



# Straddling the Line

*Jaci Burton*

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Trevor Shay has a successful career straddling the two sports he loves-football and baseball. He puts it all on the line for old friend Haven Briscoe though, when she has a tough time getting her professional career together after the death of her father. Despite her misgivings, Haven accepts the assignment of doing a feature bio on Trevor, but he's an attractive force of nature and there's a lot more to him than meets the eye. Secrets are revealed and chemistry is added to the mix as they help each other through some tough times.

## Straddling the Line Details

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# From Reader Review Straddling the Line for online ebook

## Floripiquita says

A medida que avanza la serie, me convencen menos los libros, los encuentro cada vez más planos y superficiales. Lo siento, no me ha llegado y eso que trata un tema interesante.

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## Fanny says

Straddling The Line es el octavo libro de la serie Play By Play de Jaci Burton y tiene como protagonistas a Trevor y Haven, personajes que conocemos en los libros anteriores.

Esta saga era una de mis favoritas hace años, le tenía un cariño especial porque fue una de las primeras series que recuerdo leer pero según han ido pasando los años ( y los libros ) ha ido decayendo, ya no siento la misma ilusión que sentía, en parte porque los últimos libros me han parecido bastante flojos y por otra parte porque la empiezo a sentir un tanto repetitiva.

La trama de esta novela me pareció demasiado simple, no pasaba nada interesante y todo era plano, además me costó cogerle el ritmo ya que el inicio se me hizo un poco denso.

Voy a esperar un tiempo antes de leer el siguiente, cuando no tenga tan reciente esta lectura.

2 Estrellas!

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## \*kawehi.reviews says

I liked this one. It was simple and didn't have the unnecessary push and pull drama that books often have in romances. It was sexy and cute. And not over the top.

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## Brooke — brooklynreads says

This was more of a 2.5 star rating to me. It was okay and maybe I would have been more invested if I read this series from the start; however, from what I gather each book is a different character so it wouldn't have really mattered.

The story and the two main characters were just okay. If I was to sum up this novel in one word it would be "okay", "average", or "mediocre". There wasn't anything that really gripped me, not the characters or their personalities, and not the chemistry. There was chemistry between the characters but it was fairly lukewarm to me. Yes, the romantic scenes were romantic but nothing more than what you read and expect in every romance novel.

I'm new to the sports romance genre so I am interested in reading more in the future, maybe more from this

author even. But this book was neither terrible or great, again, just an average read. I definitely wouldn't recommend it but it was an entertaining read at the time.

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## Amanda says

*Straddling the Line* by Jaci Burton was pretty much just fluff. I'm not saying that to be overly critical. I'm just being factual. It was fun, light-hearted, and incredibly smutty so it had all the ingredients necessary to compel me to want to finish the story. But, at the same time I can't call this a masterpiece of contemporary romance either.

*Straddling the Line* is Trevor and Haven's story. Haven is a sports journalist dealing with the grief of losing her father. Trevor is a hot shot athlete who plays both professional baseball and football who is keeping a secret about himself. (view spoiler) And that's kind of it... there really wasn't much of any conflict here. I'm not entirely sure if I liked that or not. On the one hand it was nice to not have to deal with the characters constantly second guessing themselves or some other ridiculous drama thrown in just for the sake of it. On the other hand without any conflict the story just turns into fluff with no real emotional depth. As the story stands we are firmly swimming in the shallow end of the emotion pool. I think I would have enjoyed getting to venture into the deep end a bit more than I got to. But I also kind of liked the absence of useless drama. It's kind of a catch 22 situation here for me.

Speaking of the shallow end of the emotion pool, the vast majority of the dialogue in *Straddling the Line* was just small talk. SOOOOO MUCH SMALL TALK.

### It was basically like:

"Thank you for inviting me to the party."

### And in response:

"I'm glad you came to the party."

And that would be pretty much where the conversation would end. And I don't get the sense that this was done on purpose because the author wanted to show a normal interaction. Almost all of the dialogue was about the same. It started to feel like these were conversations taken out of an ESL text book. I just wanted a bit more personality out of the characters because it was starting to feel pretty bland. But even with the bland dialogue, I still found Trevor and Haven to be likeable characters. I was charmed by them enough to care about them having a HEA so I kept reading.

Here's the deal with *Straddling the Line*: I wasn't really reading it for the story. I didn't expect this was going to be a masterpiece. In all honesty, I was reading this one just for the smut. **I mean... have you seen the cover? I was totally counting on this being filled with smutty delights and *Straddling the Line* definitely came through on that one!** The smut was super steamy and there was lots of it. So in that regard, the story was very successful. It just couldn't bring that same steam into the other aspects of the story like the plot and the dialogue. I'm not saying this was terrible because it wasn't. It also wasn't amazing either. It just felt kind of average for me which is ok.

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## Cocktails and Books says

I have thoroughly enjoyed this series, but the later books in the series don't compare to books 1-3. Those

Riley boys and Ty were D-I-R-T-Y and weren't afraid to show their women. I've missed that. STRADDLING THE LINE gets closer to that original formula. The characters and their relationship is still the main focus, but the author also brings sex back in as a secondary character. For me, that secondary character is important because during sex seems to be the only time Haven and Trevor are honest with their feelings (as was the same with Mick/Tara, Gavin/Liz and Jenna/Ty). And it's through sex that forge the bonds that build on their relationship.

Still one of my favorite sport romance series and one that will continue to be on my auto-buy list.

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### **Barbara ★ says**

This one was good but could have been excellent had Trevor's secret been revealed earlier and developed. I really liked Trevor - arrogant but sweet about it but the relationship with Haven Briscoe felt forced. They never really fought. Heck they never even argued. Everything ran very smoothly which was sort of boring. There was no conflict until the very end and even that was quickly glossed over. I'm wondering if future books are even worth reading. Maybe I'll just look at the yummy covers.

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### **Janine Bosco says**

I received An Advanced Readers Copy from First To Read in exchange for my honest review

This series has been amazing as a whole. Each book has been a real page turner and I am so happy I was selected to read an advance copy of Straddling the Line. Like each of the books in this series it did not disappoint.

So the last few books we were introduced to a group of college buddies that shared a dorm and grew very close to their dorm parents Bill and Ginger Briscoe. We learned that sometimes we are lucky enough to choose our family and aren't always bounded to the ones we share the same bloodlines with. That's what the Briscoes stand for with this group of college men. Bill and Ginger are their family they chose and they all felt the lose of Bill much like his own daughter Haven.

This book starts off with Haven going through the motions of life after losing her dad. Her dad was her best friend her confident her inner voice that pushed her through life and cheered her on throughout it all. With a new career in the works, Haven is willing to put it all on hold to go back home and care for her mother, believing that is her rightful place. Why she should chase her dreams and move on? Her father wasn't there to share in any of, so what was the point.

Fearing her daughter was giving up, Ginger reaches out to Trevor, in hopes he can reign Haven in and show her that it is okay to move on. Bill Briscoe would want his daughter chasing her dreams and finding her happiness.

Trevor immediately offers to help, and scores Haven an exclusive interview with him, the Superstar Football and Baseball player. Journalists have been dreaming of being the one to get their hands on him, yet the newbie Haven is the one he requests for the interview.

Her network sends her off on assignment which includes her becoming a guest in Trevor's house. Haven who had a long time crush on Trevor, doesn't believe he could be attracted to her so there is no harm in the two of them living in close quarters.

There is a part of the book where they determine that while they know each other a very long time, they don't truly know one another now. As they work together they begin to learn who they truly are.

Trevor notices Haven in a new light and sees her as woman, one he wouldn't mind getting close too for the time being.

As the story progresses the characters bloom and truly begin to captivate your heart. The grief Haven overcomes as she begins to fall for someone her father loved like a son is beautifully written.

You will fall in love with Trevor from the beginning and then towards the end you will fall in love again and again.

A sensational edition to the Play by Play series! I can not wait for the next ark in this series!

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## Angela says

DNF at 31%

I don't even have the inclination to write a real review for this so here's (essentially) a **Play-by-Play** of my thoughts while reading this book.

I'm a bitch. Chick's grieving her father, who died about a year ago, and all I can think is 'Stop feeling sorry for yourself.' *Yes, I know that grief takes its own time. I'm **still** grieving my aunt (she was more like a sister to me), who passed nearly a decade ago. But I still participated in my life. I didn't just let my career fall by the weigh-side, as Haven seems to be doing.*

Oh. He plays two professional sports. Huh. That's pretty rare. *I know, I know. I really should pay more attention to those damn blurbs (and in this case, cover art). But who has time. I'm reading here.*

Football AND baseball. Wow. Wonder which team is understanding. There's quite a bit of overlap there. Hmm. \*goes to look up schedules for baseball season and football season\* This is really, really unlikely. He must be amazingly good. *Bo Jackson and Deion Sanders are two notable athletes that competed in both baseball and football, showing that it **does** happen. However, I stick to my assessment that it's incredibly rare.*

Boring interview is boring. Thank goodness he cut that short. I know she's supposed to be doing a report piece on him, but blah. What a crappy way to have them get to know each other. His 'Can I interview you, too' line. \*rolls eyes\*

Oh. Surprise. Vaguely sexual pool play. At least she's not overly virginal or puritanical about her body. I like that. I'm still not sure where any attraction between these two is going to come from.

Ugh. Have I mentioned that I hate baseball? I think it's boring. Watching it is boring. Reading about it? Good

god. Kill me now.

Wait. He doesn't seem that good. \*frowns\* How isn't he better than this? Maybe it's not an awesome game. I do have to hand it to Jaci Burton, she knows her sports (at least I assume she knows baseball, it feels as boring as it is in real life).

O.M.G. I have to read about another frakking game?!

Obligatory catch up with previous novels' characters. Haven't read their books. Don't care about their impending marriages, children, or any other 'Look at how happy and perfect we are' moments. *I feel like a romance-scrooge here.*

Oh! So he plays the full season of baseball, and then joins his football team. He must be really good at football. Most teams won't be that understanding. Not only is he missing the first **several** games of the football season, but he misses the entirety of training camp, and pre-season. O\_\_\_O

He's gotta have one hell of an agent.

Really? A couples wedding party (or was it baby party)? Whatever. It's a time for the 'heroine' to sit down with some other women and talk about the 'hero.' Couldn't they talk about something else? Like, maybe their careers - and not how it led them to getting married? Ugh.

Talk about not-sexy. She watches him jerking off, on the chaise by the pool, from her bedroom window. Then is awkward about it the next morning. Blah. Boring. I don't see why he wants her, and I don't see why she wants him either.

Oh Christ. More boring interview stuff. I'm really not a fan of this method of get-to-know-you.

*Says something about how (not) invested I was in the "romance" that I spent nearly the entirety of the time considering how his schedule worked. I think it's better for me to quit while I'm not so far behind.*

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## **(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys\_sidekick says**

Originally posted at <http://smexybooks.com/2014/07/review-...>

Trevor Shay seems to have it all. A successful football and baseball career and an enviable lifestyle but when his college mentor's daughter runs into trouble, Trevor drops everything to help her get her life back on track. He pulls some strings to get her an exclusive interview with him, hoping the interview and change in scenery will pull her out of her downward spiral.

Haven Briscoe has landed her dream job as a sports journalist but the recent death of her father leaves her grief stricken and unable to move forward. When she is approached to do an exclusive expose on dual sports playing star Trevor Shay, Haven feels this could be exactly what she needs to jump start her career and her life.

The chemistry ignites as Haven spends time with Trevor and learns the differences between the boy she knew in college and the man who stands before her today. Haven doesn't mind a little play time but she

knows her career could be ruined if she crossed professional lines. Trevor is willing to let Haven into his life and his bed but a secret he keeps hidden from the world prevents him from letting her into his heart. When Haven accidentally discovers his secret, Trevor is forced to either trust her with everything or let her go forever.

Straddling The Line is number eight in Jaci Burton's racy sports theme romance series-Play by Play. Originally built around the popular and sports orientated Riley family, the series has spun off the family and is now divulging into relatives of the Riley's and various friends and teammates. While I enjoy the fact the series is continuing, I feel it has never quite gotten back to the same level it had when it was based solely on the Riley family. Since Playing To Win, I've noticed Burton's books have undergone a transformation. Softer edges and less volatile characters blunt the edge this series used to possess.

I've felt the series has become repetitive in its undertaking. We are seeing the same story, right down to almost identical scenes. The only difference seems to be different names and careers. The conflicts are weaker and resolve almost instantaneously. Stilted formal dialogue, formulaic love scenes, and low key emotional reactions from the protagonists had me longing for the earlier books. There is no surprise or anticipation in the last few books I've read which was a huge selling point for me in the beginning. We were never 100% sure our couple would make it. Now, there is no doubt they will end up together and the story merely maps out how they get there. Unfortunately, the story isn't all that interesting.

Trevor and Haven are personable characters whose interaction is comfortable and almost 100% conflict free. They are extremely similar in their character makeup. Intelligent, loyal, and witty with a lack of the usual deep seated emotional baggage that often sparks the tension and must have misunderstandings in these romances. Though hard working, their well balanced personalities and dry humor sparks throughout the story. It was nice that neither were made dependant on the other for their happiness. Both are successful in their own right, Trevor more so, and comfortable with themselves. Even Trevor's secret didn't cast a heavy pall over the storyline with him being rude or cutting to Haven in his efforts to hide it.

The chemistry between Trevor and Haven is steamy but rhetorical. We know they are sexually attracted to one another but beyond that I never was convinced they actually fell in love. It felt that they were just going through the motions. The attraction felt convenient to the story, it could have been anyone. They never really argued, fussed, or fought beyond Trevor repeatedly shutting down any talk about his father and childhood. There were no real sparks between them.

Sexual scenes are rote and predictable. A masturbation scene clues us into their attraction to one another. This scene has been used as the sexual opener since book four. In every love scene from then out...Trevor goes down on Haven and then they have sex. EVERY. SINGLE. TIME. No change up. The dialogue during the lovemaking was also repetitive. Listening to Haven say, "Make me come. I want to come. Let me come," became irritating after the 5th time. She never varies.

The main conflict was interesting in that Burton brings forth two issues; grief and embarrassment. Both are steeped in realism. In Trevor's case, Burton addresses a common problem; touching on the stigma one can face when the issue becomes known. My qualm though was that neither held a strong place in the story. We are told but never really shown the effects on Haven and Trevor beyond cursory glances. They weren't as big of a problem as we are led to believe. The resolution(s) were quick and painless which negated all the posturing both did during the book because of them.

While Burton's sexy romances have always offered me a cozy respite from the normal rigors of everyday life, I'm no longer sure if the direction this series is taking is appealing to me anymore.



## Anna's Herding Cats says

Ahh how I love the sporty goodness that Jaci Burton masterfully creates. It's just make-you-tingle good! And this time not only is there a baseball player but he's a footballer to boot! \*swoons\* Straddling the Line was a super charged sports romance and a damn good time as Trevor caves to doing an interview for his late mentor's daughter and winds up rather taken by her.

The quick of it is that life has been hard for Haven this past year. She landed her dream job but she also lost the man that meant the most to her. Her father and her best friend. And she's flailing. Cue her mama drafting family friend Trevor to help bring her out of her funk and get her passionate about life again. Which brings the two together for an extended time as she comes in to interview him and do his professional bio for her sports news stations

I really enjoyed both Haven and Trevor. They're just easy people to like and get to know. They've got a shared past that totally melted me and were just fun to watch as they worked together and realized that while they've known each other for ages they might not really know each other. There were lots of light hearted moments but also some rather serious as they dealt with traumas and insecurities--Haven finally grieving the loss of her father and Trevor dealing with a secret he's kept fiercely hidden his entire life and that's being forced into the open. I liked that combo in them seeing their confidence in some areas but seeing them still struggling with certain aspects in their lives. Gave them a nice bit of depth I thought.

*Okay this was after getting caught in the rain on their way home and it so made me chuckle...*

"Are you going to stand there dripping and ogling me, or are you going to get out of your wet clothes?" she finally asked.

"Sorry. My brain cells sank right to my dick when you started stripping."

She laughed. "I'll take that as a compliment. In the meantime, I'm going to go to my room and take a hot shower."

"You don't want to wait while I undress?"

She actually paused to look him over, then said, "Probably not a good idea. See you later, Trevor."

He liked that she'd pondered the idea. "Yeah. Later, Haven."

There was some very nice heat brought to the page--even if it's a tad inappropriate given their working together-and humor as well. These two had some great chemistry and the steamy bits were pretty dang steamy. Some a wee bit daring. Some pretty fun and light hearted. And all of it sensual and quivery. Yep. Things quiver. Lots of quivering happening. lol

Aside from the romance sparking the sports aspect was nicely done I thought. My non-sporty self might not

have understood ALL of it but I still enjoyed seeing everything play out and that Trevor was a double threat playing both baseball and football professionally. It was an interesting addition and neat seeing him make that work. There were quite a few cameos by previous characters along the way as well and while I loved that in a way it didn't always feel right. More often than not the dialogue/scenes were a little too...not stiff exactly but they just didn't feel quite natural as they were reintroduced and everyone caught up.

All in all, *Straddling the Line* was a blast. It definitely filled scratched my itch for a sexy sports romance and while not perfect was pretty dang enjoyable.

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

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### **Issa says**

What was the point of this story? Really? Haven Briscoe is grieving the the death of her father and is ready to give up on life. Her mom is concerned and shares all this with Trevor Shay, a family friend. Trevor plays both football and baseball and has conveniently never given a full interview. So he decides to get Haven back into life by giving her an exclusive.

That's your story. Seriously, that it. Now I don't always mind a plotless book if it's relationship driven and the relationship is well written. This story fails her too. Haven and Trevor talk. And talk, and talk, and talk. About nothing. The dialogue is as dry as can be. She can't interview worth a darn and he's god's gift. Not one person he plays with can do less than sing his praises and even the guy who's after his job is won over when Trevor hosts a BBQ.

The story brings in characters from previous books and they are no more interesting. In fact it's insulting when the author puts all these women together, women with fascinating jobs, and all they talk about is sex and how Haven should sleep with Trevor despite the unbelievable unprofessionalism and the fact it would be career suicide.

Nonetheless they hook up, have boring sex, and Haven blows hot an cold followed by Trevor blowing hot and cold. And then there is the big secret. The one that has to lead to the inevitable temporary break up. That secret comes out and it's so ridiculous I almost fall off my chair. (view spoiler) I'm not mocking the condition or those who have it. I understand it makes school and work hard. But this is a man with a ton of money, a laundry list of connections, and unbelievable power and he not only has failed to diagnose the problem, he makes it out to be the worst condition a person could have.

At one point in the story I had hope. Haven comes home to find her mother has lost weight, has new friends, and is engaged in new activities. She's a different person and Haven lashes out believing she's lost her mother too. It's an incredible showing of insight into the grieving process and I thought we finally had an story line that made sense. But it's disappointingly resolved two paragraphs later.

I've only read a few in this series but can't remember one this frightfully dull. It's definitely my last though.

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## Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: C

Trevor Shay has been close with Haven Briscoe's parents for years when they were the college "parents" to him and his group of athlete friends. Haven's father recently passed away and she's not doing well in dealing with the pain and grief. She's letting a sportscaster job that has been her dream for so long slip away and without a big story to bring to the table she'll be heading home. The thought of going home doesn't sound bad to her, but her friends and family don't want to see her dreams slip away so the ungettable get, an interview with two-sport superstar Trevor Shay, is heading her way. Trevor agrees to the exclusive interview with Haven for the sole purpose of giving her something to do to help jump start her career. Even though they've known each other for quite awhile, being in close proximity brings to the forefront feelings on both sides, and the professional relationship gets personal fast.

I kind of dislike starting a review like this, but really, there was nothing about this story that made it stand out in Burton's Play by Play series. Trevor and Haven start out their sexual relationship being in it just "for fun," thinking that there's no way can they get serious, then bam, it's serious. Trevor has been keeping a huge secret from everyone but two people, and while I won't spoil what it is, I swear I've read about this hero with this problem before, another book, another series. But that aside, for as desperate as he was to keep this a secret from everyone and the main reason he declined ever doing interviews, he sure does a fast 180 on his attitude after Haven finds out and wants to help him overcome it. I expected major push back from Trevor but he was all in. Maybe the burden of the secret being out freed his mind and attitude about it, but it still his quick attitude change felt a bit abrupt.

Maybe it's just my overall love of epilogues and I really enjoy seeing the ending of story play out a bit beyond the couple finding their happily ever after and I would have liked to have a little bit more here. The ending felt too rushed for my taste and I was left wanting just something more. I did enjoy the sports aspect, especially with Trevor being a two sport athlete and wish there would have been more of it. I'm a sucker for some great sports scenes!

Now don't get me wrong, I know the review above may be more focused on the negative, but it is a likeable story overall. The series as a whole is one of my favorites and Liz is by far my favorite character and as usual has some of the most memorable lines in Straddling the Line. But that said, everyone and everything is so friggin perfect. All the time! Perfect athletes, perfect jobs, perfect friendships. Sure it can be fun to read for the escape factor, but it can also be boring at times. This book introduces a jump to a new set of characters, brothers (yay!), so hopefully they'll liven things up a bit going forward.

Just a quick note on the romance between Trevor and Haven – of course it's steamy, Burton can write some great sex scenes and she delivers here. But even those got a little monotonous at the end. I liked parts of Straddling the Line, the friendship scenes always seem to be the parts I remember most, but I wasn't in love with the story as a whole.

*P.S. I swear Jaci Burton gets the BEST covers in the romance world. Seriously drool worthy, every, single time!*

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## **Jayme says**

I don't believe that I gave only 2 stars book in the Play by Play series.

As usual in this series the best part of it is connected with family and friends. That's why this series is so popular. And those moments were again the best. As always there are also a good sex scene. What didn't work is too slow action. Everything has happened in the last 15%, I expected more.

A long time ago I read other books and I love this family and friends thing. I've been waiting for this book because it is the last part of (I think) which is so close link between Riley family and group of friends.

I was hoping for a wedding Alicia and Garrett Scott (Play by Play 5). Come on! That would be fantastic! The whole Riley family from Alice and Garrett friends -Trevor, Drew and Gray. I think it was the only such a occasion that they might be in one place together all the same time. It did not happen. Maybe short history?

But in the next book, we move away from this connections more and more and I don't know if Jaci still create this. She wrote there is a connection with the guys Garrett, Trevor, Drew and Gray in the next book, So I can read and see.

I understand the popularity of the series, even if sometimes it happens weaker part. It's a book you are reading to relax. When you do not want something occupying your head all the time. I needed to read something like that. And I read the next part because I'm curious to see how it all turns out. This is a family and just make you feel a part of it by reading this over and over again.

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## **Sonia189 says**

This is the last book in this series I had to read. I don't plan on reading any other because although there many interesting ideas, the plots are too superficially done and nothing really stands out. I'm just glad I don't have these books peeking out of the pile anymore.

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