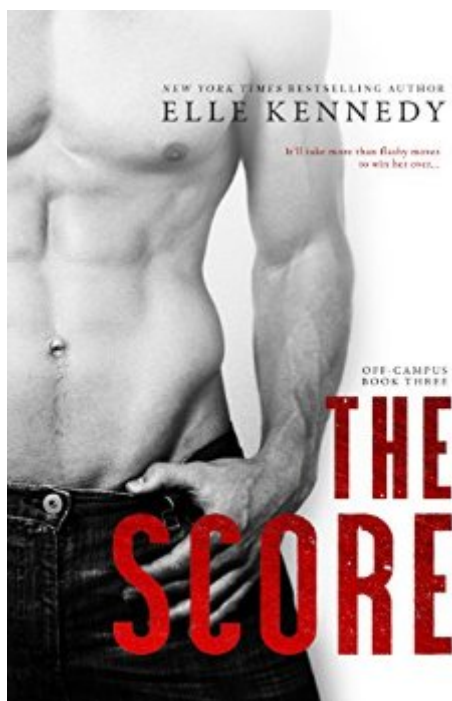


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The Score (Off-Campus Book 3)



Synopsis

New York Times bestseller Elle Kennedy brings you a sexy new Off-Campus novel that can be read as a standalone. He knows how to score, on and off the ice. Allie Hayes is in crisis mode. With graduation looming, she still doesn't have the first clue about what she's going to do after college. To make matters worse, she's nursing a broken heart thanks to the end of her longtime relationship. Wild rebound sex is definitely not the solution to her problems, but gorgeous hockey star Dean Di Laurentis is impossible to resist. Just once, though, because even if her future is uncertain, it sure as heck won't include the king of one-night stands. It'll take more than flashy moves to win her over. Dean always gets what he wants. Girls, grades, girls, recognition, girls. He's a ladies man, all right, and he's yet to meet a woman who's immune to his charms. Until Allie. For one night, the feisty blonde rocked his entire world. And now she wants to be friends? Nope. It's not over until he says it's over. Dean is in full-on pursuit, but when life-rocking changes strike, he starts to wonder if maybe it's time to stop focusing on scoring and shoot for love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I absolutely loved *The Deal* to pieces and I liked *The Mistake* even though I found it was not even half as compelling as the first book. But, I am sad to report that I was so incredibly disappointed with *The Score* I skimmed a good deal of it. The book basically begun with a very graphic threesome between Dean and two random girls. Now, I'm no prude and I love sexy times as much as the next gal but last I checked this was not erotica. In short, the scene was gratuitous as readers of the series already know Dean's promiscuous and readers new to it could suss it out from previous chapters. Aside from gratuitous sex scenes, the book suffers most from one dimensional characters. Dean is a man whore, playboy, rich, entitled and seemingly shallow who sleeps with anyone and everyone and cares only about himself and the pursuit of pleasure. He is this way at the beginning of the series and by the end of his own book he is still the same only supposedly committed. There's no epiphany here, Dean has no issues to work through he had lots of sex because he could, he pretends to be a himbo because he can. There's absolutely no depth or nuance to his character and so I could not connect to him on any level. Allie on the other hand is just as trifling. She's inexperienced enough that having casual sex makes her ashamed and is embarrassed to hear she is vocal in bed but somehow she is so experienced she has no problems indulging in bondage with Dean, bringing sex toys into the mix, having sex in public and talking about indulging in anal play. Her character is a mix of contradictions and so she is also completely unrelatable. Their relationship is as equally baffling as the characters.

Elle Kennedy's *The Deal* was one of my favorite romances from 2015. I loved the progression of the relationship between the two leads and felt that the book handled the issue of past sexual assault really well compared to other books in the genre. Then came *The Mistake*. The romance in this story was not as compelling to me, but I appreciated how the author really put thought and effort into portraying the hero's struggle with familial obligations versus the pursuit of his dreams. Both these previous books in the Off-Campus series depict college relationships and the struggles of emerging adulthood realistically--something that I feel is oftentimes missing in New Adult novels. It is rare for me to find books in the genre relatable (ironic, given that I was a college student less than a year ago and should theoretically be the readership these books are marketed to), which makes my enjoyment of Elle Kennedy's books especially precious. I was counting down the days to its release and finished it in a matter of hours. And it was...kind of meh. The published synopsis really does not properly describe the story, so let me first quickly summarize the key points anyone needs to know: Allie is an aspiring actress who is trying to figure out whether she should aim for a television or a stage career. She recently broke up with her on-again-off-again ex-boyfriend and in her heartbreak,

she cannot even imagine getting into a relationship with anyone else.

For those who have read the previous books in this series, my verdict is that this one is way better than *The Mistake* and not as good as *The Deal*. I liked a lot about this book but I wish the romance had developed a bit differently. Dean and Allie are both appealing characters who reveal a few surprising things about themselves in this book. Dean is unapologetically promiscuous but also entirely non-judgemental about sex and determined not to hurt any girl's feelings. He's much smarter than he appears and never behaves as if he comes from money. Allie enjoys being in a relationship and likes sharing her life with another, but she's also strong and has overcome challenges in her family life. The book clearly shows how they are a good match for each other in many ways. Dean is a sex-god and Allie is a 'nester' as all her friends acknowledge. I feel that the romantic potential of this contrast wasn't fully realised. Dean and Allie have drunken sex just after she breaks up with her long term boyfriend, for not much reason other than that they are in the same house alone. The sex is surprisingly kinky and Dean finds that he wants to repeat the experience, breaking one of his cardinal rules. OK, I could believe that. But I could not believe the fact that he suddenly found himself unable to get it up after that for anyone except Allie. That is such a silly romance novel convention that was not remotely realistic in this situation. Finally Allie agrees to a no-emotional attachment affair, and of course as they spend time together and grow to like each other (and continue to have heaps of awesome sex), they eventually fall in love.

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