



Even the Score

Beth Ehemann

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Single dad Andy Shaw loves his job as a sports agent, with one exception: it doesn't leave him much time for his kids. No parent likes being sidelined, so Andy decides to hire someone to share the workload. But when one of the hottest agents in the industry applies, Andy knows that this deal is definitely trouble.

Danicka Douglas works her butt off, but being an attractive woman in a testosterone-heavy industry isn't exactly a cakewalk. She guards her professional reputation fiercely, which means no crushing on her gorgeous boss. But the more they ignore that sexy little spark, the more it sizzles...

Just when it looks like romance might be in the game plan, Dani is threatened by a stalker with dark intentions. To keep her safe, Andy must cross the line between professional and very personal...because this time, he's playing for keeps.

Even the Score Details

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From Reader Review Even the Score for online ebook

Wendy's Thoughts says

3.5 Learning Not to Keep Score Stars

*** 1/2

This was my first Beth Ehemann book but will not be my last. There was care, humor, smart dialogue and pacing with strong characters.

The idea for a series of a close knit circle of friends through the years is not a new one but it can be a solid way to draw the readers to feel comfortable and want to know about all of characters over time. This was the sense I got from the start.

With our main couple for this book, they had a past knowledge of each other but nothing to warrant concern of inappropriate feeling. Both were in the same field of sports agency and respected by their peers. It took our fella the realization he could not continue at the same pace of non stop work now that he had the responsibility of his two children totally on his shoulders. He made the smart adjustment by bringing in our gal to the agency to lighten his load. This was solely to spend his time with his kids. What happened with these two being together....was the delight of the story.

When people have that special attraction and cannot think of anything else except the one they are attracted to...the giddy...overwhelming excitement is just so special...especially when we are older. This author knew her stuff and portrayed it well. There was fun banter, hot times made hotter by the slow burn... Both characters had concerns of workplace romance and it was worthwhile in showing how difficult it can be as woman in this type of position. There also was a suspenseful element to keep all of the movement happening.

For those who have been readers of this author, I think they will be pleased. For those like me who had not, hopefully you will enjoy it as much as I did.

A gifted copy was provided by Montlake Romance via NetGalley for an honest review.

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BookLover says

ARC requested through Netgalley, and kindly provided by Montlake Romance in exchange for an honest review.

Everyone who has read the **Cranberry Inn** series knows Andy, Brody's best friend. I really liked Andy and hated his wife/ex-wife, almost as much as I liked him. I truly couldn't understand why Andy was with her and when he decided to divorce her, I was thrilled. I was even more thrilled when I learned we were going to get a story for Andy!

Andy felt so much guilt over not getting to spend as much time as he wanted with this children. His solution to bring on help at this agency was a great way for him to find more of a work/life balance and give his

children the time and attention they needed. He had always come off as a sweet and loving guy. His new partner, Danicka Douglas, allowed us to see that there was so much more to Andy than met the eye.

Both had an attraction to one another but didn't act on it because of their working relationship. I truly understood and empathized with Dani's reluctance to get involved with Andy. In that industry, the perception of how a woman could get ahead would be infuriating. I can't blame her for not wanting to spark ugly rumours, especially after her bad experience at her previous job.

This book had a bit of mystery and suspense built in, but at the core, was a sweet slow build of a love story. Beth Ehemann is great at writing sweet romances that are also **HOT**. They make me smile and swoon. Andy and Dani's story, stalker aside, was delightful and entertaining.

“Why are you so good to me?”

I swallowed, unsure how to answer. Pretty sure it was her sleep deprivation talking, I leaned forward and kissed her forehead gently.

“Because whether or not you're ready to admit it, you're my girl.”

I truly enjoyed getting to read Andy's “happily ever after”. **Great read!!!**

Cristina | CristiinaReads says

ARC kindly provided for an honest review given by author and Netgalley

Even The Score is the first book by Beth Ehemann that I have had the privilege to read and review for an honest review, and what a book it is! Even The Score is out for all readers on September 6th!

This book slowly became one of my favorites due to the combination of having a single dad of TWO as the male protagonist, and the equality of gender role jobs coming from the female protagonist. Golly! Beth Ehemann did such an incredible job with their intense love story!

The beginning concludes the basic introductions of each character and their personal lives stories. Both, Andy and Danicka have their separate perspectives in each chapter, and both have individual issues that clash and destroy their capability of being together; including the fraternization that they hit off at work...
wink wink

Andy is the perfect definition of a well-known-dad-of-two-with-a-great-bod-and-amazing-manners for a gentleman. The way he touches Dani that first night at the bar, keeping it professional but at the same time lingering longer than he should, expresses the amount of attraction he has towards Dani. Which shouldn't be a surprise being that Danicka is described beautifully in this story. The ironic part about their chemistry, is that they make you feel like they are two teenagers who just fell in love and are so giddy. It is absolutely so adorable reading it, when in reality they are two business partners who should portray a straight face of sorts, but pop out the full giddiness in them when in private.

As the summary already stated, there is something that hunts Dani and her work place, making her situation dangerous. This is the climax point that kept me on my toes wanting to read more and more! Andy is such a

great and fun father that he makes me jealous of such a criteria. He loves both his kids, Logan and Becca and Beth Ehemann portrays that in this story. His love and compassion he has towards them is thrilling to read.

In general, this story was sweet and romantic. It has its twists and turns for a nice and at the same time, critical book!

Whitney says

5 Brody Murphy, who? stars

If you have been following my reviews on this interwoven series then you know that I have mad love for Brody Murphy. He was the perfect catch in Room for You and my love for him grew with every book Ehemann released. Even Viper, with his crude jokes and tats, couldn't top Brody for my book boyfriend of this series. But now, it's with a not-so-heavy-heart that I tell you that Brody has been replaced by Andy Shaw. ***swoon***

I recommend that you read the first three in the *Cranberry Inn* series and the *Viper's Heart* duo before jumping into this one. It will give you some insight on Andy and you won't have to be worried about getting spoiled for the other books. *You're welcome.*

Andy Shaw is a talented and focused sports agent who manages a lot of famous athletes - like Brody and Viper. With his client listing growing, he finds himself working long hours to the detriment of his kids. Andy is a single dad of two wonderful children. And with a barely there mother, they need him to step up and really be a parent - not just a provider. That's when he decides to hire a partner to help carry the workload. But he doesn't want just anyone, he wants Danicka Douglas.

Dani is growing tired of being a woman in, what feels like, a man's career. Her current employer doesn't seem to take her seriously and wants her to accept a client that has been unprofessional towards her. So when she hears that Andy Shaw is hiring a partner, she applies and hopes that this is the break she has been working towards. Dani and Andy have a bumpy start, but like I mentioned earlier, Andy will stop at nothing to have Dani at his side.

When lines start to blur and a stalker arises, Andy and Dani's professional, *and not so professional*, relationship takes a hit. (Ehemann will blindside you with the twisty turns in this one guys!) Dani can't believe she is letting Andy take care of her. Andy can't believe he is already claiming this woman as his. And the Cranberry Inn gang, and myself, are cheering them on from the sidelines!

I'm telling you guys - this is the best one yet! Highly recommended!

Arianna ♦ *SteamyReadsBlog* ♦ says

3 Stars!!

Beth Ehemann delivered a cute little gem with just a little bit of suspense and drama that I'm sure will appeal to readers who are looking for a sports romance/office romance. Apparently this author's newest release is a spin off from her "Cranberry Inn" series but of course it can be read as a standalone. While this was just an okay read for me I have to say I quite enjoyed the author's writing, so maybe I will read one of her upcoming books in the future.

Andy Shaw worked hard over the years to be one of the best sports agents. He's running his own company, he is successful, he loves his job and the number of clients recently increased. Needless to say he's more than happy his business is doing so great. Andy is the single father of two small children trying very hard to mix his work time with family time. His two kids would love to have his father more at home and Andy is ready to do exactly that by bringing on a partner. Danicka Douglas is the only woman who applies for the position. She is successful, confident and she worked hard to make a name of herself. She needs a fresh start, so she's really looking forward to work for Andy is he decides to hire her. Since Danicka's resume is the best, Andy decides to hire her. He already knew how good looking Danicka is, but he never expected to be so attracted to her. Spending more and more time together the attraction between them grows and grows but both of them are reluctant to get involved in a new relationship for different reasons.

I really wanted to like this one more than I did, but unfortunately it was just an okay for me. I liked the premise because I'm a sucker for office romances so I was really looking forward to read Andy and Danicka's story. In my honest opinion this aspect of the story was just meh. Maybe because I was expected the story to be sexier. Or maybe because the two main characters interacted professionally for too long for my liking. I really don't know...so, sadly the slow burn relationship between them didn't quite work for me. Also, I would have wanted the chemistry between them to be done a little better. I'm not saying I didn't feel any, but I wanted...more. However, I appreciated the fact that wasn't any insta-love/lust between them.

Overall, I liked the two main characters. Both of them were endearing and well developed. I really liked Andy. He was a great human being, a great father to his two children and also a great boss. He was sweet, caring and thoughtful with Danicka as the story progressed and really wonderful with the kids. Danicka was great too. I liked her portrayal. She was smart, strong, independent, but also very stubborn at times. Overall, she was a great heroine.

The suspense aspect of the story was pretty lame. I figured out early as the story progressed who is the stalker. So don't expect too much when it comes to this aspect. Just lower your expectations and you'll enjoy it more I guess. Also, the story was very predictable. So to be honest nothing really wowed me and everything was kind of forgettable.

Overall, just an okay read for me!

Denisa says

2.5 Well, wasn't this boring.

This was one of those forgettable books. The guy was a pretty weak character and unfortunately, the chick didn't compensate too much. Even the plot was pretty long and boring and skimmable. Everything was just so damn predictable!

Annika says

While I was looking forward to reading this book (I'll be eager to read *anything* Beth Ehemann puts out, no matter what), I was also a little wary. I liked Andy well enough in the previous books, he seemed to be a great guy, but he also came across as rather boring and, I'll just say it as it is, a total wuss. The way he let himself be treated by his bitchy (now ex-) wife really put me off.

I'm happy to say, though, that Andy definitely managed to redeem himself in my eyes. He's become your typical Beth Ehemann hero (and considering that I've hopelessly fallen in love with all of her heroes so far, that's a huge compliment coming from me). Andy's a little more on the beta side than Brody and Viper were, but I didn't mind at all. I've always appreciated that Ehemann doesn't feel the need to write her male leads as primitive cavemen but as approachable, authentic guys that will melt your heart with their confidence, self-irony and adorable way with kids. Andy is a gentle soul who still knows how to go after what he wants - the perfect blend if you ask me.

Okay, I'm rambling. I guess I've established clearly now that I really liked Andy.

As for Dani, she was pretty amazing, too. While Andy set himself apart from the previous books' heroes by being a little "softer", Danicka was more confident and feisty than her fellow female leads Kacie and Michelle. I loved how she wouldn't put up with any bullshit but still let herself be vulnerable from time to time.

The story itself was a lot less emotionally charged than I'm used to from this author. It was a rather easy and light read with a little mystery side plot involving a stalker, and while I would have preferred the book to tug on my heartstrings just a little more, it was a welcome reprieve after the heavy book I read just before. I found myself laughing out loud quite a few times, especially when Brody, Viper and Andy (and Justin, maybe a potential future hero?) got together and the latter would have to endure the other guys' bullshitting and teasing.

Viper pinched his eyes shut and grimaced when he realized Logan was sitting right behind me.

"My bad, dude."

Brody strolled up next to Viper, smacking him hard on the back of the neck. "Isn't it usually your bad, moron? What did you do this time?"

"Uh." Viper panicked as he rubbed the back of his neck. "Our friend Andy here was just looking real close, trying to see what brand jean shorts Danicka Douglas was wearing, and I commented on it... loudly."

I just love those guys (and I'm kind of taking back what I said about Viper in my review of *Wild Heart* - I still am enamored with him).

Still, this wasn't a 5 star-read for me, just because I wasn't invested in this story as much as I would have liked. Also, the writing seemed a little off compared to Ehemann's other books: the use of certain phrases was pretty repetitive, and the editor(s) didn't do the best job getting rid of all the typos.

And again, the romance between Andy and Dani was extremely slow-moving, and while I really like slow-burns and didn't mind, I know lots of readers out there do.

Still a one-click-buy author for me, though!

(I know, this review is not my most organized one, so sorry for that. I just wrote down what came to my mind. Maybe I'll try and put it in some semblance of order sometime when I feel like it. Maybe.)

Jo - ***.★Reading Is My Bliss★.*** says

It would be fair to say that Andy has a crazy busy life. He is a very successful businessman, managing some incredibly talented professional sport stars. He is also pretty much solo parenting his two children after his marriage ended.

His ex wife was someone he thought he would be with forever until the money he made got to be more important to her than the people in her life. Andy is a forever kind of guy. When he falls in love with someone, he is all in. It was like that initially for him with Blaire, until it wasn't. This has not changed his views on marriage or relationships, he still believes in the happy ever after.

Dating is not really on the daily spectrum for him. He just has no time for anything other than work and being a father. Actually, those seem to be the correct order of his priorities at the moment. He knows he is letting his kids down by not being more present, they spend more time with their nanny than him. He absolutely adores his children and he knows that he needs to make some huge changes to his time management.

This is where Danicka Douglas comes into his life. Andy appoints her as his new partner in his business. She is very driven, career focused and already has a proven track record with clients. The other bonus about having her working with him is that she is freaking gorgeous. The more time they spend together, Andy begins to see more of her inner beauty as well.

There is definitely a huge amount of attraction between Andy & Danicka and it is something that happens over time, organically if you like. The big question is, is it worth it to risk messing up what they already have together professionally for something more intimate that could just be a fleeting thing? How can Andy convince Danicka that taking the leap with him may be the beginning of something amazing?

I loved that Andy got to share his story. I could not stand his ex-wife when I read the Cranberry Inn series, she was nasty with a capital N. Both he and his kids deserved so much better. Blaire does feature in this story but the good news is that so does Viper & Brody plus a few other sporting hotties ? This story is not all hearts and flowers though, there is a lot of shite that Andy & Danicka have to wade through and they do not get to take an easy path there. There are some nasty people trying to pop their happy bubble but I'm a firm believer in love triumphing over hate!

Every time I read a book written by Beth I am filled with contentment. She writes stories that are a true reflection of what I believe love between two people is all about, it is also a testament to the love she has in her own life with her husband and children. I always feel that channelled through the pages of every story she writes.

Donna ~ The Romance Cover says

Even the Score by Beth Ehemann
3 stars!!

“You moved in for safety and now you're gonna stay for love. Deal?”

This was my first read by Beth Ehemann and it certainly won't be my last. Having since been told that this book is a spin off from The Cranberry Inn series it seems I have my work cut out in catching up with this band of merry men. It was the synopsis that drew me into this book, having worked in sports management for most of my working life I am always intrigued to see if an author gets it right and while sports management is mainly the back drop for this book what I did read rang true.

For me though this book was more a romantic suspense, a genre that I seem to be reading more and more of and it is the suspense element that more than ever seems to keep those pages turning. With this one however, I guessed from the off who the stalker was and while I was beside myself for getting it right, I then had the niggling thought, I never get it right so it must have been obvious. However, this was one swoony romance and who in their right mind can resist a single dad...there is something about them that gets my heart thumping and Andy more than stepped up to the plate.

“...a tear dripped from the corner of my eye and landed on the sleeve of his jacket, slowly rolling toward the floor. That man didn't have an ugly bone in his whole body.”

The world of sports management is a twenty-four-seven job, especially being an agent. Clients pay good money and expect a round the clock service. The more successful Andy got, the more clients came Andy's way, the more and more time he spent at work, which in turn meant less and less time with his kids. Andy was a divorcee who had custody of his young kids and it was something that couldn't continue, the looks in his kid's eyes was destroying him as he let them down time and time again. Andy realises that something has to give and one of his best friends comes up with the idea of him taking on a new agent to spread the load.

“What was I supposed to say...That the tooth fairy had one beer too many and fell asleep watching SportsCenter? It was easier to say she had the weekend off.”

Danicka Douglas was a highly successful and very rare female agent. A woman that made her success through sheer hard work and determination and was actually flourishing in a male dominated job. Her resume was the only one that caught Andy's eye and so she was hired. While the attraction between the two is instant, these two keep their thoughts and feelings to themselves for a long time, but with a chemistry that just got stronger and stronger the more they work with one and another you just knew that they wouldn't be able to keep it to themselves for too long and I was itching for that moment to happen.

“Every day, I find myself wanting to reach out and pull you under my wing, but I know that you'll bolt. Just know that I'm fighting it...hard. Hopefully one day you'll go ahead and tuck yourself in.”

This book was refreshing in so far that Andy wasn't one that had played the field since his divorce. His first priority were his kids and his love life was the furthest thing from his mind. So you knew, that Danicka was something special from the off, she was the first woman that had turned his head and the first woman to make him want to take that first step since his ex-wife.

“I just found your note. I like it under your wing. Go ahead, pull me in.”

These two had their concerns and they were justified, but sometimes you just have to take that leap of faith. You know what your heart feels and wants and what anyone else thinks can go to hell. The slow burn between these was tangible, I felt their connection, their hesitation, their reticence. I understood and I was just pleading with the pages to make them see the wood for the trees. The banter between Danicka and Andy and all the other characters in the book was fantastic and really made this a light hearted read in places which was a great balance to the suspense element.

As I intimated above, there is a stalker who is out for Danicka's blood and this plot line runs throughout the majority of the book. While I guessed who the perpetrator was, being made to wait till the end to see if I was correct was as exciting as it was frustrating. While I guessed, my rationale behind my thoughts was totally different to the one presented and I did think that the reason given was a bit unbelievable.

The kids in this book are adorable and the family unit as a whole was great to read about. The kids were a huge part of this story and their thoughts and feelings always came first and foremost. I really enjoyed this book and as I said above I will definitely be checking out The Cranberry Inn series, it seems I have a lot more books to read.

www.theromancecover.com

Cyndi says

This was good! Andy is a sweetheart and I liked the way their relationship evolved!

Juanita says

This was my first book by this author. Not bad. Absolutely loved Andy!! Danicka is a stubborn woman but I understand her reasons. I need to read the other series connecting to this one (Brody and Viper)

NMmomof4 says

DNF @ 59%

For those of you that know me, you know I am one impatient chick. So the fact that they both only had crushes on each other, but otherwise just have interacted professionally (except *one* night with a few heated kisses that felt kinda out of nowhere tbh) at 59%?!?! Yeah, not for me. I started to want to skim. I knew about the stalker by the blurb, but I felt like there was no hope for any type of relationship soon because they are dealing with the stalker drama. I think I can see where it's going though and can make some predictions (view spoiler). I honestly don't really care at this point to find out if I am right or not.

Other people might like this, as it is a "slow burn" type of romance and some really like that -- but it just

wasn't my cuppa ;)

Christy says

4 'Dandy' Stars!

Andy Shaw... I've been waiting for Andy's book from the moment I met him (and saw him get away from his evil ex-wife) in the first book of the Cranberry Inn series. Andy is everything I love in a hero. He's sweet, sexy, kind, and to top it off- he's a great dad. I'm a sucker for single dad books and this one really hit the spot!

Andy Shaw is a successful sports agent who spends most of his time working. He doesn't want it to be this way- he's got two kids at home who need him, so he decides to do something about it. Andy decides the best way to be home with his kids more is to hire a second agent to partner up with. Andy interviews countless agents, and only one really impresses him. Danicka Douglas.

Dani is a woman in a man's world. Being in sports, she's used to being one of the only women around. What she won't take though, is someone harassing to her. Dani feels forced to leave her current agent job, and luckily enough, Andy Shaw is hiring. Dani and Andy have a bit of a rocky start, but once Dani takes the job, things change.

Andy and Dani have a great connection from the start. Dani is a little head strong and an independent woman, and Andy fully respects that. I loved their dynamic.

“Why are you so good to me?”

... I leaned forward and kissed her forehead gently. “Because whether or not you're ready to admit it, you're my girl.”

?As I've said before, Andy is a single dad and I loved nothing more then to watch him with his kids. What I also really loved was seeing Dani with those kids. They needed a mother type figure so badly and I was so happy to see their relationship. ??

Even the Score is a fun and fantastic work place romance. It's sweet, sexy, and has a good bit of suspense. I have to say, I was a little shocked with who was behind all of the drama... (view spoiler). I really enjoyed listening to the audio book! 4 stars!

Jessica (Angie & Jessica's Dreamy Reads) says

Beth Ehemann is such a smart writer. Her stories are always the perfect blend of humor, romance and authentic dialogue between captivating, relatable characters. I'm bias because I happen to think this author is one of the most refreshing writers around so I went in to *Even the Score* expecting to love it. I was not disappointed.

Andy's story definitely feels a bit different from Brody's and Viper's, so if you're expecting more of the same,

you'll be in for a surprise. The only things similar are the polished writing, the hilarious banter and the delicious romance. Where Brody and Kacie felt light and fun, and Viper and Michelle felt heavier and more emotional, Andy's story falls somewhere in between, with an unexpected suspenseful element thrown in.

Even the Score is angsty and heartwarming, emotional and edgy. The build in this story is painstaking, the slow burn utterly delicious. I'm not sure what I was expecting going into Even the Score but it wasn't this and I so appreciate how Beth Ehemann deviates from the cliché with her characters, instead giving them each their own individual journeys. Brody, Viper and Andy have a friendship that is so solid, so authentic, so true, but they've each had to find their own way, fall in love in ways that felt true to their characters and Beth Ehemann gives that to them and to us in all of their stories. These books don't follow a formula, and these characters feel so real and so individual because of that.

I loved Andy in ways I never did before upon opening this book. I came to love Danika so much even though she had initially felt so separate from the group I already knew and loved. While the romance takes a backseat at times to the dangerous, suspenseful element in this book, I was still completely immersed in this storyline. The twists and turns are wholly expected without making the story feel completely over the top. The humor, the raw emotions, the angst and drama, the edge of your seat uncertainty, the unadulterated romance all culminate to make for a page turner that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Wil Loves Books! says

I listened to the audio book. Christian Fox's voice has become one of my favorites. Anyway, this one is super sweet. Totally in love with Andy and Danicka was a likeable, smart and sassy heroine. I found the stalker storyline to be super predictable. Regardless, I loved this one!
