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S. Bear Bergman

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#471444 in Books 2010-08-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.80 x .60 x 5.90l, .75 #File Name: 1551523698192 pages | File size: 40.Mb

S. Bear Bergman : Butch is a Noun before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Butch is a Noun:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A good introduction for those trying to break out of binary-gendered thinking By M. Caldwell This book is well-written, accessible, touches on theory without ever getting bogged down in academic language or references, and will help you to understand what butch is and can be if you come to it

with an open mind. Bear's voice comes through clear and strong, as if you were sitting there listening as ze told hir stories to you personally. Those reviewers referring to "lesbians" and "gay women" are missing the point of this book and might want to consider re-reading it. This book isn't about women or lesbians; it is about BUTCHES, whose gender identity might be woman, man, genderqueer, BUTCH, or some other designation, and whose sexual identity might be gay, lesbian, heterosexual, bisexual, pansexual, or any other orientation. Butch is a noun and an identity all its own, in many cases a gender identity. When butches partner with femmes, there are often aspects of heteronormativity to their relationships, because they arise out of the identities and inclinations of the partners, but this does not in any way validate heterocentrism or misogyny in the culture at large, invalidate the experiences and preferences of those who do not identify as butch or femme, or say anything at all about lesbians or women or what they should do or say or be. If you do not identify as butch (or possibly masculine genderqueer), this book is not about you. Do not expect it to showcase your experiences or resonate with your identity or validate your feelings. Expect it to tell you about the identity, experiences, and feelings of Bear and many (not all) others who do identify as butch. Expect it to give you the opportunity to explore a world beyond binary gender, where not everyone identifies as man or woman, boy or girl, heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual. Highly recommended reading if:- You are working out/building your gender identity- You are studying gender identity or sexuality, either academically or personally- You have a loved one (or are attracted to someone) who identifies as butch and you want to understand better or just read essays and vignettes that reflect a butch perspective

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Essential Essays for All Genders By D. Sorell got this book for my partner for Christmas this year and after she flew through it in a day, I thought that I would pick it up. Typically, I am not a fan of essays. I find them dull and many times narcissistic. Bergman's book did the exact opposite! Each of the essays focuses on a different aspect of butches beginning with "what/who" butches are, which she is unable to define. Her writing ranges from reflections on the special friendships that butches have with each other to the complexities of using gendered bathrooms and just about everything in between. Of course this means that there are some essays on sex, but they are far from graphic. While some reviewers think that this book is for butches and "those who love them", I would say that this collection is a must read for everyone in today's society for it touches on the larger issue of identity and its constructs. At times funny, but always insightful, Bergman educates the reader in a way that feels like we are not being educated. Perhaps this is because Bergman is a professional lecturer on the topic and has excelled at teaching important gender issues to everyone from college students to convicts. Overall, this is an incredibly important read and one that people should not shy away from.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read! By AFabulous book. Great writing!

"Butch is a Noun is a book that a) should be required reading in any gender studies curriculum; b) femmes should read whenever they're feeling unloved, lonely, or misunderstood; c) butches should read; d) all of the above. The answer, of course, is d. Thank you, dear Bear." Kate Bornstein, author of *Gender Outlaw*

"Bear's poetry of butchness lets us see into facets of gender that usually aren't so transparent. And made me fall in love with butches all over again." Carol Queen, author of *Real Live Nude Girl*

Butch is a Noun, the first book by activist, gender-jammer, and performer S. Bear Bergman, won wide acclaim when published by Suspect Thoughts in 2006: a funny, insightful, and purposely unsettling manifesto on what it means to be butch (and not). In thirty-four deeply personal essays, Bear makes butchness accessible to those who are new to the concept, and makes gender outlaws of all stripes feel as though they have come home. From girls' clothes to men's haircuts, from walking with girls to hanging with young men, *Butch is a Noun* chronicles the perplexities, dangers, and pleasures of living life outside the gender binary. This new edition includes a new introduction by the author.

S. Bear Bergman is also the author of *The Nearest Exit May Be Behind You* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2009). Ze is also a frequent university and college lecturer on issues relating to gender and sexuality.

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Kate Bornstein, author of *"Gender Outlaw"*--Kate Bornstein

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"Bear's poetry of butchness lets us see into facets of gender that usually aren't so transparent. And made me fall in love with butches all over again.

Carol Queen, author of *"Real Live Nude Girl"*--Carol Queen

Carol Queen

"About the Author

S. Bear Bergman: S. Bear Bergman is an activist, gender-jammer, and author of *The Nearest Exit May Be Behind You* (Arsenal, 2009). Formerly based in New England, she relocated to Canada in 2008.