



Red Zone

Sherri Hayes

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The only thing Rebecca Carson ever wanted to do was join the FBI. Now, that was in danger because of a situation, of which she'd had little control. So when her ex-partner and mentor, Travis Hansen, calls and offers her an opportunity to help him with a job, she jumps at the chance.

Gage Daniels has made a pretty good life for himself. As a professional football player, all he has to do is ask, and most things are made available to him. This includes women. A well timed smile is usually all it takes to attract the opposite sex, especially in Nashville.

When a stalker threatens Gage, the team owner calls an old friend to help protect his star quarterback. Rebecca must work to protect Gage while staving off his advances. The last thing she wants is to be another notch on a hot shot athlete's belt.

Red Zone Details

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Suspense

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From Reader Review Red Zone for online ebook

Chris- Bookaddict says

I received this as a ARC to review ..

Just like the first book it pulled me right in from the beginning and kept me turning the pages till the end . I will say this it seems that Sherri is a little like KA in regards to we had the main characters from the first book in this series in the second one , which I will say was kinda cool.

After a case ended badly for Rebecca Carson, she's losing her mind sitting around her apartment waiting on her superiors to allow her to return to work. Since she was a teenager, the only thing she'd ever wanted was to join the FBI. Now that dream was in danger.

Gage Daniels has made a pretty good life for himself. A nice house. A career he loves. As a professional football player, he's used to getting almost everything he'd ever want with just the snap of his fingers. This includes women. A well-timed smile is usually all it takes to attract the opposite sex, especially in Nashville.

When a stalker threatens Gage, the team owner calls an old friend, Rebecca's ex-partner Travis Hansen, to help protect his star quarterback and find the person responsible. Hansen offers Rebecca the job, and she jumps at the chance. It's work, and it will get her out of her apartment. How bad can it be?

Posing as Gage's girlfriend, however, isn't as easy as it seems. The man is relentless. Rebecca must work to protect Gage while staving off his advances. She's there to do a job, nothing more. The last thing she wants is to be another notch on a hotshot athlete's belt.

As the stalker continues to up the ante, Rebecca finds it harder and harder to keep her distance from Nashville's star quarterback. He isn't what she expected in one of the city's most notorious playboys. Now all she has to do is keep him safe until they can find his stalker, and hope she doesn't lose her heart in the process

Gage , hot , steamy totally Male Football star , build like a brick house Quarterback lol ... He was sweet from the start with his calling Rebecca beautiful . He was not happy at first when he found out that she would be staying in his house and Being his "girlfriend" but once he thought about it he decided to tease her and have fun with the whole thing . He was great throughout the whole book in my honest opinion .

Rebecca FBI agent , on leave due to a case she was on , is asked by her partner to help him out (he is a retired FBI agent , currently a PI) and has a friend who needs someone to protect one of his players . From the start she is all trying to be professional at all times right down to calling Gage Mr. Daniels , which he nips in the butt right away . She is trying her best through 50% of the book to keep things professional and not get involved with Gage . but she fails hahahah

I think the chemistry between the two is great once they get past her trying to be all professional and I love how Gage treated her and worked at her slowly versus full blown going after her when he realized he was interested in her ..

I am hoping their is a book 3 with the story of Megan (rebecca's Sister & Paul Gage's Brother) ---- you will

know why I say this after you read the story .

Karla says

4 Fun, Sexy Stars!!

Enjoy my joint review with Steffi posted at Swept Away By Romance

What worked

Karla:

An enjoyable, well done plot; it was fairly believable (I'll address that comment in the next category), and although the stalker was fairly easy to figure out, it was still suspenseful!!

I enjoyed seeing the tables turned, Rebecca was the protector and Gage was the one being stalked. Girl power!

Gage and Rebecca falling for each other. I could see it happening and loved how the author gave us the slow build-up, as opposed to jumping to the hot and heavy.

The family element that was brought in for both main characters. Megan, Rebecca's sister, was introduced, and we meet Gage's family at Thanksgiving.

Steffi:

I loved the dynamic between Gage and Rebecca, Gage's friends and his family in particular. *Red Zone* has a very strong cast of secondary characters that turn a sweet and sexy sports-romance into a series by a talented author you don't want to miss out on.

Also, while *Red Zone* is a sports-romance, it does not concentrate on fame and fortune but Sherri Hayes managed to write a believable and real hero who is approachable and lovable as well as uber hot!

This doesn't pertain to the story directly but I really liked that *Red Zone* can easily be read as a stand-alone. I am going to go back and read the first book but it is not necessary to have any background info to understand *Red Zone*. Sherri Hayes managed this very nicely without repeating parts of the story to bring the reader up to speed on what had happened in *Behind Closed Doors*. This might sound unimportant but not many authors manage that and I always appreciate it when they do.

What didn't work

Karla:

No epilogue! Especially the way the book ended, it could have used one, and I really needed it.

I had a little trouble believing that an FBI agent on leave would be permitted to work another case, even if it was through a PI agency, and it was something that was always hovering in the back of my mind.

It has nothing to do with the story, but I just didn't understand the title of the book in relation to...anything! I kept thinking somewhere we were going to find out what the *Red Zone* was, but unless I missed it, the title made no sense. Honestly though, it's just an issue for me.

Steffi:

The ending in general was a bit of a let-down for me. I thought the very strong suspense plot took a turn into the slightly ridiculous and unbelievable. I struggled fitting the actions of Gage's stalker to the reasons the

'bad guy' states when he is revealed at the end of the book.

At the same time, 90% of the book were so strong, sweet, sexy and funny, the ending only made a small dent in my overall enjoyment of the book.

Best scenes

Karla:

They go for Thanksgiving at Gage's parent's house, and at this point Gage and Rebecca realize there is something more going on between them, than an FBI agent protecting her charge. She has to pretend to be his girlfriend, a role she had trouble with initially, but then starts to contemplate giving in to her desires. She's introduced to the family and someone says what Rebecca's been thinking all along. In an awkward moment that follows, one of Gage's brothers stammers out that he thought Megan was the girlfriend; in other words, they don't even think Rebecca is his type, something she keeps telling Gage. *cringe* Boy, did I feel bad for her.

There is a scene towards the end of the book, where Rebecca has a decision to make, does she take a shot at a relationship or walk away. Wow, her reaction to Gage was powerful, no words were spoken, but her actions said it all. Very emotional, sensual and the chemistry between them is undeniable. Once was not enough for me, I kept reading it over and over!!

Steffi:

By far, my favorite scene was Thanksgiving with the Daniels Brothers. While I enjoyed all the scenes with Rebecca and Gage, the book made it into my favorites because of the Daniels Family. It was funny, heart-warming and absolutely lovely to read about Gabe, his family and see the cracks in Rebecca's armor becoming bigger the more time she spent with the Daniels. I can't wait for Paul's story and I already have a preferred love interest chosen for him.

Favorite characters

Karla:

Gage: Of course! He was a good man, even though he's known as a player. On top of that, he came in a very appealing package, lot of sexy, hot goodness!

Rebecca: My heart went out to her; you knew there was a story from her past that she was holding back from Gage, which made her sensitive to having a relationship.

Megan: She was fun, quirky, energetic, and I'm sure she's going to have a book, so that will be fun to read.

Steffi:

Usually, it's easy to choose a favorite character but in this case I loved each and every one of them. Gage's friends are hilarious, his family even more so and Gage and Rebecca a perfect fit. I also loved the interactions with Rebecca's sister Megan and hope to see more of her in future books...*wink*

Overall Thoughts

Karla:

I couldn't put it down!! From the beginning to the end, it owned me! While the story itself might have had a few glitches, the writing is very good! I regret not reading the first book in the series, which I will do very soon, I hate reading out of order, but I don't feel like I missed anything by not reading the first book.

I really enjoyed that the brothers came from all walks of life, so we get something different from each of them, Gage is a football player, Trent is a landscaper, Paul is a cop, and Chris is in construction, a nice mix and basically, just ordinary guys. I'm curious to read all about them as the series moves on.

The writing is sensual and passionate, and the sex is driven by emotions, which you as the reader feel along with the characters. It was descriptive when it needed to be, but many times it's left to the imagination,

which was nice as the story wasn't bogged down with sex scenes. I love her subtle humor and the way she sets us up for next book in the series.

Sherri Hayes, is now on my radar!! Not only will I be reading *Behind Closed Doors* (*Daniels Brothers, Book #1*), I will follow the series to the end. I'll also be seeking out other books by this talented author, which brings me to one last issue. The author writes a good book, but I don't feel that an ebook of hers warrants a price of \$9.99. I was fortunate to get an ARC of the book, so for me the cost was nothing. So, I'm going out on a limb here and this is for the publisher, not the author. Lower the price of the book! \$4.99 would be an acceptable price and fair. At the current price you are going to be hard pressed to draw readers. I don't know the logistics of it, or what goes into promoting and distributing a book, but there are plenty of books out there with a more appealing price, and the writing is just as good, so I imagine it's possible. Let the readers experience Sherrie Hayes, lower the price and they will come. **This is just this reader's opinion and in no way the opinion of the blog.**

Other than that, I say well done Sherri Hayes! **4 Stars!**

Steffi:

Without a doubt, Red Zone was a success for me on all fronts. Yes, the ending was a little disappointing and the suspense plot while starting out strong fell flat for me towards the end but if asked about Red Zone as a recommendation, I would tell you that it is a funny and sexy sports-romance with believable and likable characters that will draw you into their world no matter how hard you try to resist. There is great chemistry between Rebecca and Gage and a sweet romance that develops over time and doesn't explode on the first page. Next on my list is *Behind Closed Doors*, the first book in the series, and I am looking forward to more from this great author! **4 Stars!**

ARC courtesy of The Writer's Coffee Shop Publishing House in exchange for an honest review

Jenn Scranton says

Darn you GoodReads! When will you add the 1/2 star!

Red Zone falls right in between a 3 star and a 4 star. It was good, but it just wasn't quite *there*. Often times, it reminded me of a Rachel Gibson novel, which is a good thing!

Awkward sexual tension with a person that you should NOT be sexual with... and then there's sharing living quarters with said person... I LOVE IT.

I love that name Gage.... Just saying.

He really had a lot of layers. Which is funny because Rebecca pretty much had 3 modes. Professional, lustful, and terrified. Gage was patient, compassionate, fun and flirty. And since he is a professional football player and a total figment of my book-loving imagination, he is also a total stud!

Though at first I was a little puzzled by him... I mean come on a stylist? What straight man has a stylist... I was cautious at first...

But it all worked out!!!

Hottest moment for me was the scene in the laundry room at his parents house. Let me explain, because for those who didn't read it yet, there is no actual sex there. But it was written really well and it took me back to those days of teenager-hood when we would sneak around in my now husband's parents house... Ah, the good ol' days... heheh

Gage's best trait... HE TRIES! That's how you can tell he was made up by a woman, haha! A very hungry one at that. There was a lot of food mentioned in Red Zone. Mainly eggs. But my favorite part of the whole book: When he called his mom to help him prepare a nice meal for Rebecca even if she wasn't ready to return to a relationship with him... Man who loves his momma, BONUS POINTS!

"She was beginning to think being in his arms was one of the best places in the world"

** Provided graciously by NetGalley for an honest review **

Kellie Maddox-Ward says

THE STORY

Gage Daniels is a star Quarterback.
He leads a great life.
He's great at what he does
The ladies love him.
Unfortunately, someone loves him too much.
He has a stalker.
It started out harmless...
It is now turned serious...

Rebecca Carson is an FBI agent on administrative leave, after her last case went bad.
She loves being an Agent.
It's what she is good at with the great ability to turn off her emotions to get the job done.
The only person she loves is her sister Megan. She has seen love rip her sister apart time and time again. Just like it did her parents.
She likes being alone.

When retired FBI Agent Hansen gets a call from the owner of the professional football team in Nashville (*for the life of me I can't remember what it's called or find it!*) about Gabe's stalker.
He thinks that his ex-partner Rebecca would be perfect for the role.

She can act like his bodyguard while pretending to be his girlfriend. She's ridiculously stubborn so will be a perfect fit for Gabe.

Gabe is not happy about this.
He doesn't need a bodyguard.
Sure she's hot under that stuffy suit, and he can see himself sleeping with her.
He doesn't have girlfriends.
He doesn't have women come to his house.
He definitely doesn't have women live with him.
He especially doesn't have stuck up prudish women. She is not his type at all.

As payback he thinks it will be fun to play with her.

First thing is to call his stylist and have her look like his girlfriend would.
No more stuffy suits.
Then to try and be out in public with her, as much as possible. If he's in public he can kiss and touch her and she isn't able to cause him bodily harm like she does when he touches her in private.

She is starting to get under his skin.
He wants her, but she keeps shutting him down.
Every time he breaks a small part of her wall down, something happens and it goes back up.

He realises he wants her... more than he has ever wanted everything. He is not used to being told No.
He totally accept the challenge.

Rebecca finds Gabe very attractive but she is a professional and he is just a job.
His cocky attitude, to die for smile and subtle and not so subtle flirting are starting to get to her. Especially after Thanksgiving with his family.

How much longer can he stay just a job? She is supposed to protect him. Not sleep with him.

There is someone trying to hurt him after all. What if the person who gets hurt is her?

MY HONEST OPINION

Great!

This is the second book. The first was Elizabeth and Chris. Behind Closed Doors.
I haven't read the first, didn't know that there was one when I sent the request to NetGalley. Yep you caught me. I saw the hot footballer on the front and just went **YEP** I want that one!
So we do see Chris and Elizabeth again at thanksgiving and catch up on their life since we saw them last. We also meet the rest of the family.

Although a second book, basically a stand alone. I didn't have any trouble with it.

The steam in this book was HAWWTT. Gage was HAAWWTT. Rebecca in true heroine style annoyed me, until the author convinced me to like her.

The drama and suspense were good. I did figure out who the stalker was early in the book though just was unsure why. All in revealed at the end of the book.

The secondary characters were a good addition. Especially Megan, Rebecca's sister. Now that she has gone

to live with Gage's brother as a Nanny, I assume she/they are in another book?

His brothers had a good relationship with each other and of course doted on their "Ma" so they won my heart!

All in all it was a good little romance. Some reference to football, romance, steamy sex, stalkers, suspense, drama, comedic relief.

I think I will read the others, or definitely try something else from this Author.

ARC provided by NetGalley and Smith Publicity in exchange for an honest review

Ellelou says

3.5 Stars

Gage Daniels is a pro football player, good looking, with a reputation of a ladies man. He's been receiving letters from a stalker and the owner of his club felt the need to call a favour from one of his old friends Travis Hansen, a retired FBI agent, who incidentally used to be Rebecca's ex-partner.

Rebecca Carson is a straight laced FBI agent, single and devoted to her job. She's been on leave from her job after her last assignment went wrong. Not used to hanging around and doing nothing, she's bored to death and jumps at the offer to go and give Travis a hand.

There is more than just anonymous letters and the situation is more serious than Gage thinks, but he is kept in the dark, the reason being that the owner of the club doesn't want him to get stressed because that would have an impact on his performance at the games.

So the natural solution is for Rebecca to move in with Gage and pretend to be his girlfriend. She has already read his file and combined with her preconceived ideas about the football players she's quite wary of him, not that she's looking for a relationship.

Relationships are a strange notion when it comes to Rebecca. From her waking hours, to fitness running, her wardrobe, all are planned in minute detail. Everything is controlled and precise in her life, there is no spontaneity. She feels that by doing so she can have some control and therefore stability, not a surprise when considering her background.

Gage is confident, with somehow on a cocky side attitude. He isn't impressed with Rebecca moving in with him, he's used to living on his own and regardless of his various encounters with ladies he never had brought one at his place. In fact he hasn't had a girlfriend since high school.

He finds Rebecca attractive but most of all a challenge. He's used to the girls throwing themselves at him but this Special Agent not only is not falling for his charm but she is in charge of looking after him and protecting him. That doesn't bode well with a man's ego.

She is so different from his usual type, she's pretty and has a good figure but hides it all under unflattering clothes. She thinks her wardrobe is practical (well a FBI girl has to hide her gun somewhere) and professional, after all she's here on a job and not to party, not that she's done much of that lately.

Both are attracted to each other and each deals with it in different ways, it just makes for embarrassing moments and an entertaining story...and so the fun begins.

The story was told by both POV. I must admit I liked Gage's POV better than Rebecca's, he was fun and I really liked the way he started to chip off her hard exterior and not be afraid of his feelings.

Her excuses and reasoning for not being with Gage were grating on me a bit, at first it was understandable but later it just got annoying. She did get to know him better after spending so much time together and she gets the chance to see him in a different light. She appreciates that he's a hard worker and loyal to his friends and family.

The sexual tension did build up nicely, all thanks to Gage and I'm not talking just about his gorgeous physique here. He used every single opportunity to get close to her and rattle her cage with innuendos.

But despite the hot scenes and the build up before them there was something missing, what exactly I dunno...

I think the pace of the book picked up when her sister Megan arrived. That brought some more life and changed the dynamics and that's when the story started flowing for me.

As per the *whodunit*, that was predictable quite early but I was still interested enough to see what the stalker would do next and how would be caught.

I thought the ending was a bit abrupt. I really would have liked to see these two interacting now that the feelings were out in the open.

Overall it was an enjoyable read.

ARC copy provided by The Writer's Coffee Shop Publishing House via NetGalley

Pamela says

The Hero, a professional football player, is being stalked and management of his team insists that he have a full time bodyguard until the stalker is identified.

The Heroine, a FBI agent on administrative leave, is bored out of her mind, so she agrees to help her ex-partner (now PI) by posing as the Hero's girlfriend and protecting him against the stalker.

The interaction between the H/h is somewhat in the theme of Alpha male meets strong, independent professional woman. But something was lacking for me. The sexual tension was there, but wasn't as strong as it could have been.

The stalking intensifies and the investigation become interesting, but once again, there is a certain lack of tension. It was as though the characters were just going through the motions.

This book was well written and well edited. The plot and characters were enjoyable, but not extraordinary. I can recommend this book if you want an uncomplicated, enjoyable weekend read.

ARC obtained on Netgalley.

Sarah says

Professional footballer Gage Daniels has a bit of a reputation as a ladies man, he works hard but plays hard too and when beautiful women are constantly throwing themselves at him he isn't about to say no. He has had a stalker for months but he never really thought much of it until they changed the game plan and started acting on their threats. Now his football team owner has decided enough is enough and has hired a PI to protect Gage and track down the stalker. Rebecca is an FBI Agent but after her last case ended badly she has been signed off work. Sitting around at home is driving her insane so when her ex-partner asks for help tracking down Gage's stalker she is grateful for something to do. What she didn't realise was that her cover would be posing as Gage's girlfriend and she isn't prepared for the emotions that brings out in her. Gage is the kind of guy who is used to getting what he wants and it doesn't take him long to set his sights on Rebecca. Rebecca is determined to keep a professional distance between them but when they have to pretend to be a couple in public it doesn't take long before the lines start to blur. Can they track down the stalker before one of them loses their heart?

Gage is the youngest of the Daniels brothers and I liked him immediately when we met him in *Behind Closed Doors*. He loves playing football and works hard to be the best at what he does, he is also a great looking guy so it is no surprise that he can have pretty much any woman he wants. Gage is definitely cocky, he knows how good he is and isn't about to hide that, but he isn't arrogant with it so I loved him. He is the kind of guy that gives 100% to whatever he is doing whether that is working, having fun or his new favourite pastime - toying with his uptight new FBI bodyguard! Rebecca couldn't be more different to Gage if she tried, she is tense and scared to let anyone close to her and the last thing she wants is to become another in a long line of women that Gage has taken to bed. It doesn't take long for her feelings towards him to change though, he infuriates her and pushes her buttons but she can't deny how attracted she is to him. She thinks that it might be best to have a fling with him and get it out of her system but Gage isn't going to be quite so easy to shake off. Once he has seen inside the barriers that Rebecca uses to keep the world out Gage knows he can't let her go.

The couple have great chemistry and I loved watching Gage work his way under Rebecca's skin. He certainly knows what he wants and isn't afraid to fight for it but Rebecca isn't going to be one of his usual easy conquests. It takes a lot of effort to knock down her barriers and Rebecca is doing her best to constantly rebuild them but that just makes Gage all the more determined. I have to admit I found myself getting a little irritated with Rebecca at times, I couldn't understand why she was trying so hard to keep Gage at a distance and I was almost shouting at her to just relax a bit and see where things could take them. I think because we didn't have a great deal of information about what had gone wrong on her last case or about her family history it was hard to see why she kept herself so tightly locked up but once we started to find out a little more about her background it was easier to understand where she was coming from.

I loved getting the chance to catch up with Chris and Elizabeth and see how they are doing now, the story

picks up straight after their book ends and spans a period of several months so things have moved forward a little for the couple. I do think you could probably read this as a stand alone without giving away too much about the first book (after all what romance do you know of where the couple don't get together in the end?) but I would recommend reading the books in order just because of how great it is to get to know the entire Daniels family. In Red Zone we get to spend thanksgiving with the entire Daniels clan which was something I really enjoyed, I just love the banter between the brothers and the way they all have each others backs. I'm excited to read Paul and Trent's stories in the future, especially since I'm pretty sure we've already met the woman who is going to steal Paul's heart!

I enjoyed the mystery of who was Gage's stalker and trying to figure out what their reasons were. I have to admit I'd guessed who was behind everything fairly early on but I still didn't understand what they were trying to achieve or why they were doing it. Although both of the books in this series have had mysteries going on in the background I'd say that these books are much more about the romance and the mystery comes second, that isn't a bad thing but it is nice to know upfront where the focus lies. Red Zone is another great instalment to this series and has helped cement Sherri Hayes' place on my favourite authors list. If you enjoy romance with a darker feel to it then I'd definitely recommend her Finding Anna series but anyone who likes a sweet, sexy, contemporary romance will love the Daniels brothers.

Kim says

Hot Football Star meets FBI Agent!

Gage Daniels...Pro football Quarterback. Hot. Sexy. Charming. Cocky. Confident. Ladies Man. Unhappy about being an Underwear Model.

Rebecca Carson...FBI agent. Buttoned up. Closed off. Scared of commitment. *Miss "I Can't Let Loose for 5 Minutes."*

He'd never met someone who was so buttoned up. Yet, sometimes, when he'd push her just a little too far, he'd see a fire in her eyes. He wanted to tap that fire.

For some reason, Daniels seemed to push her buttons. When he was around her brain did not want to work right.

Gage is being stalked by someone with threatening and notes and pictures. Rebecca is on administrative leave from the FBI after a bad case. So her ex partner asks her to go pretend to be Gage's girlfriend in order to protect him while they try to solve the case.

What begins as an uneasy alliance turns into more. Gage can see past her armor and pushes her beyond her limits. She fights the whole way, but their budding relationship is fun to watch. Their chemistry is hot! She thinks she can just use him for sex. She does not realize he is not going to settle for that. Gage becomes so sweet and endearing that you cannot help but root for him to win this game.

Rebecca, whatever it is between us...this doesn't happen everyday. Hell, sometimes it doesn't happen in a lifetime. I'm sorry it scares you.

The mystery of the stalker and danger continues as they struggle to find their way. It was hard to see Gage

have to fight so hard to win her heart, not scare her off, and worry about both of their safety. The stalker story comes to an exciting finish. I really enjoyed this book. It was an easy read with great characters.

Even though this can be read as a stand alone, this is the 2nd in the Daniels Brothers series and the couple from Behind Closed Doors makes an appearance at Thanksgiving. It also opens up the story for Rebecca's sister Megan and Gage's brother Paul. I liked both of their characters and am interested in seeing more of their story.

Thank you to netgalley and The Writer's Coffee Shop Publishing House for a chance to read and review this book. Release Date is February 7, 2013.

Angela Carr (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

Review also posted at Under The Covers Book Blog

Ms. Hayes knocked this out the ballpark and beyond my expectations.” ~Under the Covers

Red Zone is the second installment of the Daniels Brothers series and it's even better than the first. It is without a doubt more suspenseful, the romance is stronger, definitely hotter, and the mystery kept me guessing. Ms. Hayes knocked this out the ballpark and beyond my expectations.

Second brother to the Daniel Brother series, Gage is the long awaited, bro, the football player of the family. If you read Behind Closed Doors, at the end of the book, Gage received a mystery mail. Well, Red Zone takes place shortly after that. Gage has earned himself a stalker that has become out of control. Of course, the team owner hires Rebecca Carson who is an FBI agent on an administrative leave to protect him. And the good part is that she has to pose as his girlfriend while protecting him. Ah, yes. Can you already imagine the tension they will have?

Off the bat, Gage and Rebecca are hot for each other and I love their chemistry. As soon as they meet, you feel their attraction for each other. But due to circumstances, Rebecca attempts to avoid any relations with Gage. Obviously, she's trying to do her job and I can totally respect that. The only thing is her game of tug-a-war annoyed me at times. Her inner battle to ward off Gage just wasn't working. I mean, how can you refuse a hot, rich, jock that is clearly crazy for you? I sure wouldn't put up a fight...in my fantasy world. Oh man, I can't believe I'm saying this because I loved Chris and I have a thing for Trent. But hot damn, Gage is adorably sexy. Let me tell you, this book gave me a different perspective on the football players.

We got to see a bit of Chris and Elizabeth, Trent, Momma and Papa Daniels which was a fun scene. I swear they are the all-American family. We also got a good amount of Paul who I believe will be the next hero of this series. I thought Ms. Hayes, did a great job setting his character up and getting the readers ready for him.

Anyone who enjoys a good Contemporary, Romantic Suspense with a hot Jock Genre, this is the book for you. Ms. Hayes' Finding Anna is also a great read for the ones who crave a darker story line.

*ARC provided by publisher

? BookAddict La Crimson Femme says

What do does a FBI agent and a star quarterback have in common? Nothing. Yet sparks fly when Agent Rebecca Carson is assigned to protect Gage Daniels. This is a very sweet romantic suspense which will have romantic readers smiling while reading the book. It is very enjoyable and the characters are definitely engaging. Definitely a 3.5 star book!

Rebecca is a reserved and by the book woman. Her childhood shaped her to be the relationship adverse woman she is today. Gage is a cocky party guy from a huge loving family. With such different backgrounds, it's amazing they can even relate and have a baseline to understand each other. Ms. Hayes does a great job of blending these diverse backgrounds to allow for a romance to build and bubble over. Gage is definitely good for Rebecca.

This story is a feel good book where love does conquer over all. The characters were all lovable and I'd want to read more about them. This story style is reminiscent of a Nora Roberts romance which I absolutely adore. The romantic suspense part of it was believable for the most part. The villain revealed at the end was not a huge surprise. Ms. Hayes did an excellent job of building it up and providing a good resolution.

There were a few items which made me question the story. As long as I ignored those, I was okay with the story. The first one was Rebecca working on the case while she was placed on a leave of absences. I'm not sure on the FBI policies, but this seems to be very odd to me and I can't believe a FBI agent forced to go on a leave of absence would be allowed to moonlight for a private firm. The second oddity was Rebecca's response when she was with Gage. I would have thought to keep consistency while being undercover, Rebecca would continue to practice being a Gage's girlfriend even when in his home. Otherwise, she's slip up to easily and call him Mr. Daniels when they were out and about. The last item which threw me was Megan showing up at a bus stop but then Rebecca mentioned having picked her up at the airport. This discrepancy did throw me a little which caused me to flip back several pages and double check. This took me out of the story a little. Other than these oddities, the story flowed really well. It was a smooth easy read in one sitting. I recommend this book to all romantic suspense lovers.

** this book was provided by Net Galley**

Michele Realitybitesblog says

4.5 Heart Review

After reading Behind Closed Doors (Daniels Brothers), I was in love with the Daniels brothers and couldn't wait to read Gage's story. Sherri did not disappoint!

Hot shot quarterback Gage Daniels doesn't have to want for anything. Money.....got it. Women.....has em'. Family.....yep. Sexy body.....HELL YEAH!! But he does have one big problem. A psycho stalker is on his tail and he has no idea who or why.

Suspended after a bad case, FBI Agent Rebecca Carson is going out of her mind at home doing nothing. When her ex-partner calls her for help, she doesn't hesitate.....no questions asked.

She should have asked lots of questions!

Rebecca's get-out-of-boredom job is being 'bodyguard' to the hot and sexy Gage, while posing as his girlfriend. Problem is....Gage doesn't do girlfriends and convincing the guys on the team he's turned a new leaf poses lots of challenges. Not to mention that Rebecca is about as tight as they come, wearing suits and her hair pull up tight daily. Who it the hell would think she would be Gage's girlfriend??

Adding a layer on to this pile of fun, the fact that the owner of the team doesn't want any of this getting out and they have to be super careful....what could go wrong??

My Thoughts:

From the very beginning of the book, I was completely hooked. I read this book in 2 days and only stopped the first because it was 1am and I have little ones who like to get up at 5! There is action, suspense and romance all woven together in an awesomely written story.

There is more than meets the eye with Gage. Yes, he's hot and an amazing athlete, but what I loved seeing were his vulnerabilities. Those are what pulled me in. How he is before a game. His feelings about Rebecca. Those are the wonders of Gage!

I'm not gonna lie. There were times where I wanted to slap Rebecca and knock some sense into her! She drove me crazy always pulling inside herself and thinking way to much! When she didn't think, it was so hot!

The pull between these characters is fun to read. Gage's confidence....Rebecca's resistance add so much to the dynamic of this book!

I also loved the mystery of who the stalker is and the lengths this person will go to; to achieve their goal. It kept me wanting more!

This is a definite read for all romance fans who are looking for that Happily Ever After!!!!!!

**ARC provided by author for honest review

Sunny says

Red Zone is Book 2 in the Daniel Brothers series by Sherri Hayes. This story is a step above most sports romances. It is a cross-genre book where it appeals to both sports romance readers as well as romantic suspense. I enjoyed the build up of the suspense and particularly liked the evolution of the relationship.

The critique I have for this book is the same one I have for most sports-related stories:

1. Is it relevant that the character is a professional athlete? If the main characters was in a different profession, would it significantly change the story? For this story? Yes and no. It is relevant that Gage is a public figure, but not so much that he is a football star.
2. Does it address any sports-related issues? Stalkers and stardom
3. Are there good scenes of the game being played? This book needed more Game Day coverage. I prefer it when authors not talk *about* the game, but rather get us into the game.

As mentioned above, Ms. Hayes really hits her stride with the developing attraction between Rebecca and Gage. In this area, this book is a winner. I like how Rebecca keeps holding herself apart by clinging to her professionalism. It is easier for her to be detached and stoic rather than have to address her emotions. I like watching Gage bring down those walls.

IN A NUTSHELL:

This is more of a romance with a sports element, but nonetheless, a good read and one I would recommend.

Thank you to The Writer's Coffee Shop Publishing House for the ARC via Netgalley

Jennifer Pedroza says

Yes...I know the author...so knowing that I might be biased can give you pause....BUT....keep reading.

This book...well this series is just my very favorite type of books. Gage is just a dream come true. He is hot, sweet, loyal, loving (oh sooo loving). Seriously, you just love him from the very beginning. Rebecca is great to as she works hard to solve his mystery. This is an action packed, fast-read. You will not be able to put this down.

The Daniels brothers are right there on the top of my list of favorite male heroes. I was seriously in a funk when I finished thinking, "I have to wait for the next brother...booooo." But then I realized, I can go back and read their stories as many times as I want. The joy!!

Yes, I need help. I'm starting a Daniels brothers support group...want to join?

I think maybe they might stop by once in a while. :)

Janet Juengling-Snell says

I was excited when I read the preview of Red Zone by Sherri Hayes, why you may ask, well, how many times I have read the same typical storyline, female in trouble, male agent come along to protect her..... You get my point.

How refreshingly different to see the tables turned, Gage Daniels, star quarterback has a stalker. He thinks it's harmless, but what he doesn't know, that explosives were found on his car. Now the owner of the football team calls in a favor, wanting protection for his quarterback. So in comes Rebecca Carson, FBI agent.

Rebecca is on administrative leave after her last case went bad. She is bored and jumps at the chance to work with her old mentor (who has since retired from the FBI), when he calls her with a job.

Rebecca is to pretend to be Gage's girlfriend, while acting as his bodyguard. Neither of them is happy about this.

Rebecca and Gage are like oil and water...they just don't seem to mix well. She is straight laced, very up tight. She has fine-tuned the control of her emotions to an art form. Her career has become her life. Gage on the other hand is known for his moves on the field as well as in the bedroom. He knows how to have a good time. And Rebecca doesn't fit the model of his girlfriend.

So, Gage calls his stylist to come and dress his new girlfriend. At this point Gage decides to have fun with the situation, not only forcing her to change the way she dresses, he knows he can touch and kiss her in public, because after all she is his girlfriend.

Rebecca sees Gage as a job and keeps her walls up, but has met her match with him, for he is a stubborn as her is. He even takes her home for Thanksgiving to meet his family. Personally, this was my favorite part of the book. LOVED the whole family dynamics, you could just feel the love this family had for each other and Rebecca must have felt it too, because this was a major changing point for her.

And just when things are going great for our two lovers, who should make an appearance? Our forgotten stalker is back. Rebecca slips back into agent mode and things become crazy between her and Gage.

I stayed up till 2 am reading because I had to see how Red Zone ends. Could Rebecca finally accept Gage as her man or would she continue to see him as another "job". Or was Gage finally able to break the wall Rebecca had built around her heart?

If you're looking for a contemporary sport suspense romance genre, then Red Zone is the perfect book for

you.

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: B

Gage Daniels is a pro football player who loves his social life and hanging out with his friends. He starts getting anonymous letters and pictures in the mail and his team owner wants him protected. Gage doesn't take the pictures seriously, but what he doesn't know is explosives were found on his car and his owner doesn't want to take any chances. He calls his friend for help, who in turns asks his ex-partner Rebecca, who is currently on leave from her job at the FBI, to watch out for Gage. She takes the job but doesn't anticipate what being around Gage is going to entail. Her cover is his girlfriend and her life is flipped upside down.

I was already into this story with the sports theme alone. I love the combination of sports and romance and I was pleased that there are actual sports scenes included for Gage, it's not always the case! We get to see Gage in his quarterback role at practice, in a game and being around his teammates and friends. It was easy to like Gage right from the start. He's a nice guy, he loves his career and he absolutely doesn't want Rebecca around. Instead, he decides to have some fun with the buttoned up woman, and starts to make her over into his girlfriend. She resists, hard, at first but Gage is too sexy to deny for long and of course she starts falling for the handsome quarterback. It's especially easy for her to do once she gets to know him and sees him interact with his family and friends.

That was the other aspect to Gage I really enjoyed, seeing him around his brothers and parents and the sibling-like relationship he develops with Rebecca's sister Megan, who comes to stay at Gage's house since Rebecca is there and she needs her sister after having her heart broken, yet again. Gage was everything I enjoy reading about with a hero: sexy athlete, sweet with his family and young niece, protective of Rebecca even though she's the one that's doing the protecting. He's a nice guy and carried the story for me.

Gage didn't try to explain it to his brother. He couldn't explain it to himself. Even though this was supposed to be a ruse, for him it was quickly becoming anything but. Rebecca was unlike any woman he'd ever met. She was beautiful, sexy and completely and utterly unaffected by his pseudocelebrity status. No matter what he threw at her, she gave it back to him, even when he was messing with her. The woman knocked his legs out from under him without even trying.

Red Zone was all about the romance, it's what was strong and it overpowered the suspense storyline which ended up feeling a bit weak. The bad guy, who is revealed at the end, was almost a let-down. I guess I hard time with the reasons for this person to be stalking Gage. The stalker storyline didn't take away from the overall book, as I thoroughly enjoyed Rebecca, Gage and their story together, but it wasn't something that had me on the edge of my seat.

Also questionable was the ending. It ends very, very abruptly. Another chapter or an epilogue is really needed to finish out Gage and Rebecca's story. We're left with Rebecca and Gage in love, but they both love their jobs and live in different cities. One other surprise element is brought into their relationship at the very end, but I need to know how they're going to make it work. There will have to be sacrifices made and I want to know what they are and how they're making their relationship work going forward.

I had a lot of fun reading Red Zone and was pleased to see that the series is about all the Daniels brothers. This book reads well as a stand alone, but I'll be picking up book 1 so I can get to know the entire family and all these sexy brothers. The combination of the romance, football and Gage all worked, and it's a story I'd recommend.
