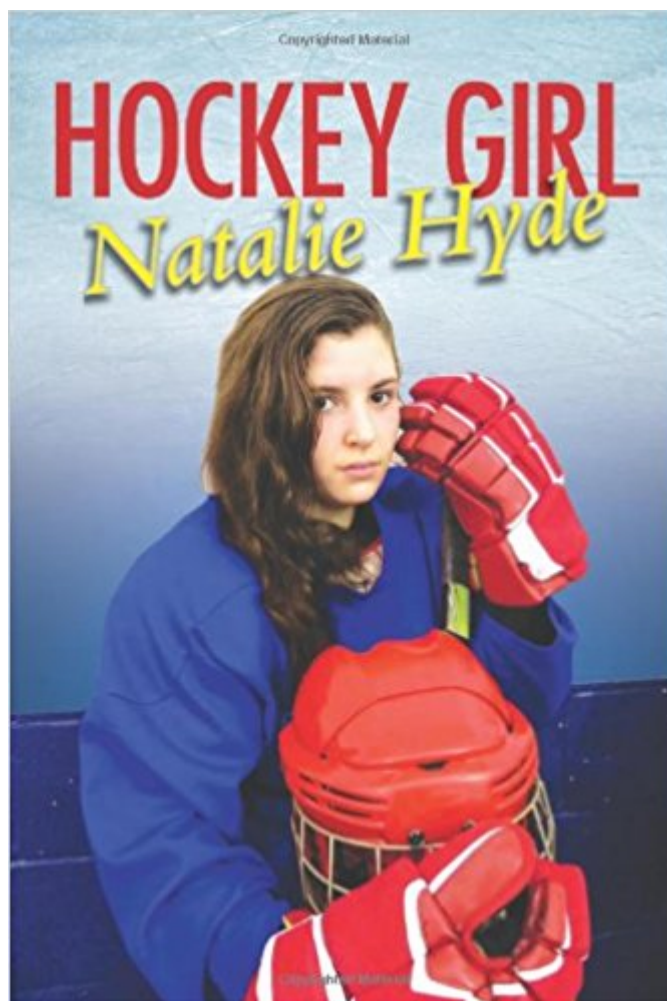


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# Hockey Girl



## Synopsis

Tara's softball team has been challenged by the boys to put together a winning girls' hockey team. The bet? Whichever team finishes lower in its respective division will have to wear cheerleading outfits (complete with skirts and pompoms) to the other team's entire next season of home games! Tara and her Roadrunners are determined not to give the YYYs the satisfaction. But winning is going to be an uphill battle for the girls, especially in a hockey-crazed town that cares more about the boys' Junior A team than anything else. So when the boys teams begin screaming for more ice-time, it's the girls teams that get relegated to the graveyard times at the local rinks if they're lucky. To make matters worse, Tara discovers that the one boy who seems sympathetic to their cause (and super-cute, to boot) is the son of the ice-rink manager and their most belligerent opponent. What the Roadrunners need is some divine intervention which comes in the shape of Sister Helen, a former women's ice hockey star and their new coach. Inspired to fight for their right to play, the girls launch a campaign to gain fair and equal ice time. Will the town rally behind the girls? And will the Roadrunners pull it together in time to finish ahead of the Hornets and save their dignity?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 6-9-Female hockey fans will enjoy this book, but its appeal to anyone else is questionable. After winning a semifinal softball game, Tara and her best friend, Rachel, are drawn to join girls' ice hockey by a challenge from the boys' team: whichever team finishes lower in the standings has to

be cheerleaders for the other the next season. The girls face an uphill battle in their hockey-crazy town, where girls' sports are given little respect. The sometimes humorous writing is a plus: "The puck dropped. Ten players fought over that little rubber disk like it was the last brownie in the pan." However, the funny parts don't negate the many sexist and embarrassing comments, and some of the chauvinistic dialogue seems dated and unenlightened. There are quite a few unexplained hockey terms that may confuse readers with no knowledge of the sport. And while the story, like a puck, moves quickly, it does not satisfy in the end.-Kate Kohlbeck, Randall School, Waukesha, WI  
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"Natalie Hyde's latest sports-themed young adult novel, *Hockey Girl*, is an action-packed story that delicately handles gender equality issues relevant in Canada today... The treatment of sexism in sports is well done, and Hyde accurately represents the inequalities in prestige and opportunities often found in our culture... "This short novel maintains reader interest throughout with engaging characters, sporting rivalries, and fast-paced hockey action. The portrayal of small town culture is well done, and the solid development of the story and the characters makes *Hockey Girl* appeal to more than the typical sports fan."Recommended.Â • CM Magazine"Author Natalie Hyde knows how to write a rollicking good scene, whether it involves the playful banter between adversaries at the local donut shop, or the nail-biting action on the ice. This is a tale not only of girl power, but of what can happen when a community bands together for change."Recommended Â • Canadian Children Booknews"This book would support the study of gender equality and would make a great addition to any classroom library."Â • Canadian Teacher Magazine

If you love strong female characters and are tired of reading about just boys in sports, this book is for you. *HOCKEY GIRL* brings together humor, sports and the desire to be treated equally in a fun and exciting book for tweens with a really important message that never feels preachy. Hyde's characters are well-drawn and ring true and I really enjoyed this story about a group of girls who start out being in a competition against boys but end up taking on their whole community in a fight that really matters.

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