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*Salmon Croquettes*

Novel by Glodean Champion Explores Gender Non-Conformity, Racism, the 1965 Watts Riots, and the Resilience of the Black Community

Set against the backdrop of racism and everyday police brutality, Salmon Croquettes explores gender non-conformity, racism, the historical relevance of the 1965 Watts Riots, and the strength, resilience and interconnectedness of the Black community.

**Salmon Croquettes**

by Glodean Champion

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YA Fiction

In 1965, The Circle, in Watts, Los Angeles, was a close-knit Black community, filled with its own particular joys and troubles. This vibrant neighborhood comes alive in Salmon Croquettes, as 12-year-old Zayla Lucille McKinney grapples with the confusion of feeling like a boy trapped in a girl's body. Is she what the other girls call her, a "bulldagger"? And what does that even mean?

In the midst of her transformation from tomboy to young woman, the community she loves explodes in a racial uprising. The Watts Riots teach Zayla the fragility of life and the importance of friendship. As the embers die down and the smoke clears, Zayla also learns something else - a family secret. Salmon Croquettes is a sensitive exploration of Zayla's transition from childhood incomprehension - why do adults expect children to magically understand what is acceptable and what isn't - to an acceptance of who she is and the truth of who her parents really are.

**“**This accomplished novel will keep you turning the page and rooting for this young, full of spunk protagonist. Glodean Champion has written a novel that will capture the hearts of many, including young African American girls who identify outside of the traditional, “pink-frilly girl norm.” A must read.**”**

~ *Opal Palmer Adisa, author of Love’s Promise*

Glodean Champion is a Los Angeles-born storyteller, coach, and educator now living in Monterey, CA. With a BA in English Literature from Mills College in Oakland and an MFA in Writing from California College of the Arts in San Francisco she strives to explore sexuality and gender non-conformity, racism, and the beauty and strength of the Black (African American) spirit and community in her writing. She is a Voices of Our Nation Arts (VONA) Foundation and Hurston-Wright Foundation alum. Salmon Croquettes is her first novel.

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