



Hard Stick

L.P. Dover

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Hard Stick L.P. Dover

He carries a big stick. And he's not afraid to use it.

On the ice, I'm Kellan Carter, powerhouse enforcer for the Charlotte Strikers. Off the ice, I'm just a regular guy. The last thing I want is to get mobbed by a bunch of groupies who are only after me for my fame and money. My ideal woman knows how to enjoy a little good, clean fun—and maybe some not-so-clean fun too. That's the kind of girl I'd never let go.

When Kristen Robinson, the gorgeous, down-to-earth bartender I've been crushing on, agrees to let me take her out, I'm thrilled. We have an amazing night together, culminating in the most electrifying kiss of my life—and that's it. Kristen tells me we can't see each other again, but I know that kiss meant as much to her as it did to me. What I *don't* know is that Kristen has a dangerous secret. . . .

I've proved to Kristen that she can trust me with her body and her heart. But when her past comes back to haunt her, I need to prove that she can trust me with her life. And I might have to get my hands dirty after all.

Hard Stick Details

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Author : L.P. Dover

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From Reader Review Hard Stick for online ebook

Kim says

ARC PROVIDED BY NETGALLEY!!!!

WOW!!!! Totally not at all what I expected. I went by title,author and cover. The saying goes don't judge a book by its cover is true to this. L.P. Dover totally has your mouth drop and edge of your seat. Lots of excitement. She did a wonderful job on thus story. The characters were wonderful. Fighting for what you want in life and doing all you have to do to survive!!! L.P. Dover really knows how to throw a few great twists in a story. The author did that with a couple of the characters in ways I NEVER would have guessed until a certain point in the book. I was totally drawn into the story and did not want to put it down cause I had to know what was going to happen next. Look forward to reading more books by L.P. Dover.

Lisa Venn sims says

Kristen's life was about to change she never would have thought her life would end up on the run getting mixed up with Mitchell was the biggest mistake of her life he was obsessive and he would always find her but was she strong enough to fight back to get her life back after he tried to destroy hers

Kellan lived his life on the ice a professional ice hockey player he had everything he could want except a good woman until he meets Kirsten would he be able to break down her walls and give him a chance and would he be able to handle all her secrets when they were revealed

This story had me gripped from the first pages another great book from L.P Dover she's become one of my favourite authors x

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

Ooohh good one with plenty of twists!

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I loved a few things about this book.

- 1) The story is not what you think.
- 2) The plot actually had some great twists and interest other than sex and hockey

I have enjoyed many books by L.P. Dover and this one was a bit of a surprise with the plot. When the cover leads you to assumptions about the content, you can get hung up on that. We are expecting a sports style read, judging from the gorgeous hunk of body going on. This is Not one and I was so happy about that!

This story has a bit of depth and some surprises along the way! Made me enjoy the heck out of this book! That is not to say there is not a lot of sexy heat along the way... oh, there is! But you get so much more with this one.

There may be some triggers in this for some.

\* copy received for review consideration

## ~Mandi~ says

Hard Stick  
Breakaway # 1  
L.P. Dover

This was so not the story I was expecting. It was so much more. This isn't your typical sport romance novel. From the first chapter to the last, you will be wanting more.

On the ice, I'm Kellan Carter, powerhouse enforcer for the Charlotte Strikers. Off the ice, I'm just a regular guy. The last thing I want is to get mobbed by a bunch of groupies who are only after me for my fame and money. My ideal woman knows how to enjoy a little good, clean fun—and maybe some not-so-clean fun too. That's the kind of girl I'd never let go.

When Kristen Robinson, the gorgeous, down-to-earth bartender I've been crushing on, agrees to let me take her out, I'm thrilled. We have an amazing night together, culminating in the most electrifying kiss of my life—and that's it. Kristen tells me we can't see each other again, but I know that kiss meant as much to her as it did to me. What I don't know is that Kristen has a dangerous secret. . .

I've proved to Kristen that she can trust me with her body and her heart. But when her past comes back to haunt her, I need to prove that she can trust me with her life. And I might have to get my hands dirty after all.

Such an awesome read. I will definitely be looking for more books by L.P. Dover in the future. Can't wait for the next one in this series to come out. Thanks NetGalley for the arc in exchange for my honest review.

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## The Romance Book Disciple (Samantha) says

This is not a sports romance. The hero happens to be a hockey player, but the story isn't really about that at all. It's really about a girl in the witness protection program. This book is really more of a contemporary romance similar to her Second Chances series, just about a hockey team instead of a football team.

Kristen picked the WRONG guy. Now, because of it, she is living in a town under a different name and has to fake her own death to try and get him to abandon his pursuit of her. Throwing a wrench in her plan? Kellan, the pro hockey player who comes into the bar/restaurant she works at. He makes no bones about his desire to get her to date him. She wishes she could, but dating is just not in the cards for her.

I have found that most LP Dover books read quick. She typically tends to jump right in and I appreciate that! There are a couple of characters from previous series' of hers (Armed and Dangerous, Gloves Off, Second Chances) but you don't need to have read it. For those of us who have read it, it is just a nice little cameo!

Kellan is not like your typical pro athletes. He isn't a puck bunny chaser. He isn't a man whore. He really is just a nice guy who happens to play professional hockey. He is...dare I say it...NORMAL! How could you

not love him!? I wanted him to break through Kristen's barriers because he deserved happiness as much as she did. I am curious to see if the rest of the series keeps this more romantic suspense bend or if it becomes more of a sports romance story.

Ok, now having said that, let me address some of the issues I had. First, she got her degree in Interior Design from MIT. They don't offer degrees in Interior Design. Maybe she got a degree in Architectural studies...But still. You don't go to MIT to be an interior designer. That just doesn't make good sense. You go to a famous design school like Savannah Art and Design, Rhode Island Design, or something. Second, after her first date with Kellan, she tells him about her past, her name change, and faking her own death. WitSec rule number one is you can't tell anyone anything!

I did think the surprise twist was interesting. I hadn't even THOUGHT anything like that. However, the rest of the book is pretty predictable. Overall, this was a good story: good characters, good plot, but not great. I enjoyed it and read it in a few hours, but I probably will forget all about it among the sea of other books I read.

POV: dual 1st

Tears: no

Trope: secret identity, on the run

Triggers: (view spoiler)

Series/Standalone: stand alone

Cliffhanger: (view spoiler)

HEA: (view spoiler)

Hawke by Sawyer Bennett, The Enforcer by Helenkay Dimon, The Hot Shot by Kristen Callihan...then you will probably like Hard Stick!

Hard Stick

See full review on The Book Disciple

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♥Sana♥ says

**3,5 stars!**

*ARC kindly provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.*

**This was my first book to author L. P. Dover and I must admit that it wasn't what I expected at all.**

**I am a cover bitch. Unless the author is already known to me, most of my bought, requested or borrowed books are based on the cover or the blurb, the reason why Hard Stick sat on my kindle the moment I saw it on Netgalley.**

**When I'm picking sports romance novel to read then I'm expecting to find some sport. The rush of adrenaline, the thrill of success and the aggressiveness of the players on the field and in the locker rooms that's what I most love about a sports romance.**

**When I read about Kellan, his hard stick and how he knows how to use it, I was sold**

**but when I started reading the book I realised that the story was more about Kristen and her secrets than about Kellan, his stick or Ice hockey.**

**I can't say that this story wasn't enjoyable, it really was. Let's just say that the story and the cover don't go together.**

**Kristen used to have it all, a successful job, a wealthy gorgeous boyfriend and a place that she could finally call home, but everything would be destroyed the moment she realised that she was dealing with a sick married boyfriend who would stop at nothing to have her even killing the friend who tried to save her.**

**Changing her name and starting from scratch was the only way to keep Kristen safe from being killed, and though bartending had nothing to do with designing, it at least paid her bills.**

**Kellan lived for hockey, women in his life were no longer a priority until he was challenged to ask the mysterious waitress for a date.**

*“Dallas nudged me in the side, his voice low so Kristen couldn't hear him. “Wanna make a bet?” he asked slyly. “On what?”*

*“On your girl over there. I say five hundred dollars you can't get her to go out with you by the end of the week.” Braeden chuckled. “And I'll bet three hundred.” They both grinned and held out their hands. Sealing the deal, I shook them. “You're on, fuckers.”*

**Kellan wanted to teach his friends a good lesson but the moment he met Kristen out of the bar and got to know her, he realised that one date would never be enough especially that he knew her secrets and her fears.**

**Hard Stick is a book about new beginnings and how love could heal damaged wounds.**

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## Jordan says

3.5/5 - I almost feel awful for not liking this book, because the general consensus seems to be that Kellan is a sexy mofo and these two are great together, but I just didn't feel it.

But let me explain! First off, the characters just felt a little... generic? to me. It isn't really so much that Kellan was a bad character, because he wasn't, I just don't think he was much of a character at all. And that's something that I find is common with the male component of M/F romance novels. The male character is usually very stereotypical "macho man" who secretly has feelings but we only touch the surface of them? and he's all protective and kind of treats Kristen like she can't handle herself even though she clearly can? I don't know. It wasn't like he did anything that obviously gave me those impressions, but he just gave me weird vibes and I didn't care much for his character. M/F books aren't usually my thing and the relationship dynamic between Kellan and Kristen is exactly why. There wasn't anything blatantly wrong with it, most M/F romance readers actually usually consider it a great element of a book, it just wasn't my cup of tea.

And I'll be honest, Kellan's demeanor kind of just put me off the entire book. The plot was great and I really liked Kristen, but I just couldn't get past him. It's kind of bothering me that I don't really know how articulate what exactly it was about him that I didn't like but I don't know. I'm usually an M/M reader and I've never had this issue with a gay MC but this is a problem I frequently have with M/F books, which is why I'm usually so selective of which ones I choose to read.

In any case, take this review with a grain of salt. It wasn't my cup of tea but the 4.14 average review on goodreads says that I'm on my own with this one. If you're a fan of the whole macho man sweaty and muscled locker room kind of thing, then this might be right up your alley!!

Reviewed by Jordan at Alpha Book Club.

*Disclaimer: This book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions expressed herein are my own and not influenced by the author or the publisher in any way.*

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## Liv ? says

★4 STARS!★

*ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review*

?That was insane I don't even know what to say right now...

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## Jan says

**5 Buttercup stars.**

**Wow! I couldn't put this down.**

**Hard Stick is not what I expected at all. Yes the main character is a hockey player but the main focus is on Kristen.**

**Kristen is on the run from her crazy, ruthless and powerful ex and with the help of the FBI changes her identity, fakes her own death and starts a new life.**

**Kristen works in a bar where Charlotte strikers hockey team regularly meet up. Kellan has been relentlessly trying to get Kristen to go out with him for a year.**

**With the Faking of Kristen death she decides to stop looking over her shoulder and try and live again.**

**Kellan isn't the stereotype sports star like most of his manwhore team mates, he's the captain of the team and what you would call a sensible and career focused guy.**

**When Kellan finally gets to take Kristen out your pantys melt, he is so damn swoon-worthy and hot, a perfect match for Kristen who has had more than her fair share of heartache.**

**With angst,danger, hotness,heartache,great characters and heartwarming moments, Hard Stick is a perfect rollercoaster contemporary romance read that I couldn't put down.**

**A stand-alone told in dual pov's and leads to a hea.**

**Arc gratefully received by netgalley for review purposes  
<http://www.Bbbf-sizzlereads-bestbookb...>**

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## **Karen Mc says**

When I opened *Hard Stick* by Leslie P. Dover, I expected a hot hockey romance. What I got was so much MORE!!! ***Hard Stick* is not a light hockey romance. It's a story of danger and desire meets strength and survival.** *Hard Stick* is a fast-paced, heart-thrashing thriller meets hockey romance.

Beautiful bartender, Kristen, and hot hockey captain, Kellan, are MAGIC together!!! They have a combustible chemistry that is unstoppable and both are kind souls. I LOVED them! These two characters are connected, perhaps by fate, must battle for love in the ultimate test of strength and survival.

One night was all they had...

"You say this is our only night, but you're fooling yourself. I wasn't the only one who enjoyed that kiss."

But one night was not enough...

"I'm not rushing you, buttercup. I'll go at your pace."

Not when they had to fight for each other...

Time stood still as everything came crashing down.

**An ADRENALINE RUSH of a read, *Hard Stick* is full of twists and turns I didn't see coming. CHILLS** ran through me from a powerful plot that is pure SPINE-TINGLING SUSPENSE. *Hard Stick* is a drug of a movie that played in my head while reading.

**More suspense-thriller than sports romance, *Hard Stick* is a fierce and fast-moving story I chased to the end.** This romance is nail-biting, pulse-pounding pleasure! An EXPLOSION IN WORDS, this edge-of-your-seat adventure is one you must take.

???? **buttercup kisses**

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## **Theresa Alberts says**

Hard Stick by LP Dover is the perfect book if you are looking for suspense and a little action packed in with some hockey...I do love my sports books.

Its too late when Kristen realizes the man that she is involved with isn't who she thought he was. A controlling, obsessed liar, Mitchell makes sure that everything happens the way that he wants it to, no matter what the casualties may be. Her only option is to run with the clothes on her back and change her name until Mitchell is behind bars.

Kellan is the captain of his hockey team and has had his eye on the red headed waitress at Sammy's for a while now. She refuses to go out with him until she finds out about a bet he made with his teammates.

Kristen begins to fall for Kellan and hopes that he doesn't run away when he learns about her past. Will they make it as a couple of will Mitchell and the choices of her past read them apart?

3.75 stars

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## Viollar says

3.5 Stars..

I want to say i enjoyed it so i will just say i enjoyed it.. :-)

If you are a fan of hockey this is not the book for your (don't let the stick on the coverpage fool you)..but if you are me and know nothing about hockey (hey, am East African- ask me about lions and their habitat i will talk your ear off) then this is the book for you.

The book has a twist that revolves around the heroine and her crazy ex that i really enjoyed..i enjoy these types of stories.. the whole damsel in distress yada yada yada..

The whole mafia thing was a bit of an over-kill..

But overall..not bad, not bad at all.

**\*\*\*ARC kindly provided via NetGalley for the exchange of an honest review\*\*\***

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## Treena says

*Thank you to NetGalley for giving me an ARC of this book!*

This is my first book by this author. I requested for an ARC bec sports romances are one of my favorite tropes. But the best thing I can say about the story is that it was bland. Not quite meh. Not bad. Just bland. I finished it but am I keeping it on my Kindle? Nope. Sorry.

1) I think the problem is that there was too much going on but the author didn't really delve deeper into the critical themes/issues that were outlined. Scenes were described in an offhand manner, as if they were narrated in passing ... making them seem as if they weren't important when in fact, these scenes were turning points.

2) I couldn't relate to either of the main characters. Both of them are written without depth. It almost feels as what's written on the blurb is all you'll get to know about them as you don't get insight into their thoughts and feelings. I found it strange. Furthermore, there were too many ICK triggers for me (mainly related to Kristen) that made me dislike her. Like from a personal standpoint, I don't know how Kellan can get past them without being disgusted. Don't want to spoil anything but for me.... UGH. Just no.

3) I'm also disappointed bec I thought this was going to be a hockey themed romance but it is SO not the case. More like a weird mash up of hockey/mafia in a new adult romance. So as a sports fan, there's not enough hockey written in the book to satisfy me.

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## **Logan Hr says**

I really wish that this book came with the warning of very little hockey and a lot more drama than necessary.. in fact it should be a mafia/FBI book! Within 3 chapters your head will spin out of control from all the drama... the time jump was unnecessary and I couldn't feel any connection between the hero and heroine... I'm still trying to figure what I read.. this author sadly is a hit or miss for me yet again

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## **Cocktails and Books says**

This book and I didn't really get along. I think it was because there was a guy with a hockey stick on the cover, but this was more of a romantic suspense book where the guy happened to played hockey. The suspense was good, the romance was OK, but in the back of my mind, I kept waiting for the hockey romance element.

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