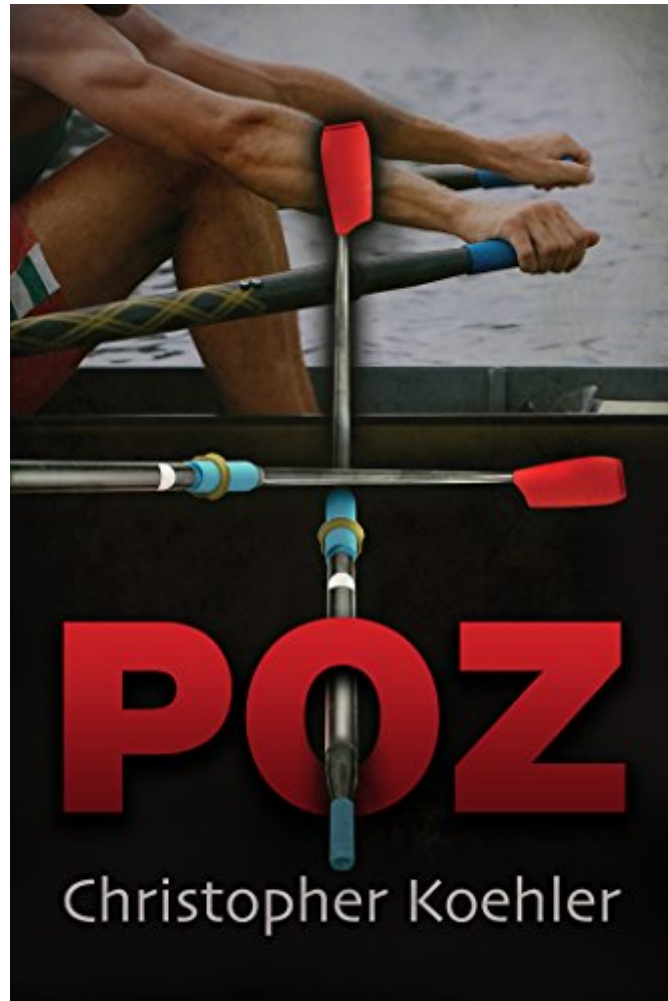


The book was found

Poz (The Lives Of Remy And Michael Book 1)



Synopsis

The Lives of Remy and Michael: Book OneA CalPac Crew StoryRemy Babcock and Mikey Castelreigh are stalwart members of the Capital City Rowing Club's junior crew, pulling their hardest to earn scholarships to rowing powerhouses like California Pacific. Just a couple of all-American boys, they face the usual pressures of life in an academic hothouse and playing a varsity sport. Add to that the stifling confines of the closet, and sometimes life isn't always easy, even in the golden bubble of their accepting community. Because Remy and Mikey have a secret: they're both gay. While Mikey has never hidden it, Remy is a parka and a pair of mittens away from Narnia. Mikey has always been open about wanting more than friendship, but Remy is as uncomfortable in his own skin as he is a demon on the water. After their signals cross, and a man mistakes Remy for a college student, Remy takes the plunge and hooks up with him. After a furious Mikey cuts Remy off, Remy falls to the pressure of teenage life, wanting to be more and needing it now. In his innocence and naiveté, Remy makes mistakes that have life-long consequences. When Remy falls in the midst of the most important regatta of his life, he can only hope Mikey will be there to catch him when he needs it most.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christopher Koehler's "Poz" follows Brett Hartinger's "The Real Story Safe Sex Project," dedicated to educating about sex/safe sex through writing. Koehler's novel explores the life of Remy Babcock, a high school junior, a rower on his school's team, and in the closet to almost everybody he knows. One exception is his good friend, Mikey, who Remy knows is gay too, but is sending him mixed signals. Longing for some kind of release, Remy finds comfort in other boys, which proves easy for him as he looks older than he is. The novel tracks him spiraling downward into more and more sordid encounters until the consequences come at a head. This novel is overflowing with tension, and carries a strong message. There's a responsibility that comes with sex and protecting yourself, and the consequences aren't just there on the page for the characters. It's meant to make you really identify with Remy and be more aware of how and why to protect yourself. All the characters leap off the page, from twins Remy and Geoff (nicknamed Gerny and Goff by each other), Mikey, and the twins' parents, you dive headfirst into Mikey's life, getting caught up with him and experiencing the terrors and anxiety that he faces because of his choices. In my opinion, Koehler does exactly what he sets out to do. While educating readers on practices of safe sex, he also makes it clear that those who are diagnosed positive are not being given a death sentence. There are always consequences to actions, but there's also hope and treatment. There's no moral judgment here, and I walked away from this novel extremely conscious of Remy's undertakings. I absolutely recommend this book to any reader, especially ones who are not educated about the sexual risks that come with not protecting yourself. If this is regarded as book one to a continued series, I would definitely read all future installments!

Christopher Koehler was one of the very first authors I read when I found the M/M book community. If you haven't read any of his other stories, I encourage you to do so now. Please. Just gift your soul with the brilliant works of Mr. Koehler. This is a YA novel so it's about teenagers. If you do not generally like YA novels, I would still encourage you to give this one a go as it is worth it. I can't stress how amazing this story is. From the beginning it was easy to tell that the narration and point of view was from a teenager. The tone was sarcastic and energetic. Remy's brain was like a train switching from one track to another in a manner of seconds. Who needs sudoku when you have Remy? It was refreshingly familiar and oh my god REMY IS HILARIOUS AND ADORABLE. I wanted to hug his sarcastic soul. So effing snarky too. Anyway.. the story does take on a more

serious tone. It's about the struggle of trying to fit in where you don't feel like you do. That's high school and life and that's beautifully expressed in this story. Oh the struggle was sweet and heart wrenching-ly poignant. Most importantly it was believable and relate-able. Who doesn't strive to find some place to fit in or someone to call their own? A cyborg. Yes it was intense at times but it was also hilarious. It had me crying for Remy and how unfair things could be in life and then it had me laughing because that kid is resilient and damn some of those lines. Borrowing. I will give credit where credit is due. I nearly highlighted half of the book. Christopher Koehler writes like a wizard. I was cackling at times and cursing at others. I felt like I was in the story as it was unfolding. It is that immersing and exceptional. I love every single bit of this book. From the beginning to the end. I was sad to read the end , because that signified that it was over and i don't like goodbyes. However, i can see that this is to be a series and i cannot wait to pre-order the second installment and call it mine.(The dedication was sweet. I am one of the few that read that before i even begin the first chapter of the book. I'm glad i did.)

I didn't give this book 5 stars because I loved it but the book has a very important message. This book is very hard for me to write an unbiased review not because of how much I did or did not like it. I did like it. The subject matter saddens me horribly. (Spoiler Alert:) What I do know is that our country does far too little these days educating young people on the subjects of Sexually transmitted diseases and how to prevent them just by using Condoms. I'm in the same boat as Remy and have been since the 1980's when we knew crap. His catting around for sex is no different than the 80's and before. His relationship with his brother Geoff, his parents, coach and Mikey all are so familiar. I feel this book should be required reading for young people in the LGBTQ community. The author has taken great pains to write real characters and situations which is so important in a story like this. I've been saying to many people who know I read M4M romance that I get really tired of the "oh I'm clean are you?" being used in so many of the genres books and then following up with the "I want to feel you skin to skin inside me." Seriously? Come on don't all of us authors included need to be part of the educating process? I still read them regardless but if authors who use the above situations in their books added a foreword or afterword promoting Safe Sex and included phone contacts for places for anonymous testing it might help save one person's life which helps save others. I apologize for being on a soap box. I enjoyed the book and will definitely read more of Mr. Koehler in the future.

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