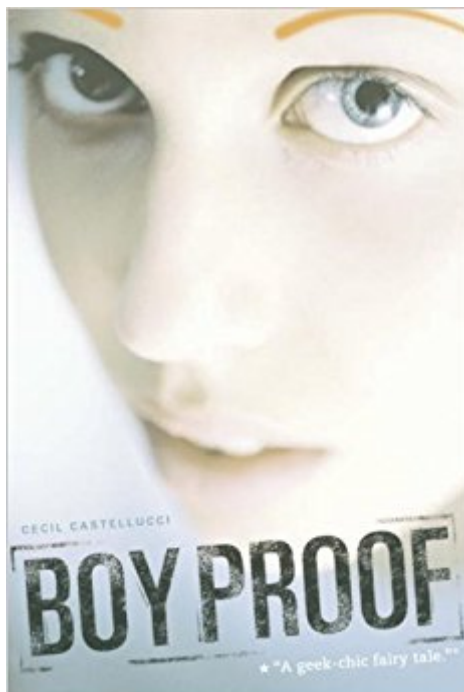


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Boy Proof



Synopsis

A Time Magazine 100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time Selection "This novel's funny first-person narrative will grab teens (and not just sci-fi fans) with its romance and the screwball special effects."
• BOOKLIST An AMERICAN BOOKSELLER "Pick of the Lists" Selection A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age A PUBLISHERS WEEKLY "Flying Start" Selection "Egg's journey to shed her trappings and to confidently inhabit her own character is one readers won't want to miss."
• PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (starred review) "Castellucci's brooding, smart, self-confident narrator gives a . . . warts-and-all glimpse into Hollywood."
• THE HORN BOOK "A fresh voice that will be immediately appealing to readers."
• Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Meet Egg. Her real name is Victoria Jurgen, but she's renamed herself after the kick-ass heroine of her favorite sci-fi movie, Terminal Earth. Like her namesake, Egg dresses all in white, colors her eyebrows, and shaves her head. She always knows the right answers, she's always in control, and she's far too busy
• taking photos for the school paper, meeting with the Science Fiction and Fantasy Club, and hanging out at the "creature shop" with her dad, the special-effects makeup wizard
• to be bothered with friends, much less members of the opposite sex. As far as Egg is concerned, she's boy proof, and she likes it that way. But then Egg meets a boy named Max, a boy who's smart and funny and creative and cool . . . and happens to like Egg. Could this be the end of the world
• at least as Egg knows it?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up – Victoria, 16, considers herself boy proof – too smart and tough to be appealing to guys. She has renamed herself Egg after her favorite character in a new science-fiction blockbuster, and even dresses like her idol, wearing an all-white cloak. A straight-A student, she dominates classroom discussions and considers no one her friend. The teen spends Tuesdays after school happily sculpting movie monsters with her work-obsessed father, a special-effects guru, and devotes the rest of her free time to squabbling with her actor mother and debating with and disdaining the Science Fiction and Fantasy Club. When Max Carter arrives at Melrose Prep, he is the first person to see past her aggressive exterior. Chaos follows this disruption; soon her grades are falling, she's called to meetings with the dean of students, and she starts to think about Max in exciting and disturbing ways. Some of the dialogue is a bit unbelievable. Victoria, in particular, strains credibility – she alternates between acting tough and being immature. It's hard to think of her as supersharp because of some of the silly things she says. The pacing is uneven as well; Max and Victoria's relationship blossoms with little development. Victoria's growth is the book's real strength. This is a busy first novel whose secondary characters often outshine the protagonist. Still, lonely, overachieving girls may find themselves cheering for Victoria.

Sarah Couri,
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Gr. 7-10. With her shaved head, ring-covered ears, and a swirling cloak, brilliant Victoria insists her name is Egg, after the hero in her favorite sf movie, Terminal Earth, which she has seen 42 times. Who cares that she has no friends in her high-school senior class in Hollywood? She will never be normal. She is "post-apocalyptic." What she loves is working with her dad in movie special effects, tinkering with "eyeballs or aliens or ears." But when brilliant, gorgeous Max arrives, she cannot help loving him, especially because he is also in tune with the sf/fantasy world, and he shows her that she can be her own person, and fight real apocalyptic conservation issues right on earth. Of course, Max is too perfect, and the turnaround message is heavy. But this first novel's clipped, funny, first-person, present-tense narrative will grab teens (and not just sf fans) with its romance and the screwball special effects, and with the story of an outsider's struggle both to belong and to be true to herself.

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My Thoughts: This was a very quick, easy read. I finished it in just a few hours. I definitely have mixed feelings about it. The writing style and portrayal of the main character's thoughts and feelings

seemed a bit disjointed or choppy or awkward. I'm not sure if this was intended or not. I could definitely relate to some of Egg's conflicting feelings of wanting to be invisible vs wanting to be noticed. And about feeling boy proof (though unlike her, I don't intentionally try to make this happen) And I do enjoy characters who are quirky or eccentric; those characters who are off-the-beaten-path so to speak. I wish there was a creature shop I could hang out at with my dad. AWESOME. With that being said, Egg's arrogance became a major turn-off as did her rudeness towards others. After a while the references to Terminal Earth get a bit redundant. You do see a transition or growth in Egg's character from start to end which is important, and the interactions between Egg and the boy interest Max are enjoyable. I found Max in general to be quite enjoyable. Favorite quotes: "There is no easy way from the earth to the stars." "I haunt the hallways like a broken spirit." Bottom Line: Not great, not terrible. Worth reading for only \$1.99. 3/5 "stars"

This book was an incredibly fast read. While the reading level was a little low for an adult like myself, it would be very well suited for young teens. The story, which could have been predictable, provided a nice twist on a teenage romance. It chose to concentrate on Egg, the narrator, and her path to finding a version of herself she was happy with, and the positive effect it has on her life and the lives of her loved ones. The story line took paths I did not expect it to, and is a positive coming of age tale. While the reading level or storyline may have been a bit young for me, I do recommend it as a short YA novel.

I really enjoyed this book a lot. Good character development throughout the book. Although the story was simple and a bit predictable, it was perfect for a YA reader. I enjoy books that allow me to peer into the psyche of an outsider and know what they might be thinking. I enjoyed being transported into this girl's world and see things from her perspective. I felt for her, and that's important to me in a novel. Great read!

I just finished Boy Proof. It was such fun to read and I have to say I was impressed at the ending. I found myself thinking a lot about someone I knew in high school at the beginning of the story, and then more and more about myself and about high school in general and how people try or refuse to try to fit in. I also liked that Victoria, too, needed to find herself. I liked that her parents were nice people, neither of them villains. It seems like that happens a lot in fiction these days. And Max's comment about finding it easy to make friends, but not necessarily keep them was very intriguing. He was such a great character! So alive that I can't forget about him even now that the book is

closed.

Great story, seamlessly told. All the relationships were dead-on, especially the protagonist's relationship with her mother. The author pulled off the tricky feat of having the protagonist act in self-destructive and frustrating ways (out of insecurity, fear, shame etc.) and yet rather than get annoyed with her, the reader sympathizes with and hopes for her. It's a subtle technique and absolutely integral to the success of the narrative. An honest, moving, and memorable tale of adolescence.

Great story elements, well researched, and full of a wide range of emotions. I wish that the AP element was expounded on a bit because it would have been a great way to add in some history/English/math information to the reader. On the whole an easy read.

nice copy, sent quickly. thnx.

I devoured this fantastic book in a day and I feel like I want to read it five more times. It came highly recommended by John Green and I was not disappointed. The imagery was inspiring and I also recommend this fabulous book.

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