



Straight Stalk

Tera Lynn Childs

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Every Girl Deserves A Little Revenge...

Southern bell turned city girl shop owner, Bethany Lange knows a thing or two about gay men. She's dated five of them. On top of her failed dating life, she's trying to keep her SoHo boutique ahead of the creditors and on top of the trends. When a friend offers her a consulting job on a new gay makeover show, she snatches up the golden opportunity faster than you can say, "Never wear stripes with paisley."

Color her déjà blue when one of the cast members turns out to be her latest ex. She doesn't believe for a second that he's gay and she's going to prove it, even if she has to stalk him to get the proof. In the meantime, she's battling a growing attraction to Chris, the show's kitchen god. He's sweet, sexy, and funny. The perfect guy... if only he weren't gay.

As the stalking and her attraction to Chris escalate, can Bethany prove to herself, once and for all, that she's not the closet cleaner she fears she's become? Can she stop falling for unavailable guys and find one that's a lifetime keeper? Only time—and stalking—will tell.

Straight Stalk Details

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Author : Tera Lynn Childs

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From Reader Review Straight Stalk for online ebook

Jessie says

Available as an e-book, this is the latest from Tera Lynn Childs. Straight Stalk is a companion book to Eye Candy (also an e-book).

Bethany Lange has signed on as a consultant to a TV show similar to Queer Eye for the Straight Guy. Of the cast of five gay guys, she's dated one, and has a major crush on another. See, Bethany's already had five boyfriends "turn" after dating her. When she learns that her most recent ex, Evan is a host on the show she's determined to prove that she didn't chase another boyfriend out of the closet. She's going to prove that he's really straight! A very funny, light read, that keeps you guessing, laughing, and cheering for Bethany all the way.

Abbie says

I loved this book so much! I could really relate to bethany because we're both from the south and have had southern manners hammered into us forever. This book is so funny! i LOOOOVE brice! Chris is a very interesting character and i loved the ending. This book makes me want a gay best friend, a pet chicken, a job on queer eye for the straight guy, and chris... i want one of those!

Nadette Xuereb says

This was amazing! I read it in a day, on the eve of exams :)

Well done Tera Lynn, you managed to create a great page turner, and created a lot of plot twists (most of which I guessed hehehe)

Chris was definitely the best character :)

Carrie says

Author provided a copy for an honest review.

See my review of book one, Eye Candy, [here](#).

Straight Stalk features a heroine introduced in book one, and a new set of guys. Bethany doesn't have the best luck with men, all her exes turn out to be gay. But when her most recent ex -the one who cheated on her with another girl- pops back into her life, and has new job as a gay consultant on the new show she's set to

work on, she'd pissed off. With the help of some new friends, she is determined to uncover the truth, and prove he's not gay.

"Leaving my comfort zone seemed to have bad results. Why, then, did I keep trying?"

Straight Stalk has the same carefree, fun vibe as book one. And is full of humor, but it's a different sort of humor than the previous book. In Eye Candy, Lydia has an addiction to sweets, so it was full of silly, sweet humor. But Bethany is a southern girl in a big city, so she brings that southern charm to the table.

I think the best part of the book was the way the romantic relationship was handled. The book is a romantic comedy, and you see the actual relationship happening from the very beginning, so you know two people are going to fall in love. But what I like best about it was the way it felt very real. Even with all the other issues working against them, they become great friends. From there their feelings grow. I liked that. With her history -not just dating history, but family history- she needed that friendship before she could have something real. And it was all very well done.

"I'm not-' stalking Evan, I started to say. But if you looked at it in a certain light -bright, glaring daylight perhaps- my actions could, if considered with rational detachment, be considered stalking-esque."

I really liked all the characters. The more we got to know them, you just couldn't help but love them. Bethany is a bit blind to the obvious. Instead of it being an aspect of Silly Heroine Syndrome, I think that's just part of her charm. She's willing to believe in the people around her, but she still holds herself back. I liked watching her open up and heal from an inner wound she's denied for a while.

I've been looking forward to the next book, Trying Texas, since the author first posted a bit on her blog. In fact, that is what drew me to this series in the first place. If you are looking for a cute chick-lit series, try this one.

"Friends didn't need to be reassured of each other's sanity. Shared lunacy only strengthened a friendship."

Katrina Knittle says

Goodreads. Will read and review once received.

I have yet to read the first book, but after reading this book I would really love to get my hands on it. This was a great book that I just flew through. Bethany is a great character. I loved that she was from the South. This is a great and funny book.

Dilsh Wijesinghe says

Seriously, a lot better than **EYE CANDY** [*City Chicks #01*]. I enjoyed the story lot. Story line was very strong. This was the first time I read a book that having a plot like this. A new approach of reading to me. Story was getting fun and even more fun to read ahead. And, there were many moments that I couldn't stop my laugh. HA HA HAA.... I enjoyed every scene of this story. All the characters were strongly developing

from chapter to chapter and had their own unique characteristics. And the story was also special in some kind of way. Author had add happiness, love, revenge, sorrow, fear, silliness and more craziness to the story and made a great combination of those feelings to develop the spirit and sentimentality of the story. Really addictive. Looking forward to read the “TRYING TEXAS” book number 3 of this series.

Shelby says

Straight Stalk by Tera Lynn Childs was a really good book! It was about this girl, Bethany Lange who is from the South (like me!) and she had a history of boyfriends turning gay. She was signed onto a tv show that's similar to *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* (I read somewhere that they were similar to each other). She was a consultant on for helping with picking out clothes for the guys. There was five other guys on the show (all gay) and one of them was her ex-boyfriend, Evan and she had a major crush on another one, Chris. When she finds out that her ex was on the show, she wanted to prove that he wasn't gay and with the help of Chris and Kit (Chris sister and her helper at her shop) she stalked Evan to find some proof that Evan was really straight. Don't want to give you any more without giving away the ending!

The book was funny pretty much all throughout the book. I loved how Bethany's southern manners was displayed in the book, I loved how it wasn't just shown in the beginning and then disappear as the book went on. The manners kept popping up and made the book even more funny at certain parts. As for Evan, I kept on guessing on whether he was truly gay or if he was straight the entire time I was reading the book. There wasn't much that made me hate the book, I mean I'm giving it 5 hearts! The book was really well written and there wasn't any parts that made me get confused and have to go back and re-read to understand it. It was a book that I was able to read from beginning to end without any confusion. I definitely can say that I will be putting the rest of Tera Lynn Childs' books onto my to-read list because I'm sure the other books will be as good as this book was!

Rachelle says

Straight Stalk was quite interesting. At the beginning of the story, Bethany isn't doing so well. Her boutique isn't getting the attention it needs, and her love life is an issue all of its own. When an opportunity arises that is sure to get her boutique much needed publicity, Bethany jumps at the chance.

Bethany doesn't have the best track record with men, but she's surprised to see one of her exes, as a gay cast member of the show. She's determined to prove that he isn't who he claims to be, while falling deeper in love with a new man. Too bad he's gay.

I enjoyed the witty humor splayed out and the twists that came and went within the story. In my opinion, the ending was super predictable, but that didn't stop my smile.

(I received this book through Goodreads First Read Giveaways)

Eva • All Books Considered says

I liked this one a lot more than the first book! Very cute! Will review both on my blog soon

Penny says

I was lucky enough to win a copy of Straight Stalk by Tera Lynn Childs through a contest I entered on Goodreads.

This is the first book I have read by Tera Lynn Childs and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

With so many books filled with dark stories, this was very refreshing and a nice change of pace.

Bethany seems to have the worst luck in dating. It seems everyone she is attracted to is gay.

So it's understandable she has become very cautious and when she is attracted to another guy that she knows for a fact is gay she is determined not to try and change anything and just be friends. However, this time that one guy is not gay. An opportunity for him to work was too good to pass up – only condition besides knowing his job, the position was for a gay guy. He lied and got the job. He has feelings for Bethany but he has to convince her he's not gay.

As I said it's a nice change of pace, easy to read and just plain fun.

I would definitely recommend this book and I look forward to reading other books by Tera Lynn Childs

Nasty Lady MJ says

To see full review [click here](#).

I'm actually depressed and it's my fault. I should've realized-based on the summary-how this one was going to be. But I had hope, oh so much hope because this is by Tera Lynn Childs.

Who knows how to write really fluffy novels. However, maybe she should stick to her YA stuff because for an adult novel.

Yeah....the characters acted more like they were thirteen than in their early thirties.

And there was nothing remotely original or awe inspiring about this book that made it worth my time.

Nothing.

The main character Bethany is pretty much a Mary Sue. She looks enough like a famous actress to be mistaken for her. Manages to get on a TV show with very little effort. Pay Manhattan rent for both a shop and apartment, despite not being loaded. And is a horrible pet owner.

I'll get more into the animal abuse later because that pretty much sets me off. But now, I have to talk about Bethany. So, she's pretty bland except for having terrible gay-dar and daddy issues. But I guess that's okay, because she can drink all night long and walk around in a trench coat and lingerie and can pretty much seduce anyone because she's wearing pink panties and heels.

Yeah, I didn't like her.

Or her boyfriend. I really can't go off on him without giving too much away about the plot, but let's just say once again Bethany has horrible gaydar. I picked up on this characteristic about the boyfriend within five pages on his introduction. And what he did really no excuse. Bethany you shouldn't have been understanding. That was a pretty huge lie. But you were like all giggles, giggles, let's get in bed.

This book really annoys me.

Once again, really shouldn't have been that surprised given the summary.

But this is a Tera Lynn Childs book.

Le sigh.

And now comes the section of my review called let's piss MJ off with animal abuse.

Fuckity fuck fuck fuck.

I feel totally entitled to use the word fuck by the way since I had the WTF did I read face when I read this whole scene and fall out from a scene.

When I read initially that Bethany bought a chicken to save it from being slaughtered, I was like cute and yay Bethany for saving an animal's life. Then I realized what a horrible pet owner she made.

To be fair, the actual physical abuse isn't done by Bethany, but the fact that she didn't take the chicken to a vet (calling an animal health hotline isn't the same as going to a vet/going to an animal hospital, FYI) and turning the scumbag in for animal cruelty or letting him tell her off.

No.

Just no.

Plus, the whole scene tried to come out as funny.

But how is purposely making a chicken funny?

Really?

And no....a fucking chicken is not going to attack you. The scene just came out as wrong. Just so fucking wrong. Which is probably why I'm thinking of pouring myself something of the alcoholic persuasion right now to try to forget about this fuckery.

But it gets better. It gets even better.

Poor Chicken (that's its name, you know, Chicken. So much fucking originality there). Then again the Audrey Hepburn version of Holly Golightly named her cat "Cat" so I guess inspiration struck there.

Sometimes I even wonder why I bother...

It gets even worse.

Poor Chicken already is physically abused without much of a vet's visit, but she's soon given away because the producers need a pet for their fucking TV show. BTW, tell me what fucking TV show films multiple episodes without their fucking pilot being picked up?

Okay, I will try to refrain from using the word fuck as much for the rest of this review (no promises though because it's pretty infuriating). But I don't get how someone can so callously give up a pet and be like, well, it's okay the kids can play with it. And obvs kids are the best pet owners in the world—they're not, just ask any mother who is walking Sparky and picking up his poo after eight-year-old Timmy becomes disenchanted with his pet Cocker Spaniel because he now has an Xbox.

Chickens aren't first time apartment pets, Bethany.

If you actually did some fucking research, you'd know that it isn't a fucking goldfish. They require room and you need to know what you're doing so they won't be susceptible to diseases. Oh, and they're not going to want to cuddle with a five year old.

But kids. Happy. Pets. Giving that bird away is the right thing to do after it served it's plot point (i.e. being fucking abused). As long as the kids are happy.....

Excuse me while I get out something that has a little bit more alcohol in this.

Bibliojunkies says

* * * *

Southern bell turned city girl shop owner, Bethany Lange knows a thing or two about gay men. She's dated five of them.

On top of her failed romantic life, she's trying to keep her SoHo boutique ahead of the creditors and on top of the trends. When an old friend offers her a consulting job on a new gay makeover show, she snatches up the golden opportunity faster than you can say, "Never wear stripes with paisley."

Color her déjà blue when one of the cast members turns out to be her latest ex. Well, she doesn't believe for a second that he's gay. He's a lying louse and she's going to prove it, even if she has to stalk him to get the proof.

In the meantime, she's battling a growing attraction to the show's kitchen god, Chris, despite knowing beforehand that he's gay. He's sweet, sexy, and funny. The perfect guy. And things only gets worse when he joins in on the stalking. Long, late nights in the cramped quarters of her car are not exactly fostering emotional distance.

As the stalking and her attraction to Chris escalate, can Bethany prove to herself, once and for all, that she's not the closet cleaner she fears she's become? Can she stop falling for unavailable guys and find one that's a lifetime keeper? Only time—and stalking—will tell.

If you have ever met Tera Lynn Childs you will understand when I say that *Straight Talk* is just as darling as its author. We have met Tera twice before – once at a signing at The Magic Tree Bookstore in Oak Park, IL and more recently at the Romantic Times Conventions. She is super fun and sweet. And those are the exact words I would use to describe this book.

Bethany is a fashion guru with a fledgling boutique in SoHo. Although not thriving, her business is surviving...unlike her love life. In that area she is doomed. Four of her last five boyfriends have broken up with her because they are gay. When an old friend offers her a dream job as fashion consultant for the new reality show, *One Straight Guy at a Time* (think *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*), she doesn't hesitate to grab the opportunity that will boost her business. What she didn't expect was to find ex-boyfriend #5 (the straight one) playing the gay interior designer. She KNOWS he's not gay and she is bound and determined to "in" him to the world. On top of dealing with her current mission she is falling for a man that she already knows is gay - Chris, the gay chef on the show. What follows is a series of mishaps that will leave you smiling and laughing. Although you will figure out much sooner than Bethany what is going on you will still be surprised by the ending. Swear to god, I didn't see it coming.

Seriously, this book was just plain fun and it would make an excellent movie. Hint, Hint, Hollywood. Get on it, will you? While Reese Witherspoon is still young enough to play the lead? See there, I already did some of the work for you. If you are looking for additional casting help I am available and can be paid in books, boys and pie.

Bethany was a loveable character. More than a little clueless but still lovely. Kit was a total tough cookie. She was also what best friends are made of. A good friend will give you a shoulder to cry on when your boyfriend breaks up with you. A Kit will wholeheartedly help you stalk the boy that broke your heart.

Then there are the boys in this book. Love. Them. All. We all know that I love the forever boy. And every single male character in this book is a forever boy one way or another. Even ex-boyfriend #5.

You can probably tell that I loved this book. It left me with a smile on my face and I think it would do the same for you.

Straight Talk is one of Tera's self-published books and can be purchased at smashwords.com, bn.com, and amazon.com.

Nat

nicole nowak says

after devouring the *Forgive My Fins* series i was a bit thrown by how different the contexts were for these books. I am more of a syfy YA reader and this took a bit of getting used to. I will agree with some of the other reviewers that the candy addiction is kind of a weird angle, but who doesn't love a good story about

make believe boyfriends having to come to life and fool the world. but a little to many candy reverences for my taste

Justine Winans says

After reading Eye Candy, I was definitely eager to take a look at Straight Stalk - a romance that is just as sweet as the first book in the series, but manages to be a completely unique stand-alone. I was thrilled to discover that the protagonist was Bethany. In Eye Candy, we didn't see much of her except being the sweet Southern Belle with a boutique in a scene or two. I loved learning more about her through the story, as she has a lot more to her character than initially expected.

Straight Stalk is a perfect romantic comedy that manages to capture it's own attention in a genre littered with cliches. Of course, there were things that were predictable, but the delivery of those plot lines were still fantastic, so the lack of twists can easily be forgiven. Not to mention, having everyone (including the reader) know something that the main character can't seem to accept, adds to the dramatic irony, as well as the humor. Plus, it gives some extra charm to Bethany's character.

There were plenty of things that I adored in Straight Stalk, even aside from the fact that it gave me much needed smiles and laughs. The romance came a lot more naturally. It wasn't a first-sight I'm in love, kind of deal, but grew from a friendship, which was incredibly sweet. For a romantic comedy type novel, the entire story doesn't focus on the romance, which I loved. There's a lot more going on in Bethany's world, which makes the read more realistic and more enjoyable. Aside from having a romantic aspect, the story deeply involves family, friendship, and self-discovery.

Childs continues to craft excellent characters in this City Girls novel. Aside from Bethany, there were plenty of characters that were well-developed and fun to read about. Kat is smart, funny and makes for an excellent friend; I loved seeing that relationship grow between the two women. All five guys from the show differed in personality, which made them more intriguing. From the ones we saw a lot of, to the ones that hardly made an appearance, they all left their mark.

Although, initially, the story may seem like it portrays homosexual men in a stereotypical way, the true case is actually quite the opposite. By the end of the novel, Straight Stalk practically tears down the cliches and stereotypes, showing that your sexual preference doesn't make you a certain type of person with specific interests.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Straight Stalk, a fun novel and a perfect summer read. The big city setting is perfect for these kinds of romances, and the writing is wonderful - with fantastic dialogue from sure-to-be interesting characters. I cannot wait to read more. (Perhaps from Fiona's point of view?)

Kate says

A silly, bubbly, predictable chick lit concoction. The thin plot revolved around a woman who seems to only date men who later end being gay who ends up lusting after a man who is a cast member of a Queer Eye for the Straight Guy like show. Hilarity and predictable misunderstandings ensue. The characters are likable enough, but this is not one of Child's better efforts. Her YA novels are ten times better. If you are going to

read her novels, might I recommend Sweet Venom or Oh My Gods! instead. They are much more interesting reads. Also there a few continuity and spelling mistakes as well, which drove me a little nuts.
