



The Fangirl's Guide to the Galaxy: A Handbook for Girl Geeks

By Sam Maggs

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This ultimate handbook for ladies living the nerdy life is a fun and feminist take on the often male-dominated world of geekdom.

Fandom, feminism, cosplay, cons, books, memes, podcasts, vlogs, OTPs and RPGs and MMOs and more—it's never been a better time to be a girl geek. With delightful illustrations and an unabashed love for all the in(ternet)s and outs of geek culture, this book is packed with tips, playthroughs, and cheat codes, including:

- How to make nerdy friends
- How to rock awesome cosplay
- How to write fanfic with feels
- How to defeat internet trolls
- How to attend your first con

And more! Plus insightful interviews with fangirl faves, like Jane Espenson, Erin Morgenstern, Kate Beaton, Ashley Eckstein, Laura Vandervoort, Beth Revis, Kate Leth, and many others.

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Editorial Review

Review

"If you or someone else in your life could do with an inclusive, funny, super smart, and sweet introduction to the world of female geeks, look no further."—The Mary Sue

"Short, thorough, wide-spread, funny, and varied—I wish I'd had this handbook when I first ventured into the fanzones!"—Tamora Pierce, author of *The Song of the Lioness* series

"Everyone could use tips on how to be a better and happier geek from this book. Maggs dishes out the best advice on cosplay, gaming, fan fiction, social media and even how to battle trolls. You'll start reading as student and leave a Jedi Master. May this book be with you always."—Bonnie Burton, author of *The Star Wars Craft Book* and *You Can Draw: Star Wars*

"Part analysis and part celebration, this handbook thoroughly explores geekdom and the way women have made it their own. A must-have for anyone interested in fangirl culture."—Beth Revis, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Across the Universe* series

"This FANtastic book embraces and encourages the growing number of women who are unleashing their glorious and gorgeous inner geeks. It celebrates the nerdy girl in all of us. Such fun!"—Amanda Tapping, actress from *Stargate SG-1* and *Stargate Atlantis*

"Read it cover to cover, and then make sure you share it with all the young girl geeks you know."—Brit + Co

"...this book could be invaluable."—*GeekMom*

"Through and through, Maggs manages to talk about feminism, fangirling, cons, lingo, and the general idea that you should be yourself, and do that unapologetically, with a great deal of lightheartedness and fun."—*The Frisky*

"For a woman trying to find her way in fandom, I think this book would be invaluable. But that's not to say men can't get something out of it as well."—*FreakSugar*

About the Author

Sam Maggs is a writer and televisioner, who – despite her MA in Victorian literature – mostly writes about geek culture and how it intersects with being a lady. Named "Awesome Geek Feminist of 2013," Sam is an Associate Editor for The Mary Sue; talks pop culture on TV and movie screens; and her writing has appeared everywhere from the Internet, to books, to national newspapers. She loves YA lit, Pacific Rim, BioWare games, Carol Danvers, and Jeff Goldblum.

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Introduction: One of Us! One of Us!

I'm a fangirl.

More often than not, people hit me with that word in a derogatory way. They use it to make me feel devalued, unintelligent, and immature. And you know what? They couldn't be more wrong.

Being a fangirl is the best thing that's ever happened to me. My geekiness has made me friends all over

the world, women who continue to be the most intelligent, well-spoken, and wonderful people I know. Fandom has given me a voice to advocate for the things I'm passionate about. And being a geek girl is constantly exciting—no one else gets more invested in the things they love. New video game? Freak out for months in advance over the cover art! Waiting for a new season of *Sherlock*? Create an endless number of GIFs to ease your pain! Angry about the way they posed Black Widow on that new poster? She-Hulk smash the patriarchy! What's more, regardless of their particular fandom, geek girls are devoted to supporting women in media, constantly pushing an agenda of acceptance, diversity, and fair representation. Oh, and we manage to do all this while containing our squees. Mostly.

We know what we're into, we love hard, and we're okay with it. But we don't have it easy.

Far too often, fangirls are made to feel marginalized and unwelcome in the nerd community. Women are ostracized from online gaming, called out as fake, accused of being desperate for attention, harassed while cosplaying, and, worst of all, forced into silence. Some dude nerds don't like that we're invading their space and have become obsessed with gatekeeping, deciding who "counts" as a real fan and who doesn't. *You're not a true fan if you only like the Marvel movies; you can't be in the anime community unless you speak fluent Japanese; you're not allowed to dress up as Ms. Marvel unless you've read every Ms. Marvel comic, ever.* I once had a comic-book-store employee refuse to help me unless I could name everyone who had ever been a member of the Avengers. Do you know how many superheroes that is? It's a *lot*. Do you think he ever asked that of a guy in the shop? I'm gonna go with "nah, son," because you *know* that never happened.

But you know what's really crazy about all that? More and more, nerdy audiences are made up of literal Bat-tons of fangirls. (Because, spoiler alert: basically half of all fans of anything are ladies.) According to a 2014 survey by the Entertainment Software Association, female gamers age 18 and up make up 36% of the gaming population, compared to just 17% for boys age 17 and under, and in recent years over half the social media discussions at San Diego Comic-Con were generated from accounts run by geek girls. The Syfy channel gets huge ratings with women ages 18–34, thanks in part to lady-driven and LGBT-friendly shows like *Lost Girl*, *Continuum*, *Bitten*, and *Haven*. Women are becoming the driving force behind geek culture, and we shouldn't be relegated to the sidelines.

Knowing that we could basically make our own army, bust down the elitist gatekeepers, and establish our own glorious kingdom (queendom?) of lady-nerds honestly makes me wonder why the hell we haven't done that yet. We're getting better at it—we're taking up more and more space online, we're fighting back against the trolls, and we're refusing to be silent. Merriam-Webster even added "fangirl" to the dictionary. We're fully legit now.

But despite all the articles online about being an awesome nerd-girl, the great feminist Tumblr posts about *Sailor Moon*, and bands like the Doubleclicks receiving worldwide attention, something was still missing: an actual printed book that says, "Being a geek girl is the best thing ever and here are all the ways you can do more nerdy things that are awesome and don't ever apologize for it because you are the best person out there and I'm so proud of you and you're beautiful."

Until now. So here, ladies, is *The Fangirl's Guide to the Galaxy*. I hope in this book you can find some new ideas for your next Star Wars premiere party, figure out how to make your IRL bestie the newest member of SuperWhoLock, finally brave your first-ever convention in full cosplay, learn how to start an awesome blog devoted to your craziest ship, and develop the wittiest retort to anyone who ever dares accuse you of being a Fake Geek Girl.

And then you can get back to your *Lord of the Rings* marathon (extended edition, obviously). I promise.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Loren Parker:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With studying you can get a lot

of information that could give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world may share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the story that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the information about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write on their book. One of them is this The Fangirl's Guide to the Galaxy: A Handbook for Girl Geeks.

William Johnson:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book The Fangirl's Guide to the Galaxy: A Handbook for Girl Geeks it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

Kathe Waller:

Reading a book to become new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to examine a book. When you go through a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read ebooks, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, along with soon. The The Fangirl's Guide to the Galaxy: A Handbook for Girl Geeks offer you a new experience in examining a book.

Denise Adams:

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