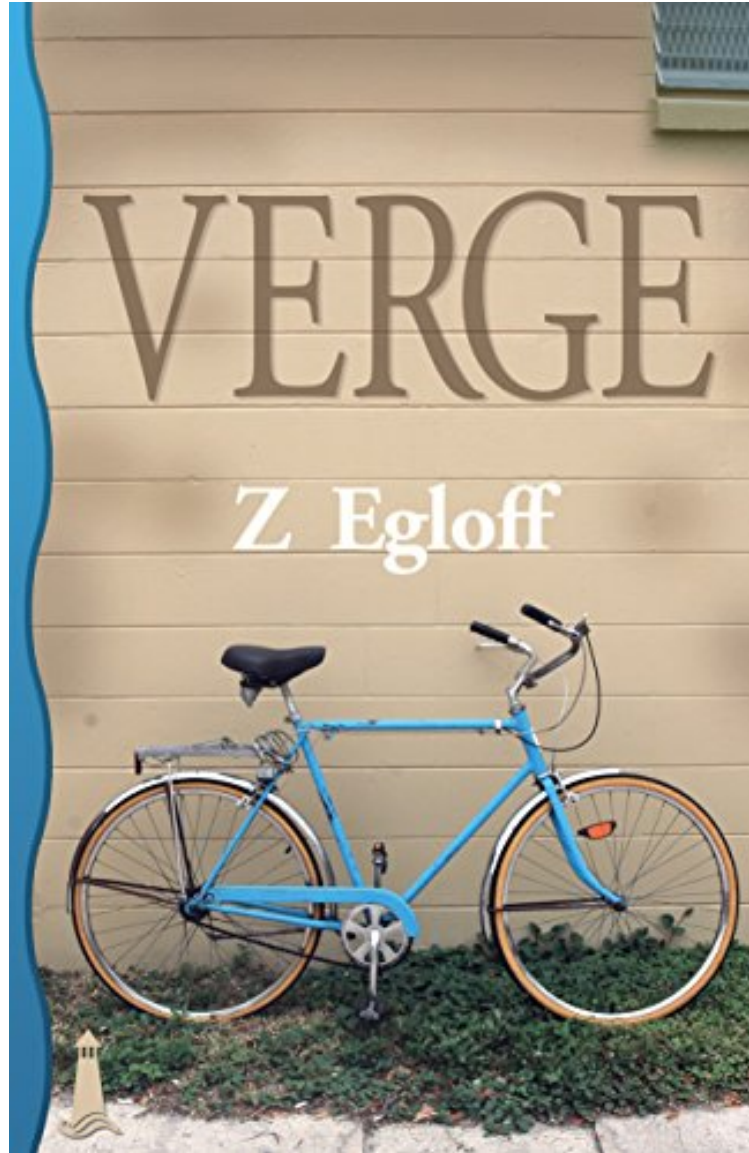


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Verge

Z Egloff

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Z Egloff : Verge before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Verge:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not sure what to think of this book By Sage320 Is it possible to like a book but not like its main character? Verge will give the reader a chance to decide that. Claire McMinn is a recovering alcoholic and sex addict who wants to be a film maker. Unfortunately, she slept with the wife of the professor who controls whether or not she can stay in the film program at her college and she got caught. Now Claire is scrambling to

save her career. If she can complete her class project, maybe she'll be allowed back in the program. Hope resides in Sister Hilary, who works at a community center where Claire volunteers. The center owns video equipment and Claire is given permission to use it if she will make a film about the center. Complications pile on top of complications between Claire's peculiar family, her best friend Shelby, with whom she has on and off again affairs, and Sister Hilary. Whether or not Claire is going to be able to accomplish any of her goals is highly doubtful. The best way to describe Claire McMinn is to say that she's a mess. She's certainly irresponsible and her own worst enemy. In quick order she sleeps with her professor's wife, her best friend, who identifies herself as straight, and then seduces a nun. Some of her behavior can be explained by her being in an alcoholic haze, but there's also an underlying feeling that Claire thinks she can do anything she wants to and get away with it. She always seems perplexed when other people don't see things that way. If she was deliberately trying to ruin her life, she couldn't do a much better job at it. *Verge* is structurally well written. That can be said with certainty. Z Eglhoff knows how to write. It has received acclaim from some well-known writers and was a finalist and winner of some awards. The question is if the acclaim is for the production of the book or the story within it. No matter how well the story is written, the main character is irritating to the point of wanting to sometimes slap her for her behavior. Perhaps that is the essence of creating a realistic character. Going back to the original question, is it possible to like a book but not like its main character? Maybe it's best to leave that up to the reader to decide. This reader's answer would be "No," but there is room for discussion. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not your typical girl-gets-nun (or does she?) story. By Robin I almost didn't buy this book because of the scathing 1 star review posted here. I'm so glad I did. If you read as many books as I do - 3 or 4 a week - you can discern a formulaic romance in the first paragraph. And I get so bored with the same old plot rehashed and repeated ad nauseum. Not so with 'Verge' ... it was cleverly written with a (finally!) fresh plot. It's not a Sarah Waters or a Camarin Grae but really quite good for this genre. I'll be interested in the next book this author writes. **Remember - if you want your favorite authors to keep writing they have to be able to earn a living at it. If possible buy the book NEW to provide the author with royalties. If you're not going to keep it in your collection put it in the recycle bin to make another book. ** 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding first novel, *Verge* by Z is well written, finely timed, beautiful. By Earth Mother I am delighted to share my enthusiasm for this first published novel by Z. Finally I allowed myself to finish reading *Verge*. Not wanting the sense of being held in this finely nuanced world to end, I hadn't wanted to read quickly. I enjoyed the writing so much, and the story, and the generosity of spirit, and the Love, and the teaching, and the groundedness and... Thank You.

Claire McMinn has three goals: to stay sober, to stay away from sex, and to get into film school. She's already adept at surviving her crazed family, rescuing (and seducing) her best friend, and pretending to ignore the advice of her sponsor a gay man, impervious, fortunately, to all her charms. As *Verge* begins, Claire's last goal is jeopardized when a past affair with a professor's wife catches up with her and she is kicked out of his class. In her quest to obtain a video camera to complete the course work on her own, she is introduced to Sister Hilary, the nun who runs a local community center. Claire leaves their meeting with a volunteer job at Sister Hilary's agency, a chance to make a documentary about it, and a tangle of complications. *Verge* is a novel of self-forgiveness and growth if not redemption, a tale of developing vision if not romance, and is more of a testament to the importance of community and friendship than a tale of a dysfunctional family. And it's a very satisfying read. *Verge* will appeal to readers who are interested in spirituality, addiction recovery, the madcap humor of gay/lesbian AA, the creative arts, and the lives of twenty-first-century nuns, as well as the trials and tribulations and adventures of contemporary lesbians. Z Eglhoff was born in California, raised in the Midwest, and schooled (academically and otherwise) in Amherst, Massachusetts, and on Cape Cod. *Verge* is her first novel.

"*Verge* has heart and wit and intelligence." Emma Donoghue, author of *Room* "*Verge* is powerful, quirky, and fresh. Z Eglhoff creates a rich, inclusive world and a heroine who's one of the most endearingly fallible characters I've met in a long time." Alison Bechdel, author of *Fun Home* "With *Verge*, Z Eglhoff enters the ring of fiction with the assurance of an old hand. This is a talented writer." Carol Anshaw, author of *Aquamarine*