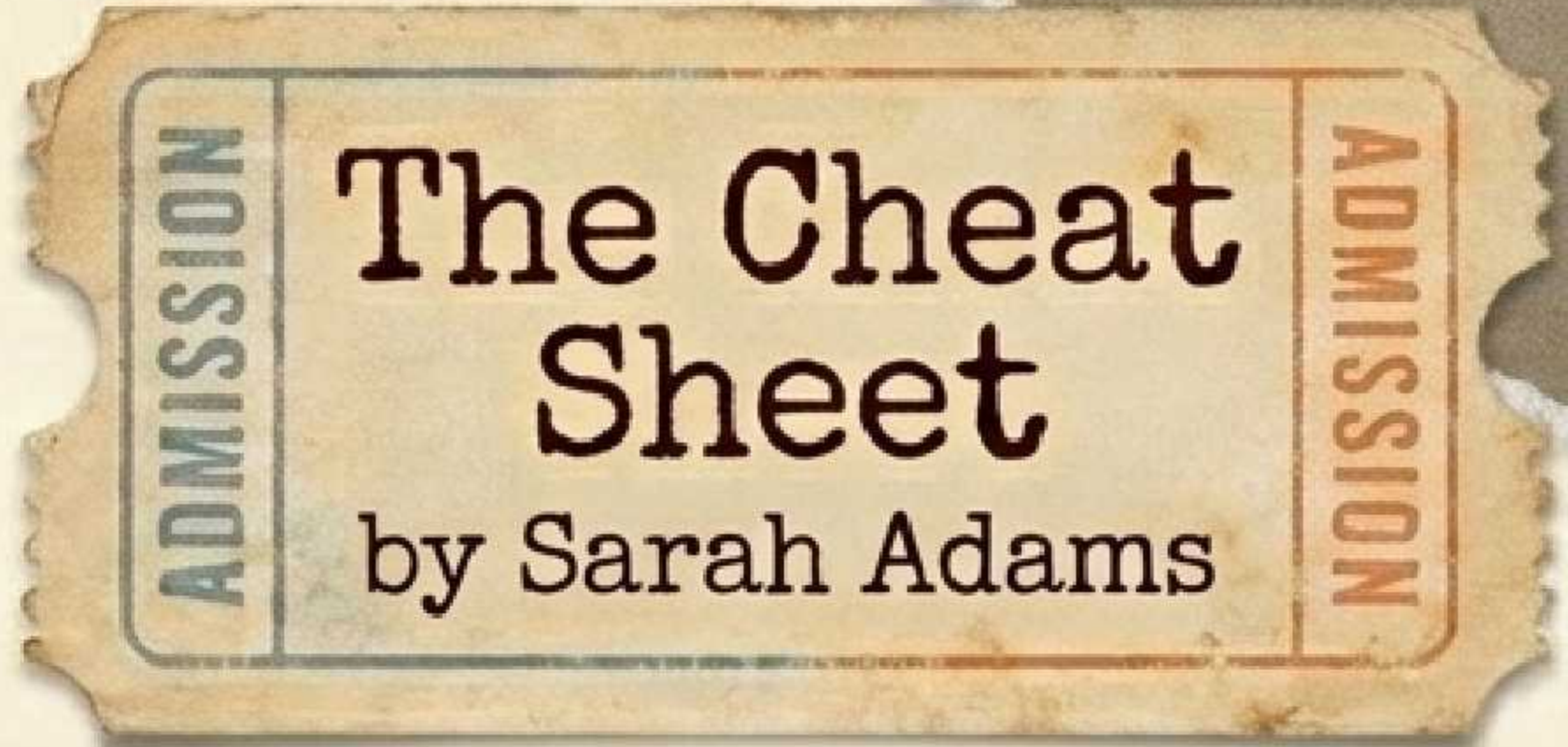
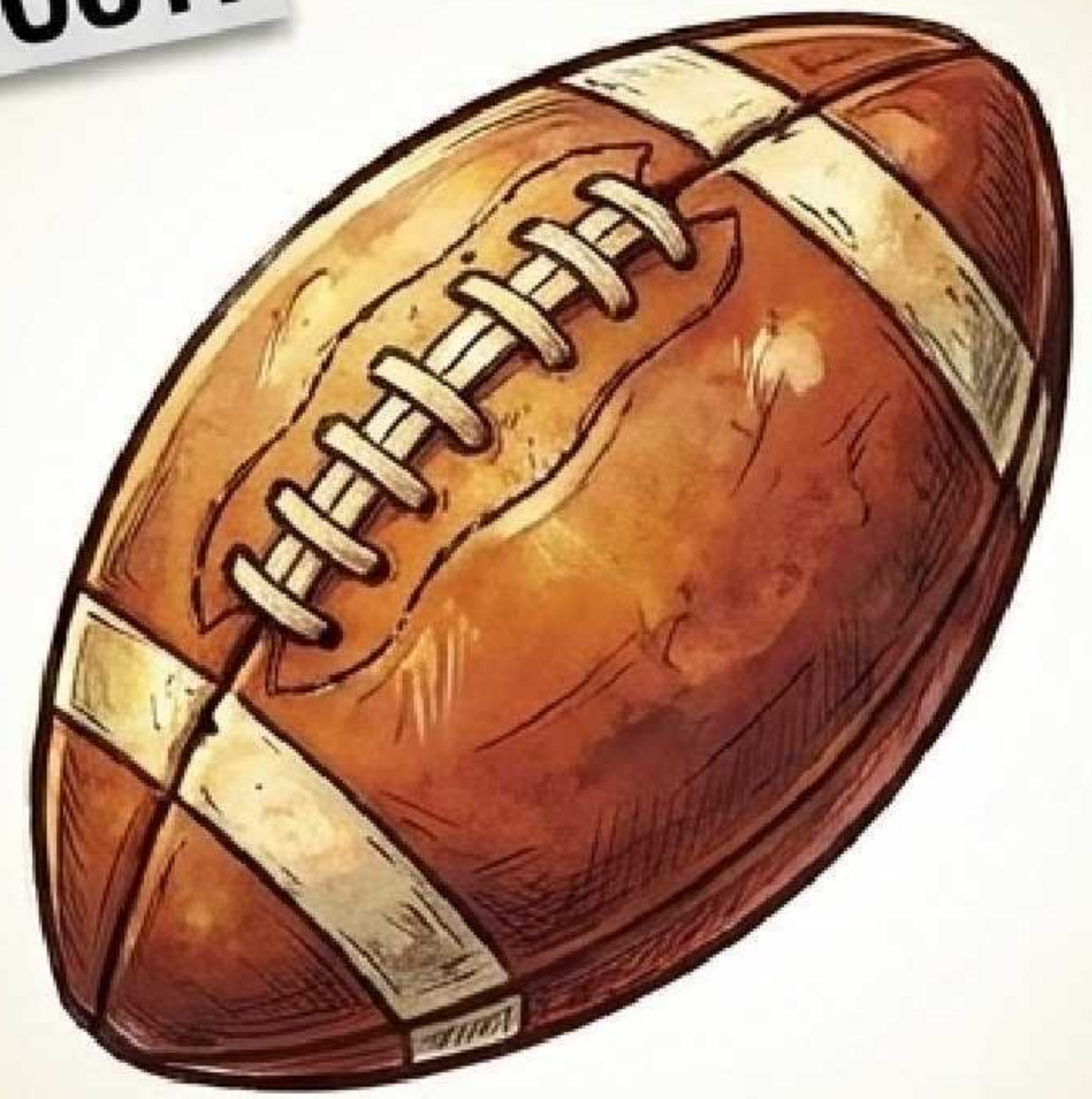
The Vibe: Newly drafted hockey star Elias needs to escape the harsh glare of the tabloids, while aspiring ballerina Sage needs a popularity boost to secure a lead role. Their mutually beneficial fake-dating arrangement spirals entirely out of control as their chemistry explodes off the charts.



On the Turf & Court

**Because love is a contact sport,
no matter where you play it.**

**BREAKING NEWS:
SECRET'S OUT!**



player stats	
♡	Sport: 🏈 NFL Football 🏈
♡	Trope: Friends-to-Lovers + Fake Dating ♡♡
	Heat Level: 🧁 Sweet (Closed Door)

→ **The Vibe:** Bree is helplessly in love with her platonic best friend, NFL legend Nathan. After she accidentally spills her secret to a reporter while slightly tipsy, they have to fake date for three weeks to secure her a massive PR opportunity. It's hilarious, deeply swoon-worthy, and completely adorable.





ADMISSION

CROSS MY HEART

ADMISSION

by ESHA PATEL


player stats



Sport:  Lacrosse



Trope: Enemies-to-Lovers

Heat Level:  Spicy

The Vibe: Determined lacrosse player May has her world turned upside down when pro player (and childhood nemesis) Colt arrives to train her college team. Caught in a compromising position, they fake a relationship for the press. The line between performance and reality blurs fast in this intense, slow-burn rivalry.

ADMISSION

SKATE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT

ADMISSION

by Rufaro Faith Mazarura

player stats

Sport: 🏒 Olympic Women's Hockey
Trope: Strangers to Fake Lovers
Heat Level: 🍰 Sweet

The Vibe:

Ari is the unexpected captain of the GB women's hockey team, trying to avoid her toxic ex in the Olympic Village. Drew is an American photographer trying to prove himself. Their fake-dating scheme at the Swiss Winter Games is a wholesome, gorgeous journey of vulnerability, ambition, and cheering for for each other's dreams.

Handed note something the women's floor is in ta olympic village...

Winter the sweet on swist captain





ADMISSION

ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND PICKLEBALL

ADMISSION

by Kate Spencer

- ♥ **Sport:** 🥒 Pickleball
- ♥ **Trope:** Bitter Rivals + Fake Dating
- ♥ **Heat Level:** 🌶️ Spicy

The Vibe:

Yes, pickleball romance is here, and it is glorious. Two rival players find themselves faking a romance for the sake of the sport and their reputations—until the absolute ridiculousness of their rivalry turns into genuine, undeniable attraction. It's laugh-out-loud funny and deliciously steamy.

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYBOOK: THE TROPE MAP

Childhood Ties & Besties

Fake Skating
The Cheat Sheet

Bitter Enemies & Rivals

Cross My Heart
All's Fair in Love
& Pickleball
It's a Love/Skate
Relationship

The Ex Factor

Perfectly Faked

The PR & Fame Game

Spiral
Falling
Skate It Till
You Make It

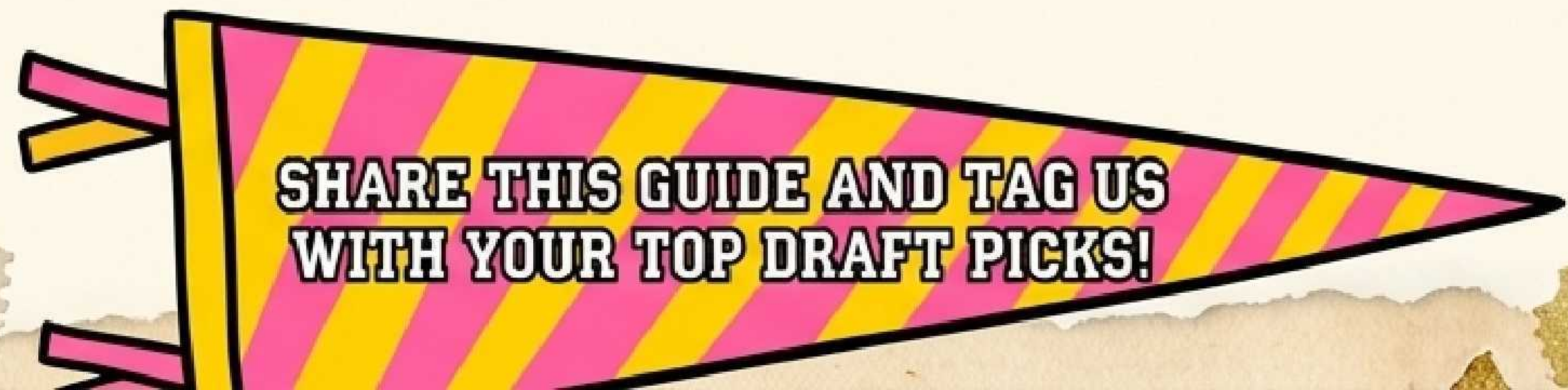
Pick your poison!
Whether you want to
scream at enemies finally
kissing or cry over best
friends realizing what's
right in front of them,
there's a fake-dating
playbook just for you.





TIME TO HIT THE BENCH AND START READING!

Got a favorite fake-dating
sports romance we missed?



**SHARE THIS GUIDE AND TAG US
WITH YOUR TOP DRAFT PICKS!**

