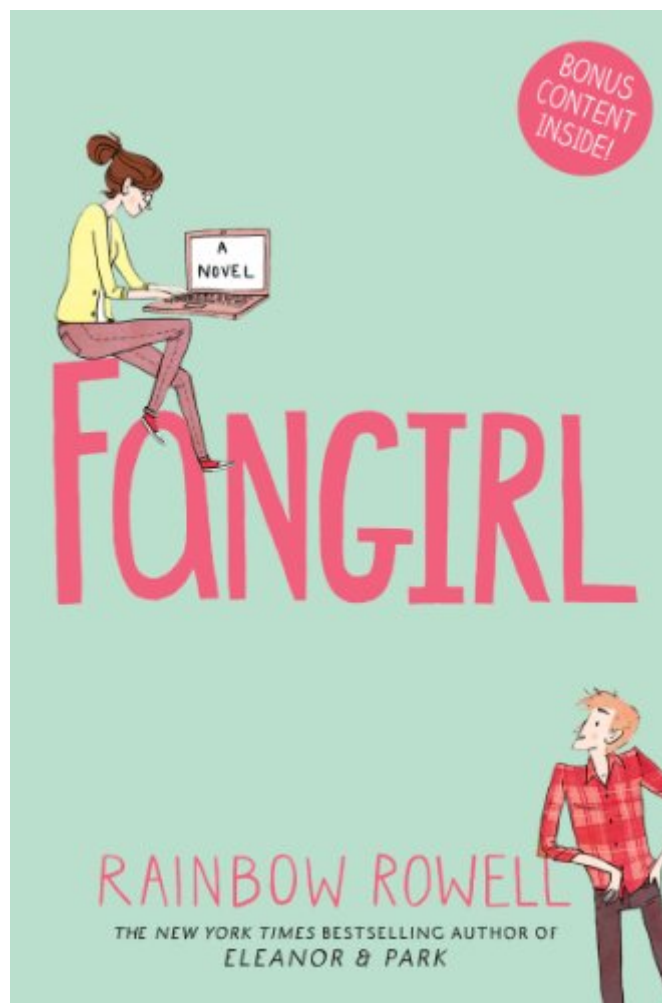


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# Fangirl: Special Edition



## Synopsis

Cath and Wren are identical twins, and until recently they did absolutely everything together. Now they're off to university and Wren's decided she doesn't want to be one half of a pair any more - she wants to dance, meet boys, go to parties and let loose. It's not so easy for Cath. She's horribly shy and has always buried herself in the fan fiction she writes, where she always knows exactly what to say and can write a romance far more intense than anything she's experienced in real life. Without Wren Cath is completely on her own and totally outside her comfort zone. She's got a surly room-mate with a charming, always-around boyfriend, a fiction-writing professor who thinks fan fiction is the end of the civilized world, a handsome classmate who only wants to talk about words . . . And she can't stop worrying about her dad, who's loving and fragile and has never really been alone. Now Cath has to decide whether she's ready to open her heart to new people and new experiences, and she's realizing that there's more to learn about love than she ever thought possible . . . A love story about opening your heart by Rainbow Rowell, the New York Times bestselling author of *Eleanor & Park*. Fangirl now comes with special bonus material; the first chapter from Rainbow's irresistible novel *Carry On*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

So, you're burnt out on the New Adult genre. You've read 30.5 books this year about fictional girls having the same college experience, like they are in some sort of perverted episode of the Twilight Zone. They have all been raped, abused, or raised by wealthy parents who do not care about them and keep them from the one they love, but it's ok because after one roll in the hay with the reformed bad boy, these girls have life figured out. They get over their past, they stand up to their parents, they pass the test and save the day. And you're just over it. Yeah? Me too. And that is probably why I loved Fangirl and Cath so much. Because her college experience did not read like a Teen Harlequin novel. It read like my life. "Look at you. You've got your s\*\*\* together, you're not scared of anything. I'm scared of everything. And I'm crazy. Like maybe you think I'm a little crazy, but I only ever let people see the tip of my crazy iceberg. Underneath this veneer of slightly crazy and mildly socially retarded, I'm a complete disaster." -- Cath, to her roommate Reagan. I loved that the angst in it was so subtle and yet I kept having these little electric waves of emotion roll through my chest on Cath's behalf: as she's navigating her classes... as she feels betrayed when her identical twin doesn't want to be her roommate and finds a new best friend... as she's struggling to feel comfortable in her own dorm room because she's living with a fairly intimidating (yet ultimately awesome) upperclassman named Reagan... as she reluctantly begins to interact with other people and learns the hard way that some can be trusted and some are just using you to get ahead... as she falls in love for the first time. All of the tension in this book felt authentic and not overdone, not over-the-top, and yet left my heart a little bruised. Because this is the angst that real people experience their freshman year of college, and I saw myself in it. With that being said, I'm not kidding when I tell you Cath is the opposite of the typical NA heroine. She's awkward and has a bad case of social anxiety and is more firmly planted in her internet reality than actual reality; but she is also endearing and smart and Rainbow Rowell helps us understand her. I've never written fanfiction, or read fanfiction, or even really been aware that fanfiction existed, but the point of the book was not to make me a fanfiction groupie. The point was to show the journey of one girl's first year in college, and that girl happened to be an incredibly talented writer of fanfiction. Cath writes slash fiction about Simon & Baz, who are the main characters in a Harry Potterish series, and there is quite a bit of talk about her fanfic throughout the book. Even though I can't identify with that personally, it didn't turn me off like I expected it to. Throughout the course of the book it even grew on me because Cath was growing on me, and I cared about her. Also, her roommate was there for comic relief and to say the things that

most of us would be thinking if we were actually interacting with Cath. Quotes from her roommate Reagan: "What do you mean when you write them? No, you know what? Nevermind. I don't want to know. It's already hard enough to make eye contact with you." "You're just so helpless sometimes. It's like watching a kitten with its head trapped in a Kleenex box." Cath is sometimes frustrating because you want to rush her, to force her to make the right decisions and to stop pushing people away. But that's why this is a coming-of-age tale and not a romance, although the love story in it gave me a true case of "the feels." It was well done, sweetly and slowly built, and even though it wasn't totally believable (he was almost too perfect) I was rooting for both of them. My cheeks hurt from smiling during their interactions and when it finally happened I felt a little giddy. If you're looking for a steamy romance with a first-person POV, this isn't your book. It's extremely chaste. But if you love character-driven stories with humor, realistic dialogue, and a sweet love story, this is one of my favorites from 2013. This is truly the story of a girl who is coming of age, who is a young adult-- someone on "adulthood probation." I loved tagging along for her journey. \*\*Just a side note: If you're not loving the fan fiction parts, you can skim them or skip them without getting lost in the story. I did that a few times and it was no big deal, although that is what kept me from giving it five stars. \*\*

Cather starts to college missing her twin sister (who chose a different roommate and a partying lifestyle), worried about her father, and feeling awkward about her roommate Reagan, writing partner Nick, and Levi, Reagan's 'not exactly' boyfriend -- honestly, she'd rather just hide out writing more of her wildly popular fanfic. (Though reviews are inherently subjective, I prefer to provide some organization to my opinions through the use of a personal rubric. The following notes may contain spoilers.) Plot and Setting: 4.9 -- Plot is engaging from start to finish. Has many unique elements, no major holes, and a sense of focus. Setting is clear and believable. Timeline may be a bit hard to follow. Family drama/coming-of-age/romance, with fanfic and story theft drama thrown in. There's a lot going on, but the different elements are juggled well, and it ends up being an engrossing, cohesive story. The timeline is fairly straightforward (one college year), though there are some large jumps that were slightly jarring, and a few spots that felt a bit inconsistent. Characters: 5 -- Relatable, realistic, interesting, dynamic characters. Even minor characters have depth, as do the relationships between characters. Stellar characters. They are all so different, and their interactions are complex and believable. Plenty of relatable moments, especially with Cath. Mechanics and Writing: 5 -- Few, if any, typos, punctuation issues, or word errors. (

This is a book I revisit about once a year. It might seem crazy, but this is one of my favorites. The

friends to something more that happens in this book is so slow and so beautiful and so freaking perfect that I have to have more of Levi and Cath.~~~~I absolutely adore this book. This is the third time I've read it and each time I find something new to love. Levi. Levi, Levi, Levi. I'm pretty sure this man is damn near perfect. He's kind, fun, happy, and sincere. These aren't the typical words I use when describing male characters, but Levi is special. He's everything I hope my daughters find in a guy (I'd say he's everything I would love to find, but I found my special someone so the his ship has sailed). I love this story--obviously, it's my third time reading it. I love the slow dance between Cather and Levi. I love how good they are together, even before they're together. I love snarky Reagan, Cath's dad, and Wren. I just love it all. This is a story I will continue to read again and again. This once per year thing is working pretty well and I'm going to keep that going. I did listen to this book instead of reading it this go 'round and I have to say the narrator is perfect for the voice of Cather. She seems to really understand the story and how Cather is feeling. And then there's the voice of Simon and Baz. I think it's cool that these sections are narrated by someone else. The story flows very smoothly and I'll definitely listen again. Levi. Because he's more than just...

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