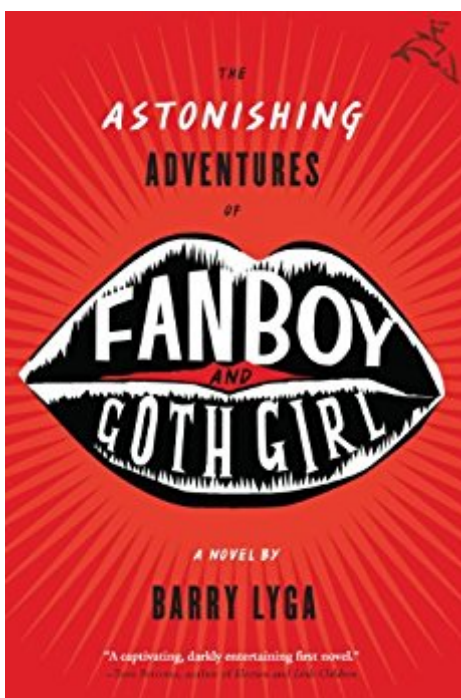


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The Astonishing Adventures Of Fanboy And Goth Girl



Synopsis

Fanboy has never had it good, but lately his sophomore year is turning out to be its own special hell. The bullies have made him their favorite target, his best (and only) friend seems headed for the dark side (sports and popularity), and his pregnant mother and the step-fascist are eagerly awaiting the birth of the alien life form known as Fanboy's new little brother or sister.Â Â Â Â Fanboy, though, has a secret: a graphic novel he's been working on without telling anyone, a graphic novel that he is convinced will lead to publication, fame, and--most important of all--a way out of the crappy little town he lives in and all the people that make it hell for him. Â Â Â When Fanboy meets Kyra, a.k.a. Goth Girl, he finds an outrageous, cynical girl who shares his love of comics as well as his hatred for jocks and bullies. Fanboy can't resist someone who actually seems to understand him, and soon he finds himself willing to heed her advice--to ignore or crush anyone who stands in his way.

Book Information

File Size: 1161 KB

Print Length: 324 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 24, 2007)

Publication Date: September 24, 2007

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003K16PN2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #134,169 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #19

inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Art & Architecture #54 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle

eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Art & Music #121 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle

eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > School & Education

Customer Reviews

This book was the first novel published by Barry Lyga and it is the first of four in the Brookdale High series, which I just happened to read in reverse order. The strength of Lyga's writing is evident from this first novel and gets better with every book he writes. Lyga has an incredible gift as a storyteller.

He captures life in and around high school in this series in a wonderful way. His stories are about real people with real problems and real life. Each of his books has something the reader can take away and it will help them be better at being. But I think the greatest testament to Lyga's craft as a writer is that even though I just finished this book, I am already planning to reread it. Brookdale High or South Brook High is an interesting school. Not the worst school and not the best. There are cliques, and jocks, and geeks - all the usual groups you would find in and around a high school. And like most high schools, some of them get it and some do not. For Kyra Sellers and Fanboy (aka Donnie) it is just putting in time. Both want to be somewhere else. Both need things to change. Kyra witnesses Fanboy being punched repeatedly in gym class and wonders why he allows it to happen. Soon they have a strange friendship developing. They both have a love of Graphic Novels but prefer different styles. Fanboy is working on one and Goth Girl wants to help make it better. But as we all know, life in high school or life in general is usually not easy and things often go wrong or at least not the way we expect, and in this story that is definitely the case. There are a number of strengths that make this novel so good. First, there are the characters. Readers cannot help but become fans of Kyra and Fanboy; they are so well written and capture much of the spirit of being an outsider in high school you can't help but root for them. Second is the story itself. It has a sinister darkness to it, but at the same time provides some hope. It is not a fast-paced novel but it will definitely keep your attention and interest turning the pages. Third is the essence of both high school and life that Lyga has managed to capture. This was an amazing novel to read and after reading it I now plan to go back and reread the whole series!

"I'm telling you, my friend, that I'll get you, I'll get you in the end, yes I will, I'll get you, oh yeah..." -- Beatles, 1963 Donnie, aka "Fanboy" is 15 and trying to survive the tough social life at South Brook High in Maryland. He has challenges on the home front as well with his stepfather Tony, whom he calls "Step-fascist" and a baby sister on the way (half-sister, as he reminds them). Fanboy keeps a List of people he'd like to see taken out. These are the "Jock Jerks" and everybody else who has ever bullied and hounded him. A comic/graphic novel and computer expert, Fanboy's big dream is to have his graphic novel, brilliantly titled "Schemata" join the pantheon of famous illustrated characters and be reviewed by his idol, Brian Michael Bendis (Bendis). Fanboy has one good friend, a lacrosse player named Cal. Cal is smart, funny and shares Fanboy's love for comics. Fanboy feels let down when Cal cannot attend a comic convention with him as he has a lacrosse game ("the playoffs," as Cal tried to explain to Fanboy were just as important to him and because he made a commitment to the team, he feels he has to honor that). Fanboy has a very unusual security blanket.

He has a lone bullet, filched from his stepfather's supply that he carries in his pocket. When he is at home, he stores it in his computer. For him, just knowing that he has it has a palliative effect. Gym is Fanboy's personal hell. A Neanderthal-like boy named Mitchell Frampton uses Fanboy as his own personal punching bag and target during dodgeball. Their coach and gym teacher stand aside and do nothing to protect Fanboy from his nemesis' daily torture. A girl, dressed all in black with a spiky haircut photographs the Neanderthal making pulverized steak out of Fanboy and from there, a friendship of sorts blossoms. The girl, Kyra Sellers (whom readers will get to know even better in "Goth Girl Rising") is a very interesting and complex character. She insists that Fanboy stand up for himself; she worms her way into his confidence and even critiques his magnum opus, Schemata. It is Kyra who bestows the nickname of Fanboy on Donnie. Kyra encourages Fanboy to explore beyond the boundaries of his creative genius; she draws Fanboy into her chaotic life of danger and intrigue. Indeed, Kyra's influence is so prevalent that Fanboy takes a personal interest in her welfare. He even helps save her from being arrested after she acted a fool at the comic/graphic novel convention by making a spectacle of herself. Her public scene was done on Fanboy's behalf, her misguided effort to defend him from what she saw as an outright rejection by Bendis. An excellent, cutting edge book. Kyra makes one think of the John Lennon with the Beatles' classic, "I'll Get You in the End" as she will bulldoze her way over anything and anybody who crosses her. Barry Lyga is a genius. His novels and cast of characters are cutting edge, diamond-sharp and precise. It is almost as if he has drafting skills in the precision and life he gives his characters and stories. He, like Chris Crutcher deals head on with some very serious topics in an intelligent and plausible way. Be sure to read his other works. The man is brilliant!

I went into this book expecting something FAR different, but after starting it I could not put it down! after finishing the book, I started looking for any others right away and found a second book in the series. One of my new favorite writers! I cannot recomend this book or its sequel high enough!

This is one of my absolute favorite books. Written in a sassy and sarcastic voice--the language of teenagers--this book is as hilarious as it is relatable. I was unable to put it down as I read about the adventures of Fanboy and Gothgirl, the story never lagged. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes comics because of all the references to them throughout the book.

Not going to go into a big synopsis, but it really is a modern day Catcher in the Rye. If you were ever a goth or comic book reader (or both) its a great little read. Add the sequel Goth Girl Rising and it

really comes full circle.

There's no action, the world doesn't almost end, and the damsel, while in distress, just dares you to try and save her!

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