



## Should've Known Better

*Cassandra Carr*

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## **Should've Known Better** Cassandra Carr

Sara Jenkins, a math geek and hockey fanatic, is thrilled when the NHL hires her as an advisor for the Buffalo Storm. She gets to marry her two loves in this perfect job.

Sebastian St. Amant is a young hockey player looking to make the jump from the minors to the big leagues. His lifelong dream is within reach, but he needs to convince the Storm's management and coaches he's ready.

When Sara and Sebastian meet, sparks immediately fly. Both want to succeed, but neither can ignore the growing attraction and a relationship is out of the question—Sara's an influential staff member and Sebastian's a player, not to mention over ten years her junior.

But the impossible becomes the necessary when they can no longer fight their attraction. As everything crashes around them, the strength of their relationship is tested. Will it weather the storm, or should they have known better?

## **Should've Known Better Details**

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# From Reader Review Should've Known Better for online ebook

## 80's says

Should've Known Better by Cassandra Carr is a really great hockey romance. Should've Known Better features Sarah Jenkins, a math geek who uses her knowledge of statistics to help the Buffalo Storm win games and Sebastian St. Amant, a rookie player who has the hots for Sarah.

I really liked how the author didn't have the two main characters hook-up right off the bat. Their courtship is slow but very interesting and to me more realistic. Cassandra definitely throws in some twists that were unexpected but made the story much more interesting and different from a typical romance.

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## Barbara ★ says

Sarah Jenkins joins the Storm NHL team as a “Competitive Analysis Consultant” which basically means she uses math to analyse the players, the plays and the opponent. She works closely with Doug the video analysis guy. On her first day on the job she literally runs into Sebastian St. Amant, a rookie who isn't even officially on the team yet. The attraction is instant with sparks and everything. Sebastian is quickly in lust and does everything he can to get Sarah to go out with him but he stock answer is no, it's not appropriate for her to date someone on the team and it might get her fired. Of course, she eventually gives in but insists they keep the relationship a secret. This doesn't work for Sebastian as he feels like her 'dirty little secret'. Bad things happen, tearing them apart and it's a really long season when they can't stand to be in the room together.

I was annoyed at Sarah with her wishy-washy ways. There was no reason that she couldn't investigate to see if a relationship was actually against the rules but she didn't do that which kind of told me she wasn't really invested in the relationship. And poor Sebastian he was so naive and trusting. Parts of this were really sad and rather disturbing (the limo scene) but all things came together for a happily ever after ending. I look forward to returning to Buffalo and seeing who is the next victim of Cupid.

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## Sm says

ugh ... sorry to all the Carr fans, but I can't believe I paid money for this book ...

I was looking for a story with a hockey man and the little preview I read seemed promising, but this ended up being completely disappointing. I can't believe I read all of it (well, I skimmed a lot in the second half, but I got through it).

Sarah got really annoying - she had stupid reasons as to why she couldn't just openly date Sebastian and I forgot why I was supposed to care about her or her relationship with Sebastian

I was hoping for more hockey-filled action, but there was hardly any of that, and while there were some sexy times, it was mostly forgettable and all of the annoying behavior in between made me forget what little was memorable ...

don't think I'll be picking up another Carr book again anytime soon ...

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## **Philomena Callan Cheekypee says**

I so loved this book. This had a wonderful storyline & I just loved the characters in it. Sport fanatics will love this. A female math geek with some sex thrown in.... An ideal read on a sunny afternoon:)

Received this from author in return for an honest review.

This was my first Cassandra Carr read but it certainly won't be my last!!

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## **Ni\_kii says**

Really 4.5 Stars

It's no secret I'm a fan of Cassandra Carr's work. I love her Cowboys but I have to say that her NHL players give them a run for their money. This one felt a little different to the others as it wasn't a classic erotic romance but more of a romance with steamy elements. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole concept of it and it kept me engaged from the contents page to the back cover.

I have a few tropes in romance which I adore no matter what. The Geek romance is one of these but I'll admit that I have never read one this way round. Sara was the Math geek hired by the NHL team to give them an edge. The theory was that maths could be used to give them the edge over other teams. It was a novel idea that led to some truly laugh out loud moments; the scene where she got out her protractor to check if the Goalie was "level" truly amused me and I found myself endeared by her. Of course, jocks and geeks have never truly got on and so Sara has to truly work her butt off to be accepted by the team and have her research taken seriously. In this capacity, I actually really liked her. In her relationship with Sebastian, there were times I wanted to punch her.

Sebastian is a younger man who has worked his socks off to get his dream. Although he has earned his dues, Sara consistently uses his age as a barrier to their relationship but he wouldn't be deterred. I liked his determination to get what he wants, his refusal to listen to all her ridiculous excuses about why they shouldn't act on their attraction to each other. She, however, hacked me off no end. She kept throwing barriers at him with one hand and grabbing him close with the other; the poor bloke didn't know which way was up by the time they got together. The baggage in her past didn't excuse the way she treated him and it did sully my opinion of her slightly. Sebastian though, well that man had the patience of a Saint and the persistence of a dog with a bone. Then Ms Carr got mean.....

There is a twist in the tale that changes everything. I won't spoil it, but I now consider Cassandra Carr to be a very brave author. There are authors that wouldn't dream of doing to their hero what she does, in fear of how it will sit with readers, but I thought it was an important issue to address. It was a plot point towards the last quarter of the book, meaning that the ending did come a little too soon for me, but the whole thing was dealt with with sensitivity and realism. It made me love Sebastian even more and I even got a little welled up... bravo.

This one isn't as sexual as the rest of her books but it is still sexy. There is enough spice to keep the tension

high and pervy little me happy; I cannot complain J

Overall, this was a very different book from Cassandra Carr and I loved it. I loved the angst and the way difficult issues were addressed by the author. The characters were engaging and the sexual tension was so potent it made me over-look even the most annoying of character flaws. Another winner.

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### **Renee says**

A contemporary romance centered around an NHL hockey team? I could not wait to read it and I was not disappointed. This story pulled me in from the beginning and kept me turning the pages. While Sara and Sebastian immediately feel the chemistry, the romance takes time making it more realistic and keeping me on the edge of my seat. The author throws in some twists and turns which make the story that much more captivating.

This is the first book I have read by this author but not my last!

I received a free copy of this title for an honest review.

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### **Linda Sims says**

LOVED IT

Sarah is a maths geek a statistician. Sebastian is a hockey player a rookie and at 24 ten years younger than her. Sarah is hired by the NHL to work with the Buffalo Storm, the manager and head coach are sceptics. Not only because they can't see how maths can help the team, but she's a woman. When Sarah arrives the first person she meets is Sebastian, even though he's younger she's attracted to him. But she knows that a tall handsome and sexy man like him would never look at her, she's also conscious that she's much older. But Sebastian is attracted to her, the age gap means nothing to him. There's just one problem the management will not be happy if anything were to happen between them. So Sarah tries to stay well away from him.

This is a very romantic read. Sebastian is french/Canadian so he's got that sexy accent going on. Sarah loves her new job, and she fights very hard at their growing attraction. I really liked how their relationship was a slow burn. I was willing Sarah to give in as Sebastian was so sweet and sexy. But he was also very possessive as well. This is a lovely read it made a change to read about a sports romance hero who wasn't a womaniser. I read this story in a box set Heart of a Champion But I liked it so much I thought it deserved a separate review.

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### **Lori says**

Cassandra Carr scores again in Should've Known Better! Carr writes an absorbing contemporary romance

that grips you from the beginning and does not let you go.

Sarah Jenkins, a mathematics geek, just landed her dream job as a competitive analysis consultant for the Storm, a NHL hockey team. Through the use of realistic workplace situations, Carr successfully portrays how hard Sarah works in order to prove her mathematical analysis can make a difference to the team. I couldn't help but be drawn to Sarah's character since I studied economics and math myself. The variable that is messing up her equation is her feeling for rookie Sebastian St. Amant. Sebastian, a charmer with a French-Canadian accent, is clueless to his effect on the ladies, which just makes him downright attractive. Carr beautifully and seamlessly blends French and English into his conversational style, adding depth to his character. The romantic tension between Sarah and Sebastian is electrifying. Sarah has two fears that hold her back from committing to her relationship with Sebastian: 1) being fired from her job and 2) being ten years older than he is. But, when these two finally succumb to their feelings for each other, their bedroom play is smoking hot and accentuates the love between them.

With its lively storytelling and loveable characters, *Should've Known Better* is an entertaining story that readers will be glad they picked up.

I received an eBook copy from the author for purpose of an honest review for *The Jeep Diva*. I was not compensated for this review, and all conclusions are my own responsibility.

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### **Becca Sellers says**

Loved it! Loved the fact that this wasn't your cookie cutter HEA (happily ever after) romance where it's all sugar coated. This one's not. You've got real world situations that some star athletes unfortunately have to go through and *Should've Known Better* also shows how the people involved in such situations deal with it. There is also romance and steamy sex scenes!!! Read it! I recommend it!

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### **Erika says**

This book is about a math geek who loves hockey and lands the dream job working for the NHL, Sarah Jenkins, and a fun loving easy going hockey player for the Buffalo Storm, Sebastian St. Amant. Sebastian falls instantly for Sarah but she is unable to trust men because of what happened to her in her past. I had a love/hate relationship with Sarah on one hand she is super sweet and amazingly tough but on the other hand it drove me nuts how much she was denying her feelings for Sebastian, because I madly fell in love with Sebastian he's young, handsome, speaks French and plays hockey what more could you ask for. I found myself getting frustrated with Sarah when he did and wanting so badly for things to work out for them. Then when Sebastian goes through that whole ordeal and ended up changing and not for the better I was so sad I wanted to just give him the biggest hug and help him through it, but in the end Sarah came back strong and was able to rectify a wrong and save a wonderful thing between them that had me squealing with joy. I loved this book and can't wait to read more from this team, like maybe reading about Rob or Ricky and seeing if they get the happy endings they deserve. This will most definitely not be the last thing I read by Cassandra Carr she is an amazing author with amazing stories to tell and I'm eager to hear more. A definite must read!

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## Yessenia Andaverde says

I simply didn't like it.

I'll give the impressions I got as I was reading:

The dialogs were more like monologs. One big paragraph of dialog behind another. The author wanted to give the info, feelings, impressions, musings, all at once, making it more of a big dialog instead of a conversation in which things flow more naturally.

I hated Sarah. Yeah, I feel sorry for what she went through, but I got tired of the mixing signals, her taking on step forward, two backward, three forward, three backward. I got sick of that going back and forth. (view spoiler) That indecisiveness is something I can't stand, much less the way she kept playing and hurting Seb.

Seb was sweet, but giving an accent and some French phrases thrown here and there doesn't make him more interesting. Let's face it: he is cheesy and clingy. Another no no.

I just wanted this da\*n book to end. The story kept dragging, the end was rushed and the climax was kind of anticlimax.

I wouldn't recommend this book. Three days of my life I will never get back.

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## Lady says

●●I listened to the Audible Audio Edition of this book●●

Kai Kennicott and Wen Ross 's performances are always stellar. This book was way more intense than most of the books I have listened to by them, but I am pretty sure that has something to do with the serious nature of some of the subject matter. I wish there were After School Specials like this when I was growing up! It was amazing and uplifting even when the worst things happened, due in a large part, to the true emotions conveyed by both actors as well as the great writing of the characters. I truly believe this book would not have been something I would have enjoyed even half as much without their performance. I hope the continue on in the series as they are a perfect fit!

xx

The Math Geek And The Rookie?

This series must be listened to (or read) in order. This is the first book. I can't wait to listen to Underneath It All!

Sara is so excited to start her new job as a Statistical Analysis for The Storm. Hockey has always been her favorite sport. She (and the NHL) believe she can really make a difference in the way the team plays leading to more goals, better playing, and winning more games. She expects a bit of flak especially because she is a woman... And because she doesn't think anyone will understand exactly what she is doing. Hopefully she can make a difference and get to keep her Dream Job! What she didn't expect was a rookie hockey player to take an instant shine to her... And refuse to give up no matter how hard she tried to dissuade him. Is she ready for a relationship? Or even a big of fun? Is it worth risking both of their careers over? Can she resist him? Should she even try?

\*\*\*This chicklit contemporary sports romances series is suitable for adult readers who enjoy some drama, horror and heartache and quite a bit of humor before the requisite HEA :)

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### **Angela Goodrich says**

As a fan of Ms. Carr's writing and a lover of sports romances, I was all over this one. That the female lead was a math geek who had just gotten a job working with a hockey team, well my excitement knew no bounds because even though I've never actually watched a hockey game, hockey romances are probably my favorite type of sports romance. For the icing on the cake – a strapping young hockey player as the male lead. Having read and loved Ms. Carr's Safe Harbor series, I couldn't wait to see what she had in store for Sara and Sebastian. While I found *Should've Known Better* to be an enjoyable read, it didn't pack quite the same punch as her Safe Harbor series.

Sara is a woman working in a male-dominated organization – the Buffalo Storm hockey team – and the author does a nice job of realistically illustrating many of the barriers that she faced. I liked that Sara had to prove that her analytical skills had value and did so over time rather than her gaining her male colleagues' respect after just one or two successes. The obstacles she faced made it easy for me to understand why she fought her attraction to Sebastian for so long and then why she wanted to keep their relationship a secret when she finally gave into his constant pursuit.

As much as I liked Sara, I found her preoccupation with the age difference to be annoying, but not nearly as annoying as when her boss chastised her for her relationship with Sebastian telling her that at her age she should've known better than to get involved with him. It was only a 10 year difference between them and we're talking about a 24 year-old man NOT an 18 year-old boy. I haven't read a hockey romance yet that didn't talk about puck bunnies (this one included), so for her boss to suggest that she took advantage of Sebastian's youth when the man had his choice of puck bunnies just rubbed me the wrong way. Despite my indignation of Sara's behalf and my fondness for her character, I found myself in a cycle of connecting and disconnecting with her character. As times there seemed to be a subtle shift in the way in which the story was told that would leave me feeling distanced from Sara and Sebastian. I found this happening throughout the book, including during sex scenes – which meant that there were some scorching sex scenes and some that were not. I hate to say it, but I find that for me, Ms. Carr's MF romances fall into my “good read” category while her MM romances have a level of steam that usually lands them directly on my reread list. *Should've Known Better* was an enjoyable read but I doubt I'll read more from the Storm series, unless she writes a MM installment.

I received a complimentary copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.  
Reviewed by Angela at Crystal's Many Reviewers!



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## **Phuong says**

Author Cassandra Carr has truly written an emotional gripping story that captured my attention right from the beginning. I loved that the story centered around hockey players and the NHL which has become one of my favorite themes thanks to her. However, this time the story doesn't just contain sexy hockey players, it also deals with a serious subject matter that happens to both the hero and heroine at some point in their lives and how they deal with it. I adored Sebastian right from the get-go when Grace bumped into him at the Buffalo Storm office and he went after what he wanted wholeheartedly, which was Grace. He never wavered in his determination and pursuit to make her his. My heart fluttered and melted whenever Sebastian spoke in French. What woman could resist a young, sexy hockey player who whispered French sweet nothings in her ear? I sure couldn't! LOL :) Well, Grace sure gave it her best shot including dating another man. I'll admit I was a bit disappointed that she started another relationship and it was just because I wanted Grace and Sebastian to be together. I understood her reasons for doing it but the heart can only resist for so long and I cheered when she finally came to her senses. Sebastian treated Grace with such tenderness given her past traumatic experience and their sex scenes were sexy and loving. Things did not run smoothly for this couple and the angst surrounding them just got worse and worse. I could not stop reading the book at this point because I was so engrossed in the storytelling and I so desperately wanted to see what would happen next. I really enjoyed Sebastian's friendship with Rob who supported him throughout this story and was a true friend to him when he really needed it. Rob always provided much needed fun and laughter and I hope he will get his own story and woman soon. Staying up late to finish reading this book was so worth it. Thanks for another great story and hopefully, this will become a series too.

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## **Liz at Fictional Candy says**

Should've Known Better was pretty different from the other books I've read from Cassandra Carr. A lot of her books have this high heat level that will leave you panting like a dog in heat. Should've Known Better did not have that heat level. It was entirely a horse of a different color, and I really enjoyed reading this other side to Cassandra's writing. Don't get me wrong, there was some heat - and some sensuality, but it wasn't the focus as much in this story as in others.

Here is the story of Sarah, who has just accepted a position with the Storm in the NHL. She is now a "Competitive Analysis Consultant". Huh? Yeah, I didn't know what it was at first either, but as the story went on, and I learned more about her new job, the more I became interested in not only her, and her love life, but her actual job. That is kind of a first for me. So what Sarah does is she uses math to analyze and improve her players games. Anything from their stance, to their stick, to ... who knows what? The sky is the limit. Not being a sporty person, I have no idea if this is something that is real - but it most certainly should be!

Right away Sarah bumps into Sebastian, literally. Like there is spillage on the floor. Multiple times. And yes, I chuckled every time. Sebastian turns out to be a very atypical man in his early twenties - especially for a guy who is getting a shot playing in the NHL. He is sensitive and sweet, a bit nervous, and caring. The overall package on him is quite endearing, and I found it easy to care for this character.

There is obvious sexual tension and major attraction between Sarah and Sebastian. The problem lies in the fact that Sarah is worried about losing this totally terrific job she just landed. And that is probably also aided by something from her past that she is trying to move past, but is learning it isn't always so easy to overcome painful things. The two of them share quite a few secretive kisses. I really liked that they didn't just fall into bed together, hot and heavy. It was a build up. There were nerves and anxiety, and the stolen kisses, furtive glances. There was an element of it that was teasing to the reader just as much the characters, and I found it to be a nice change of pace.

And while both Sebastian and Sarah were very interesting, there were other characters in this story too!

\*Gasp!\* Right? LOL. Mainly, I mean Sebastian's roommate, Rob. Rob is also on the team, and he is like a protective German Shepherd when it comes to his friend. But Rob also has this other side that is completely sarcastic and funny, and you just know he would be a blast to hang around. I really loved any time he had a scene. I would definitely say he is a character I want to see more of in the future.

There is a lot that happens in this book, it's really quite the story. You really get a chance to get to know these two, and why they are acting the way they are. And when things begin to heat up – in both positive and negative ways for them – it really is quite a page turner. Cassandra's writing is fabulous, and it grabs you write away to take you for a ride. I think that if you are into contemporary sports romance, that this book should definitely be on your TBR!

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