



## Once Upon a Player

*Christina Phillips*

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**Once Upon a Player** Christina Phillips

**Violet**

When my mum gets sick, I volunteer to fill in for her and clean some hot jock's penthouse. I've heard all the rumors about him, so the plan is get in, clean some toilet bowls, and get out. After my last experience with a "sports hero," I'm done with that sort of guy.

But Lucas Carter is full of surprises. He wants to help me clean and is nothing like the toad the press has made him out to be. Resistance may be futile for some girls, but not me. Then he asks me to help him with the interior design of his new place. I can't say, no. It's going to look great on my resume.

Unfortunately, spending time with Lucas is dangerous. He's so charming and sweet, but I can't let myself forget—once a player, always a player.

## Once Upon a Player Details

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Author : Christina Phillips

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## **From Reader Review Once Upon a Player for online ebook**

### **Linda Quick says**

I loved this book! Lucas is the totally hot and swoon-worthy professional athlete, while Violet is the young woman filled with insecurities and an ill mom who first encounters Lucas while helping her mom out by cleaning his house. He isn't quite what she expected and they begin a tenuous friendship. As their friendship grows and changes, each makes lots of assumptions and miscommunications. This brings in all the angst that you would expect in a young love story. I found myself turning pages quickly as I became engrossed in Lucas and Violet's tale.

This is the second book in this series and I enjoyed it just as much as the first, however, it is a stand alone novel. The author is on my must read authors' list.

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### **Karen says**

Pretty typical plot but written quite nicely. I think cover model fits the character very well. I liked Violet. Her low esteem comes from a nasty ex-boyfriend who cheated on her with her best friend. It does take a lot to get over that but Violet is ambitious and confident in what she wants from life. She doesn't expect Lucas though.

Fun fast read!!

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### **Sara says**

Love this book. Highly recommended.

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### **? Jeri's Book Attic ? the Romance Bibliophile ? says**

### **Bette Hansen says**

Loved this book! It's a quick and totally enjoyable read. The story is fun, sexy, sweet, and lighthearted. Lucas and Violet are great characters. He's a footballer with a reputation as a bad boy. She's a woman who has been burned by the jock type before so there's no way she's going to get involved with this one. She does have to clean his penthouse though since he's paid for it and all. Once Violet gets to know Lucas she realizes he not at all like his reputation portrays him. He's actually a great guy. Kind, caring, funny - NO, just no. Maybe?

The writing is excellent and I adored these characters. I think this is a book everyone will enjoy. I definitely recommend it.

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### **Omg.kacie.reads says**

I loved this book!!! I thought it was so damn cute! You immediately fall in love with Violet. She is doing everything right, she is going to school, working part time but has no luck when it comes to men. She especially hates footballers. Well here comes Lucas a famous footballer. And of course they want to be friends but that never happens. Lucas wants to take her on a date immediately but she says no. Lucas has a reputation as a player and Violet was not going to let herself get wrapped up in that type of situation again! But is Lucas really a player?

I loved the authors way of telling the story with the alternating points of view. I appreciate being able to know what's going on in both of the main characters heads. I thought the book flowed so well and it made you feel like it was a twist on a fairytale. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a nice romantic story.

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### **Daisy -Magic book club says**

I read this book in a few hours and I can say that I enjoyed it .The story is a cliche-footballer and student girl-but it has some kind of chemistry and you have to read it all the way. The main characters are funny,interesting. I also like that British accent and I will certainly read other books written by Christina Phillips. This book deserve 4 stars. Thank you Net Galley and publisher for this opportunity.

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### **Danielle from Short and Sassy says**

4 stars

I loved this bad boys from Britain! I never knew I could enjoy a bad boy scooter player from England so much. Lucas and Violet have amazing chemistry that keeps you on your toes the whole time you are reading! I enjoyed that Lucas and Violet wasn't falling for Lucas's charm. She made him work for her attention and time. I loved Lucas too. He was a bad boy who was really a good guy underneath!

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### **Becky says**

*Reviewed on my blog, Becky on Books, on 7/20/18.*

*Once Upon a Player* is a cute and sweet new adult romance that was a pleasant way to spend a few hours but ultimately is probably not going to be terribly memorable. Violet and Lucas are likable characters who it's easy to root for, but their main conflicts come from 1) not telling each other the whole truth about what's going on with them outside their relationship and 2) being pretty dense about the other person (though they still somehow manage to ultimately figure out that they were being dense on their own). There's not a lot of friction in their relationship, then there's a ton/its over (or is it? they're not totally sure), then it's pretty much all gone again and they're good. I liked them both, but spent at least half of the book mildly annoyed with

them for not communicating.

*Once Upon a Player* is the second in the series, but works just fine as a standalone. Honestly, I wasn't even 100% sure who the couple in the first book was--I guessed probably his brother, but it wasn't terribly obvious from what happens here (Harry doesn't really seem terribly "bad boy" here, but maybe he's more so in his book?). So if sexy footballers are your thing and you want to start here, you should be okay.

Rating: 3 1/2 stars / C+

*I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book.*

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### **Sandy S says**

3.75 stars--ONCE UPON A PLAYER is the second instalment in Christina Phillips' contemporary, adult BRITISH BAD BOYS romance series. This is British footballer Lucas Carter, and interior design student Violet Henderson's story line. ONCE UPON A PLAYER can be read as a stand alone without any difficulty. Any important information from the previous story line is revealed where necessary. Lucas Carter is the twin brother of Harry Carter-Cinderella and the Geek-book one.

Told from dual first person points of view (Lucas and Violet) ONCE UPON A PLAYER follow the building relationship between British footballer Lucas Carter, and interior design student Violet Henderson. Lucas Carter is on medical leave following a potential career ending injury but an out of control party at his new penthouse finds Lucas face to face with his new house cleaner-Violet Henderson- the woman with whom Lucas will fall in love. When Violet's mother takes ill, our heroine steps in to help with her mother's contracted cleaning service never expecting to meet her teenage crush in the guise of Lucas Carter. What ensues is the friends with benefits/no strings attached relationship between Lucas and Violet, and the potential fall-out as misunderstanding and miscommunication force Violet to walk away from the man with whom she is falling in love.

Violet Henderson is an interior design student but works several jobs in an attempt to pay her way. Meeting Lucas Carter brings with it memories of her ex Geoff Hawthorne-Douglas, a footballer himself , who humiliated and betrayed our story line heroine. For all of Lucas Carter's strengths, popularity and fame, our hero battles issues of self-esteem in the face of his twin brother's successes in life. The brawn to the brain, Lucas believes he doesn't measure up to his family's high standards of education and fame. Lucas' vulnerability and Violet's insecurities make for some mistaken beliefs and heart breaking misunderstandings.

The relationship between Lucas and Violet is one of immediate attraction but Violet battles memories from the past, and the devastating humiliation she endured at the hands of her former boyfriend. With Violet's refusal to date professional footballers, Lucas makes Violet an offer she cannot refuse. The \$ex scenes are intimate and passionate without the use of over the top, sexually graphic language and text.

There is a large ensemble cast of colorful secondary and supporting characters including Violet's parents, and her best friend Katie; Lucas' brother Harry and his girlfriend Alice, and their sister Mackenzie; Lucas' friends Will, Caleb, and sometimes plus-one Yolanda; and an assortment of ex-girlfriends who may or may not add fodder to Lucas and Violet's tremulous relationship.

ONCE UPON A PLAYER is a sweet and sexy story. The premise is engaging, entertaining and spirited; the

characters are sassy and moving; the romance is spicy and captivating. ONCE UPON A PLAYER is an energetic and heart warming story.

[www.thereadingcafe.com](http://www.thereadingcafe.com)

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### **Sophie says**

I love sports romance and I'm always happy when I can get my hands on one. Lucas is a football player who can't play because of the injury. So he's doing his physical appointments with his therapist and waiting till he gets the all clear to start playing again. After one of his parties in the new apartment, he meets Violet who is there to clean.

Now, if I stop here, I have to say that I love my sports romance including just a little about sport or playing, or anything other related. Unfortunately (or maybe I missed it), I don't know much how Lucas got hurt in the first place and the book doesn't mention it in the next chapters. I am assuming it's on the field, but still... I'd like to know more.

In the next couple of days, they started to get to know each other more. Lucas is intrigued because she's one of the rare people who doesn't fall for him at the first sight and they start to become friends. Violet is still careful after what her ex-boyfriend did to her but she's over him and she tells Lucas why they can't become more than friends. But things started to escalate once he invites her to celebrate his birthday with his family.

I like this book, but no matter how light it was to read, I still miss more. More about his injury, more about her mother's illness, more drama, just *more*. The reason why they "broke up" is because he assumed things and she didn't tell him the truth about her mum even though he told her about his. When they realized they apologize to each other and that's it. I like more drama, more plot. Many questions were left unanswered: Is there a book about Will (his friend) and Mac (his sister)? What about his dad and their family friend? Are they a couple?

While this was my first read by this author and I'll definitely follow her works, I can't get past this, so I'm giving this book 4 stars.

*ARC provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.*

Slovenian review and full post on my blog: <https://slovenianbookworm.wordpress.com/>

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### **Amanda Ashby says**

Love this book so hard. Lucas is my kind of hero!

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## **Annika says**

Yet another quite enjoyable but, ultimately, just mediocre read for me.

Yet another manwhore-jock-meets-good-girl story. Though I really did like Lucas. He was a genuinely nice guy, patient and funny. A little daft at times, but hey.

Yet another romance full of cliché tropes and one-dimensional characters, albeit likeable ones, so there's that.

I did like the writing though and all in all, this book was pretty enjoyable despite its flaws.

Just don't go and expect anything profound.

*ARC provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Urvashi says**

Violet's mum runs a cleaning service agency and to help her out, Violet is at a penthouse cleaning. She is in for a shock when she realizes it's Lucas Carters, the guy she had a huge crush on as a teenager, penthouse. Lucas is instantly taken in by Violet, but she has been burned by a football player before and is not interested. Not willing to give up he makes excuses to keep seeing her. But Lucas has been traded to play for a club in Madrid. How will this move play in their budding relationship.

Once upon a player was a cute read. Lucas has some major insecurities that Violet seems to balance out in him. Their chemistry was indisputably hot. It's sweet, it's fun, it's a perfect light read to relax with.

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## **Kate (beautifulbookland) says**

\*Shrugs\* what can I say, I'm a sucker for a good ole cheesy romance story.

I mean, it's pretty predictable, really; girl who's been burned by a football player swears off players for life meets a bad-boy footballer but is *absolutely not going there*.

(Spoiler alert: she goes there)

But who cares if it's predictable, I still enjoyed the heck out of it. Violet and Lucas are fab together, and they went from making me want to slap them to giving me all the warm and fuzzies.

I would definitely recommend this book if you're looking for an easy, romantic summer read - I'll definitely be keeping an eye out for more titles by Christina Phillips.

*\*I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review\**

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