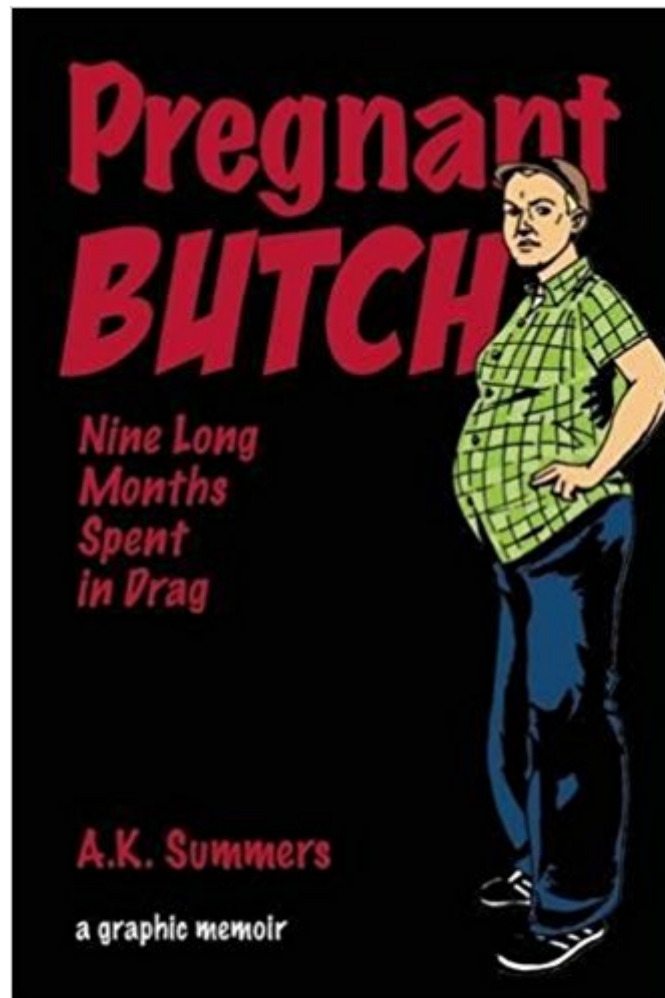




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Pregnant Butch: Nine Long Months Spent In Drag



Synopsis

First pregnancy can be a fraught, uncomfortable experience for any woman, but for resolutely butch lesbian Teek Thomasson, it is exceptionally challenging: Teek identifies as a masculine woman in a world bent on associating pregnancy with a cult of uber-femininity. Teek wonders, "Can butches even get pregnant?" Of course, as she and her pragmatic femme girlfriend Vee discover, they can. But what happens when they do? Written and illustrated by A.K. Summers, and based on her own pregnancy, *Pregnant Butch* strives to depict this increasingly common, but still underrepresented experience of queer pregnancy with humor and complexity; from the question of whether suspenders count as legitimate maternity wear to the strains created by different views of pregnancy within a couple and finally to a culturally critical and compassionate interrogation of gender in pregnancy. Offering smart, ambitious art, this graphic memoir is a must-read for would-be pregnant butches and anyone interested in the intersection of birth and gender, as well as a perfect queer baby shower gift and conversation starter for those who always assumed they "got" being pregnant.

Book Information

Paperback: 126 pages

Publisher: Soft Skull Press (March 18, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1593765401

ISBN-13: 978-1593765408

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #67,428 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Comics &

Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Gay & Lesbian #37 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Educational & Nonfiction

Customer Reviews

"This comic's strength is its ability not to devolve into the oversentimentality or overseriousness that marks many pregnancy narratives. Instead, it forges ahead and finds complex personal meaning, and great inner strength, in the experience of bringing a child into the world. Summers's voice is fresh, honest, biting, and funny." *Library Journal* "Summers is a good storyteller [and] in the best way, this story is a coming of age story. [...] It's hard not to

melt when you meet her present family at the end of the book." —Buzzfeed"Having a baby is a macho and delicate business, and A.K. Summers' Pregnant Butch shows how it's done with exquisite glory."—Jennifer Camper, editor of Juicy Mother"I very much enjoyed reading Pregnant Butch. It's thoroughly engrossing and often very funny. I found a surprising amount to identify with, even though I will never be a butch lesbian or pregnant. Ms. Summers' book is happily recommended."—Howard Cruse, author of Stuck Rubber Baby"Poignant and accomplished, A.K. Summers' Pregnant Butch is also fascinating. Revealing what it was like to be butch and pregnant, she questions how we inhabit roles that get at the core of our sense of self—and how we make them our own even when they are freighted with convention. Furthermore, Summers's deft artwork has great appeal: her line is a charming cross between HergÃ© and the Hernandez brothers." —Hillary Chute, author of Graphic Women: Life Narrative and Contemporary ComicsA.K. Summers' Pregnant Butch is a Tintin lookalike who embarks down the path to motherhood. If you made it through that sentence without your head spinning, then you're ready for one of the weirdest, wonderful-est pregnancy memoirs out there. Employing a variety of art styles (think HergÃ© meets Jaime Hernandez, with a little Jack Kirby thrown in for fun), Summers has crafted a wry, wise tale that guarantees a chuckle on every page. Pregnant Butch is an unsentimental, no-holds-barred book filled with insight and genuine feeling. (And you know you want to see Tintin pregnant!)—Josh Neufeld, author of A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge

A.K. Summers began working on Pregnant Butch in 2005, following the birth of her son, and, in 2012, serialized it on webcomics site Activate Comix. A longtime artist, Summers is the creator of *Negativa: Chicago's Astute Lezbo Fantasy Mag*, and was included in Dennis Cooper's *Discontents: New Queer Writers*. Summers lives with her partner and son in Providence, Rhode Island.

I like the art style, but currently, the book seems to be missing half its pages. To be fair, they're not exactly missing - it's just that every alternate page has been rendered as a teeny tiny thumbnail below the main page. Took me a while to realize this - I just assumed the story wasn't meant to be a single coherent narrative but a bunch of peeks into the life of the author/main character during this period in their life. I figured the little pictures at the bottom of each page were just, I dunno, thumbnails for the next page (hey, stranger things have happened). However, some of them contained enough detail for me to finally figure out that they were neither a copy of the current page

nor the next one. Maybe this works OK on the Kindle Fire or the PC reader, but on the e-reader, it is crap. Hopefully, they will fix this, because this book deserves more than three stars.

This book hit on more things I relate to than anything else I've read in pregnancy.... and I've read a lot. I really appreciated the forward acknowledging the ways in which an experience sits in a particular moment in history. Still even as a transgender man doing this pregnancy thing around the same age 10 years later, so much is relatable and on point. A bucket load off thanks to AK Summers for sharing her experiences in smart and well illustrated ways.

Laugh out loud funny on some pages, and painful on others. Energetic, expressive drawing. I think many pregnant people (not just pregnant butches) will recognize the dark and comic insights about how pregnancy alters self-image, public experience, and sense of body and identity.

I bought this because I was excited over it being an LGBT graphic novel, and I really enjoyed it. I gave it to my girlfriend afterwards (she identifies as butch) to read which she claims to have been very insightful. Good read and would definitely recommend!

I'm a midwife and I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's honest and funny. Maybe we're in a different place in terms of gender nowadays . . . maybe not so much. Regardless, this is a unique memoir of pregnancy from a fresh perspective.

Very amusing, relatable, and sharp graphic novel. I especially appreciated the discussion of the author's gender presentation as "butch," and its relationship to sexual identity groupings. Maybe heterosexual women can be "butch" too?

Never written a review before, but had to for this unbelievably wonderful graphic memoir. The artwork is amazing. I'm a straight parent of three, and I can say unreservedly that this is a universal story albeit told from a very personal point of view. Summers shies away from nothing and exposes the dark underbelly (so to speak) of pregnancy and childbirth, while also being laugh-out-loud funny. The only bummer about this book is that it was over too soon. Can't wait for more from this author/artist.

better than i thought

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