



## Fresh Tracks

*Georgia Beers*

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Seven women, seven days. A lot can happen. There are three things that Amy Forrester loves most in the world: Jo, her wife of fifteen years; spending time with her closest friends; and her cabin in the woods. What better way to spend the week between Christmas and New Year's than having all three! When she invites her three best friends to join her and Jo in their mountain hideaway, all she expects is good food, fine wine, and lively conversation.

Unfortunately for Amy, there are three things that she doesn't count on: her best friend's relationship is falling apart; her two other friends share a secret that causes nothing but conflict and discomfort; and the arrival of Jo's fly-by-the-seat-of-her-pants niece Darby, who has a habit of leaving broken hearts in her wake.

Childhood friends, new lovers, and old rivals share beginnings, endings, and the uncommon bonds of friendship in a story filled with romance and possibility.

## **Fresh Tracks Details**

Date : Published November 13th 2006 by Bold Strokes Books (first published November 1st 2006)

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Author : Georgia Beers

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# From Reader Review Fresh Tracks for online ebook

## Lexxi Kitty says

7 lesbians ranging from mid twenties (I think directly in the middle at 25) up to 50 (most in 40s, one at 33, another at 45, another at 50, and I believe the others are in the 40s somewhere) meet at a couples 'cabin' in the woods on 75 acres in Upstate New York.

Everyone and possibly the dog have a point of view in this book (okay, there's one passage that could be stretched to be from the dog's point of view but probably wasn't actually). And while there were helpful little subsection headings with big bold words on them listing a name (like **Molly**), the book still had times when it drifted. Like, for example, being in Molly's point of view, under her bold name, and suddenly I realize that the book has actually slipped into someone else's point of view without making note of the sliding.

Okay then - **Amy and Jo** are the solid stable couple who offered their friends their 'cabin' (re: constant use of "around cabin - 'your place is nicer than many people's homes!'") for a week. If I understood correctly, Jo's 50, while Amy is closer to 45. One is butch-er than the other, one talks more than the other, and both still have a very strong sex drive despite having been a couple for many years. Both have jobs, though I've forgotten now what Amy's is, and I only recall what Jo's is because of several comments about how Jo fixed up the cabin - Jo is a contractor. I 'forget' their jobs because everyone is on vacation time. Ah, I just remembered Amy's job while thinking of her friends' occupations - Amy is both a chef and the owner of a restaurant.

### The singles

Then the friends - **Sophie** (black woman whose age escapes me but might be around 40, I forget her job as well). She is still attempting to get over a bad breakup with her ex (view spoiler).

**Laura** is a chef who ended up working for Amy before moving on to a job with a retirement community. I believe she is in her 40s. She is also working through a bad break up – this time with her husband. And with her girlfriend. (view spoiler). I have a feeling I might be getting her name wrong, like it might be 'Lauren' instead of Laura, but I can't check at the moment as my reader is dead.

**Darby** rounds out the 'singles', and she wasn't invited. She just dropped in – as she has an open invitation to do so, she's 'Aunt Jo and Aunt Amy's' niece. She's 25, a player, and a manager at Blockbuster (each time that was mentioned I wondered when this book was written, hehe). And one of the reasons I'm super glad that most of the people in this book were in their 30s/40s/50s (though some of those '20 something' stuff seemed a little too stereotypical – too 'of course she's that way, she's a dumb 20 year old').

### the couple

Rounding out the party of 7 are **Molly** (33) and **Kirsten** (40s) who have been in a relationship for something like 12 years (I might have the 12 year thing off, and Molly's age might be off as well, I was going off of the fact that 1) Amy knows Molly because Amy baby-sat Molly when she was something like 7 and Molly was 12; 2) Molly in turn helped Amy when she would she baby-sat Darby, and since I 'knew' Darby and Amy's ages, I came up with the age for Molly, but now I'm suspicious of that age). Molly and Kirsten have been going through a super rough patch at the moment – Molly is kind of passive-aggressive, and while she has a lot of issues she wants to discuss, she has trouble with conflict – meets it by not meeting it, by ignoring it. Kirsten isn't that much better in the communication department, she's fleeing communication by diving deeper and deeper into a job which is causing Molly to get more and more annoyed with her. But of course

no one actually talks and so . . . To round things off – Molly is a kindergarten teacher and Kirsten is a VP at an Advertising firm.

So – those are the 7 lesbians. Who spend a week together.

Quite good book, I enjoyed it.

Rating: 4.75

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### **M says**

I have to admit I have a major crush on this author for her consistently excellent books.

This keeps to some well worn paths, but manages them so well that you can sit back and enjoy the characters and settings in the sure knowledge that you will not be disappointed in the end.

Read all of this authors books!

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### **Jeff Jarvis says**

I really enjoyed this book because of all of the dynamics that were going on in it. There is one couple that has the ideal marriage and is hosting their friends for a week at their home after Christmas. There is one couple that has grown apart and is dealing with those issues. There are two individuals that have been through bad breakups, both involving cheating. And there is a niece of one of the ladies in the ideal couple that is young, has had lots of sex, but not a real loving relationship before. The week long visit is filled with lots of bonding, conflicts and resolutions. The character development through the novel was great and Beers made me very interested in the lives of each of them. Fresh Tracks is one I will come back to in the future because of all of the interwoven stories. It was a fun read and one I would recommend.

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### **Jane Doesn't says**

My 3rd Georgia Beers book... and possibly even my last, since I seem to run into characters in her work that irritate me to no end (in this case, it would be the distastefully juvenile Darby). If I can suspend my dislike of this typically-pierced-20-year-old-hipster-cum-predatory-lesbian-Casanova for a moment, I feel that this particular story still falls short of what it could have been.

I suppose it was meant to be light reading, but the characters still could have offered more than what was ultimately served up. The constant challenge with stories structured around a large leading cast (here, 7 women) and using first-person narratives is to deliver a truly fleshed-out account of each person's

experiences, then tie those together in a way that justifies everyone's inclusion as a main character.

While this novel tries to do that, it does not really get to the depths that would have made such a large main cast justifiable, I think. I feel like these are characters I would have preferred to have read in separate novels (one for each pair, for instance). I fail to develop much fondness or empathy for them the way I did for the main characters in another of Beers's books (*Thy Neighbor's Wife*).

Instead, this novel gives me the impression of one of those "special previews" some channels run when trying to entice people to watch a new programme/series. I glance at the characters for an instant of intrigue, the picture flashes, and I move on. The only thing that lasts, in fact, is my conviction that Darby should have been decked by one of the other characters at least once.

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### **Cynthia says**

I always try to finish a book, but I could not get past the 20% mark with this one. I was bored and I couldn't stand the heteronormativity of those lesbian couples (how ironic). And seeing as some reviews mention cheating, I'm glad I stopped.

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### **Aly says**

I originally decided to buy this book based on the fact that it won the Lambda Literary Award in 2006 for Best Romance. I was not only pleasantly surprised by the Georgia Beers' humor but also her prose. Her characters are individuals that I came to love and respect. They are flawed but not overly so and their struggles are not only relatable, but also so interwoven into the story that I found myself believing in their existence. Her sense of romance and timing lead me to question how strongly she was going to follow the predictable "romance formula", where everyone is paired up in the beginning and they get together with their preselected partners by the end. I especially found myself drawn to the seemingly random, but probably carefully chosen, change in narrator. *Fresh Tracks* is unique, loving, and a fantastic read.

Amy Forrester and Jo Cooper have been together for 15 years. Their love and desire for one another is as strong as it was, if not stronger, then when they first fell in love. The holidays are in full swing and they invite their close friends up to their cabin, which is really more like a dream home thanks to Jo's tireless renovations, for some much needed relaxation time. During their stay the guests work through relationship issues, exercising past demons, finding new loves, and dealing with Jo's niece. Georgia Beers creates a story of connectivity and love with a good helping of hilarity that will have your heart melting and your stomach cramping from laughing so hard.

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### **Ronald Wise says**

This book won the 2006 Lambda Award for Lesbian Romance, and the category was definitely appropriate. Like my past experiences in the presence of groups of Lesbian friends, I observed their relationship dynamics with interest, and was quite sure that drama would develop eventually. Beers tended to over-explain her characters and over-state their motivations. I found the erotic scenes overly detailed and drawn out, but then I'm not part of the book's target audience.

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### **Pin says**

So far, Fresh Tracks is my favorite book by the author. Great read, engaging characters...

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### **Jo reece says**

Another good read. Must read more of hers.

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### **Jess says**

This book got away from me a little. I wanted to finish it right around the end of the year because it is a holiday/New Year's-themed story, but I got busy with Christmas when I had about 50 pages left and didn't pick it up to finish until the end of January.

*Fresh Track* has a gorgeous winter setting in upstate New York that makes me feel right at home here in chilly Minnesota. In fact, the reason I chose this book was Lesbians in Cold Places book list featured on Danika's Leslibrary YouTube channel. How could a Minnesota lesbian resist a list like that?

This story makes me wish *I* had a big group of lesbian friends to snuggle up with at a snowy cabin. In the tight-knit group, three couples get their happy ending before their retreat is over. Amy and Jo, the "old marrieds" and owners of the cabin, are the blissful matchmakers who are content in their established relationship and decide to spend their time making sure their friends are just as happy. They have a scorching sex life still (I think I'd read, like, an entire novella about Jo just soft-domming the hell out of her wife), which is nice to read in an older lesbian couple. Kristen and Molly are the established career women whose once-solid relationship is hitting a rocky patch. And Sophie and Laura are the newbies who (view spoiler)

Each pairing has a unique dynamics and set of challenges to face. Their love and sex scenes reflect these differences beautifully, creating an intense and charged story of love, forgiveness, healing, and acceptance.

I love the little lesbian in-jokes sprinkled throughout, like their little Christmas tree decorated with pictures of lesbian icons like Ellen and Mariska Hargitay. The book is very obviously written by a happy, proud WLW, and I love it!

The only character who didn't really work for me was Darby, Jo's wild-child, bed-hopping niece. In an adult contemporary romance novel with mature themes of cheating, work/family dynamics, and cooling relationships, Darcy seemed out of place and almost fan-servicey, like she was there for younger readers, which makes little sense because this is a really adult book. While I did think she had a decent arc of maturing and realizing she could be ready for a real relationship, I found her fixation on Molly to be a little creepy and not very well-resolved. I feel like she still carried such a torch for her at the end that she didn't get a very happy resolution like the others.

The ending was also a little cheesy, with Jo and Amy congratulating themselves on matches well made. It felt a little corny, but hey, this *is* a romance novel. This book isn't anything super special, but it is a sexy,

cozy read for a cold winter's day.

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### **Kara says**

What a FANTASTIC and joyous book! I really wish I could spend this New Year's Eve with these wonderful women!

Seven women, some in long-term relationships, not all going well, and some single, not necessarily of their own choosing. Despite the potential drama and excessive angst, this book just WORKS! The characters are all so likable! The mistakes some have made don't diminish the essential goodness of the women.

I really enjoy books with realistic romance, lust and HEA endings. This book has realistic romance and lust on several levels...long-term stable, medium-term rocky and new-meeting potentials. While everything doesn't end as fairy-tale HEAs, I have to say I'm VERY satisfied with all the resolutions. Some HEA, some HFN, and a bit of bittersweet but appropriate "if only".

I've enjoyed all of Georgia Beers' books, but this is definitely one of her very best! For those of you who like books on Audible, as do I, Natalie Duke does a terrific job! 5\* with no reservations at all!

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### **Joc says**

Lovely seven-day slice of life leading up to New Year with seven friends. With two established couples and three singles there's a bit of tension, love and diversity.

Really nice, gentle read.

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### **Sandra Gray says**

#### **Great Book!**

I love the story in this book and it kept your interest till the end. I would love to see part two of this book and to know where their lives went from here. Maybe Darby did settle down and make a life with someone instead of one night stands.

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### **Raven says**

I've read this before. I was rather disappointed then and I still am now. I was really rooting for Molly and Darby to get together even though Darby is punk that doesn't know shit about relationships... I really didn't like Kristen's character. Officially stating if I was Darby and everybody else was getting it on, especially the woman I loved, I don't think I'd be as cool about it as Darby was...

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**Heidi says**

It's a good story. The characters touched me and I'm glad Molly and Kristin worked things out. The way Sophie and Laura eventually had sex was a bit surreal for me, where did that come from?!  
Oh and do dogs really eat scrambled eggs and rice?  
It's a good book, but eye-rolling was done.

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