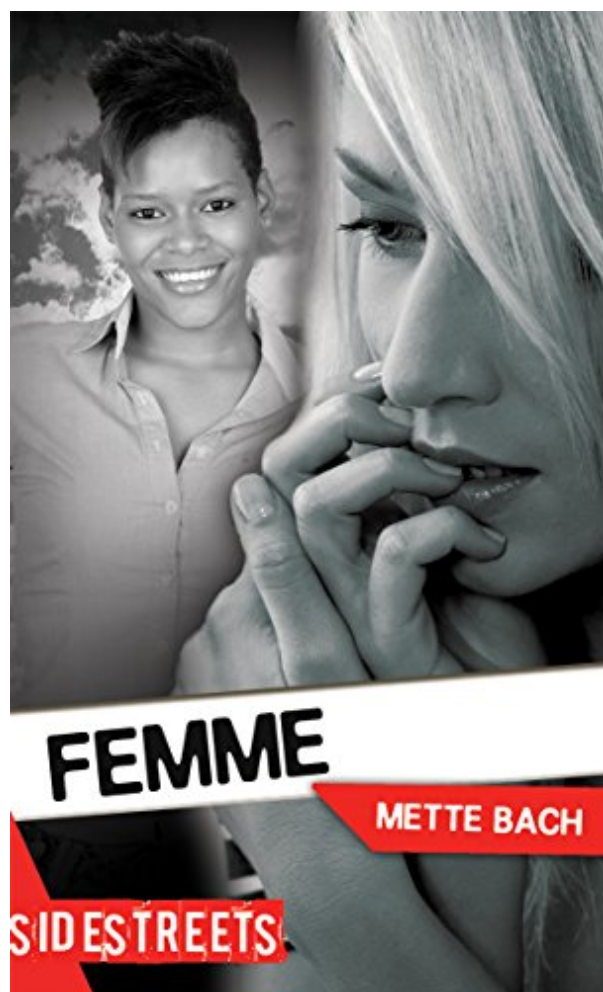
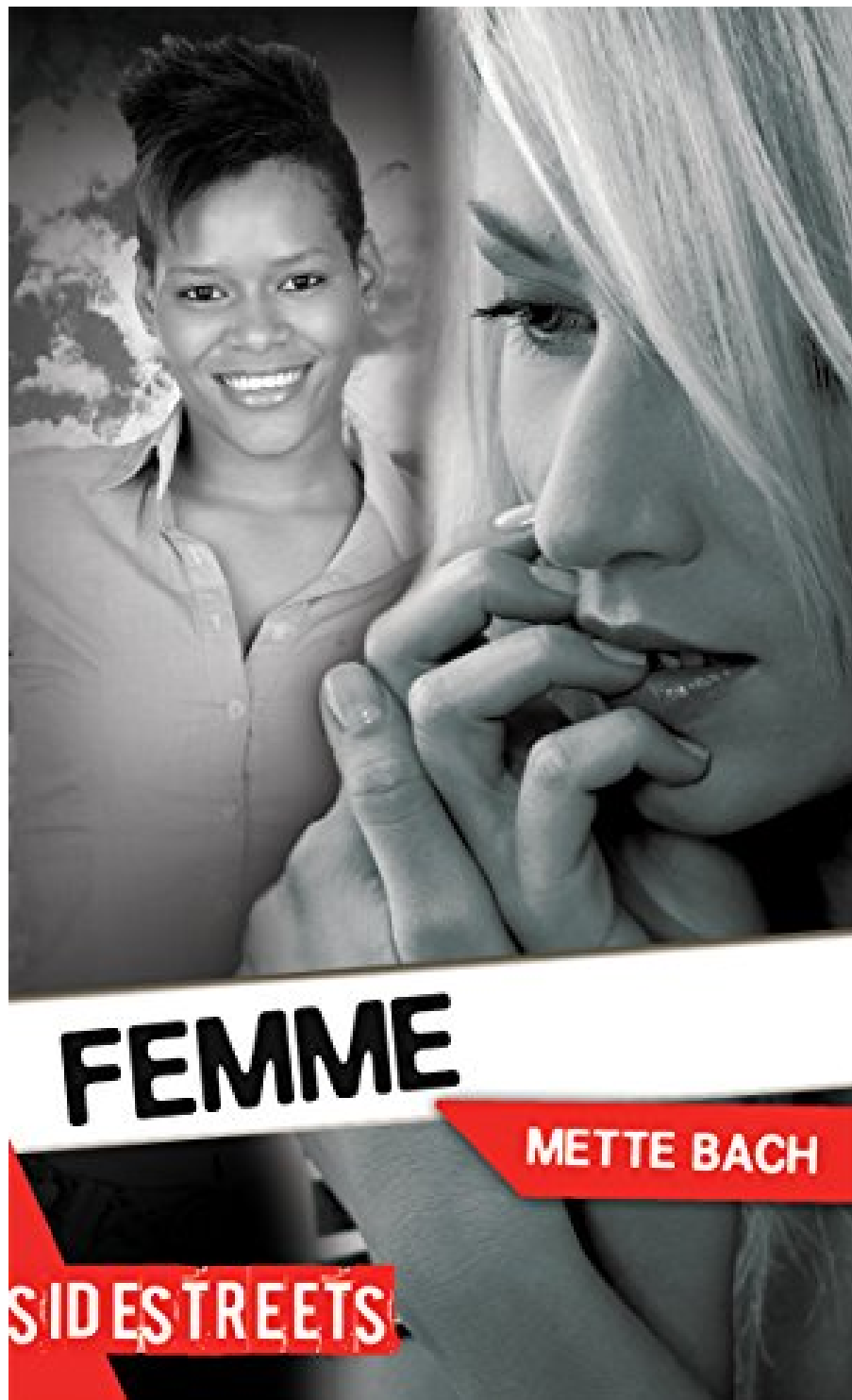


FEMME (LORIMER SIDESTREETS) BY METTE BACH



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Academics have never been Sofie's strong point; she's too busy spending all of her free time with her boyfriend, Paul, the captain of her Surrey high school's soccer team. When her English teacher implements a new program that pairs her with straight-A student Clea, Sofie worries about how Paul will react to her hanging out with the only out lesbian at school. Sofie is as surprised as Paul at how close she and Clea quickly become.

When Sofie discovers that Clea is planning a road trip to check out some American colleges over the winter break, she invites herself along, causing more issues with Paul. But it's only after a college student asks if Sofie identifies as a "femme" lesbian that she starts to question her own sexuality and her relationship with both Clea and Paul.

[Fry reading level - 3.0]

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Realistic and sweet

By Liviania

FEMME is a hi-lo book. Hi-lo books are written to appeal to struggling readers. They have content that appeals to teens, but are written at a range of lower reading levels. FEMME is written at an approximately third-grade reading level. I really appreciate that SideStreets and Mette Bach are making LGBT stories available for readers who are still developing their skills, since there isn't much reading material on the subject available below a high-school reading level.

Sofia, the protagonist of FEMME, doesn't feel like she has much going for herself aside from her popular boyfriend Paul. When her English teacher pairs her with class genius Clea, Sofia is worried about being judged for being dumb. But the two girls end up being fast friends and Clea helps Sofia nurture her study skills. In fact, the two girls decide to take a trip to the US together and look at schools in Portland. Clea wants to go to Portland because she's a lesbian - the only out one at their Canadian high school - and she wants to find a community that she fits into. To Sofia's surprise, she starts to find where she fits too.

FEMME might be simply written, but it is also sensitively written. Sofia and Clea feel like real teenage girls, particularly Sofia. She begins the novel shallow, with low self-esteem, but she makes amazing strides throughout the story. And even though the page count is short, Bach doesn't just tackle a romance. She tackles issues of identity involving sexuality, race, and class. There is a subplot about cyberbullying too. It all moves by quickly. However, while things are lightly covered, they don't feel lightweight.

FEMME is a novel that fills a niche that desperately needs something. Fortunately, there's much more reason to read it than just because it feels a need. It's got wonderful characters, a strong setting, and it tackles real-world issues in a manner that is positive but not treacly. I found FEMME to be surprisingly sweet.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

4 Platypires

By J. Hooligan @ Platypire Reviews

I was given a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Before I start this, let me explain the situation. I'm reading about 10 other books and I get this email from Netgalley asking about reading and reviewing this one. I dropped everything else I was reading, because I do what I want, and started reading this one.

After first, I wasn't sure how I feel about it or what to expect. Sofie was so ... superficial. And I don't mean to judge, but people like that frustrate me. I was interested, but it wasn't clicking. I was really hoping something would pick up.

And it did... once Clea is introduced.

Being able to read as a young adult experiences the realization that she is attracted to someone of the same sex and the consequences that come from admitting it to those around her, it was both heart breaking and exciting. I enjoyed the romance aspect and how the characters change throughout the story. Even if it was totally cheesy.

I highly recommend this book. It has feels, romance, and I adored it.

See all 2 customer reviews...

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depth and breadth of this community as Bach purposefully avoids stereotypes and labels." (Charlotte Duggan CM Magazine 2015-09-01)

"A coming out story with a happy ending...There is much to admire in this novel. The importance of teachers and role models in supporting young people as they struggle to find themselves is emphasized." (Joan Givner, Resource Links)

"Femme's cultural relevance cannot be overstated; it touches upon LGBTQ youth, cyberbullying, and the omnipresence of social media and its effect on teens. Bach combines these elements in a narrative that is fast-paced, realistic, highly enjoyable, and, most importantly, never contrived or preachy... Femme will appeal not only to young people dealing with issues of sexual orientation, but to anyone confronted with the thrill - and fear - of embarking on a new chapter in life." (Andrea (Drea) Schnell, Quill & Quire, starred review)

"A short hi-lo title that explores the complex topic of sexuality at an accessible, third grade reading level." (School Library Journal 2015-09-02)

"This is a hi/lo book for high school students. I thought it covered the subject matter very well, and it written simply, without feeling like it was talking down to the reader. I would suggest it to both readers who might have questions about their own sexuality and those who could use a little expanding of their viewpoint." (Bethany Neff, Educator 2016-01-12)

"Femme is safe to add to school collections (the publisher recommends it for ages 13-18) and is definitely a good public library addition . . . Femme also features a strong, positive, mixed-race love interest (Clea's mom is white, and her dad is black—they're still together, by the way, and successful, and very supportive of their daughter), and, eventually, a happy, healthy, interracial same-sex relationship. This is worth emphasizing in a YA lit world where 'interracial relationship' is often a signifier for 'tragic/bittersweet ending.' . . . This is a fine title to hand to a young person who doesn't think they like reading, but who might be looking for a book like this to identify with." (Audrey Snowden, Librarian 2015-08-28)

"I really appreciate that SideStreets and Mette Bach are making LGBT stories available for readers who are still developing their skills, since there isn't much reading material on the subject available below a high-school reading level . . . Femme is a novel that fills a niche . . . It's got wonderful characters, a strong setting, and it tackles real-world issues." (Allie Jones, NetGalley Reviewer 2015-09-17)

About the Author

METTE BACH was born in Denmark and raised in Delta, British Columbia. She lives in Vancouver where she teaches ESL to high school students. Femme is her first young adult novel.

Femme (Lorimer SideStreets) By Mette Bach. Checking out makes you a lot better. That states? Lots of smart words claim that by reading, your life will be much better. Do you think it? Yeah, show it. If you need guide Femme (Lorimer SideStreets) By Mette Bach to review to verify the wise words, you can visit this web page perfectly. This is the site that will certainly supply all the books that possibly you need. Are the book's compilations that will make you feel interested to review? One of them here is the Femme (Lorimer SideStreets) By Mette Bach that we will certainly propose.