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Playing For Fun: A New Zealand Friends To Lovers Romance (Due South Series Book 6)



Synopsis

Is Ford Komeke New Zealand's most reluctant bachelor? **Wanted:** A woman for Ford. Maori mechanic Ford Komeke can't deny he could use an up-skill in the dating arena. It's a local in-joke that his game, as far as women go, sucks. Thanks to the meddling of New Zealand's worst octogenarian matchmaker, he's got an online dating profile, a new wardrobe, and a haircut from Stewart Island's sexy hairdresser, Holly Parker. But since he's well and truly mired in the friendzone with Holly, what's the harm in exploring his options? A little jealousy could work wonders. **Offered:** Dream job with a catch. What do you say when you're offered an un-turn-downable career opportunity? You say, hell-to-the-yeah! Only there's a problem. To get the dream job Holly must leave Stewart Island and her two best friends, Shaye and Ford. But if Holly can distract Shaye with wedding planning and set Ford up with a nice girl so she can stop imagining him naked, neither will notice if she exits stage right. Neither will notice if her feelings for Ford stop being strictly platonic. **Warning:** One kiss is never enough. As addictive as the chocolate stash Holly hides in her fridge, one kiss forces them out of the friendzone—way out of the friendzone. Heat and hunger explode, but the ugliness in Ford's past hold his heart hostage. Playing for fun or playing for keeps? Holly and Ford must decide because the consequences of falling in love means that someone's heart or someone's dream will ultimately end up shattered. **PLAYING FOR FUN** is the sixth story in Tracey Alvarez's best-selling Due South books set against the stunning backdrop of Aotearoa, New Zealand. If you like heartwarming, sexy and sweet small town romances with a touch of comedy, you'll love sharing the journey with these authentic men and women struggling to find their special someone. Download your copy of *Playing For Fun* and dive into these sensual romance novels! Intended for mature 18+ aged readers who enjoy their feel good romance on the steamier side. Praise for the Due South series! "It's official! I'm hooked on this series! I want to jump on a plane and fly to this island, because apparently they grow them big and HOT in New Zealand—men that is!!!" ~ *Swept Away By Romance* "Perfection comes in many shapes and forms, and Ms Alvarez delivers in her contemporary voice and quirky character traits that make a distinctive difference between average and stellar storytelling." ~ *InDale Magazine* "Just as the must-read series of Donna Kauffman (*The Bachelors of Blueberry Cove*), Jill Shalvis (*Lucky Harbor*), Terri Osburn (*Anchor Island*), Marie Force (*The McCarthys of Gansett Island*), Sherry Woods (*Chesapeake Shores*) have entranced me with their seaside settings and caring communities - so has Tracey Alvarez - and I'm adding her series to my must-read shelf too." ~ *Fab Fantasy Fiction* Don't miss any of the Due South books! **Book 1:** *In Too Deep*. Featuring Piper and West. **Book 2:** *Melting Into You*. Featuring Kezia and Ben. **Book 3:** *Ready To Burn*. Featuring

Shaye and Del. Book 4: Christmas With You. Featuring Carly and Kip. Book 5: My Forever Valentine. Due South Short Stories. Book 6: Playing For Fun. Featuring Holly and Ford. Book 7: Drawing Me In. Featuring Bree and Harley. Book 7.5: Kissing The Bride. A Due South Short Story. Book 8: Saying I Do. Featuring MacKenna and Joe. Coming early in 2017.

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Customer Reviews

*** I received an ARC copy of this book in exchange for a honest review ***'Playing for Fun' is a sweet, emotional, story about old friendships that grow into deeper emotions. Both protagonists have their issues to overcome in order for them to possibly come together and work as a couple. Sometimes the hardest thing to do, is take the chance on romance, especially at the risk of an already wonderful friendship with that person. Tracey Alvarez did a great job capturing my attention and holding it throughout the entire book. Her ability to bring their small little town and the residents who live there to life is superb. The supporting cast of the book are all so lovable, from best friends, family members, meddling old women, even down to Diablo the cat, I found myself falling a little in love with their little town and it's inhabitants. I felt invested in both main characters and found myself

hoping or their happiness, even if it meant they had to be apart to find happiness, or even if it meant they would be finding happiness with people other than each other. Both characters are so well written, the author really took character development seriously with these characters, and stuck with each of their personalities throughout the book. So many times, authors will write a character who is, for instance, quiet, maybe introspective, unemotional etc., and later in the book, that same character will say or do something that is completely contrary to how that person was previously described. That is most definitely not the case with this book. Both characters stayed true to themselves from start to finish. Being Polynesian myself (Hawaiian), I loved seeing the similarities between the maori and maoli (Hawaiian) cultures and languages.

Playing For Fun is book six in the Due South series by Tracey Alvarez. I was generously provided this book in exchange for an honest review by the author. I have loved this series from the start and have been so excited to go back to Stewart Island and see the people I have grown to love throughout this series. This book focuses on Oban's resident mechanic, Ford Komeke, and the part time hair dresser and Ford's best friend, Holly Parker. Ford has been single and without the company of a woman for a very long time. Some of the older residents of Oban have decided it's time to find Ford a woman. So they think the best way to do so is to start an on-line dating profile for him and to enlist Holly to do a make-over. Ford and Holly have been best mates for so long but Ford has other feelings for Holly, non-friend type feelings. Maybe this on-line dating thing will make Holly jealous and he can find out if maybe she might feel the same way too. Holly isn't happy with the way her life is turning out. She went to school to get her license so she can work in a salon. But in Oban, she doesn't think there is any way to do that full time and live on it. So she is working full time for the grocery store and part time out of her home doing hair. She has been given the chance to move off island to a full time beautician position, her dream. But that would mean leaving everyone she loves behind. Including Ford. After some very disastrous dates, Holly and Ford decide to try just one kiss to see if there is a spark, and baby oh baby is there ever a spark. But finally Holly admits to Ford that she is leaving the island. So would they be better off just remaining friends or could they have a few hot weeks together before she leaves?

Anyone that follows me on social media will know I am a massive fan of Tracey's Due South series. I was therefore very excited to get the opportunity to beta read this book in advance of publication. What can I say? I LOVED Holly and Ford's story and I ADORED being back in the amazing small-knit community that Tracey has created, and it was FANTASTIC to catch up with

some of my favorite characters (especially Shaye and Del, they are my absolute favs) Ford had a very difficult early childhood, and he is still showcasing the scars. He's also very much lost in his twin brothers shadow. Mrs. Taylor (the community busy body with a heart of gold) decides he needs a woman and she ropes in his bestie Holly to help with her matchmaking. Holly and Ford are great friends but she's been harboring more than friendly feelings for him for some time. There were lots of hilarious scenes where Ford is on dates with some crazy chicks! LOL funny. Holly has an opportunity to leave the Island, and she is torn. On the one hand there is Ford, and her adopted-grandma, and her BFF Shaye, but on the other hand most of her friends are all married or engaged and she feels like she's skirting the fringes of their lives. This is more than just a simple friends to lovers story. Ford needs Holly to help him overcome his demons, and she needs his love to keep her where she has always belonged. Ford clams up whenever the conversation gets heavy, where Holly really needs to see him vulnerable, so she knows she can truly trust him and plan a future with him. The path to true love and real trust is not an easy one and it's filled with plenty of angst and heartache. This was a fantastic read for a book that is still undergoing final round of editing.

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