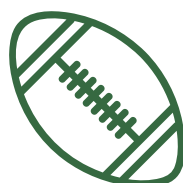
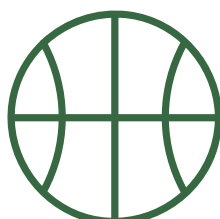
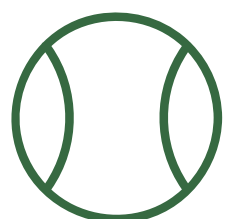
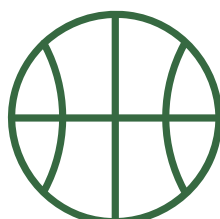
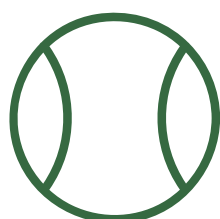
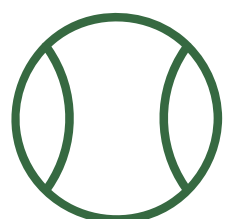
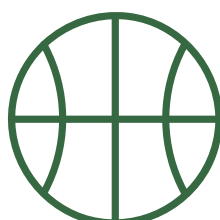
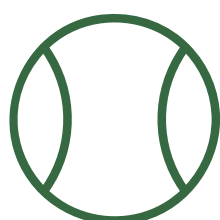
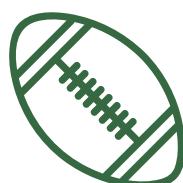
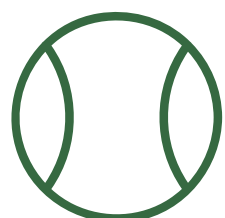
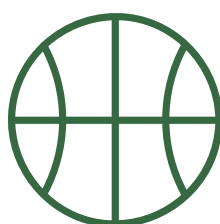
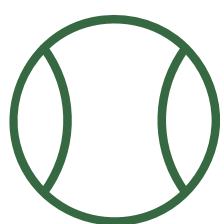
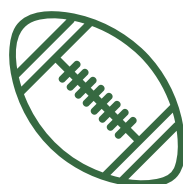
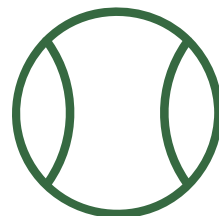


reading list

super sports



children's
books
ireland
every child a reader



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Each review in this guide comes with a suggested age range. These are based on the information provided by the publisher as well as our own judgement of the level for which the language and content is most suitable. In some cases you may see two or more age ranges e.g. 12–14, 15+. In these cases, we feel that the book is suitable for a wider age span. These age ranges are a guide only – it is impossible to accurately predict the correct level for every child. If in doubt, parents/carers and teachers are advised to read the book themselves before deciding whether it is suitable for the child or young person.



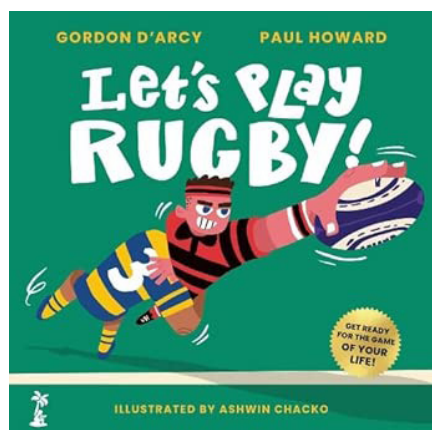
Denotes an Irish author/illustrator/
publisher/údar/maisitheoir/foilsitheoir
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WAI CHIM illustrated by FREDA CHIU
LAST-PLACE LIN

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN 2023 (HBK) 32PP \$19.99 ISBN 9781761067754

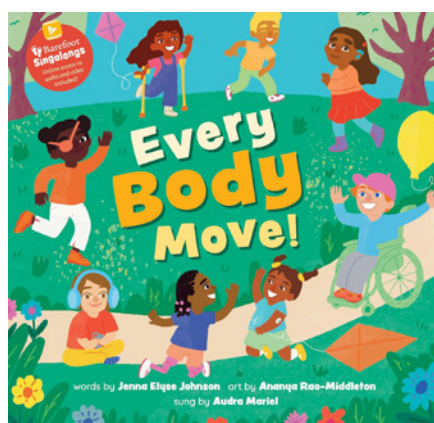
Lin isn't the fastest and experiences some big feelings as she struggles to keep up during sports day. Regardless of this, she overcomes the hurdles and the races with the support of her friends. In each illustration you can feel Lin's emotions as well as her determination to finish the race. *Last-Place Lin* is a heartfelt story reminding readers that even if you are not the best at something, you should be proud of taking part. Sure to become a favourite for anyone who struggles with sports. (Age 2–4, 5–7)



GORDON D'ARCY and PAUL HOWARD
illustrated by ASHWIN CHACKO
LET'S PLAY RUGBY! 🍀

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 32PP €11.99 ISBN 9781915071774

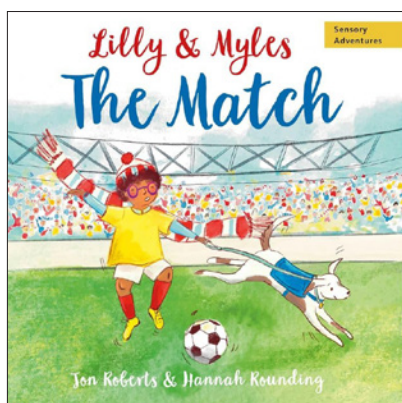
This interactive book encourages readers to get up and move, as the book becomes the rugby ball! Chacko's distinctive style enlivens the illustrations, which are practically bouncing off the page. The words are interwoven throughout the bright artwork, acting as a support to lend the story pace as the reader turns the pages. It all comes together beautifully as the ball (book) spins, is kicked and, at one stage, gets completely lost in a scrum! Most definitely not a suitable choice for a bedtime story! (Age 2–4, 5–7)



JENNA ELYSE JOHNSON
illustrated by ANANYA RAO-MIDDLETON
EVERY BODY MOVE!

BAREFOOT BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9798888596609

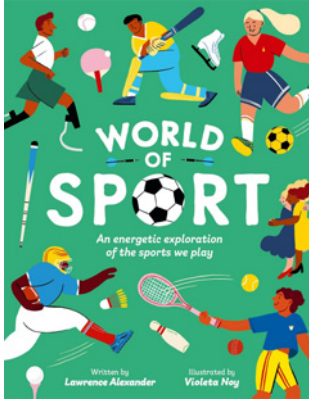
This lively singalong picturebook with warm, rhythmic text encourages children to notice what makes them feel free to move in their own way. The illustrations are bright, energetic and wonderfully inclusive. Children with a range of mobility aids, body types and abilities are shown playing confidently alongside their peers, expressing themselves through dance, sport and outdoor activities. A QR code links to an interactive song and animation creating a full sensory experience, supporting language development and movement exploration. (Age 2–4, 5–7)



JON ROBERTS illustrated by HANNAH ROUNDING
LILLY & MYLES: THE MATCH

GRAFFEG 2025 (PBK) 36PP £8.99 ISBN 9781802589931

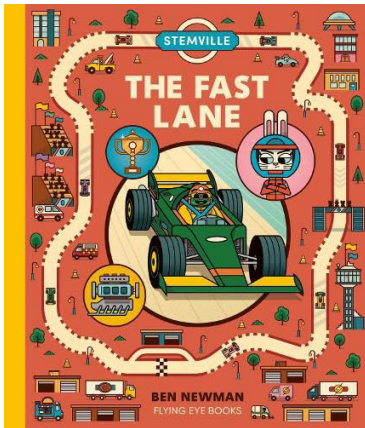
Lilly and her assistance dog Myles are off to the stadium to see their favourite team play in a big match. This is a warm, reassuring and sensitively crafted picturebook that explores both the joy of football and the challenges a young Autistic child may face when navigating an overwhelming environment. The bright colours of the stadium, the movement of the crowds and Myles's reassuring presence are depicted with thoughtful detail. The book's emphasis on inclusivity, understanding and small but meaningful interventions is uplifting, offering both representation and practical reassurance. (Age 5–7)



LAWRENCE ALEXANDER illustrated by VIOLETA NOY
WORLD OF SPORT

TEMPLAR BOOKS 2026 (PBK) 64PP £8.99 ISBN 9781835878651

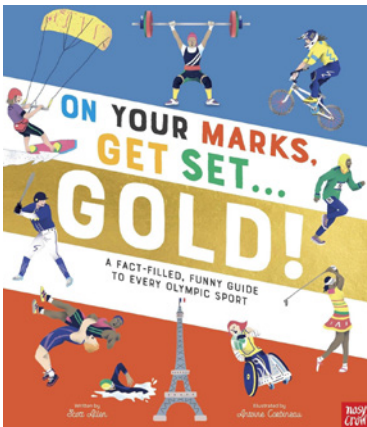
This book is an enjoyable guide to sport taking young readers on a journey exploring over 100 different types of sports. It covers a range of activities, including ball sports, athletics, water sports, and gymnastics. In addition to providing overviews of each sport, this book shines a spotlight on iconic athletes and sports beyond the mainstream. This large book bursts with colour on every page, filled with dynamic illustrations – it might even be the spark that ignites your passion for a new sport. (Non-fiction, Age 5–7, 8–10)



BEN NEWMAN
STEMville: THE FAST LANE

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 48PP £12.99 ISBN 9781913123246

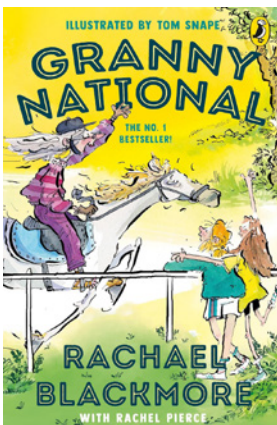
Every year, the town of STEMville is transformed into a Formula 1 racetrack. This story follows the fortunes of Frankie Thunderfoot, a hare, and Wilbur Hardshell, a tortoise, as they compete to earn a place on the finishing podium. The story balances Frankie and Wilbur's rivalry with a sense of fun, never losing sight of the importance of enjoying the journey. The illustrations feature an enormous cast of colourful animals, intricate town maps, detailed racetracks, and a variety of fun facts making this a fantastic introduction to Formula 1. (Age 5–7, 8–10)



SCOTT ALLEN illustrated by ANTOINE CORBINEAU
ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET... GOLD!
A FACT-FILLED, FUNNY GUIDE TO EVERY OLYMPIC SPORT

NOSY CROW 2024 (PBK) 96PP £9.99 ISBN 9781805130727

On Your Marks, Get Set... Gold! is a lively and informative introduction to both Olympic and Paralympic sport. Using humour, dynamic visuals, and fast-paced facts this book makes a wide range of sporting events accessible and exciting. From basketball to boccia to windsurfing, each discipline is given its own space and personality, helping readers appreciate the variety and energy of international competition. Every sport is broken down into simple, engaging sections that explain rules, skills, equipment, and the unique challenges athletes face. An energetic, entertaining read. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12)



RACHAEL BLACKMORE and RACHEL PIERCE
illustrated by TOM SNAPE
GRANNY NATIONAL

PENGUIN SANDYCOVE 2026 (PBK) 320PP €10.99 ISBN 9780241998977

Befitting an author with such an illustrious horse racing career, the plot of *Granny National* hinges on a horse race and the title character's desire to become a jockey – even if just for one day! Cousins Rachael and Tom are looking forward to their stay with Granny and Grandad for the Easter holidays. Along with best friend Frankie and American cousin David, Rachael strives to make her beloved Granny's jockey dreams come true. A fast-paced and entirely relatable tale, *Granny National* is a joy from start to finish. (Age 8–10, 10–12)



TOM PALMER illustrated by **ROBIN BOYDEN**

THE FEAR

BARRINGTON STOKES 2025 (PBK) 72PP £7.99 ISBN 9780008695705

Kian loves to play football with his best mate Azeem. However, when the chance arises to join the local team, Kian is very reluctant. No one knows that Kian is filled with 'the Fear', after a terrible coach robbed him of his footballing confidence. Can he face the pressure of being part of a team and overcome his fears? Sports fan will enjoy this book, but you don't have to be interested in football to relate to this story of self-esteem and resilience highlighting the importance of friendship and teamwork. Palmer's books are unmissable for football fans. (Age 8–10, 10–12)

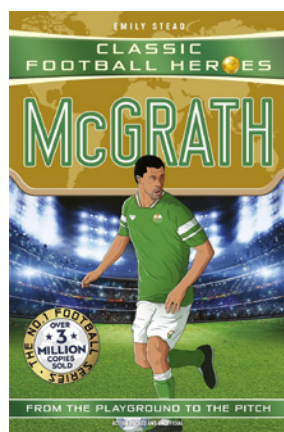


ELLIE ROBINSON

GOLD MEDAL MYSTERIES: RACING FOR REVENGE

SIMON & SCHUSTER 2026 (PBK) 304PP £7.99 ISBN 9781398519343

Hannah, Maria and Seb are attending the Grand Prix in Monaco before travelling on to France to follow the Grand Euro Cycle. Their interest is quickly piqued when a suspicious series of misfortunes befall the Team BB group of cyclists. Fusing Formula 1 and cycling, this is a fast-paced read taking readers on a fun adventure throughout Europe as the trio solve the mystery. The third instalment in the Gold Medal Mysteries series written by Paralympian swimmer Ellie Robinson will appeal to children with an interest in a variety of sports. (Age 8–10, 10–12)

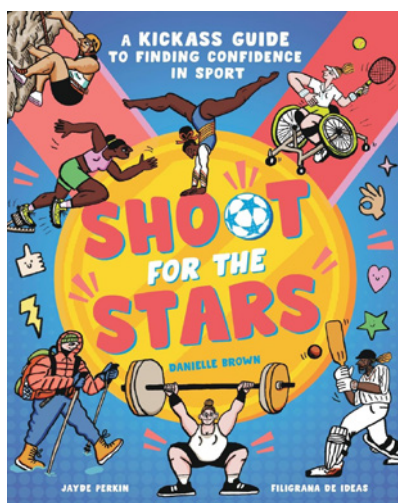


EMILY STEAD

CLASSIC FOOTBALL HEROES: McGRATH

DINO BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 176PP £6.99 ISBN 9781789469165

The popular Football Heroes series has expanded to include legends of the game, and this book focuses on Irish hero Paul McGrath. Written in an easy-to-read style, it follows McGrath through his remarkable football career in the 1980s and 1990s. Packed with facts about McGrath and the footballing world at the time, it offers readers a blend of biography and footballing history. Overall, this is an excellent read for any sports-mad child eager to learn more about Irish football and the history of the beautiful game with plenty of other sporting heroes past and present to explore in this wonderful series. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12)



DANIELLE BROWN illustrated by **JAYDE PERKIN**
and **FILIGRANA DE IDEAS**

SHOOT FOR THE STARS: A KICKASS GUIDE TO FINDING CONFIDENCE IN SPORT

LITTLE TIGER 2025 (PBK) 176PP £12.99 ISBN 9781838916657

Written by Paralympic gold-medallist Danielle Brown, this book spans finding your sport to working on performance mindset, all while introducing the reader to loads of inspiring female athletes. The author's guidance is built on her own experience, and she provides lots of interesting stories about her sporting journey. The illustrations are vibrant, engaging and also wonderfully inclusive. Perfect for girls who are curious about sport, just starting out or already on their way to being future champions. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12, 12–14)

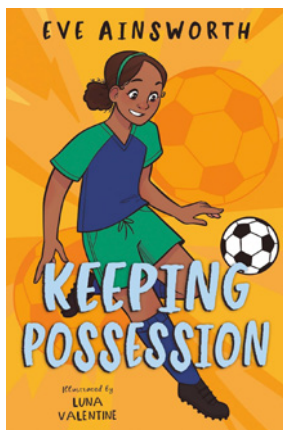


ADRIAN RUSSELL illustrated by GRAHAM CORCORAN

THE BOOK OF IRISH SPORTING HEROES

RED SHED 2023 (HBK) 96PP £22.99 ISBN 9780008646943

This is a beautifully illustrated, highly entertaining, informative book which will appeal to sports fans young and old. It starts with a comprehensive look at soccer in Ireland, before moving onto Gaelic games, delving into the world of Irish rugby, horse-riding, cycling, golf, snooker and onwards to the Olympics. Trailblazer tagged characters pop-up regularly, as do snappy ‘did you know’ boxes which contain fascinating tidbits of information. A book that will be delved into time and time again, there is something for everyone in this highly entertaining book. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12, 12–14)



EVE AINSWORTH illustrated by LUNA VALENTINE

KEEPING POSSESSION

BARRINGTON STOKE 2026 (PBK) 104PP £7.99 ISBN 9780008744717

Passionate about football, Eboni is thrilled when she is selected to play for the best team in her area, the Lightmoor Lionesses. However, Eboni’s move to a rival team sparks disapproval from her old teammates and she soon finds herself isolated at school. For sports fans, from the very first page, Eboni’s matches are narrated with vivid commentary. The balance between the thrilling action on the football field and Eboni’s emotional struggles off it provides a mix of tension and relief that is sure to keep readers engaged. (Age 10–12)



ABENA EYESON

RUNNING MY OWN RACE

NOSY CROW 2025 (PBK) 240PP £7.99 ISBN 9781805133735

When Kofi gets a scholarship to a prestigious school, his dream of being an athlete seems within reach. However, the changing dynamic of old friendships, pressure to excel academically, the expectations of his community, being the only Black working-class student in his year, and a jealous new classmate are just some of the challenges facing him. This is a powerful and uplifting coming-of-age story, filled with richly drawn characters, about surmounting obstacles to follow our dreams while staying true to ourselves. (Age 10–12)



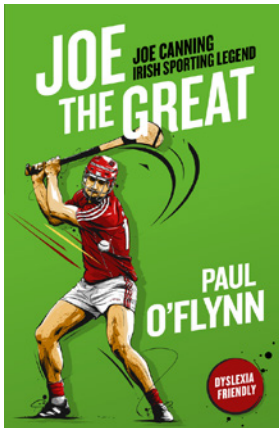
DAVID CAREN

GREAT IRISH SPORTS STARS:

AYEISHA McFERRAN

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2022 (PBK) 192PP €8.99 ISBN 9781788492812

The colossal success of the Irish women’s hockey team is explored in this non-fiction book shining a light on the life and career of Ayeisha McFerran. Olympian, Hockey World Cup Goalkeeper of the Tournament and winner of four All-American Awards, this story covers McFerran’s early years and her path to success as part of the first Irish female hockey team to qualify for the Olympics. This is a breathtaking story of perseverance that will inspire young athletes and part of a fantastic non-fiction series from The O’Brien Press with further sports stars for eager readers to discover. (Non-fiction, Age 10–12)



PAUL O'FLYNN

JOE THE GREAT: JOE CANNING IRISH SPORTS LEGEND

GILL BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 176PP €12.99 ISBN 9780717185832

This compelling and inspirational biography celebrates the life of one of Ireland's most iconic hurlers, Joe Canning. Readers are drawn into Joe's journey, beginning in County Galway, where his love for hurling first took root. The book vividly captures his early promise and the many challenges he faced. Through it all, Joe's resilience and determination shine, making his story not just about sport, but also about character. Energetic, clear and accessible, this book is produced in a dyslexia-friendly format, making it inclusive for all. (Non-fiction, Age 10–12)



EMMA LARKIN

FÉILE: A TWIN POWER ADVENTURE

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 208PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788495301

Gaelic football stars and twins Aoife and Aidan Power are back for another sporting adventure. In this latest instalment, the stakes have been raised as the twins' respective teams have the chance to represent their clubs on the national stage and put their skills to the test against what Ireland – and even New York – has to offer at the Féile competition for the best of the best. Throw in a family mystery and you have the recipe for an exciting read for young sports lovers. (Age 10–12, 12–14)

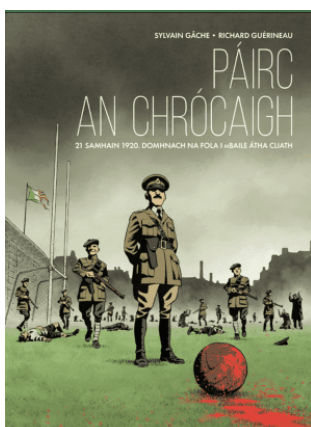


GERARD SIGGINS

BLOWING THE WHISTLE

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 208PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788496094

In *Blowing the Whistle*, readers follow a friend group of four pre-teens as they embark on establishing their own rugby club in a friend's field with nothing more than a dream and a can-do attitude. Sport shows us that we can all achieve greatness through cooperation and inclusion. Perfect for fans of the Rugby Spirit series, apart from a focus on rugby, Siggins's latest book explores themes of friendship, teamwork and environmentalism. Importantly, this book reminds young readers that with a little grit and organisation anything is possible. (Age 10–12, 12–14)



SYLVAIN GÂCHE aistrithe ag ANTAIN Mac LOCHLAINN
maisithe ag RICHARD GUÉRINEAU

PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH

DALEN ÉIREANN 2024 (BOG) 112LCH €15.95 ISBN 9781913573836

Is i gcomhthéacs na conspóide maidir le cluiche rugbaí a imirt agus amhrán náisiúnta na Breataine a bheith seinnte ar thalamh naofa an CLG in 2007 go dtéann an scéal seo siar sa stair go dtí 1920 agus Domhnach na Fola. Is úrscéal grafach é agus éiríonn leis an maisitheoir gluaiseacht nádúrtha a chruthú ó radharc go radharc a chuireann cuma físeáin ar an scéal. Aistriúchán den scoth atá ann le cuma nádúrtha air agus téacs so-léite. (Úrscéal grafach, Aois 12–14, 15+)



ANNEMARIE NUGENT

AN SEOL ATÁ FÚT

CLÓ IAR-CHONNACHT 2025 (BOG) 113LCH €8.00 ISBN 9781784442767

Cuirtear Ríona i bpéire le Mealla Ní Mhearáin i gcampa seoltóireachta agus baineann an bheirt acu an-taitneamh as bheith amuigh ar an bhfarraige le chéile, ach an é an dlúthchairdeas nó an grá atá ag bláthú eatarthu i ndáiríre? Sciobfaidh an leabhar dea-scríofa seo chun seoil thú le híomhánna grianmhara an tsamhraidh agus cur síos álainn ar dhomhain an scéil tríd síos. Is fíor go bhfuil easpa leabhair sa Ghaeilge a théann i ngleic le téamaí LADTA+ go fóill agus is tairiscint álainn é an leabhar áirithe seo le cuid den bhearna sin a líonadh. (Aois 12–14, 15+)



BRITNEY BROUWER

SHE'S A KNOCKOUT

LITTLE TIGER 2026 (PBK) 384PP £9.99 ISBN 9781788958370

Annie is thrown into the limelight when she unexpectedly wins her first ever MMA title fight with a knockout punch. She has mixed emotions about the victory which has happened in the wake of her brother's death, but when she is offered the chance to take part in a high-profile fight and a TV documentary, she takes it. But along with her training regime, Annie must also contend with her feelings for her new sparring partner ... This fast-paced page-turner is a celebration of sport, friendship, love, and grit. (Age 14+)



BRANDON DUMAÏS illustrated by AJ DUNGO

SKATING WILDER

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2026 (PBK) 176PP £16.99 ISBN 9781913123208

Skating Wilder is a non-fiction graphic novel history of skateboarding intertwined with the author's and illustrator's journeys through skate culture. Touching on how skateboarding has reclaimed spaces and built diverse communities, it outlines skateboarding's relationship with surfing, notions of rebellion, music and video games. It positions skateboarding as life-enhancing (and risky) and as empowering those who participate in it. With a bold use of graphic design and illustration, this is a very moving read in many ways, and a celebratory, graphic history of skateboarding. (Non-fiction, Age 15+)



JENNY IRELAND

MATCHED UP

PENGUIN 2025 (PBK) 304PP £8.99 ISBN 9780241720950

Lexie is seventeen and football is her life. When she meets Shane, she is blown away by his talent at football and his good looks. The connection between them is electric, but tension between Shane and Lexie's twin brother forces Lexie to hide her romance. But Lexie's not the only one keeping secrets ... With all the ingredients for a thrilling teen romance novel, Ireland also tackles issues facing teen girls playing sport while trying to navigate school and societal pressures. (Age 15+)

