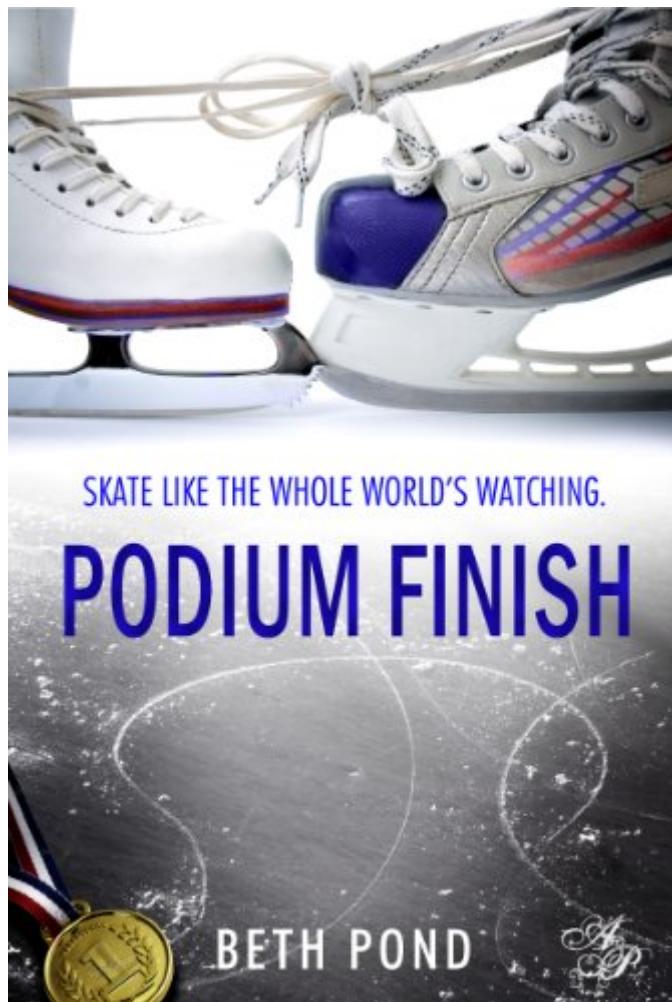


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Podium Finish



Synopsis

With six months until the Olympic Games, seventeen-year-old Harper's life is pretty much perfect. She's fighting for the starting spot on Team USA Women's Hockey, and for the first time ever, she has a crush on a guy who likes her back. She feels like the luckiest girl in the world, until she runs a risky play at practice and breaks her knee, thereby sentencing herself to six weeks in a cast and possibly ending her Olympic dream before it even starts. For seventeen-year-old Alex, being anything less than the best is unacceptable. That's why, after a miserable debut season at the senior level, the former junior national singles champion switches to ice dance. Her skating partner, Ace, is an "all skating all the time" type of guy, which would be fine, if he'd stop keeping secrets about the real reason he and his former partner broke up. Now is not the time for second thoughts, but how can Alex skate her best if she can't trust her partner—or herself? As the pressure to make the Olympic team builds, the girls must rely on each other, because if there's one thing they both know, it's that the only thing harder than skating to the top is staying there.

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Customer Reviews

Great read! Love the book.

I really enjoyed this book! It was very character orientated. The story had a good plot and kept me interested so I wanted to get to end!

Great story from a young woman about the hard work and competitiveness of team sports and making it to the next level both physically and mentally.

I don't even know where to start. This book came to me right at the right time. I would have loved it anyway, but with the Winter Olympics coming up and being a HUGE Olympics fan, made this book even more exciting to me. I often wonder what goes through the heads of Olympians as they struggle each day to make the team and this was a little glimpse into that life. Whether it was real or not, it was intense. I cannot even wrap my head around that kind of competition and stress. I cannot imagine living away from my family to train every day for hours a day knowing that my hard work may or may not pay off. It was an exiting ride from the beginning to the finish. Figure skating is my FAVORITE Winter Olympic sport so this book made me love it even more. The hard work and dedication it takes to be an Olympian is amazing. I am not a hockey fan, especially women's hockey, but this book made me feel like I was right there watching it go down, and I loved it. I loved how Harper and Alex found their joy in being in the competition. They lived for it. I could really feel the emotions they were going through while reading this book. I found myself feeling anxious just waiting to hear who made the final cut for the Hockey team. That is how into this book I was. I LOVE it when an author does that for me. I don't think there is anything I didn't like about this book. It was exciting, interesting, intense, and had a love story to boot. Seriously a great read. A fun read!

I'm not a big sports fanatic. I watch a little here and there, especially if my kids are playing, but one thing that I absolutely love and spend hours and hours and hours watching, is the Olympics. I get into all of the sports and come to know the athletes. I watch sports that I would never watch otherwise, but this big event is heaven. Podium Finish was so much fun because not only did it tell one athlete's road to the Olympics, but two. Harper and Alex are roommates at the Olympic Training Center and they're also best friends. They understand the dedication, sacrifice, and commitment it

takes to succeed. I love watching them support one another. Each chapter goes back and forth between the two 17 year old girls and it's told in first person, so we can really understand their feelings and thoughts. I was completely caught up in their stories and felt this was the perfect time to read it--just a few weeks before the Winter Olympics! I'm so excited!! I loved the emotion and learning experiences these girls faced. I loved the relationships they had to figure out and deal with--teams, families, friends, enemies, etc. I even found myself shedding a few tears, although they were tears of joy and pride, I promise. The growth that occurred was perfect for their ages and experiences. Content: there were a few mild kissing scenes and thoughts of taking things further, but making a choice not to; there was one situation of a boy and girl in the same bed, but clothed and nothing happened. Clean.

I love the Olympics! And I think Olympians are amazing! When I saw this book come up for review so close to the Winter Olympics, I knew I had to read it. Harper and Alex have been roommates at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center for the past year. They've also become friends who support and rely on each other to get them through the tough days. The book switches POV between Harper and Alex. Harper is working hard to gain a starting spot on the women's hockey team and the competition is fierce. She has some friends and she has a nemesis named Jess. They have a hard time working together because they each want to shine separately. She breaks her knee one day and has to work extra hard to come back in time to play in the Olympics. Alex was a singles skater doing well until she had a bad year. Her dad wanted her to switch to ice dancing so she'd have a chance to be in the Olympics. She did, and she's now partners with Ace. Ace is a champion skater who recently split up with his dance partner, Sophie. Alex and her dad want Ace to do more interviews and be more involved in social media, but he's not interested in the fame at all. Alex does a video chat with her parents once a week and when things aren't going well, her relationship with her father is strained. This was fun to read as each girl worked hard to make it into the Olympics. There were challenges and setbacks for each of them. Harper got her first boyfriend, Rye, and she needed to figure out how to balance that relationship as well. Alex wanted to know what happened to break up Ace and Sophie's skating partnership and kept pushing him for answers. I enjoyed reading about Harper's games and Alex's competitions and the discipline they each had to continue to do their best. I felt bad when things didn't go their way and cheered them on when they were in the midst of competing. It was hard to put this book down because I wanted to know what was going to happen next!! I enjoyed this book and look forward to more from Beth Pond in the future! And I am now officially in the mood to watch the Olympics (too bad they don't start

tomorrow)! I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

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