



Femme

Delia Strange

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A science fantasy with a touch of romance.

A utopian world with a touch of slavery.

Kaley Blackburn is sent to Femme in her final year of Future Tech studies. The world is a socialist utopia of low crime, great health and advancements in technology that leave other worlds envious.

It is a fantastic place to visit if you're a woman. Men, on the other hand, are the slaves that tend to all feminine desires. Kaley knew about the world's culture of slavery but never had to face it until she is assigned a slave, Mecca, for the duration of her stay.

Mecca is handsome, intelligent and obedient, but every answer he gives to Kaley's questions only feed her growing concerns. Does Femme hide an ugly truth beneath its beautiful surface and can she trust her feelings for a man whose sole duty is to make her feel special?

Femme Details

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From Reader Review Femme for online ebook

Jenn Schweder says

Femme is a down to earth escape...from Earth! Unlike some books I've picked up that aspire to create imaginary worlds full of characters that seem to possess the most lofty of ideals and attitudes, only to come off as pretentious and unbelievable, Kaley Blackburn--the heroine in Femme--feels as real as you and me. I found myself caring about the characters, feeling what they were feeling, and wondering what they were up to when I wasn't engaged in actually reading the book.

Delia Strange has created a vividly colourful world in Femme, with a narrative that should appeal to fans of sci-fi, romance and even ancient alien conspiracy theories. Neon-lit descriptions of a densely populated city, loaded with ultra-modern and futuristic devices bring to mind visions of Tokyo or Hong Kong - at least, they do for a person who's only ever seen Tokyo and Hong Kong in pictures. Many modes of transport on Femme seem familiar enough, and almost lead me to believe that the author moonlights in some vast R&D program, designing exciting new vehicles for our not-too-distant future.

Hints of mystery abound, and this keeps the pages turning for as long as it takes for the answers to reveal themselves. A satisfying read!

Darlene says

Disclosure, I won this copy in an author giveaway.

New planets and beings, new mores and fashions. Talents. All the things I like in a sci-fi fantasy. But this one didn't quite do it for me. Maybe it is not for my demographic. There was a lot of angst of the adolescent or new adult. Maybe they would actually love it. In fact, there were some lessons in the story that I thought would help many young people without being preachy.

Even so, I want to know what happens in the next book. I will try to get around to reading it as soon as I can. But, YAY! for strong Femme and sci-fi!

Lorraine Slim says

Delia paints the futuristic world of Femme in vivid brush strokes. Although Kaley has travelled before she struggles with many facets of Femme's oddities. Kaley may have a slave but the rules are endless. Women have supreme power on Femme. Is the average woman on Femme really in control? When Kaley scratches the surface she finds out Femme is very different to Earth and the locals have very different morals to her. With a tear in my eye at the end - well done on your debut novel Delia.

Linda Conlon says

'Femme' gives an exciting insight into an utterly unique world, with an innovative social structure. Essentially, it's a story about a young woman who's been looked after her whole life, that suddenly learns to look beyond her own concerns and develops both a social conscience and a depth of emotion that she was unprepared for. The story moved at a swift pace and I really enjoyed the way it started off light and grew in depth and complexity as it continued. It's a sci-fi/fantasy novel with a bit of romance thrown in and the ending made me cry! Really liked it :o)

Lynne Stringer says

Entertaining sci-fi book which clearly stands as the gateway to what could be a myriad of novels on different worlds.

Femme is a world that Kaley (who is from Earth) gets to visit with the hope of living there permanently. It is a world where women rule and men are slaves. This was an interesting premise and I was pleased to discover that the book delivered a good story, building on this premise. There were some passages that I felt could have been made to 'show' more rather than 'tell' and I felt the ending was a bit abrupt, but it was nonetheless enjoyable and I look forward to more stories on some other worlds that Ms Strange has created.

Delia Strange says

This book - a debut - is a reflection of my own innocence in the years after high school. I wasn't caught up in the debate of equality, but I did have my own moral compass of what was fair and what wasn't. A bit of a prude and rather naive, I based my main character Kaley on my 20-year-old self. I think it's funny when readers comment how annoying she is... I was just as annoying at that age and they probably wouldn't have wanted to hang around with me (though I was a lot kookier than Kaley, which I know alienated even more people in reality).

As a story, it's quite sweet and not presumptuous. I didn't go deeply into a world of slavery, nor did I make social commentary on the political structure of the world of Femme. I was trying to write a romantic story - about how someone who is in a powerful position could still genuinely fall in love with someone while not 'taking advantage' of them. It was a moral dilemma I wanted to touch on, but I struggled to focus on the romance when I'm a fantasy writer by nature and world-building is where my nature lies. I am simply not a romance writer. So, this ended up being less of a romance and more like an episode of Star Trek, only without the tech-talk and deus ex machina get-out-of-trouble plot devices.

I also had a question I wanted to touch on: 'How can you trust your feelings when the person you're falling in love with is obligated to make you feel special?' Obligation comes in many forms, and to make it easier on myself, I used slavery. Looking back on the book now, I implied a lot of things but never pursued them in detail. I wish I had - and when 'Femme: Dark' comes out (if it ever does - it's just an idea at the moment), I will revise this book (which is now 'Femme: Light') once again and make it the story it tried to be.

Ultimately, I consider this a soft read. Even though I touch on difficult topics such as bullying (via social ostracizing), slavery, anxiety, self-doubt, bias and duplicity, the touch is always light. This world is not a light world, though. It has undercurrents that I chose not to explore, leaving some of that discovery to the book series (Wanderer of Worlds 4: Genome) that I lifted this world from.

If you liked this book but it's not gritty or hard enough for you, I feel the same way. It also straddles a strange place between YA and Trade Adult (General Audience), unlike the rest of my books - which are meant for Trade Adult. I still have a place in my heart for it, even though I cringe at some of my writing within... because it was my debut, and because the main character Kaley Blackburn was me at that age.

Joanne Steptoe says

As a reader that loves both sci-fi and fantasy, it is interesting to find a book that has both elements. 'Femme' is primarily a science fiction book about another world where the 'grass looks greener on the other side'. As generally is the case in these type scenarios, when you look more closely, everything is not as it seems. This provides a sense of mystery and adventure that slowly unravels as the story continues, keeping the reader engrossed up until the very last page.

Delia Strange also gives her characters depth and is able to show the strengths and weaknesses of human (and non-human nature lol) allowing them to develop and grow and reflect. Even when they start to recognise their own flaws, the characters still draw you in as you can relate to their personal conflicts.

I was captivated by this story and I look forward to reading more works by this author.

Miriam says

Loved it. Totally resented when I had to put it down to get stuff done. Can't wait for the other Wanderer books now.

Manfred Knight says

In the interest of full disclosure, I corresponded with the author before reading her book and voiced my concerns with the title and description of the novel, thinking it could come across as a turn-off to men, whose knee-jerk reaction would initially be to view her offering as less a sci-fi fantasy and more of a feminist fantasy. However, I was wrong.

The story starts off with Kaley Blackburn, student/tourist, visiting a planet where women rule and men are slaves from birth. The first half of the book familiarizes the reader with the change in setting and culture, and shows how the main character herself becomes familiar with her own environment and becomes familiar with the other characters in the novel. Slowly, at first, and then with ever-increasing speed and complexity, she learns that not everything in paradise is as it seems.

The author does a great job taking us through the gamut of emotions our protagonist feels and has the reader living and relating to those emotions in such a way that the reader can't help but root for Kaley's success in all her endeavors.

In toto, yes I WOULD recommend that men (and women) read Delia Strange's book, Femme. Once a man gets past the details of how a particular character is dressed or how her hair is fixed (*wink), it really is a great read.

~Manfred

Dichotomy Girl says

Actual Rating: 3.5 Stars

I found this while browsing the e-library, and I'm impressed because I didn't know it was Indie/self-published until I went to enter my review. It was interesting, but a bit underdeveloped, as I feel like we never got more than a surface glimpse of both the world and the characters. But I was intrigued enough to read it straight through, and stay up too late even though I was feeling sick.

Wayne Stirling says

This was a truly fascinating and riveting book. Loved the mix of sci-f and fantasy with a dash of romance. No cliff hanger but definitely room for sequels. I found that Delia was able to have the right mix of everything in the story like a well balanced bowl of muesli.

Can't wait for the next series. Had trouble with reading of the book as I had it on my kindle PC but it wouldn't transfer to my kindle so got part way through the book and my computer died hehehe. Delia lovingly sent me an autographed book and yes it was worth the trials of reading hehehehe.

Thanks Delia for your wonderful gift.

Kasper says

Technology student Kaley Blackburn is granted the honour of being sent to the futuristic world of Femme to enhance her studies with a group of female Earth students. Femme world outwardly appears very advanced in technology, but socially is emotionally cold and backward, due to the oppression of the entire male population into slavery. There is a lack of familial recognition among the inhabitants.

Kaley is assigned a slave to facilitate her integration into this strange but beautiful world. Mecca's only job is to cater to the every whim of his mistress.

He appears a dutiful and obedient slave, but is he content to remain in servitude forever? Despite her wishes to the contrary, Kaley develops feelings for her slave and this leads them to a difficult decision. In a surprise twist, her friend Ronika has a part to play in their plans.

The book cover is absolutely stunning and captured my attention immediately. Unfortunately I wasn't immediately drawn to the beginning of the book, where Kaley is waiting in a transport station for her portal to the planet. I think the lack of emotional connection with the Femme characters is intentional, but makes for a bland read. The story improves markedly as soon as Kaley is assigned a handsome slave who is selected to cater to her every whim and guide her during her 6 week stay.

It develops into a smashing read and I definitely encourage you to give this series a try. I can't divulge the best twist in the book, but trust me, it's a good one. Great book from a new sci-fi writer.

Recommended for fans of sci-fi romance novels from young adult upwards. I was given an ebook in

exchange for an honest opinion and I enjoyed it so much, I bought an autographed paperback.

Carol Forrester says

I will admit that 'Femme' would not normally be the sort of book that I'd pick up when wandering around a bookshop or perusing Amazon. However, once I got into reading I found myself really enjoying what Delia Strange has created. Despite being set in a not-too-distant future, there is little about the world she creates that comes across as too unbelievable. I wasn't sure how I felt about aspects such as 'tourist worlds' and worlds entirely dedicated to one aspect of life (such as study), but they manage to work within the context of the book.

The characters have to be my favorite part of the whole book however. Despite playing the main role, Kaley Blackburn is in no way extraordinary. Something that I found incredibly refreshing. Delia Strange has created a character that is utterly realistic, a true representation of a twenty something year old student and despite being a romance novel Delia does not expect the reader to believe in true love at first sight or any other literary cliché. The relationships in the book grow slowly, and in each and every one you are left to question motivations, feelings and overall perceptions. Just as in real life, first impressions are often called into serious question.

'Femme' is a beautifully written book. The chapters, characters and plot are all carefully crafted, subtly leading you deeper and deeper into the world of 'Femme', something that is wonderful to see in an era when the quality of the word is sometimes lost beneath other aspects. 'Femme' is a reminder that often little is as it seems and looking deeper can "taint" that perfect picture we are presented with, leaving us unsure of everything else we have been told and more than a little confused. Perfect doesn't necessarily mean happy and 'Femme' shows this with a startling clarity.

Nicma says

I really procrastinated finishing this book. I attempted for months to obtain a hard copy and was unsuccessful. I really did enjoy this story with Kayla Blackburn and Mecca, her love. I was completely befuddled as to why the other girls, lead by Charlotte, never warmed to Kaley, and it just dawned on me, because she did not treat the Femme world and its citizens like they were beneath her. I really had hoped that more would be explained about how Kaley was raised and there could even be a spin off from this title that explains how Mecca came to be and why he chose to become a slave. I really liked this novel, but there was so much missing for me. I'm sad I've concluded this journey.

Jeanette says

From the moment I saw the cover, I was hooked - and the contents lived up to this first impression. I thoroughly enjoyed Delia Strange's *Femme*. *Femme* is the first of the Wanderers of the Worlds series to be published. It is set in the near future when the Authorities (a coalition of technologically advanced alien worlds) have introduced Earth to portal travel (almost instantaneous travel between worlds). Apparently, the Authorities have been grooming and shaping Earth for two thousand years before they revealed themselves. Now Kaley Blackburn is offered a six week scholarship to study Future Tech on the exclusive world of

Femme. This world is a socialist paradise for women. Men however are literally slaves and raised to be subservient. Kaley is surprised and uncomfortable when she is assigned a temporary slave, Mecca, who has been trained to supply everything she needs. We see Femme through Kaley's eyes as she is wowed by its beauty and advanced technology, and as she struggles to understand the nuances of its matriarchal culture. Soon she is questioning all she knows to be true.

Strange does a wonderful job of world building, of developing the romantic tension between Kaley and Mecca, writes intimate scenes tastefully, while raising questions about gender roles within society. *Femme* raises more questions than it answers, but it gets one thinking. Strange throws in a few curve balls, with a satisfactory ending, while leaving open more Wanderers of the World books. There were a couple of minor loose ends - for instance why do English and Authoritan appear identical. While it could be said that the Authorities surreptitiously guided language development to coincide with their existing language - using the chaotic amalgam of Celtic influenced Latin and Germanic Saxon with loan words from colonies around the world, this does seem a rather complicated way to do it. Then again, maybe it does make some kind of weird sense. Still, the trope that most technological development on Earth is the result of alien influence (because us earth natives would be too dumb to think of it) grows a bit thin at times. But this is only a very minor part of the book and did not detract from the world building that is integrated at many levels into a well conceived whole. There were also some minor style issues but again, as I found myself engrossed in the story and characters, they didn't detract from my enjoyment of the book.

I enjoyed *Femme* for its visual and cultural richness, futuristic elements, thought-provoking sci-fi setting and romantic elements.
