

The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl

By: Barry Lyga

Rating:  3.5 out of 5 Eagles

Fanboy is a geek, a social outcast. He spends his time at school trying to be invisible to avoid the jocks that beat him up, and the teachers who ignore these happenings. His only friend, Cal, is also a jock, so they cannot be seen together in school, but they bond and chat on weekends over a shared love of comics. The one thing Fanboy has that no one else knows about is *Schemata*, the graphic novel he is writing. That is, no one knows about it, until he meets Kyra, the goth girl. She notices that the jocks beat him up, and wonders why he doesn't stand up for himself. Although they are both outsiders, they are about as opposite as anyone can be, Kyra a loud-mouthed rebel, and Fanboy content to blend in with the background. As a friendship between the two forms, Fanboy can't help but show her *Schemata*. Together, the two of them attempt to survive that astonishing adventure that is high school.

Written in first person from Fanboy's point of view, our narrator's real name is mentioned twice at most throughout the entire story. The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl touches on all the troubles of high school cliques and friendships, and dreams of a life beyond what we see. The story itself is entertaining, and while it does have its dark moments, it never turns tragic. The story is overall fun and amusing. However, it is fairly predictable, and follows a pretty standard formula. It does have enough twists to make it enjoyable, and although you may see what is coming, you do not know how Lyga is going to take you there. This is a book anyone can read and anyone can enjoy, because the problems of both genders are touched upon by either Fanboy or Kyra. For anyone who wants a fairly quick, entertaining read, this is the book for you.