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DC Super Hero Girls: Finals Crisis (DC Super Hero Girls Graphic Novels)



A New York Times Bestseller! Welcome to DC Super Hero High! Class is now in session! Prepping for high school finals is hard enough, but at DC Super Hero High, even the tests are super-tough! ð Supergirl, Bumblebee, Wonder Woman, Batgirl, Harley Quinn, Katana and Poison Ivy are studying ð hard when they are trapped by a mysterious villain! ð Will the students outsmart their captor, save Metropolis, and still pass their finals? In the first-ever DC Super Hero Girls original graphic novel, meet the students of Superhero High School as they find out that fun, friendship and hard work are all parts of growing up! ð The DC Super Hero Girls is an exciting new universe of Super Heroic storytelling that helps build character and confidence, and empowers girls to discover their true potential. Developed for girls aged 6-12, DC Super Hero Girls features DC Comics' most powerful and diverse line-up of female characters as relatable teens. Icons including Wonder Woman, Supergirl, Batgirl, Harley Quinn, Bumble Bee, Poison Ivy, Katana and many more make their unprecedented teenaged introduction that explores what teen life is like as a Super Hero.

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

View larger DCSHG “Shea Fontana Interview Questions 1. How did the DCSHG project resonate with you when you were first approached? What inspired you to sign on? When DC and

the animation team first contacted me, the project was a very big secret “ they wouldn’t even tell me what it was we were talking about! The initial interview was a bit of a game of twenty questions trying to decipher what exactly I was being interviewed about. The only information I had was that DC was involved and I assumed it probably had something to do with one of their female characters “ and that was plenty to get me excited! DC has such a rich history with empowering female characters that it would have been an honor to write for any one of them. When I found out I would be writing for not just one but many of the major DC characters, I was thrilled. DCSHG is a unique opportunity to reach girls and to make girls a priority in the comic book world. But good stories are for everyone so we know boys will like it too and the webisodes already attracting a co-ed audience.

2. How does DCSHG differ from other animated series you’ve worked on? Any challenges or surprises? It’s been really fun and challenging to write DCSHG! There are so many facets to the types of content we’re doing that I’m writing a lot of different genres with the same set of characters. The webisode shorts that we do are more comedy-centric while the DVD releases will be full-on action epics. The graphic novel is a whole new medium for me and that was a challenge to get to know the format. Though a lot of people have mentioned that it has been surprising to see how much young girls love big action that was not a surprise to me because I was a girl who loved superhero action!

3. Since your background is mostly in animation writing, did you do anything special to prepare for this project? I think the most important thing when getting into any type of writing is to read as much as possible. Not only did I read a lot of graphic novels, I also got my hands on some great graphic novel manuscripts. Studying the manuscripts was very helpful in transitioning from the type of storytelling that I’m used to in animation to the type of storytelling that works in graphic novels. I was lucky to have a team of incredibly experienced editors at DC working on this graphic novel and they provided invaluable help along the way.

4. What was your relationship with these DC characters before you started? Has this project changed how you view them? I was a DC fan going in, but once I actually got into the thick of it, I realized how little I knew about the DC universe. It has been really fun to get into the comic material for all of our heroes and see how the characters have evolved through the years. Since we have created a new universe for the characters, we’ve had to play with some of character’s backstories and mythologies, but it has been a priority for us to remain true to the defining personality traits of each of our heroes. The core DNA for the characters remains in tact while we explore what they may have been like as high school students.

5. What has it been like to reimagine these iconic characters as a group of teenage friends? What new possibilities or value do you think this adds to their stories? It has been a blast to hang

out'; (in my head!) with the teenage versions of these characters. Especially with characters like Harley and Ivy, who have been traditionally portrayed as villains, it's been fascinating to imagine how they might be different if they had a group of supportive super hero friends while they were in high school. Like all teenagers, our characters are still exploring who they are and what they want to become. Plus, they're testing the boundaries of their powers, trying to determine what's important to them, and figuring out where they belong. Our core characters are so diverse and the teenage experience is so rich that there's unlimited potential for stories in this world.

6. One of the guiding principles behind this series is to embolden young girls and all kids and inspire them to be their own heroes. How has this core idea shaped your writing of this project? It has always been important to me to portray the DC Super Hero Girls characters as relatable, flawed, and genuine teenagers. I wanted to avoid making this diverse group of girls too perfect or god-like (even Wonder Woman is only half-god!). It's hard for kids to see themselves in characters who are flawless. But when a character has hopes, dreams and fears that kids reflect how kids really feel, it shows them that no matter who they are, they can make heroic decisions too. The message is that you don't have to be perfect to be a hero. We all have the potential to make heroic decisions. We also made it a priority to have a diverse and inclusive cast of characters so that young girls can see characters like themselves portrayed positively on the screen. Traditionally in entertainment, females are relegated to backseat roles like girlfriend, wife, sassy friend, or receptionist, and it was really important to us to show girls taking charge as the heroes of their own stories. Super Hero High is a co-ed school and we show that girls can work together with boys who are their friends while being independent, strong characters who aren't defined by their male counterparts.

7. The DCSHG retail line includes a lot of amazing interactive accessories that enable kids to connect with their favorite characters. Which DC Super Hero Girl do you most identify with? It's impossible to not bring pieces of myself to the characters I write, so they're all at least a little bit like me. I'm probably most like Wonder Woman. We're both perfectionists about our work, tend to take on a lot and have high expectations for ourselves. Also, I'm introverted like Ivy. There's a storyline of one of the webisode shorts about Principal Waller encouraging Ivy to have more of a social life by joining a club. That's straight out of my school experience when teachers would say things like, 'Shea does well with her school work, but she just needs to come out of her shell.'

8. Which character do you most enjoy writing? Are any particularly challenging? Our cast is so diverse that each character is exciting to write in a different way. Bumblebee has such a great energy and is usually the most empathetic of the characters. I get to exercise my wacky side

with Harley who always has the punchline. Katana is just dripping with a modern coolness. Supergirl may be the strongest teen on the planet, but she's still figuring out who she is, who she wants to be and how she'll use her powers. Batgirl may be the most challenging to write since she's a tech genius and I am not. She's the one who most often has me researching the proper terminology or what parts one might need to build a Batjet.

9. Do you have any opportunities to interact with fans? What type of feedback have you received from them so far? It's been so great to see how the fans are responding and the feedback from fans has been overwhelmingly positive. On Twitter, in the YouTube comments or at the Cons, the fans "both kids and their parents" have been very supportive of our vision for DCSHG. I've strived to create the series that I would have wanted to see when I was a kid and it's so amazing to watch how kids light up when they see the characters.

10. What are your hopes for DCSHG moving forward? The heart of everything we do is about encouraging girls to be the heroes of their own stories. My biggest hope is that in reading the graphic novel and watching the animation will give kids that extra little boost of confidence, validation or encouragement that will make just a little bit of difference as they grow-up. I'd love to think that a little girl seeing Bumblebee and Batgirl's tech smarts could be encouraged to pursue her dream of going into tech. Or that our scientist characters, like Ivy and Frost, would spark an interest in science. The entertainment we consume has the ability to inspire us and I hope that DCSHG will be part of the inspiration for a generation of real-life superhero girls.

"DC Comics fans get a nice introduction to the fun, funny world of Super Hero High." School Library Journal "A youthful twist on popular characters." Los Angeles Times "DC Super Hero Girls offers a neat entry point into the world of comic books for new audiences." "i09 "DC Super Hero Girls continues to be the best offering from DC Comics for kids." "Geekdad

Shea Fontana is a screenwriter for film and television, as well as a comic book writer. Her works include the first original graphic novel in the DC Super Hero Girls line, as well as TV shows The 7D, Doc McStuffins, Whisker Haven Tales with the Palace Pets and more.

I ordered this book for my daughters (ages 6 and 8). It came yesterday, and they have already read it 3 times. The artwork was definitely age appropriate, and the content was engaging and fun. I am really happy with this comic book. There are so many options out there, but not very many that are

appropriate for young children. I am very excited about this and plan to order more from this series.

This is my daughter's first 'comic book' and she couldn't have been more excited when we opened the box. The illustrations are great and the words are easy to read. We've seen the dolls in the store and she instantly fell in love despite not knowing the story behind them. It's clever to see the girls in a high school setting working together in a world very different than the adult version of the characters. I look forward to getting more of these for her as they are released.

I am a 28 year old comic book fan. I wish I had a book like this to read twenty years ago. I know that I am not the target audience for this product but I still enjoyed it very much. The art is great. The story is fun. There's a bit of a mystery to solve (which I always loved as a child). Each of the main DC Superhero Girls (Wonder Woman, Supergirl, Bumblebee, Katana, Poison Ivy, Batgirl, and Harley Quinn) get their own chapter. Each girl has a distinct personality and it is easy to find at least one character to identify with. I would definitely recommend this for any young superhero fan (or those who are young at heart).

Finally a movie and show that have Super Hero women as lead characters! My son and daughter both love it! A whole fam favorite!

The perfect book and set of books for young girls! My daughters love DC Super Hero Girls. Thank you DC for releasing these!

Beautifully illustrated with a well-devised plot that showcases each of the main heroines' powers. It also hints at characters who will be further developed later on.

My daughter just gave this a four but to be fair she is in love with My Little Pony comics. She enjoyed meeting these characters but did choose to read it once then donate it versus read it over and over like the MLP volumes. I like that the superheroes are more like teens and not over-sexualized. Great book for tweens, and for moms who don't wish to speed up their childhood!

Fun read for the younger generation

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