



# The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl

By Barry Lyga

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**The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl** By Barry Lyga

A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year

\*“Fanboy’s whip-smart, often hilariously sarcastic voice . . . adds fresh, urgent perspective to age-old questions about how young people cope with . . . being misunderstood as they try to discover themselves.” —Booklist, starred review  
“A captivating, darkly entertaining first novel.” —Tom Perrotta, author of Election and Little Children

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.

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.

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.

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## The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl By Barry Lyga Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

*Starred Review.* Grade 9 Up—On good days, Fanboy is invisible to the students at his high school. On bad ones, he's a target for bullying and violence. When a classmate is cruel to him, Fanboy adds him to The List and moves on. His only real friend, Cal, is a jock who can't be seen with him in public. Their love of comics, though, keeps them close friends outside of school. Reading comics and writing his own graphic novel, *Schemata*, are the only things that keep him sane. He dreams of showing his work to a famous author at a comic-book convention and being discovered as the next great graphic novelist. When Goth Girl Kyra IMs him with photos of him being beaten up, he's skeptical. Why does she care what happens to him? He learns, though, that she's as much an outsider as he is. The two form a tentative friendship based on hatred of their classmates, particularly jocks, and her interest in *Schemata*. Fanboy is a rule follower, but Kyra is a rebel with a foul mouth. She teaches him to stand up for himself, and gives him the confidence to do it. Lyga looks at how teens are pushed to their limits by society. Though he toys with such concepts as teen suicide and Columbine-like violence, the novel never turns tragic. His love of comics carries over into all three teen characters, breathing animation into a potentially sad but often funny story. This is a great bridge book for teens who already like graphic novels.—*Stephanie L. Petruso, Anne Arundel County Public Library, Odenton, MD*

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From [Booklist](#)

"I'm a computer geek, a comic book geek, a study geek. Even in the Fast-Track classes, I'm apart." Fifteen-year-old Fanboy is miserable at school, where he is bullied, and at home, with his pregnant mother and her husband, the "step-fascist." His only relief is the late hours spent creating his own comic book. Then he receives an instant message from Kyra, an enigmatic Goth who seems to be the only witness to the violence he endures, and the two form a cagey, charged friendship. Unlike Daniel Ehrenhaft's *Drawing a Blank* (2006), in which a young comics fan embarks on a wild, fantastical adventure, Lyga's debut novel is a darkly comic, realistic, contemporary story of bullying and a teen's private escape in artistic pursuits. Fanboy entertains plenty of violent thoughts. He carries a bullet, keeps a tally of his abusers ("The List"), and lashes out with sometimes-cruel remarks, which feel sharply authentic. The insider comics details will slow some readers, and the open-ended questions about Kyra's personal story will frustrate others. Yet Fanboy's whip-smart, often hilariously sarcastic voice skillfully captures a teenager's growing self-awareness, and adds a fresh, urgent perspective to age-old questions about how young people cope with bullying and their own feelings of helplessness, rage, and being misunderstood as they try to discover themselves. *Gillian Engberg*  
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### Review

..."Fanboy's whip-smart, often hilariously sarcastic voice...adds fresh, urgent perspective to age-old questions about how young people cope with...being misunderstood as they try to discover themselves."

Lyga looks at how teens are pushed to their limits by society...His love of comics carries over into all three teen characters, breathing animation into a potentially sad but often funny story. This is a great bridge book for teens who already like graphic novels.

So cool that you might want to wrap it in black fabric and have it delivered anonymously to your teenager...  
What a find.

.. "Fanboy's whip-smart, often hilariously sarcastic voice...adds fresh, urgent perspective to age-old questions about how young people cope with...being misunderstood as they try to discover themselves."

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Bernadine Williams:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or details even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what one you should start with. This The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

#### **Jose Gower:**

The particular book The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl will bring someone to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to read, this book very appropriate to you. The book The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

#### **Shirley Cochran:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl publication written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, dripping every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still question The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl as good book not merely by the cover but also by the content. This is one book that can break don't determine book by its deal with, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

#### **Annie Resnick:**

Some individuals said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a book. They are directly felt it when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose typically the book The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl to make your own reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading skill is developing when you like reading. Try to choose straightforward book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the idea about book and reading through especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to wide open a book and examine it. Beside that the reserve The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl can to be a newly purchased friend when you're experience alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of the time.

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