



See Me

K.C. Wells

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Adrian DeSoto spent most of his time in high school being bullied and beaten up, simply because he was perceived as gay. Always slight, effeminate, he was the perfect victim for guys like Martin Cavanaugh, one of the high school jocks. When it all got too much, Adrian was faced with two options, one more devastating than the other. Eleventh grade saw a new Adrian, one who hid his fears and pain behind a mask in a bid to survive.

Eleven years later, and Adrienne is one of the top drag acts in Orlando. She's fierce, funny and exuberant. A face from the past gives her a shock, and after that there's only one thing on her mind—revenge.

Marty Cavanaugh has a particular kink. He loves it when a drag queen goes down on him. But that's as far as it goes. He won't admit to himself what's under that tight fitting dress. And then he meets Adrienne and his whole world goes into a tailspin....

Warning - Contains men in drag, honey! You Have Been Warned.

See Me Details

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Author : K.C. Wells

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From Reader Review See Me for online ebook

Jewel says

Review to come.

Ersilia Stecchi says

4,5 stelle

Wicked says

I loved this story and all the characters in it. These Drag queens are so much fun, I would love to spend some time at Lips.

Helena Stone says

I received an ARC from the Author.

See Me is the third title in the Lightning Tales series and follows Teach Me and Trust Me. I read Teach Me not too long ago but am ashamed to admit that I managed to somehow miss Trust Me. It is an oversight that will be remedied in the not too distant future because these are wonderful stories. What makes these books even better is that characters from one book reappear in supporting roles in the subsequent tales. And I always thoroughly enjoy reacquainting myself with protagonists I enjoyed reading about.

See Me starts with a glimpse of a deeply unhappy Adrian in high school. In fact, he's so desperate that Ric, who finds him crying in the library, is afraid Adrian may harm himself...or worse. Adrian however does the exact opposite and embraces his 'otherness'. Eleven years later, Adrian has landed on his feet and is in his element both as himself and as Adrienne, the stunning drag queen.

Former bully Marty on the other hand is deeply unhappy. Friendless, bullied by his father and so deep in the closet he doesn't even realise he's in there, his life is almost completely focussed on remaining invisible.

As Adrienne's colleagues know only too well, Marty has a kink. He loves getting blow jobs from drag queens. When he approaches Adrienne for one, unaware of who she really is, she sees the perfect opportunity to get her own back on one of the boys who made her high school years a living nightmare. However, revenge is seldom as sweet as advertised and issues are rarely as black or white as they appear. Both Adrian and Marty are in for an eye-opening but ultimately rewarding journey.

K.C. Wells tells this wonderful story with her usual flair. Despite the subject matter, the story isn't overly angst, although bullying is by no means swept under the carpet or trivialised. As anybody who has ever been bullied knows, the effects linger long after the bullying itself has stopped. What those who were on the

receiving end of this form of abuse often don't realise is that it can also leave a lasting impression on those who did the bullying. In See Me K.C. Wells highlights both those aspects without rubbing our noses in it or even trying to make a point. She's not playing a blame game. Instead she's given us two men who struggle with the legacy of their high school years and find a way to overcome those issues.

Before I give you the impression this story is heavy going, let me reassure you. While there are thought provoking moments in this story, there are at least as many scenes which will have you either grinning or laughing out loud. But then, isn't that what you'd expect when you put a group of drag queens together in a story? Of course the sexy times are as tasteful as they are hot, the dialogue sparkling and the glimpses into the world of drag fascinating.

In short, this was a wonderful read. Even now, hours after I finished reading the epilogue, I still have a grin on my face.

Justin Nova says

I liked this one much better than the second book, Trust Me. Nice enemies to lover story

Laina Gruver says

4 stars

This is the first drag queen book I've read... Ms Wells seems to give me a lot of firsts!! While this book was longer than the first two, it was a delightful quick read.

While the MCs from the first two books make cameos, this book CAN be read as a stand alone.

A drag queen who needs to decide if revenge or forgiveness is best when she runs into one of her old high school bullies. With the advice of an old friend, can forgiveness lead to something more between a gay drag queen and her in-the-closet nemesis?

POV ... Third person

Stand alone or series... Book 3 in a series but CAN be read as a stand alone

Would I recommend it ... Yes

Did it give me a book hangover... Slight

Would I read it again ... Sure

Ele says

4.5 stars

I don't usually like stories with bullies, because I was bullied as a kid, and because I see it every day in my line of work. But I felt that this was different, because both characters switched places somewhere along the story, and saw what it feels like to be in one another's shoes.

I found the choice to use Rick's POV (from the second book) brilliant. We get to meet Adrian as a teenager, and later as a confident man and drag queen extraordinaire, objectively. Martin was....a bit of a mess at the beginning of the book.

I absolutely loved and laughed out loud with the scenes at the drag shows. It's clear that K.C. does her research, whether it's BDSM and porn stars, or in this case, drag queens.

This was my favorite book in the series. Recommended!

Bev says

This story starts approx 10 years ago when Ric Constanza hears crying in the school library, and finds Adrian DeSoto crying his heart out over the bullying he's having to endure. Although Ric is in the same year as Adrian, they are not close but all that changes as they talk about Adrian's tormentors and what he can do to avoid their unwelcome attention. Adrian comes up with a solution to that problem a few months later, the bravery of which amazes Ric.

Fast forward to the present day and we meet up with Ric and his boyfriend Connor from Trust Me and Alex and Nick from Teach Me having a night out at a restaurant called Lips...and drag queens feature front and centre, especially a stunning looking one with a great voice called Adrienne. She's sassy, bitchy and gives the customers as good as she gets. She recognises one of the faces she sees at the guys table, and after her set, sends a little note to Ric...of course, Ric is gobsmacked to learn that Adrian and Adrienne are one and the same person but Adrian removes all of his make up and joins the guys at their table.

Sitting in the audience is a regular customer as far as the rest of the queens are concerned...they all know him cos they've all given him BJ's. He seems to have a drag queen fetish and after Adrienne's appearance, she becomes his number one target. Of course, once the other queens fill Adrian in on 'Mr Quiet sitting in the corner', he insists on meeting the guy and is stunned to find out that it's his former school crush and erstwhile member of the bullying section Marty Cavanaugh.

When Marty won't take no for an answer, Adrian decides to hand out a highly public humiliation to Marty with the help of the other queens. It . was. **vicious**, and I was on the fence as to whom I felt more sorry for...Adrian and his remembered pain from school or Marty and his mortification at the restaurant. Of course, we knew some of Adrian's past and the bullying (I would've loved to discover what he did between school and Lips), but Marty's background was an unknown quantity and as we uncover more details about him and

his circumstances, I definitely pitied him. I'll leave this one here....

Krissy says

My favorite of the series

Elyxyz says

Voto: 4.5 stelline.

Questo terzo capitolo della serie è forse quello che mi è piaciuto di più.

Parte dal passato, per far capire il presente, e mi ha regalato un pomeriggio di piacevole intrattenimento, anche se tocca temi importanti come il bullismo, l'omofobia (sia a scuola che in ambito lavorativo) e il coming out.

Adrian è un personaggio eccezionale, un uomo che, fin da ragazzo, ha saputo reagire, combattere la paura e trovare se stesso; la sua controparte femminile, Adrienne, è deliziosamente eccessiva, sboccata, impertinente e provocatrice (mi ha ricordato Helena Handbasket di Klune, che ho adorato). Impossibile non parteggiare per lei, anche quando non è perfetta e compie degli sbagli.

Martin, l'altro nostro protagonista, non parte fra i favoriti, ma lungo la strada recupera e si fa apprezzare.

Questa è una storia che parla di seconde possibilità, di sbagli e perdoni, di crescita interiore e di felicità.

Preparatevi alla dolcezza, che vi farà squittire felici e a delle buone scene sensuali.

Punto bonus per i precedenti protagonisti che ricompaiono come preziose spalle e per nuovi personaggi che sono inattesi alleati.

A me il libro è piaciuto tanto; è sfuggita qualche piccola sbavatura all'editing, ma la resa italiana è comunque gradevole e la trama merita. Assolutamente consigliato!

~◊~Domi(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

~4.5~

I can't write this review without a Drupaul gif. It's compulsory.

Because it's all about the queens, baby!

Adrienne rules the stage. She's stunning, talented, and bitchy as hell. That's what makes her irresistible. But Adrian isn't as secure as his alter ego, Adrienne; he's still haunted by the taunts of the jocks in high school, particularly one boy who stood by and let it happen.

Marty isn't the same guy he was back then. He's a lonely accountant who's obsessed with drag queens. Knowing that the woman on her knees in front of him has a dick turns him on something fierce.

I usually can't muster empathy for bullies, but Marty is such a sad lump when we first meet him, I couldn't help but feel sorry for him.

Seeing Adrienne sparks something within Marty. He comes to watch her act over and over again, even as Adrienne rejects his advances, even as she humiliates him, even when he realizes that Adrienne is ADRIAN.

I loved this enemies-to-lovers story. It's warm, funny, and sexy. I'm a big fan of gender bending, and K.C. worked the pronouns here to show the transformation of Adrian to Adrienne and back.

There's a long slow burn, which made Marty and Adrian coming together even hotter.

Small complaint: I wanted to see the beginning of Marty and Adrian's relationship on page, and I wanted Marty to really stand up to his nozzle of a father. He sort of did, but I don't think it was enough.

I always look forward to K.C.'s stories, because I get lost in them so easily. I love her writing style and the connections she builds between the MCs. *See Me* is no exception.

P.S. I wouldn't recommend reading *See Me* as a standalone. Ric, one of the MCs from book 2, *Trust Me*, plays a significant role in the story. Indeed, when we first meet Adrian, it's through Ric's eyes. You'll enjoy this story more if you read *Trust Me* first.

Karen says

4.5 stars rounded down

‘See Me’ is the third book in K. C. Wells ‘Lightening Tales’ series and so far, my favorite both in terms of the story and the audio.

While we haven’t really met Adrian DeSoto in previous books he has been mentioned and we were given enough information to know that for Adrian...high school wasn’t fun. Adrian was the popular choice for ‘bullying victim of the day’ with the school jocks. The start of grade eleven saw a change in Adrian he became determined that he was no longer going to be the victim and he used all of his considerable acting skills to hide his nervousness and fear as he begins to stand up for himself against the school bullies...jocks like Marty Cavanaugh.

Happily, we are once again treated to glimpses of Alex & Nick and Connor & Ric as their friendship with Adrian brings them into the story and while I had no trouble liking Adrian, Martin was a little tougher sell but not buy much. Adrian may have been a bit over the top and flamboyant, he was also sweet, vulnerable and nobody’s pushover...needless to say I quickly came to like Adrian...a lot!

What really surprised me was the realization of how quickly I came to like Marty. Initially I had my reservations where Marty was concerned and initially I think what I felt for this character was more pity and compassion than actually liking him. But little by little Marty whittled away at my defences and I really came to like him once I got to see the insecure and vulnerable person that hid behind the bully and cheer for Marty as he did battle with his demons to overcome the negative behavior that led to his behavior.

It broke my heart that for Marty interacting with his parents...even his mom who turned out to be awesome in her own right, was such a stressful event. Sadly, Marty’s father’s only redemptive quality was that he didn’t beat his wife...he just verbally abused her and his son...gee, what a swell guy he is...NOT!

However, one of the things that I ended up loving the most about this book is that we are shown a side to bullying that we don't often see and frequently forget which is that sometimes even the bully gets bullied. Please don't misunderstand 'bullying is not ok'...EVER! But sometimes to make a person see why a behavior is wrong it helps if we understand what factors may have contributed to it. It was seeing this side of Marty that made me see him not just as the bully but also as the victim of bullying...he really was both and seeing so much of Marty's life and not just his interaction with Adrian gave a much clearer picture of Marty.

I loved all the background that we were given between Marty and Adrian and how it was woven into the story. It was this background that not only showed us where they came from but so much of what shaped them into the people they became, what they meant to each other and how they influenced each other's lives.

Joel Leslie did an excellent job with the character voices in this audiobook. I loved the vulnerable quality that was clearly evident in both of the MCs voices as they bared their heart and soul to each other and all my boxes got checked when it came to being the narrator's ability to lend consistency and uniqueness to the voices of the characters.

While I very much enjoyed the first two books 'See Me' really seemed to resonate with me and while it's partly due to the fact that for me this was an even better story, it's also due to the narrator making a better connection with the characters one that felt real and natural and gave me the voices that I was anticipating.

At the end of it all it's 4.5 stars for the story and 4.5 stars for the audio narration...this one's definitely worth spending time with.

An audiobook of "See Me" was graciously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Serena Yates says

The third book in the 'Lighting Tales' series is about Adrian and Marty - two men facing their fears eleven years after high school, about how they come to terms with who they are, and about them learning to deal with their past. While Adrian and Marty are "typical" in the sense that Adrian was the bullied guy in high school and Marty the head jock haunting him, the way each has dealt with these events is different from other stories of this kind. I loved the new spin KC Wells has given one of my favorite tropes, and the addition of characters from the previous books made this story even more enjoyable. It was a heartbreakingly emotional, and very rewarding story for me to read.

Adrian is slight of build, shy, and gay. He was the "perfect victim" in high school, but one discussion with Ric (from book two) turned his life around by laying the groundwork for Adrien's future. Ric's comments made Adrien think about who he is and who he wants to be, how he might be able to protect himself, and what tools were at his disposal to make it happen. As a successful member of the theater club, acting was familiar to him – and that is how he began to use a persona to build a wall between those who might threaten him and his more vulnerable self. Becoming a drag queen – and a very successful one – must have seemed like a logical next step for him. Adrienne is everything Adrien is not. She is self-confident, outgoing, and doesn't take crap from anyone. I loved her!

Marty may be twenty-six and an accountant, pretty independent from the looks of it but he is so deeply in the

closet that he isn't likely to come out anytime soon. His father and most of his friends are raging homophobes, his mother is too quiet to contradict his father, and Marty doesn't seem ready to take a stand and take charge of his life. Drag queens fascinate him, and he quietly admits that he knows why that is, but he'd never say that out loud. A man is what Marty craves but thinks he can never have.

When Adrien and Marty meet again, Marty is desperately trying to get Adrienne to notice him so he can have one of his "usual rendezvous" with her, Adrien is full of a need for revenge. He puts Marty on the spot and thinks that will get rid of him. But there is more to Marty than expected, and he soon begins to grow a backbone. Their initial relationship is a roller coaster of emotions, feelings of hatred and regret, misunderstandings, and incredulity. It is also a fascinating character study of what happens when old assumptions and prejudices are put aside – on both sides - and a new kind of understanding and even love begins to blossom. Not an easy feat to pull off, but KC manages it exceedingly well.

If you like stories with a grounding in psychology, if you want to find out how two men who used to be enemies and think they can't possibly become involved deal with falling in love, and if you're looking for a read that will keep you in suspense and might just surprise you a couple of times, then you will probably like this novella.

NOTE: This book was provided by the author for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Debra says

4.5 stars

I love a good revenge story as much as I love an enemies to lovers story and here K.C. Wells gives us both.

We first meet Adrian as a teenager who has been bullied by the jocks and seems on the verge of giving up. When Ric (who you've met if you read Trust Me) finds him crying in the school library he does his best to offer comfort and advice. The Adrian that returns the next year is a little bolder, a bit more outspoken and wearing makeup and flashy clothes. Ten years later, Adrian has parlayed his high school deflection tactics into becoming Adrienne, the star attraction at an Orlando drag club.

Marty is a closeted, lonely, accountant who is bored with his job and has a contentious relationship with the father that he has been nothing but disappointment to when he didn't become the athlete his father dreamed of. His only outlet appears to be propositioning drag queens, using them for a blow job in the back of the local drag club. When Adrienne catches his eye he tries to get her attention sending note after note and being ignored. Adrian recognizes Marty and wants nothing to do with him. When ignoring him doesn't work Adrienne takes over to make sure Marty won't return to Lips.

Humiliated in front of the club, Marty isn't deterred. He wants to know why and when he finds out what was behind Adrienne's scathing attack, his whole world is turned upside down. While revenge was momentarily sweet, Adrian feels guilty for what he's done and sets out to make amends, but finds that not everything is, or was, as it seemed.

Neither Adrian nor Marty are perfect. They both make mistakes and they both have regrets. K.C. Wells had me riding the emotional rollercoaster with both men. Adrian's despair as a teenager, his triumph at getting back at Marty and the guilt he felt afterwards. Even Marty had me feeling for him early on considering he

was supposed to be the bad guy here. I was happy to watch them work through their issues and forge a new relationship, which was a first for both of them. Whether Marty has an actual kink for men in drag or had just developed an unhealthy coping mechanism is up in the air, but the super sexy scene in the Epilogue has me leaning towards kink.

The scenes at the drag shows had me entertained and I could almost picture the ladies in the club. If there's a real villain in this story it has to be Marty's father, but even there K.C. Wells didn't go exactly where I expected her to.

This book is a standalone, but if you've read either of the first two Lightning Tales, Adrian's former high school classmates Ric and Alex, along with their boyfriends, are back to offer support. While the story starts out on a serious tone, there are plenty of scenes that lighten the mood, some sexy gender bending times and very happy ending.

Becky Condit says

See Me is a story of revenge backfiring and hurting not only the victim of the payback scheme but also the retaliator. Adrian was so bullied in high school that he became seriously depressed. Marty and his friends attacked Adrian for being gay, and although Marty wasn't involved in actually beating Adrian, he stood by and did not stop it, making him as much a bully as the others.

Flash forward a few years and Adrian has found a life he loves as the beautiful drag queen Adrienne. She has friends, is talented, and enjoys life. She has recognized one of the regulars in the audience is Marty, and she is not happy to see him. Marty, on the other hand, does not recognize Adrienne as Adrian, and is smitten with her. He keeps sending her notes asking her to see him after the show. What he really wants is for Adrienne to go down on him, as his not-so-secret kink is getting bj's from drag queens.

KC Wells has done her research and gets under the skin and costumes of what it means to be a drag queen. Her use of the male and female pronouns are perfectly placed to indicate when a man sees himself as a female drag queen and when he sees himself as a man.

This is a sweet story of love realized almost too late. The bullying is emphasized as devastating and the difficulty of overcoming the trauma is not made inconsequential. Guilt on the part of the bully and lifelong damage on the part of the victim are evident and made critical to the story. It is through the kindness and strength of character of the victim that this story has a happy ending. A very enjoyable book in the excellent Lightning Tales series, and one I recommend highly.
