



The New York Four

Brian Wood , Ryan Kelly

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

The New York Four

Brian Wood , Ryan Kelly

The New York Four Brian Wood , Ryan Kelly

The ultimate insider's guide to New York City is presented through the eyes of Brooklyn-born Riley, who is starting her freshman year at NYU and is about to find out what an adventure--and a mystery--living in the Big Apple can be.

The New York Four Details

Date : Published July 22nd 2008 by Minx

ISBN : 9781401211547

Author : Brian Wood , Ryan Kelly

Format : Paperback 176 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Young Adult, Fiction, Graphic Novels Comics, Teen

 [Download The New York Four ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The New York Four ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The New York Four Brian Wood , Ryan Kelly

From Reader Review The New York Four for online ebook

Robin says

I enjoyed this one a lot more than I've enjoyed other Minx titles (my favorite thus far is Re-Gifters, and my least favorite was Clubbing...sadly, since I really love Andi Watson generally.)

Great art, good solid story, although it's crying out for a sequel (hopefully one is planned!?). I did enjoy the focus on learning to balance your online life with your real life -- I've been known to get sucked in to online stuff a bit too much, and I had a friend who had a serious problem remembering her "live" friends over her virtual ones, so I see both sides.

Lauren says

For the sake of a second star, I'm going to assume that New York Four was intended to be a multi-volume series, and that the characters were left hanging because DC Comics' Minx line closed, and not because the author and artist intended them to be stuck in plotline limbo forever. This was a short graphic novel that introduced four storylines (some introduced more halfheartedly than others) and only came close to resolving a few of their plot points. Main character Riley suffers from what we shall call Stephen Chbosky Character Syndrome (for the author of my least-favorite YA novel) in that we're told over and over that she's quiet and introverted -- and yet, her life as a college freshman in New York City is filled to the brim with people who want to know her. From the girls she meets serendipitously in a coffee shop who become her friends and future roommates, to her formerly estranged older sister who makes it her mission to take Riley to shows and parties, to her mysterious "secret boyfriend" whom she texts from morning to night, she manages to pick up a fairly enviable social life (for an 18-year-old, at least) without any real effort on her part.

Also, I had trouble believing in the four girls' friendship. They meet because they share several classes at NYU, and Riley steps into their circle by helping them find part-time jobs as standardized-test beta-testers (really!) and also by dangling the prospect of an apartment sublet in front of them. We see no real evidence of shared interests or bonding, but we're supposed to believe that they're an inseparable foursome by the second part of the story. Poor Riley -- maybe she doesn't actually have an enviable social life after all, seeing as these girls might just be hanging around because she can help them get an apartment. I dunno. There's not enough nuance to suggest one way or the other.

The only real nuance attempted here, as far as I could tell, was an undercurrent of "New York is cool, and so am I" coming from the author. We get references to Le Tigre, The Shins, PJ Harvey, and Cat Power (the last chapter is called "What Would The Community Think?" The sort of title that doesn't really mean anything on its own, and could have been easily replaced by something that made more sense in the context of the story. But -- no! The author went with the title of a Cat Power album, for the sake of... what? A reference, that's all. Not a clever one, not one that fits. Just a "hey, I know about Cat Power, and maybe you do too!" reference.)

(Unless maybe he was trying to subtly refer to the late 90s - early 00s Cat Power, who frequently canceled her shows, or showed up drunk and left the stage early. Maybe this was his way of saying, "Sorry, I know this book is the graphic novel version of a 2001 Cat Power show, but I'll be back with something better. Promise!")

(Okay, maybe not.)

There are also these weird little author-intrusion boxes anytime a new scene of New York is shown. For example, on a page about Washington Square Park: "(NY 101: If anyone here tries to sell you something, trust me, they're shady and you don't want what they got.) The park was ground zero for the 1960's counterculture movement, and is now the unofficial NYU campus quad. Forty years ago you could have sat here next to Bob Dylan or Jim Morrison (google them)."

Is the "google them" serious? Or is it poking fun at the idea that you might not actually know who they are? I sat there staring at it, mentally capitalizing the "g" in the copy, and wondering what was being implied there.

Hannah Givens says

This was the last of the Minx titles I had left to read, and it was kind of a letdown. The tone was all there, but the plot wasn't. The title seems to indicate the main characters are a unit, but they become "friends" for no reason, and most of the plot is about Riley's other relationships, which are entirely unresolved by the end of the book. The "therapy interviews to keep the focus-group job" thing never went anywhere either or had any significance except giving the characters a chance to monologue, which could've been done with narration bubbles or talking to each other or whatever. I really liked the characters, I just wish the book had lived up to itself.

Amory says

Another great Minx imprint book (Which I just realized is owned by DC so... don't know whether to be sad this is all some giant company rather than scrappy indy imprint, or glad that these often-indy creators are getting the backing/visibility of a major publisher..).

cool college-aged coming-of-age story of protagonist trying to make real-world (as opposed to virtual text-only) friends... Sexy line art and detailed cityscapes from Ryan Kelly, who I associate with Wood (though clearly erroneously) but who is actually one of the artists from Lucifer, which was one of my faves from back in the day.

Great framing as a stand alone story, but with enough dangling plots and unexplored threads to lead into another volume... which I would look forward to tracking down when it appears.

Nikki says

The main character is Shy. Then all of a sudden she makes friends with three girls who each have one-dimensional personalities. There's the Slutty one, the Tomboy, and the Freaky one. They're all freshmen at NYU, living in the greatest city in the world, and *nothing fucking happens*. It reads like a long episode of *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. (Yes, I still watch it, and can't help myself.) But if it were a *Degrassi* episode, something would have actually happened. Someone would have died or gotten pregnant or become addicted to drugs. Ryan Kelly's artwork is gorgeous as always, but the "story", if you can call it that, is lame. Shy girl meets a sketchy guy. Slutty girl flirts with whoever's around. Tomboy rides a skateboard *once*. Freaky girl stands around looking freaky. That's it. Nothing ever comes of their one-dimensional personalities. Slut, Tomboy, and Freak don't even get their own subplots. They're just there to make Shy girl look extra shy by comparison.

Timothy McNeil says

I didn't hate it. But I'm not sure that Wood and Kelly manage to really evoke the post-high school, *cool in the city* feeling of being on one's own. Part of the problem is that much of the story needs to revolve around Riley's relationships, but she goes 'missing' much of the time so the story doesn't really make it to the page. Her fellow classmates are not represented as being whole characters, but odd (and usually *bad*) amalgams of clichés.

Still, the art looked good. Wood's insertions of his opinions of Manhattan (as someone who doesn't live in New York, I am forever at a loss as to why that's the only borough that gets to claim to be *the city*) serve as a great device to further acquaint the reader with the mentality of an adolescent approaching adulthood. The dysfunctions seem to make sense within the framework of the story, even if there needs to be much more going on with why the Wilders abandoned their eldest child.

What doesn't work is this notion that Riley gets all messed up with her *relationship*, misses much of her classes (and assigned outings), and still manages excellent grades. It just doesn't work. Because I have kind of (depending on how one defines a relationship) lived that. Missing a lot of classes leads to not really passing those classes. Because if you cannot bring yourself to be present for class, you are not going to do the outside work.

Riley should be in much worse shape than she is at the end of the book. But I guess that is the difference between fiction and reality. Or maybe just the 20th and 21st Centuries.

David Bales says

A rather formulaic, brief graphic novel, with long-legged, voluptuous hot girls in college, (all drawn by a guy, naturally) who get up to various, boring stuff, including having a relationship by text. A fairly mediocre waste of 35 minutes.

James DeSantis says

Brian Wood has been a writer I went from not really enjoying to loving most of his work. Then I heard about this, by the same team that did "Local" and I HAD to check it out.

So this is about four girls first year in college. However, it's mostly focused on just one girl, Riley, and her quest to break out into the real world. When she meets these four friends, they all work at the same place, and they KIND of become buddies but the real story is Riley and her obsession with her phone, texting, and then meeting a guy. This all comes to a twisty twist that you probably can see coming.

Good: I liked Riley and most of the other girls. Sure, a little one-dimensional but they all had their own quirks to make them interesting. I thought the pacing was solid and was never really bored throughout. The twist was pretty creepy and the ending shot even more so.

Bad: It's kind of a slice of life story but without any big "oh whoa" moments. It's on the edge of being kind of

boring at times. I also thought the sister was a little "crazy" for the sake of it.

Overall a fun little story that I think could have been stronger. Better for younger teens, they will enjoy it, but Local is a much more powerful story IMO. A 3 out of 5 for this one.

Nick Kives says

A sheltered girl who lives in Brooklyn but is never allowed to go into NYC, goes to college at NYU, and ends up meeting 3 other girls. Brian Wood has a way with character that in a story could turn out very mundane but he is able flush them out. If you like Brian Wood's other work like Local then you will probably like this as well as it has a very similar style.

Sonic says

Ok. I did not finish this book.

Once again I find myself hating this guy. This writer.

But he is so cool ~ he lives in New York,~ and name-drops trendy indie-rock bands.

(scuse me while I retch)

(New York is a cool place to live, dude, but living there does NOT make you cool!)

I honestly feel like I know this kind of hipster douche-bag,
and I hate him.

Maybe I just have a chip on my shoulder. :)

Sandra Rosa says

I have to thank B. for getting this for me.

I'm crazy about the minx books, :P yeah i know, it's such a girl thing.

Either way, Brian Wood here shows us a both a story of growing up and how sometimes you just screw up, while at the same time showing us a picture of New York not everyone sees :)

Sara says

This is another one of the graphic novels I won from bookriot.com on their giveaway for comic book day.

This is the story of a young college age woman in NYC learning about life for the first time. She ends up with a virtual boyfriend, a few in-the-flesh friends, and an older sister she's just getting to know.

There's more to come; not sure if I would pursue reading a sequel, but I was intrigued by the tantalizing clues about the photographer roommate.

And, I realize this is 2008. People still had cell phones, even if it wasn't the current latest and greatest

smartphone. So why is it only Riley has a cell phone (a Blackberry, it looks like) and is the only one texting??? Everyone seems to think she's so rude as she's glued to her phone, but people have been texting for quite awhile now. Would it really be true she'd be the only freshman in NYC to carry a cell phone and text all the time?

I did like the NYC 101 tidbits about the city. They were great.

Raina says

Minx.

Pretty standard coming of age title about a girl's first semester of college at NYU. Coolish illustration style - especially liked author's "NY 101" notes interspersed throughout with tidbits about NYC. The plot didn't really do it for me, but the characters were likable and/or interesting, and I appreciated the rich focus on setting. High school, but primarily for time-of-life issues, since the characters are in college or older. And if I were booktalking a Minx at a high school, I'd go for Emiko Superstar.

Jenn says

There are many male writers who can create wonderful, deep, complex female characters. I'd hoped this book would be one of those situations, but I was pretty quickly disappointed. Where I wanted personality, motive, inner conflict, etc, I found only one dimensional caricatures and lots of cleavage. I'd recommend Scott Pilgrim or Ghost World over this.

Júlia says

so this comic is supposed to let the reader "experience" new york city through the eyes of this kind of (ok, very!) annoying girl who's a freshman at NYU.

this was interesting in an "oh look every place in my old neighborhood" sort of way but i'm not sure how cool it is if you've never lived in NYC. maybe, maybe useful, i dont know.

the story is interesting in theory but totally fails in practice mainly for the fact that it's two dudes trying to tell a story through the eyes/voice of this teenage girl and it is very much about her "emotions" and "deep inner life" but they have (I am allowing myself to assume) never been teenage girls and it ends up kind of being a sea of big tits and lips jutting out in every direction, or maybe i am just a pervert so that's all I see, but I'm not even into ladies. maybe I have tit-phobia.

it has a scott pilgrim vibe except scott pilgrim is a lot more successful with this kind of voice, probably because it's about this dude's emotions and trivial relationship shit written by an actual dude.

a few words on race: i think 'the new york four' are two white girls, a puerto rican and an asian-canadian, which seems to correlate well with the demographic i saw in my own NYC college classes, but why are they ALWAYS hanging out with asian dudes ONLY? or maybe that's another thing I'm projecting from my own experience, or maybe im not even projecting that's just what NYC is like, but seeing as the writers are not asian this seemed weird to me too.

and if you're thinking 'you're probably just a bitch, why did you even say that girl is annoying?' well I'll tell you: she is TEXTING CONSTANTLY throughout the WHOLE story! it's rude to text at lunch, it is rude to text at any meal you are eating with other people, it is rude to text when you are supposed to be paying attention to other people in general, SHE DOESN'T GIVE A SHIT! SHE TEXTS LIKE THE WIND. it's rude to text throughout a whole comic book, i dont care if it's a major plot point. RUDE!

i still kind of want to read the next installment.
