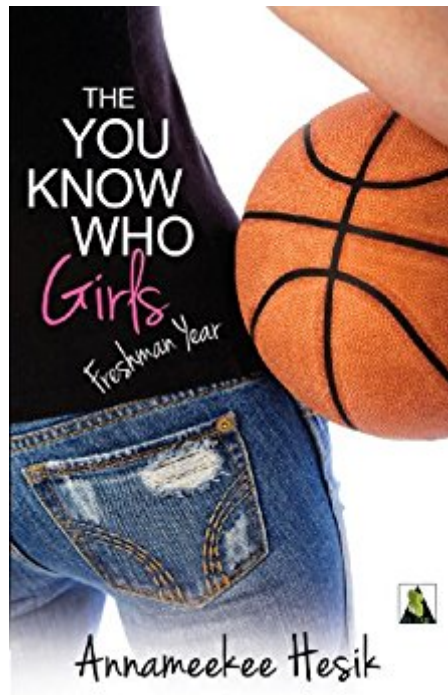




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The You Know Who Girls: Freshman Year



Synopsis

Abbey Brooks, Gila High freshman-to-be, never thought a hellish day of shopping at the mall with her best friend, Kate, could change her life. But when she orders French fries from the flirtatious Hot Dog on a Stick Chick, she gets more than deep-fried potatoes. Abbey tries to ignore the weird, happy feeling in her gut, but that proves to be as impossible as avoiding the very insistent (andâ "rumor has itâ "very lesbian) players on Gila Highâ 's girlsâ ' basketball team. They want freakishly long-legged Abbey to try out, and Abbey doesnâ 't hate the idea. But Kate made Abbey pinky swear to avoid basketball and to keep away from the you- know-who girls on the team. Sometimes promises canâ 't be kept. And sometimes girls in uniform are impossible to resist.

Book Information

File Size: 797 KB

Print Length: 264 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Bold Strokes Books (October 1, 2012)

Publication Date: October 1, 2012

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B009KE83EM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #419,284 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #52

inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > LGBT Issues #3651

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues

Customer Reviews

The last place Abbey Brooks wanted to be that day was at the mall with her fashionista BFF, Kate, but she couldn't have imagined what would happen next. She orders fries and a small lemonade

from Hot Dog on A Stick, and finds herself entranced by the beautiful girl behind the counter. A few days later, when she and her mom take Abbey's father's guitar in for a tune-up, imagine her shock when that same girl works there, too. The girl's name is Keeta, and soon she's all that Abbey can think about. Abbey and Kate are starting their freshman year at Gila High, and Kate makes Abbey pinky-swear to avoid going out for basketball, and to stay away from "the you know who girls," who are apparently legion on the basketball team. This is one pinky-swear Abbey ends up breaking. She ends up being the JV center, and soon finds herself becoming one of "the you know who girls" herself. And falling ass-over-tea kettle in love as she does so. This is the first in "The You Know Who Girls" series, and I loved this book. It moved as quick and sure as a well-executed fast-break play, and Abbey is a charming and funny, yet vulnerable, narrator. Yes, the person who so ensorcells Abbey is another girl, but author Annameekee Hesik also shows straight relationships as they ebb and flow, glow and explode. The same is true for you know who girls, except most have the extra pressure of trying to hide that they're lesbians. When I was in high school, I fell ass-over-tea kettle myself for a girl who happened to be three years younger than I was. I loved her to pieces, but I couldn't let my friends know, because she was so much younger. If they'd found out, I would have been in for some razzing, but nothing serious. After all, she was a girl, and I was a boy. The stakes are higher for the you know who girls. There are people who are filled with hate, sometimes to the point of cruelty or violence, just because of sexual preference. Add that risk into the pressure cooker-like atmosphere of high school, and things could get ugly fast. Ms. Hesik does an excellent job easing Abbey into this world, and showing the joys and pitfalls she can expect, and not just from her relationship with Keeta, her lovely Hot Dog on A Stick girl. Keeta's a senior, and Abbey's a freshman, so there's that. They're gay, which of course complicates things more. But what I like is that they still have to deal with the basics: they're teenagers in love, and they still have to go to classes every day. Abbey and Keeta may be lesbian, but they also have basic teenager lives to lead. It's sweet that they can lean on each other for support, despite the bitterness of having to hide their affections. At day's end, Abbey still needs her mom, her BFF, and--most of all--seriously good grades to get by. It's almost like lesbians have lives just like straight kids. It turns out that--good heavens--they do. If everybody could accept this, the world would be that much better a place. This book's a winner. Very Highly Recommended

Thoroughly impressive in the layers of complexity, yet it reads easily. The characters and situations are fresh - far from stereotypes - and cover a wide range of situations (friends growing apart, learning a sport, discovering sexuality, admitting intelligence) with grace and wisdom. Kids who read

Olivia can graduate to this. I had a wonderful time looking up the Spanish phrases, which are not overwhelming, but dropped like clues on a treasure hunt. (You can read this book without knowing even basic Spanish - it is included as fun, not a chore.) I didn't find a single character or situation that reminded me of a John Hughes movie.

This was an absolutely delightful read. I loved the narrator, Abbey. Her voice was fun and relatable; she's unique and quirky, not a Mary Sue but still a character one would like to see themselves as. One thing I've found in many of the YA LGBT fiction I've recently read is a lot of heavy handed prose with a giant heaping of melodrama and this book is refreshingly lacking that. Not only that, but the rest of the cast is a real delight as well; all of Abbey's new friends are a lot of fun. I also loved the character of Keeta; there's a lot of things about her that could have made her very unlikable but the author takes the time to write her well and humanize her, and it's impossible not to feel for her. The plot is very well paced; I was quite excited to see how Abbey was going to navigate this new world she's discovering and I wasn't disappointed. Also, I liked the way the ending was handled; you don't feel like you're just left hanging and nothing's resolved, but it still leaves one excited for more (I was SO glad there was a sequel!)

When I first learned about this book I read very good commentaries about it. But I thought "I'm 46 how can I relate or find this book interesting to me". Anyway I bought it and read it. And I can tell you I'm so glad I did it. I'm impressed how Ms Hesik tells the story as if she really were a 15 years old girl. And I'm surprised that while I was reading the story I felt like 15 again myself. Besides, it helped me, as an adult, to understand (or to remember) how a teenager (gay or not) can feel specially about her first love and how to fit in new places so, maybe, I can provide some help myself. Read it. You won't regret it.

I'm not very good at writing individual reviews because I tend to accidentally give away spoilers and plot points so I figured I would write out a generic review instead and save myself the time and trouble. If I am putting this review on a book it means that I found it to be truly exceptional and I enjoyed the journey very much, so thank you to the Author for putting a great story down on the pages

I want to thank Annameekee Hesik from the bottom of my heart for writing this book. I am the parent of a 12 year old girl who was desperate for fun books to read about girls like herself. This is the

book! It is wonderfully written and fills a void that has been missing in YA literature. Thank you so very much!

This was a neat surprise! A fun YA book with a relatable character, whose personality is pretty hard to dislike in any way. Great book! One issue is that I didn't like the main love interest for this character. Aside from the "player" aspect, her personality is pretty selfish and dull. Still a good book though!

A fresh look at an old topic, and well done to boot. The coming of age novel as told by a girl growing up into a young woman. Fascinating read for both this and its sequel.

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