



Breaking Up (Fashion High Graphic Novel)

Aimee Friedman (Author) , Christine Norrie (Illustrator)

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BREAKING UP is something different for the Gossip Girls set: all the drama, all the romance, all the style -- illustrated in juicy graphic novel format.

"There's a fine line between a friend and an enemy. One minute there's all this trust, and laughter, and love. And the next minute . . . there's hurt. And cruelty. And betrayal."

Meet Chloe Sacks: Thoughtful, artistic, and a junior at Georgia O'Keeffe School for the Arts, nicknamed "Fashion High" for its trendy student body. Along with her best friends, Erika, Isabel, and MacKenzie, she's looking forward to a sparkling year of parties and romance.

And it is an eventful year. But not quite what she expected. Who'd have thought that falling in love would be such a disaster?

Breaking Up (Fashion High Graphic Novel) Details

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Author : Aimee Friedman (Author) , Christine Norrie (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review *Breaking Up* (Fashion High Graphic Novel) for online ebook

Anna says

This book is one of my absolute favorites. It talks about love and how a teenage life is. It is about 4 highschoolers at the stage where they are all changing from who they are, and from that they get into a huge fight. After a while then made up and were friends again.

Chelsea says

Breaking Up was an interesting novel that focused on how friendships can change during a person's high school experience because of the pressures of school, social acceptance, and developing new relationships. For the four friends in this graphic novel, the changes came suddenly and without warning.

I loved how the primary focus of this book was on the friendship aspect of the four characters, and not on their new relationships with boyfriends and other friends, and that the romance took a backseat to the important relationships in *Breaking Up*.

It was a quick read, and I would recommend it. It wasn't my favorite graphic novel I've read but it was definitely good. The artwork was also really great, and brought the story alive.

Seth T. says

Thinking it was about time to read some teen fiction marketed to/at girls, I picked up Aimee Friedman and Christine Norrie's *Breaking Up* (the cover lists it as **A *Fashion High* graphic novel**, so I assumed that *Fashion High* was an established brand in the teen-fiction arena, but a quick Googling has turned up nothing that would suggest the series is actually a series).

The read, naturally, was light and breezy. It's an understandably inconsequential book, but one that's enjoyable in its excess of both drama and melodrama. *Breaking Up* charts the well-balanced cacophony that crops up in the lives of four girls who, until their tumultuous junior year of high school, have been best friends since time began. Now, growing into their own personalities and dreams and goals and tastes, they find that nothing lasts forever.

It doesn't even last very long when everyone is petty, self-absorbed, and governed entirely by the convictions of others. Ah, high school.

After all is said, the book was enjoyable. It would function perfectly as poolside reading as you sip margaritas out of mugs shaped like palm trees in Cancun. It never gets too heavy or depressing. The characters are clichéd enough to keep you from too much mental heavy lifting (you know the geeky boy *is* a geek, despite dressing nonchalantly and looking halfway handsome, because he has a *Star Trek* t-shirt "not worn in an ironic/hipster way" and he mentions a friend wanting to have a *Star Wars* marathon). And Norrie's art is, as always, fluid and tells the story well (I'm a fan!).

Elizabeth says

Chloe, Erika, Isabel, and MacKenzie are eleventh graders at the Georgia O'Keeffe School for the Arts. These four girls are the best of friends, sharing everything—classes, gossip, secrets, and opinions. What Chloe and the others are about to discover is that while wisdom does not necessarily come with age, change certainly does. Chloe starts out as somebody who has it all. She is going to a famous art school; she is popular and she has three best friends who she loves. Chloe and her friends grow apart during their junior year as Mackenzie becomes a social climber; Erika deals with a pushy boyfriend; Chloe has to come to terms with her geeky crush on Adam and Isabel tries to hold it all together. Chloe and Adam begin to date but Chloe won't tell her friends, fearing their judgement. Before they know it, everything blows up and destroys their friendship. These four girls question if and how this friendship can ever be repaired or if the (friend) ship has sailed. They learn that the best of friends can weather any fight. This graphic novel was predictable, and the characters were cliché but nonetheless it was perfect for teenagers and pre teens. The author told the story well, with amazing pictures to go along with it, the pictures definitely brought out the story and added insight about the characters as you saw their unique styles they showed off. I enjoyed reading a graphic novel despite the fact that I personally can't get "sucked into" graphic novels as much as I can with regular novels. The fact that there are pictures definitely diminish the possibility of letting words remove your mind from reality. In the end, *Breaking Up* was an enjoyable read that didn't take much time to read, it taught me that true friends are worth it, and had great pictures. It was humorous, relatable, sweet yet not very engaging for the reader.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Randstostipher "tallnankyrn" Nguyen for TeensReadToo.com

Friends forever! That is exactly how Chloe Sacks feels about her tight group of girlfriends. Since what seems like forever, Chloe, Isabel, Erika, and Mackenzie have been inseparable. They did everything together, from sharing secrets to gossiping with one another. And when they start out their junior year together, Chloe is sure that it will be another great year for them all. But little does she know that as they enter their junior year, they may actually become distant.

The new school year does not start off too well for the girls. Instead of having all of their classes together they only have one--Health, with the very weird Ms. Lamour. Not only are their schedules changing, but so are they.

It seems like all Mackenzie can think about is getting "in" with the popular crowd, befriending Nicola Burnett, the girlfriend of Gabe, who Mackenzie is beginning to fall for. Isabel is having trouble with her very controlling parents, especially when she really wants to date soccer player Brad Richmond. Erika loves her boyfriend, Kyle, very much, but is beginning to question their relationship since all Kyle thinks about is pressuring her to take their relationship to the "next level." And Chloe is beginning to have feelings for Adam Stevenson, who, unfortunately, around school is considered a loser, even by her own friends.

A new year, new relationships, and a new perspective on how the girls begin to look at each other. It seems like the girls' junior year isn't turning out to be what they expected.

Different from what Aimee Friedman normally writes, **BREAKING UP: A FASHION HIGH GRAPHIC NOVEL**, is a quick and easy read that will definitely pull the reader in from the very beginning. Aimee Friedman hits the target with high school angst in this graphic novel, with characters that are easy for the readers to relate to. The novel deals with real life issues from relationships to friends. It was like watching another episode of *Degrassi*. And the pictures, illustrated by Christine Norrie, were absolutely amazing.

Rain Misoa says

...why do I put myself through such torture? Just... why? I just don't understand. I hate books/graphic novels/manga/anime/anything you can think of like this. I can never read them with a straight face or with love because I just HATE these types of books! I really do. Yet... here I am... reviewing this... because I actually read it. *Sighs* Sometimes I wonder what goes on in my head. Oh well... so I went to the library... picked this up... because I felt like reading a comic book. And this is what I got. Nothing but a bunch of stupid high school girls complaining about high school drama that really shouldn't be a problem in the first place but is... for whatever reason and the girls... BUNCH OF SHALLOW PEANUTS! Bah! How!? Why!? I can't!

AKHNDSKDFNSKNDSDLKNSKDCNSKJNDCSKNDCSLJMNDCSLNDCKSBNKSNDCKSKLNK,SND
CSKLNDCCK,SNDCBKSNDCCKNCSJKB

I'm a little better now. Let's move on to an actual cohesive review.

Aimee Friedman wrote the story to this graphic novel. Yeah... Nothing amazing to add here. She wrote a story that people have been writing for years! Some girl wanting to be popular, being afraid to be herself, friends betraying each other, guys being douches, another guy being sweet, guys pressuring girls to have sex, etc. Same old, same old. There was nothing new here. Nothing invigorating. Nothing exciting. Typical high school drama. But I guess... that seeing as how that was the goal to this whole graphic novel, there's not much I can say against it. Going into this book, I knew that this was the story. I knew I was going to hate it. And I did. However, considering the whole "high school drama" was the main point, I can't fault the book. It set out to prove something in this "dramatic high school" and I think it succeeded. So, even though I hated this book, I can't say it was awful for what it wanted to do. Hence, the two star rating. (But if it was up to me, I'd give it a one.) Why didn't I give it a higher rating? Well, it HAS been done before and doesn't add anything new to the plate so I don't think it deserves higher than a two.

Moving on! The art style. I actually liked the art in the graphic novel. Christine Norrie did a pretty good job. Everything is so detailed and the line art so clean, smooth, it just makes me happy to look at it. Despite what's being said story-wise, I was actually very involved with the artwork. I felt the characters were very expressive... albeit cartoony. There were some scenes where there was firing coming out of one of the characters ears and mouth but I liked that! It added flavor to what was going on. It made it comical and made me interested in what was going on... even if it was short lived. All-in-all, the artwork was amazing. There was only one panel I did not agree with but that's more of a personal issue. I liked the character and to have her drawn as being a "backstabber" really put me off. But like I said, personal issue. Norrie did an excellent job with this graphic novel. This is about the ONLY thing I enjoyed about this book. Everything else blew...

Like the characters! I bloody HATED the characters. Well, all except two. First character I hated was the main character, Chloe. She was so shallow. She claimed not to care about popularity but the moment when a guy who is considered a "geek" starts showing her affection and she finds herself returning those feelings, she's embarrassed to be seen with him. She keeps him a secret from her "friends" (they aren't real friends)

and then denies she ever had feelings for him. Just... ARGH! She doesn't really improve much towards the end either. Another character I hate was Isabel. One of her friends was having guy trouble (boyfriend trying to pressure her into sex) and she says to give in to him! WHAT FRIEND GIVES THAT ADVICE!? A SHITTY ONE! She, too, pissed me off. I think the character I hated the most was MacKenzie. She was your typical slut cliché character. Wanted to be popular, have the hot guy, sleep around with whoever, and didn't want to be seen with "losers." Jesus... I hated her. If I talk too much about her then spoilers would be revealed but... ugh... she makes me sick. Now for characters I liked. Erika is also a part of the group of friends Chloe is in, but she was the only one with feelings and a brain. She stood up for herself when people walked all over her. She was understanding of everyone's problems. She was the only one who I was okay with. She didn't get on my nerves and I was hoping to see a lot more of her than that blasted Chloe. Seriously, Erika was cool (plus, she has an awesome name! Yay for anime references!!!) Another character I was okay with was Adam. In school, he was known as a "loser" but really, he was sweet, kind, and gentle. He didn't deserve to be with a certain someone. I was hoping he would get someone better but meh. I liked that he was forgiving despite what happened to him. That was a cool thing for him to do. Let's just face it, readers, Erika and Adam were the only two that made it worth all the pain I went through reading this crap.

Here's the run down: if you like reading about high school drama, pick this graphic novel up. I think you will like it. If not, STAY FAR AWAY FROM THIS! You will go insane and want to kill something or burn something (like this book). I was not a fan. It made me roll my eyes more than a couple of times. I was really wishing this book would end. In fact, I hated this book so much that it took me FOREVER to finish it. I can get done with a comic book in half an hour tops! This took more than a week! So... it's up to you. Read it if you really want to. If not, skip it. I'm off to bleach out my brain... AGAIN! DX

Kristina Jean Lareau says

This 10-year-old gn feels a little dated, though the sentiments are spot-on.

Stephanie says

Stephanie Jones
Graphic Novel

“Breaking Up” left no mystery to the reader because it basically shows exactly what happens on the front cover. Chloe is lying on her bed holding a picture of her and three other girls, and they seem to be best friends. That is a given. As I began to read the story, I realized it was just another typical high school story about teenagers and their many issues. These four girls- Chloe, Erika, Isabel, and MacKenzie have been best friends since elementary school and are now attending Georgia O’Keeffe School for the Arts (better known as “Fashion High”). The young ladies are attempting to maintain their lifelong friendships while discovering themselves as they get older. Of course, there are the issues of being popular, having boyfriends, and trying to remain friends through all of these changes. The girls begin to bump heads as their priorities begin to shift and they end up fighting. There was really nothing so special and surprising about this book except how Chloe falls for the school nerd.

Kaley says

Light 7/10

I enjoyed reading it, and the art style was really nice. I liked how it did explore friendship, even when it went from catty to underwelming at times.. Some of the thoughts and doubts that Chloe had throughout the story I was able to understand easily. I wanted more romance; their was a cute couple to root for and though it wasn't main focus it could've been more developed, It had too much telling rather than showing.

Overall it was enjoyable and if you want quick contemporary graphic novel, I recommend it :)

louisa says

I'm going to repeat Carolina's 4 star review which I agree with entirely: "Good storytelling elevates standard teen yarn (friendship falling apart as coming-of-age takes girls in different directions). Recommend for girl readers (as well as those of us who remember being a teenage girl). Reminds me a bit of My So-Called-Life"

Makenzi Keller says

I like the part were Mackenzie drew them on a raft with words around it that might affect them as friends. It was also good because they were total different people but they still tried to stay together. I also liked this book because I could relate to it. It was eh when they had a hug fight and they never became best friends again. I would recommend this book to people who like drama.

Melissa says

Don't get me wrong--this comic is NOTHING deep or earth-shattering. But it's a simple story that is very elegantly told... great art complements a solid story of friendship dissolving in the face of popularity and peer pressure and falling in nerdly love. Norrie really gets both her teenage characters and target audience... these are some of the best-drawn clothes I've ever seen in comics (and I am NOT a clothes person to notice this kind of thing). Also, there are many great comics flourishes where the interiority of the character is reflected in the art, subtle but well executed throughout. Realistic fiction is not my thing, romance is not my thing, and traditionally girlie comics are not my thing, but I was thoroughly charmed by this. Note to librarians: references to lost and up-for-grabs virginity and party drinking may keep this on your shelves for older kids, but it's essentially pretty wholesome stuff.

Amber Brownlow says

Breaking Up is a graphic novel that tells the story of four high school friends, and the ups and downs they experience through their junior year of high school.

I picked this book up on a complete whim at the library and I'm glad I did. I flew through this book and couldn't put it down until it was finished. To me, this book really described what high school and friendship can be like. When we are younger, and sometimes even older, we can put a lot of emphasis on what our friends/co-workers think, instead of doing what makes us happy. This book really showed this and that we should put ourselves first, and in the end, everything will work out if it is meant to be.

I think this book delivers a great message to both younger and older readers. This story was told in so much truth, that I could imagine I was back in high school while reading it. I would recommend this graphic novel; I'm very happy that I stumbled upon it and decided to give it a try.

Kylie Tumbleson says

The book I chose was “Breaking Up”, by Aimee Friedman. It was about four junior high school girls who were best friends but became enemies. At the beginning of the year, they were excited to begin a new school year together. That began to change when Mackenzie started to worry about her social status. She and Chloe (the main character) had been best friends ever since they were kids, but Mackenzie soon started becoming close with Nicola, the most popular girl in school. Other friends, Isabel and Erika were also starting to spend time doing other things. Erika was always with her boyfriend, Kyle, and Isabel was very busy with dance. Chloe was upset and began focusing on her art. Soon she started hanging out with Adam, who was a nerd. They began dating, but kept it a secret from all of Chloe's friends because she was embarrassed of him. When the girls found out, they blew up. They were also upset at each other for keeping other secret, or not having the same reaction to certain things, or they just weren't happy with how the other girls were turning into. Kyle and Chloe, as well as the friend group, all broke up. Will they ever solve their problems? Read the book to find out!

This graphic novel is very interesting because there are so many conflicts going on at once, and you get to be in the mindset of a teenage girl throughout every situation. For example, Chloe was losing her best friend to Nicola. On the first day of school, Mackenzie showed up with a tattoo. Nicola had already known about it before Chloe or any of the other girls did. Chloe said, “You didn't tell me you wanted to get one.” (pg. 8) It was very upsetting to her that she didn't know everything in her best friend's life. She had always been the one Mackenzie had gone to whenever something exciting happened or was possibly going to happen. It made Chloe think she had done something wrong or upsetting to Mackenzie that made her not want to trust her with information. She soon learned that all Mackenzie cared about was popularity, and if she ever wanted to become popular she'd have to ditch Chloe and the girls for Nicola.

Another issue Chloe had was having to defend Erika against Mackenzie and Isabel. Chloe already had the stress of losing her friend with Mackenzie. But she made it worse by adding taking Erika's side to the mix. Erika and Kyle had been dating over a year, and he wanted to take their relationship to the next level: sex. Erika just didn't feel ready for that yet. It was a big deal to her. Isabel and Mackenzie thought he was right, they needed to take the relationship up a notch. They didn't think he was asking for too much. Erika says, “ I am attracted to him. And I love fooling around with him. But sex feels so huge to me--really serious and intense. I'm not really sure he should be the one.” (pg. 46.) But Chloe did think it was fair of her to not want that. She thought it was a good idea to save herself for someone whom she thought were completely worthy. That divided the group and created tension between them. Erika was disappointed in Isabel for not understanding and supporting her decision, but appreciated it from Chloe. Mackenzie thought Chloe was completely wrong for agreeing, because she knew nothing about having a relationship since she never had on before.

Which leads to another problem: Chloe was her becoming friends with Adam. Chloe never really hung out with anyone out of her circle of friends, especially with boys for that matter. She enjoyed spending time with

him. He was kind, smart, funny, artistic, and kind of handsome. One day she got an email from Adam asking her to hangout. She turned him down because she was afraid of her friends finding out, but she told him she was just too busy. She realized what a big mistake she made, so the next time he offered, she said yes! She began to worry that she had grown feelings for him, "Do I... have a crush on Adam?" (pg. 62). She couldn't believe it herself, but she had! She invited him to Gabe's (Nicola's boyfriend) New Years party. They kissed at midnight, and that was a turning point for their relationship. They began to hang out more and more, and soon became an item. Like Chloe thought, the girls were not happy for her and thought she was just committing social suicide. Chloe had to find a way to make the girls see what she saw in Adam so they could be together with approval from her friends, which was most important to her.

Hannahj says

i can't believe im editing this
ok, so this book wasn't exactly a.... pick of mine
in the library some of the boys (you know who you are) told me this suits me well...ughh.
well, just to suprise them i got this and thought it was gonna be cheesy
yet personally, it was quite good... sorta weird, but quite good
so, chloe has 3 best friends (isabel,isa!), erika (rika!), and MacKenzie(mac).
mackenzie is a real problem in the book cause shes a...um... bad person
well... anyways iwanted to read sisterhood of the traveling pants but i spent my time reading this, and now
im back to the sisterhood, cause ive been dying to get back to it, so yay!!
btw, this is good for girls, and not boys,itll totally disgust boys and maybe some girls..
you might be able to guess whats in the book...
think... what happens to a normal kid in high school?...
not really a 5th grader book. more older people
