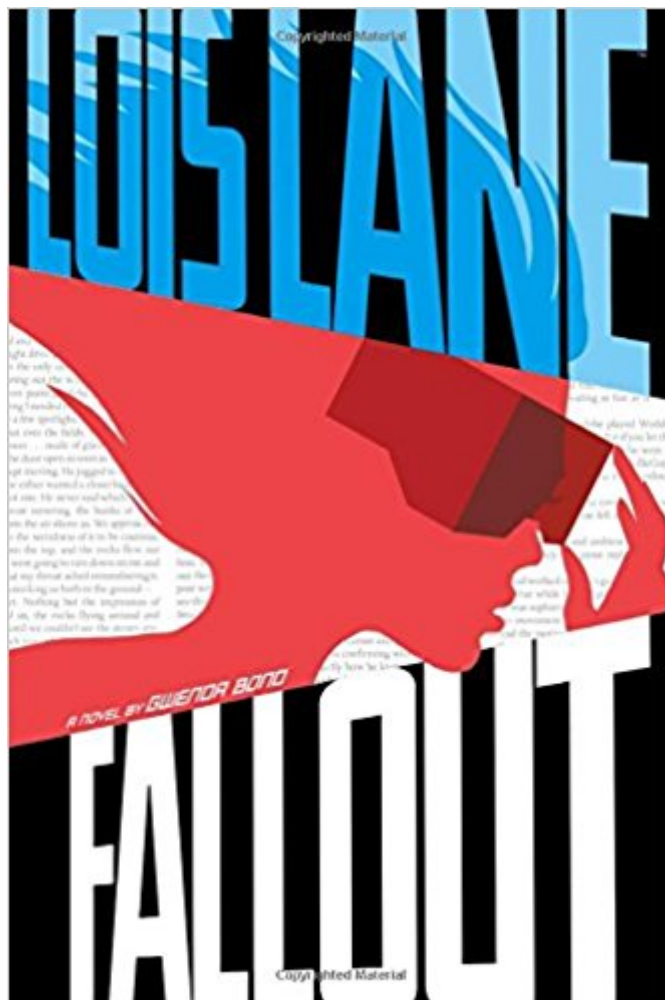


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Fallout (Lois Lane)



Synopsis

Lois Lane is starting a new life in Metropolis. Lois has lived all over the world and seen all kinds of things. But now her family is putting down roots in the big city, and Lois is determined to fit in. Stay quiet. Keep out of trouble. As soon as she steps into her new high school, though, she can see it won't be that easy. A group known as the Warheads is making life miserable for another girl at school. They're messing with her mind somehow, via the high-tech immersive videogame they all play. Not cool. Armed with her wit and her new snazzy job as a reporter, Lois has her sights set on solving this mystery. But sometimes it's all a bit much. Thank goodness for her maybe-more-than-a friend, someone she knows only by his screenname, SmallvilleGuy.

Book Information

Series: Lois Lane

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Switch Press; Reprint edition (March 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1630790060

ISBN-13: 978-1630790066

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 114 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #142,056 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Teens >

Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Superheroes #94 in Books > Teens > Literature &

Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying #115 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > TV,

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Customer Reviews

"This lighthearted and playful tone permeates the novel, making for a nifty investigative mystery akin to Veronica Mars or Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Readers are in for a treat. A spectacular prose start for DC Comics' spectacular lady." -- Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW "Lois Lane has always been one of my favorite characters in American literature. Who is this human, un-powered woman who so easily stands up beside the most iconic superhero of all time? Gwenda Bond's book asks, who was Lois as a teenager? The answer is a spirited, engrossing story that kept me flipping pages and rooting for stubborn, clever, fearless Lois Lane." -- Shannon Hale, NYT bestselling author of DANGEROUS "So it's basically Lois Lane in a Veronica Mars-esque plot,

which sounds like all kinds of awesome." -- Entertainment Weekly "This is a story with a strong female protagonist. Lois is smart and gutsy... The plot is well paced; the reader is immediately pulled into the story and taken for an enjoyable ride. A bit of romance, plenty of adventure, and intrigue add up to a tale that will engage most teen readers." -- VOYAA teen reporter busts a cyberbullying ring at her new school in Metropolis. Lois Lane is new in town, and she's doing her best to keep her head down and her nose clean. Her Army general father is hoping to make their family's stay in Metropolis permanent, and Lois doesn't want to jeopardize that. She joins the Daily Scoop, a teen subsidiary of the Daily Planet, in an effort to make friends. Of course, trouble always has a way of finding Lois Lane. This first entry in a planned series gets plenty right. Lois is as fully rounded as she is in the comics, headstrong, smart, capable, and equipped with a solid moral compass. Bond (*Girl on a Wire*, 2014, etc.) supplies her with plenty of interesting supporting characters to bounce off, establishing a world worthy of a series. Bond also resists the fan-service urge: there's no mention of Gotham, the Waynes, Lex Luthor, Central City, or any other landmark DC icon. The one big connection Bond makes is a playful one: Lois' online pal goes by the name Smallville Guy; and few readers will not put the pieces together quickly regarding his true identity. Bond plays with their knowledge though, effectively turning this eye-roll-worthy quirk into a knowing smile, similar to the one Supes gives to viewers at the end of many a comic book and film. This lighthearted and playful tone permeates the novel, making for a nifty investigative mystery akin to *Veronica Mars* or *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Readers are in for a treat. A spectacular prose start for DC Comics' spectacular lady. --Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW "Lois Lane has always been one of my favorite characters in American literature. Who is this human, un-powered woman who so easily stands up beside the most iconic superhero of all time? Gwenda Bond's book asks, who was Lois as a teenager? The answer is a spirited, engrossing story that kept me flipping pages and rooting for stubborn, clever, fearless Lois Lane." --Shannon Hale, NYT bestselling author of *Princess Academy* books "So it's basically Lois Lane in a *Veronica Mars*-esque plot, which sounds like all kinds of awesome." --Entertainment Weekly --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Gwenda Bond is the author of the young adult novels *Girl on a Wire*, *Blackwood*, and *The Woken Gods*. She has also written for *Publishers Weekly* and the *Los Angeles Times*, among other publications, and just might have been inspired to get a journalism degree by her childhood love of Lois Lane. She has an MFA in Writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts, and lives in a hundred-year-old house in Lexington, Kentucky, with her husband, author Christopher Rowe, and their menagerie. Visit her online at gwendabond.com or @gwenda on Twitter.

As a woman in my 30s, I am probably not the target age group for this book, but that did not stop me from enjoying it immensely. There were parts where I definitely felt my age (I doubt most people my age know what a Nerdfighter is) but those times were few and far between. I blew through it a day, and was really sad when it was over. I really enjoyed Bond's take on Lois. She is tough, but vulnerable. Snarky, but with a huge heart. A horrible speller, but a great journalist. And she is always willing to sacrifice her own reputation when it's for something she truly believes is right. Basically, the Lois I have always loved. My only complaint is that there isn't more, and because of this certain aspects of Lois' relationship with her 'online friend' seemed a tad rushed (I am used to VERY slow burns when it comes to the Lois/Clark dynamic in all other forms of media) but I will take what I can get. It's way past time Lois Lane gets the credit and attention she deserves as a fictional character. Give me all the Lois Lane stories. If there are more in the future, I guarantee I will be there to read them. And if you have a pre teen daughter or niece, definitely encourage them to read this book!

The first and most important thing is that Lois Lane herself is characterized perfectly throughout the book. That alone is reason enough to buy it. She is everything a fan could ask for. She's headstrong, outspoken, principled, intelligent, brave and just all kinds of amazing. She shines here as she rarely gets to, free from the shadow of Superman (mostly). She sticks up for what she thinks is right and takes action (but not crap). It's hard to think of a better feminist role model. That said, the high school setting and the fact that the book is steeped in teen culture might dissuade older readers (like myself) in a way that The Hunger Games never had to worry about, but there's still a solid (and serious) story here that will pull in anybody with a mind to give it a chance. My only real complaint is Superman's inclusion at all, but this is still fundamentally Lois's story, and he's never anything more than a sidekick in it. This is still a great reminder that Lois is more than just "Superman's girlfriend". She's a super hero all on her own.

I've loved Lois Lane for decades, so I was a little dubious when I first heard about this book. Not everybody understands why people love this character or why she means so much to so many. Well, having read this book more than three times, let me say...Gwenda Bond really gets it. The plot may not be for everyone - however, its themes about bullying are very timely. All of the supporting characters are well rounded and three dimensional - none so much as her Internet friend SmallvilleGuy. Bond brilliantly captures Lois's voice and why she is and has always been a character

to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. It is easy to see the connection between Lois and the never-really-present Clark Kent and why these two really are wonderful alone but are only better together. I laughed, I choked up, I made sounds like a dying moose. Do yourself a favor and read this book. It is truly the best depiction of Lois Lane I've seen in a long time.

I began *Fallout* with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. I love Lois Lane and I was really worried the book wouldn't capture the Lois I see in my head. Me of little faith! My fears were groundless. *Fallout* exceeds everything I hoped it would be. Bond has captured Lois's voice, infusing her with the Lois Lanes who have come before yet creating a fresh character with her own purpose. This is the story of a teenage Lois who has just relocated to Metropolis. She's an army brat who has moved around a lot but now her family plans to put down roots. She has gotten in trouble at other schools because of her brash personality so this time she wants to keep a low profile and start fresh. She creates a list of all the things she wants to do differently and it's heartfelt, touching and charming. Bond shows her understanding of teenagers and the deep need for acceptance from their peers. Of course, this is Lois Lane, and no matter how much she wishes, she can't change her personality. She is a curious young woman who bristles at injustice, and sure enough, on the very first day she witnesses bullying which completely derails her best intentions to keep out of trouble. Her best friend is "Smallville Guy", an on-line friend whom she's never met but they "talk" every day. Their instant messages add texture to the story. However, this is very much Lois's story told through her eyes with Clark playing the supporting role. Their interactions however build the early foundation for the mutual love which will bind them when they grow up. Their conversations show their mutual respect for each other and Lois's innocent and slightly insecure mild crushing on her friend is something almost every teenager can relate to. There is one particularly sweet conversation after a misunderstanding between the two which, instead of devolving in to angst, captures the delicate emotions of that age where everything feels larger than life. The way they talk it through made my heart sigh. I did want to ask Lois to stop pushing Clark to tell her more than he could but she did it in such a way that was true to her character and she wouldn't be who she was otherwise. Their friendship is filled with the energy of young exhilaration when possibilities seem limitless and there is the promise of something bigger on the horizon. I love Lois's internal dialogue throughout the story. Bond gets in her head and shows us the young woman behind the bravado. We see her vulnerability and her caring heart and can understand why she

makes the choices she does. I love how she bulldozes her way in to a group of friends who at first don't know what to make of her but end up becoming loyal supporters. One of the most important relationships in this story is between Lois and her dad, General Sam Lane. They are very much alike which needless to say causes problems. I couldn't help but think of my relationship with my dad. We were very much alike and when I was a teenager we didn't always see eye to eye. It was only after I grew up and had my own kids that I began to see his side of things. If he was alive today he'd get a kick out of watching me with my daughter, who is a lot like me even though she'd deny it. There is a scene between father and daughter after Lois has gotten in trouble which will likely resonate for both the teenager and the parent. The reader is firmly on Lois's side but Sam Lane's actions are clearly motivated out of love. Meanwhile Lois's mother and Lucy have ringside seats for their emotional battles. The few Lois and Lucy scenes manage to convey the deep bond between the sisters. The climactic scene ties together the themes of the book. Lois learns lessons about friendship, trust and taking emotional risks which are harder for her than physical ones. She also finds purpose and direction in the form of her career choice with Perry White as her gruff mentor. Meanwhile, her actions in the final chapters are quintessential Lois Lane, albeit a younger less self-assured version. The story feels as if it takes place in the not too distant future (to shamelessly steal from MST 3k). I found it a welcome respite from the many dystopian stories crowding the YA genre. There were threads of light and hope woven through the book. I was left wanting more after the story ended and I'm so excited Bond is writing a sequel (Double Down). I'd also love to see YA treatments for other DC and Marvel characters such as Kate Kane, Diana, Barbara Gordon, and Kamala Khan to name just a few. I highly recommend Fallout. My teenage daughter needed a book for her weekly reading log and I gave her this, she loved it. She has to create a poster at the end of the grading period for her favorite book. She told me so far Fallout is her top pick. It is mine too.

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