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# Butter



## **Synopsis**

A lonely 423-pound boy everyone calls "Butter" is about to make history. He's going to eat himself to death live on the Internet - and everyone will watch. When he makes this announcement online, he expects pity, insults, or possibly sheer indifference. Instead, his classmates become morbid cheerleaders for his deadly plan. But as their dark encouragement grows, a few voices begin to offer genuine support and Butter starts to have doubts. His suicidal threat brought his newfound popularity--and a taste of what life could hold for him--but can he live with the fallout if he decides not to go through with his plan? Emotionally raw and darkly humorous, this is an all-consuming look at one teen's battle with himself.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Butter is the nickname of a morbidly obese high school guy. The range of emotions is explored well, from isolation to elation of being accepted via being picked on. Butter makes a date with death and he suddenly becomes popular and as this date races closer, he shoves away choices and goes

headlong into the light of eating himself to death. Why only 3 stars? I think this is more of a teen book and the depth of any character sans butter was not developed well. We got to know them by "pretty" "jerk" etc, one word names that encompassed who they were. It has good lessons about bullying, eating emotions, friendship, etc. it was a quick read which I ate up. :(.

An interesting read. A surprisingly insightful peek into the mind of a confused teenage boy. Butter himself isn't very likeable, but manages to be sympathetic anyway most of the time

BUTTER by Erin Jade Lange is a book that resonated with me in a way I had not expected it to. I had actually started this book after finishing one I'd hoped I would love, but unfortunately turned out to be just 'eh'. On the contrary, I went into BUTTER on thinking it would be just 'eh'. Why? Well, I admit, I initially thought that Butter would literally be eating HIMSELF, and I was somewhat (morbidly) disappointed when I discovered that he would just be eating a lot, eating and eating to the point of death. (Silly me!) But joyfully, I finished the book having fallen completely and utterly in love with Butter (both the book and the character!) Simply stated, if you or anyone you have known has ever dealt with weight issues, bullying, peer pressure or any type of insecurity whatsoever in high school (which is just about everyone) you HAVE to read this book. The book is told from the point of view of "Butter", a morbidly obese senior in high school who has been dealing with weight issues most of his life. You can blame it on bad genes, terrible self control, or his enabling mother, but when push comes to shove, this guy is FAT. And he's in high school. With that said, I am sure you can only imagine the treatment he receives by his classmates. Go ahead, imagine it, guys. I am willing to bet that how he is actually treated is far worse than anything your mind comes up with. Just wait until you read about how he got his name. \*shudder\* Oh, and he's been to fat camp. So we get to join Butter as he is horribly treated in school AND as he stands by growing fatter and fatter, while his fellow camp buddies become thinner and thinner. What a real self-esteem crusher, right? And then there's this girl... Yup. Butter, who is actually incredibly funny, likable and an all-round great guy, happens to like one of the most popular girls in school. Doh! That can only lead to trouble, right? And it does... In a series of events that leads to Butter proclaiming his eventual demise (death by eating) to his classmates over the internet. Erin's writing and her story and her characters are as unforgiving as they are hopeful. Her characters are at once likable and highly realistic. They are forced to make difficult decisions, many of which lead them (or should I say Butter, in particular) into big trouble. Erin is an adept author, mastering the difficult task as a female author to write as a male lead. Butter is endearing, if not a bit, well... stupid... at times because of

the things he says and does (but that comes with the territory of being a teenager, right?) And the kids at Butter's school? They are downright awful. But then again, they are your typical teenagers, too, right? So how does it all go down? How far will Butter take his antics? And will he get the girl? Well, what unfolds may surprise you, perhaps disturb you, or maybe even make you think. I know that's what it made me do. Highly re-readable and unforgettable, I recommend BUTTER by Erin Jade Lange to anyone who wants a different and insightful contribution to contemporary YA fiction.

I was really interested in reading this book. I had it on pre-order so I got started the day it came out. I think it was my morbid curiosity kicking in that made me want to read this book so bad. That's kind of a freaky idea to eat yourself to death live on the internet. The book is about a 423 lb. boy with the unfortunate nickname of Butter. He spends his life in a self-imposed isolation despite his mother's and music teacher's best efforts to draw him out. Even the kids at school leave him alone out of pity. The only times Butter is happy is when he's playing his saxophone and when he's online talking to his crush under his online alter-ego. Once Butter finally makes it known that he is going to eat himself to death online and makes it known to the school, he starts getting the attention that he realizes he's been craving. He gets to sit at the popular table. His crush is finally starting to notice him. But is the new found fame worth it? Is it for the right reasons? What happens when he reveals who he really is to his crush? I flew through this book. It was well written and the characters were definitely memorable. Butter was relatable at times and frustrating at times, but I always wanted to know what he was going to do next. Other than language, there weren't any big red flags in terms of parental warnings. Butter would be ok for most teens.

Butter's life is depressing. At school he sits alone, and at home his dad doesn't talk to him and his mother is constantly feeding him food. His only friend is from a fat camp and doesn't go to his school. One day fed up with being invisible and taunted he decides to kill himself by doing one of the only things he knows how to do, eating himself to death. Wanting to go out with a bang he announces his last meal on the internet and instead of helping him the kids at school make him their celebrity. An odd topic to begin with, the author manages to take the absurd and make it real giving Butter a deep and complicated world view. Slowly he learns from the experience what is forcing him to eat and how he contributes to his own problems. By the end he not only understands himself better but the reader does too.

Some characters needed more development, they seemed a little cliché and "typical" at times, but

over all I liked the story. I wanted a different ending than what I got, but it was still a very interesting read and I am glad I added it to my collection. I liked that there was a sense of darkness to it, including the humor. So many "YA" books are predictable and I can't relate to the characters as much. I also liked that really no one was perfect and they were all kind of jerks, because that is life. I can't wait to read from Erin Jade Lange again.

Great read for anyone who has known someone who struggled with their weight. However, the ending was abrupt. Maybe to leave room for a sequel.

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