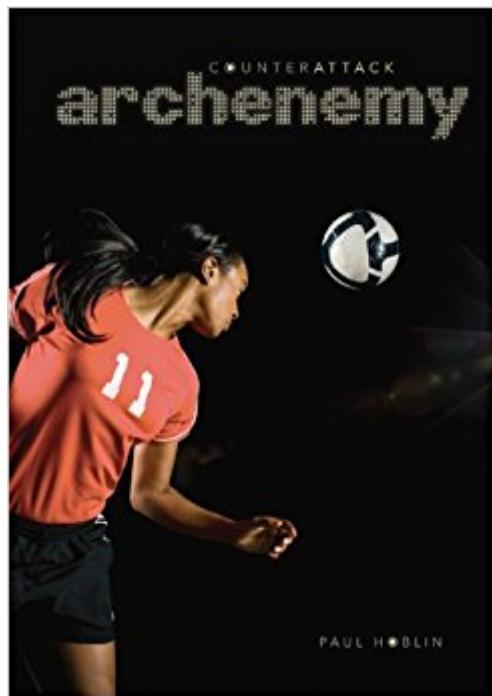


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# Archenemy (Counterattack) (Counterattack (Paperback))



## **Synopsis**

As a defender for the Fraser High girls soccer team, Addie used to be ready for anything. There was no play she couldn't shut down. But now the biggest threat on the field is one of her teammates . . . who is also Addie's former best friend. When Eva Riley moved to town, she and Addie became super close. But when Eva wanted to be more than friends, Addie put soccer first instead. Suddenly Eva's sending Addie mean notes. Then she's screwing up Addie's plays. After a while, Addie's not sure she even wants her friend back. She has to worry about other things like keeping her spot on the team after Eva's latest act of sabotage . . .

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 9 Up-In Archenemy, Addie and Eva play soccer for Fraser High. After a misleading invitation, Addie finds herself sitting in church with Eva and listening to the pastor who says that two girls liking each other is an "abomination." The story takes a turn after Eva lets Addie know that she'd like to be more than friends and is rejected. Addie begins to find notes telling her to quit the team and that no one likes her. She isn't especially alarmed, but things get serious when Coach Berg tells her that she is being dismissed for harassing fellow teammates. Hoblin explores homosexuality without using the words "gay" or "lesbian," forcing readers to pay close attention. This story will reach many readers, not just reluctant ones. In Out of Sync, Madison 8 Wong's name includes the luckiest Chinese number, and she is known as "Mad Dog" to her teammates. She and Dayton have been friends since they were six years old, playing soccer and doing everything else together. Now that

they are sophomores, though, Maddie aims to score high on the field and on her SATs, but Dayton essentially wants to find herself and uses her energy to get fake IDs for a popular nightclub. Maddie is concerned about Dayton's lack of interest in the game and its effect on their friendship, but she's caught the eye of recruiters for Division-1 schools. With its play-by-play action, this novel will mainly hold the attention of soccer fanatics.-Keisha Miller, South Orange Public Library, NJ © (c)

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Paul Hoblin lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is the author of the young adult horror novel *Foul* (Darby Creek Press).

Addie Williams and Eva Riley were best friends, least ways they were for a long while until things started to change. It all started when Eva came up to her and asked, "Wanna play soccer?" It was a little surprising because Eva was such a girly girl. You know, high heels and the works and a ton of makeup. She could play a mean game and they ended up both playing defense for Fraser High's Copperheads. Coach Berg viewed "the defense as one unit" and they were for a long time. They even had their own code words to let each other know where they were on the field. "Whoop!" Just a shout and they were there for each other. Mr. Landers caught Addie "juggling a ball while [she] was supposed to be in class so many times" that she actually got suspended for a week. Addie, well, she was just Addie and she loved her game. The action on the field was hot and intense, especially when she and Eva were playing and Alyssa Duncan, the goalie, was shouting out directions. Teamwork was the ultimate and they had it down pat. There were hints of trouble, but Addie just didn't see them. Eva was always grabbing her hand when they were alone and it seemed innocent enough so she let her. Was it something that would come back to bite her? "I'm sorry, I don't feel the same way you do." Yeah, it would come back to bite Addie because Eva was not only shocked and hurt, she was irate. A lot of the things Eva started to do were more annoying than anything, but that didn't last long. There were those nasty notes, quite unlike the little affectionate ones Eva used to send her. There was the one in her locker, supposedly from Coach Berg. "You suck at soccer and life. Do us a favor and quit." Huh? It was like they had to pump it up on the field and play as one, but soon it looked like Addie's happy days were over when it looked like Eva was trying to sabotage her. What could she do to remedy the situation? Was it wise to report the harassment even if Eva was her "former best friend?" This is a dramatic, heart-wrenching tale of a soccer friendship gone wrong, horribly wrong. The story, told from Abbie's vantage point, flashes

back and forth to the time when both girls were fast friends. The inability to remedy a situation gone wrong is one that many young people face. Situations, not always as deep as this one, are sometimes difficult for young people to deal with, especially if they are being bullied. The sexuality issue was dealt with quite well and although Addie had the support of family, friends, and her school, this unexpected situation floored her. This is a fast, pensive read that many young people can relate to. This is a short tale that reluctant readers will be able to navigate easily. If you have a soccer fan who likes high-action, dramatic reads as fast-paced as a hot soccer game, this is a series you may wish to consider! *Archenemy* *The Beast* *Blow Out* *Offside* *Out of Sync* *Under Pressure* *This book courtesy of the publisher.*

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