



Weird Girl and What's His Name

By Meagan Brothers

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IndieFab Young Adult Fiction Book of the Year 2015!

Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Books 2015!

In the podunk town of Hawthorne, North Carolina, seventeen-year-old geeks Lula and Rory share everything—sci-fi and fantasy fandom, Friday night binge-watching of old *X-Files* episodes, and that feeling that they don't quite fit in. Lula knows she and Rory have no secrets from each other; after all, he came out to her years ago, and she's shared with him her "sacred texts"—the acting books her mother left behind after she walked out of Lula's life. But then Lula discovers that Rory—her Rory, who maybe she's secretly had feelings for—has not only tried out for the Hawthorne football team without telling her, but has also been having an affair with his middle-aged divorcee boss. With their friendship disrupted, Lula begins to question her identity and her own sexual orientation, and she runs away in the middle of the night on a journey to find her mother, who she hopes will have all the answers. Meagan Brother's piercing prose in this fresh LGBT YA novel speaks to anyone who has ever felt unwanted and alone, and who struggles to find their place in an isolating world. Ages 14–up.

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Weird Girl and What's His Name By Meagan Brothers Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6 Up—Rory and Lulu share an affinity for all things geek: The X-Files, Buffy, and conspiracy theories. When Lulu discovers that underage Rory had an explicit relationship with his divorced boss and hid it from Lulu because of her crush on him, she begins to question her own sexual orientation. After she is rebuffed by her favorite teacher, Lulu decides to hunt down the skeletons in her family's closet. This buddy/misanthrope novel explores the difficulties in LGBTQ relationships, as well as teen angst in general. While the narrative is uplifting, some readers may have a hard time with the slow burn pace and minimal plot movement. The overuse of The X-Files as a metaphor for character complexity may keep some of the core audience at arm's length. However, Brothers's pitch-perfect dialogue and well-polished prose make her an author to watch. VERDICT Recommended for fans of realistic fiction with relationship drama and an LGBTQ focus.—Brian Hoff, Elmwood Park High School, IL

Review

“Aside from being extremely well-written, it was very real. The characters felt like genuine seventeen-year-olds with interesting, but relatable, problems. They are the kind of characters that stay with you and become part of your literary family . . . This is a novel that transcends the LGBTQ genre, and it holds universal lessons for all. It is reminiscent of Judy Bloom’s *Are You There God, It’s Me, Margaret* and *Tiger Eyes* in the way it tackles somewhat taboo subjects within a smoothly written narrative. It has all the makings to become a classic of this generation.” —*Foreword Reviews* 5-Star Review; Reviewers' Choice 2015; IndieFab 2015 Young Adult Fiction Book of the Year

“What makes us love who and what we love? What makes us who we are? Do our loves make us who we are? In *Weird Girl and What’s His Name*, Meagan Brothers’s crisp, compassionate novel for young adults, all of these questions are explored from various character perspectives . . . This is not a “gay book for teens.” It’s a book inclusive of teen readers—yes, queer teens and geeky teens—many of whom will recognize themselves and their challenges in its pages. Adult readers will certainly recognize themselves in this book as well, from many different angles and in many different phases of life. We can all gain some insight.” —*Rain Taxi*

"*Weird Girl and What's His Name*" will prove to be an enduringly popular addition to school and community library collections." —*Midwest Book Review*

“Voices are crisply and intimately drawn. Minor characters are equally vibrant . . . Carefully and subtly imagined.” —*Kirkus Reviews* Starred Review; "*Best Teen Books of 2015*" & "*Best Teen Romance Novels of 2015*"

“Rory and Lula are charming characters who talk to the reader as though they are talking to a good friend. . . . Teens will find a lot of appeal here” —*Someday My Printz Will Come/School Library Journal*

"What could have been a niche novel only for X-Philes is a quirky, thoughtful illumination of identity formation and the difficulty of assigning labels to love." —*The Globe and Mail*

“The characters are wonderfully likable, the story is smartly written, and—what’s this?—there’s a possibility for a happy ending? Read and find out.” —*Booklist* (Starred Review)

“Effectively mixes past and present . . . real, evolving . . .” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Brothers’s pitch-perfect dialogue and well-polished prose make her an author to watch.” —*School Library Journal*

"Say hello to one of my new benchmarks for great YA fiction. *Weird Girl and What's His Name* is absolutely wonderful, heartbreaking, and utterly engaging stuff." —*Manhattan Book Review*

“Recommended for huge fans of “The X-Files” or anyone who has struggled to figure out their own identity or sexuality” —*TeenReads*

"Readers who enjoy coming-of-age stories will enjoy this powerful novel." (Top 18 New YA Books of Fall 2015) —*BuzzFeed*

"What really shines in Meagan Brothers' novel is the voices and the characters; they feel authentically human and vibrant and you'll be glad to spend 300-odd pages with the both of them." (Top 17 New YA Books of October 2015) —*Bustle*

“This new LGBT YA novel is as gripping as it is heartfelt.” (Best 12 Books of October 2015) —*Brit+Co*

“There have been a lot of noteworthy LGBT YA novels hitting the market lately, but *Weird Girl and What's His Name* is one of the most complex and touching.” (10 New YA Books Every Twentysomething Should Read) —*Style Caster*

“Brothers burrows deep into her characters' hearts and minds as they struggle with unruly sexual urges, family issues, and their own ruptured friendship. A welcome addition to the growing canon of LGBTQ-themed teen literature.” —*Chronogram*

"Meagan Brothers is a force to be reckoned with . . . she reminds us of the exquisite pain of unrequited love and of the absurd loyalty and drama we're all capable of." —*Book Jawn*

"A great story about how gender roles are not always clear cut, and how self-expression is all about letting go of your fears and doubts." —*YA, Why Not?*

“Truly a fantastic read. . . Definitely recommend this book to anyone looking for a good plot line, or simply a wonderful book to read.” —*League of Advanced Readers*

"A satisfying breath of fresh air." —*Lambda Literary*

“Rory is another great LGBTQ teen, whose gayness does not define him as a person.” (Top 30 YA books of 2015) —*Forever Young Adult*

"A wonderful story about family, love, and fan fiction. Brothers does an excellent job of showing that true friendship can survive anything, including football, sexuality, and government coverups." —Brian Katcher, author, *Almost Perfect*

"Rory and Lula might bond over out-there sci-fi, but their relationship is as real as it gets. To paraphrase their favorite show: The truth is in here." —D.C. Pierson, comedian and author, *The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep*

and Never Had To

"Gorgeous writing, real characters I could give my heart to, and a huge-hearted exploration of being a fan of something specific (music! *X-Files*! football!). . . I'm certainly now a huge fangirl of Meagan Brothers! -- Kim Culbertson, Northern California Book Award Winner of *Instructions for a Broken Heart* and *Catch a Falling Star*

"I fell in love with both narrators of WEIRD GIRL AND WHAT'S HIS NAME, and found their story meaningful, original, and truthful. As someone who's been both a weird girl and a what's her name, I heartily endorse this book." —Janice Earbaum, author, *I. Liar* and *Girlbomb*

"I wish I could go back in time, when I was Lula and Rory's age, so I could feel like I finally had someone who spoke my language. . . This is a book for anyone that has ever binge watched on a TV show or fallen in love with their best friend or searched for a way out of redundancy or dreamed of an adventure." —Aimee Herman, author, *To Go Without Blinking*

"As an avid reader and writer, there is rarely a novel that makes me think "I have never read a book like this before." WEIRD GIRL AND WHAT'S HIS NAME is one of the occasional exceptions . . . An innovative piece of young adult fiction, and I definitely would recommend to both young adult and adult fiction readers." —Annabelle Jay, author, *Caron High News*

"Fanboys and fangirls, rejoice! This wise and witty book is pure teen-geek heaven. With laugh-out-loud moments, smartly drawn characters, and a platonic love story that rivals Scully and Mulder's, this book perfectly captures the joys and heartaches of all-consuming fandoms and 'it's-complicated' friendships. I loved it." --J.C. Lillis, author, *How to Repair a Mechanical Heart* and *We Won't Feel a Thing*

"A bold, funny and touching story for anyone who has experienced the heartache of an unrequited crush, whose sexual identity is a work-in-progress, and whose journey to self-discovery represents not so much a straight line as a meandering path. —Melissa Keil, author, *Life in Outer Space*

About the Author

Meagan Brothers is a writer, poet and musician best known for her young adult novels *Supergirl Mixtapes*, a 2012 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults nomination, and *Debbie Harry Sings in French*, an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, which won a GLBT Round Table ALA Award, and was named a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age. She was founder and lead guitarist for the punk rock band Steel Pier Sinners. A native Carolinian, Meagan currently lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jesse Valles:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important usually. The book *Weird Girl and What's His Name* seemed to be making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The guide *Weird Girl and What's His Name* is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to become your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with the book *Weird Girl and What's His Name*. You never

experience lose out for everything when you read some books.

Gabriel Reyes:

The feeling that you get from *Weird Girl and What's His Name* may be the more deep you excavating the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but *Weird Girl and What's His Name* giving you thrill feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by anyone who read the item because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this *Weird Girl and What's His Name* instantly.

Leona Tidwell:

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