



Geek Chic: The Zoey Zone

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Meet Zoey

Age: Eleven. Well, almost eleven. Backspace. Halfway to eleven.

Factoid: 198 days to sixth grade.

Problem: Coolability (see glossary inside).

Connect the dots: A bad hair situation . . . Growing earlobes . . .

Wanted:

1. A fairy godmother.
2. A molto chic makeover [molto = very in Italian].
3. A seat at the primo lunch table. [Primo is also Italian. It means best.]

The solution:

Tune in!

Geek Chic: The Zoey Zone Details

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From Reader Review Geek Chic: The Zoey Zone for online ebook

Boni says

A light, fun read with TERRIFIC voice. I love finding books that a reluctant reader *girl* would like- there aren't nearly as many as there are for boys. Give this one to the girl who loves Babymouse or Fashion Kitty and is ready to stretch a bit, or who is eyeing the Wimpy Kid books but wants a more girly read. Margie Palatini writes this book like she's been writing chapter books (instead of picture books) forever and has a great handle on the target audience. I really enjoyed Zoey and will look for her further adventures.

Jenna says

Geek Chic is about a girl named Zoey who is almost eleven and wishes for a fairy god mother because she is such a geek and knows almost everything. There are people at school who she calls "the bashleys" because their names are Brittney and Ashley. They are the popular at her school. A magazine company goes to there and asks Zoey if she can be in their magazine. They are doing a page on her school and she thinks that will be a great way for her to get a total make over without a Fairy Godmother. Will she have the makeover done and will she get a Fairy Godmother? Find out in Geek Chic.

Kellie says

Personally, I did not really enjoy the book. When I read it I was around the intended age group but I found all of the acronyms confusing. Perhaps I am not qualified to write a review since I read this book a few years ago, but I do remember having to look through the whole book to figure out what the acronyms stood for. I might just have a bad memory but I found the book confusing and only rated it 2 stars.

Rachael says

Meet Zoey Zinevich. She's almost eleven years old and eager to start eighth grade. She's only got one problem—Zoey is a bit of a geek, and in order to survive middle school (as she has heard), she's got to become cool. With less than two hundred days to magically transform her appearance, Zoey doesn't know what to do. And that fairy godmother hasn't appeared yet to give her a makeover. In this short but hilarious novel, readers and Zoey Zinevich will learn to love who they are.

Normally, I don't think I'd ever pick up this book because it is aimed at the middle school crowd or lower ages. However, I found Geek Chic to be a very funny and heartwarming read. Zoey's character is intelligent and quirky, and I enjoyed her unique narrations. Zoey's character authentically captures what it's like to be an awkward tween. Zoey is easy to relate to, because I'm sure we've all, at one point or another, wanted to be cooler than we are now. I have to say that I immensely liked the creativity in the layout of this novel. I've become so used to standardized text that the illustrations and interesting fonts were surprising and refreshing.

Overall, Geek Chic was a quick and enjoyable book that younger readers will love and enjoy. The plot and story may be a bit too simplistic for older readers though.

reposted from <http://thebookmuncher.blogspot.com>

Salma says

I thought this book was okay, it wasn't the best, yet it was interesting at some parts. It is about a girl named Zoe who wants a fairy god mother, a chic makeover and a seat with the best table at lunch. Zoe is at a poor popularity meter and wish to be at the top by grade 6. Will she pull it off! I shouldn't spoil it for you! But here's a hint, something dramatic will happen, something that you might not expect throughout the book. I would recommend this book to kids from 9 and up, as it's a little childish.

Julie says

A book that actually makes me think it was written by a 10 year old. One with a lot of energy and trouble focusing her thoughts. It was a little frustrating to read at first. She seemed to bounce all over the place. But once I got into it, that didn't bother me anymore.

The format is the odd thing about this book. It's sort of like a journal, in that there's different fonts at different points. Big cursive, etc. And then there's cartoons and drawings. And sometimes it even delves into screenplay format.

The story is Zoey wanting to become cool before sixth grade. Given that she likes catching frogs, and knows a ton of things about the US presidents, her chances seem slim.

This is a really good book for tweens or younger.

You can find more of my thoughts on this book at Triple Take. <http://www.flaminggeeks.com/tripletake>

Stefanie Burns says

It was ok. The story is written in diary format from a self promoted geek, Zoey. She's anxious to become cool by the first day of (6th grade?) middle school. Her voice uses sarcasm, self-deprecating comments, and humor to describe her current social status in school. It's a cute story which preteens can definitely relate to. Illustrations and font add to the emotional structure of the story. It's the first in the series which is obvious in the abrupt ending. Girls trying to fit in will feel empathetic towards Zoey's plight.

Christina Fixemer says

Zoey Zinevich is almost-but-not-quite eleven years old. It's less than 200 days until sixth grade, which means it's less than 200 days to get molto chic. If she isn't by the time sixth grade starts, she will never be cool! That's what Venus's (read: Zoey's magnifico best friend) sister says.

It seems like nothing Zoey and Venus do can get the other kids--especially the Bashleys--to admit they're cool. What's not cool about catching bullfrogs, or bowling shirts with fedoras, or owl pellets? Zoey's only

hope lies in getting a fairy godmother. It worked for Cinderella! So what if other ten-almost-eleven-year-old-double-digit kids don't believe in that kind of stuff anymore?!

This is a very creative middle-grade novel that deals with the preteen's most pressing concern: coolness. Author Margie Palatini enters into Zoey's story with great intentions and a sense of offbeat style. Unfortunately, there's a little too much style. Literally. There are so many font styles and embedded sketches that the pages--just as literally--made my head hurt worse than it already was. The pages are so busy that the reader's eye jumps helter skelter all over the place. It distracts from the story.

The story is full of heart. It speaks to the basic need for most American preteen girls to fit in with the popular crowd. Zoey is a free spirit who can't be leashed, and this will become quite apparent, especially toward the end.

The end of the story is one that parents will appreciate, even if it's a touch unrealistic. Even though the pages are visually busy, I recommend this for all preteen girls.

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The Library Lady says

I found Zoey's style annoying in the same way I find Junie B Jones to be annoying. The choppy, bounce all over the place, ADHD style bugged the heck out of me. And I found the whole thing predictable--especially the "you're great as yourself" wish fulfillment sort of ending.

That's what I think. But I am NOT an 11 year old girl. And I suspect that there are a whole lot of 11 year old girls out there who will eat this one up.

The Reading Countess says

Soon-to-be eleven year old Zoey has a predicament-or two or three. Her hair is an issue, her clothes are not "Bashley" worthy, and she is heading into sixth grade teetering dangerously into geekdom. Enter her favorite bowling shirt and a carefree attitude, and Zoey finds herself in the middle of a fashion shoot with the Bashleys. But will Zoey learn to accept her uniqueness, or resolve to be just like all the other girls in order to sit at the right table at lunch?

Reminiscent of Dork Diaries, I liked how Zoey's special qualities were celebrated. The ending will send a positive and powerful message to my tween girl readers struggling to find their own voice.

Jeffrey says

After the explosion in the bookosphere from the success of Diary of a Wimpy Kid, other writers have tried to appeal to girls with a similar diary style. To my mind, Geek Chic -- the Zoey Zone is a success.

Geek Chic is a cute fresh take on the pre teen life of an almost 11 year old Zoey. Zoey, who has a secret frog project with her friend Venus, is counting down the days until the start of 6th Grade and sort of dreading it because she is not cool. Zoey is hoping that a fairy godmother, not that she believes in one, will rescue her but in the meantime, we join her in the typical bad hair days, funny conversations with younger siblings, school room violations and the dreaded lunch room trials of unknown meats and table placement -- do you get to sit with the cool girls or the not cool kids. (Been there), lousy hair worries, clothing miscues caused by parents forcing you to wear ugly clothing and school rules. The various illustrations, interior thoughts, different fonts and notes will appeal to anyone.

Ultimately Zoey is photographed with the cool girls by UGrl magazine photographers in the school to take pictures at schools named for President. Zoey, who is a blurter, gets into the picture by saying she has cool stuff in her locker, which appears to have more stuff in it than a storage locker on cable tv. Jazz the head interviewer invites Zoey to her magazine's headquarters in New York, where Zoey imagines they are going to give her a makeover, but in fact its something completely different.

Cute and easily readable.

Evy says

I am interested in many genres. Fantasy, fiction, mythology, historical fiction, science fiction. But I find myself more enveloped in stories that are written first-hand and can-happen. Things you can relate to, you know? LUCY'S E-JOURNAL would be going a bit far into that 'zone' for me, but the zone of Zoey is just right!

Margie Palatini is a newly found author, or at least to me. She has expressed feelings and joy in GEEK CHIC: THE ZOEY ZONE. A geeky ten-year-old by the name of Zoey knows that by the time you are eleven, you can't believe in Fairy Godmothers. But lucky her, she's just halfway there. So, it comes to reason that if she's not eleven yet, Zoey can still wish upon twenty-seven stars. Doesn't mean she'll get any luck, though. She and her best friend Venus are absolutely, positively NOT **The Bashleys** or even *FRIENDS of the Bashleys*. But what happens when U GrL magazine people come to Zoey's school? Will they make her *molto chic*? Or maybe even *primo chic/Bashley*?

THE ZOEY ZONE is definitely for readers who, in their younger years, enjoyed Junie B. Jones and Judy Moody. And for kids that like a good, short book, that they can say, "Oh, yeah, that happens to me every day!" For all those people who rate THE ZOEY ZONE three stars or less, I can tell you this: you must not be a Geek Chic!

Cindy Griffin says

GeekChic: The Zoey Zone by Margie Palatini is a delightful book! There are many ten-year-old, almost eleven, girls who have the same thoughts and fears that Zoey must deal with. Moving from the fifth grade to the sixth grade is tough even in the best of circumstances. Imagine making that move when you are stuck in the geek zone. Zoey must find a way to transform herself so that she can move out of her geek zone and into the chic arena. Can she make the necessary changes in time? Follow Zoey and her best friend Venus as they embark on this hilarious and touching journey. This book is for everyone who has ever been in or known anyone in the geek zone. Prepare to be entertained!

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Allison Fraclose for TeensReadToo.com

Eleven-year-old (Okay, more like ten and seven-eighths) Zoey Zinevich has figured out exactly what she needs before sixth grade starts in 198 days: a fairy godmother!

A good FG could fix up her hair, help her accessorize and make her "chic" (which can be used as both a noun and an adjective). Maybe with that kind of outside help, she and her friend, Venus, could eat lunch at The Table Bashley (ruled by Brittany and Ashley) instead of being banished to Table Ten, where Alex Shemtob inhales his food and exhales it again. Woe to those not wearing an art smock.

A surprise photo shoot at Harry S. Truman School by U GrL magazine brings Zoey's interests in presidents and molto retro clothing (molto means "very" in Italian, and retro means Zoey's grandpop's bowling shirt and fedora) to the spotlight. The creative director, a chic Lady in Black named Jazz, seems especially taken with Zoey's hat.

Could Jazz be the FG Zoey's been waiting for, or will she be stuck at Table Ten with bad hair forever?

Told in an almost multi-media format, using TV scripts and stills from "ZTube" videos produced by Zoey herself, this story will appeal to younger female fans of books like DIARY OF A WIMPY KID and MIDDLE SCHOOL IS WORSE THAN MEATLOAF.

The ending may be a bit unrealistic, but I'm anxious to see if this might lead to more Zoey stories in the future.

Ubalstechka says

Light and fluffy book about Zoey who desperately wants to be friends with the most popular girls in the school. Unfortunately, Zoey is a bit of a nerd. She knows everything about the US presidents and her fashion sense is quirky at best. When a magazine comes for a fashion shoot, Zoey's life takes a turn for the wierd.

Book is written as a collection of Zoey's thoughts, notes, pictures and script format. While this is aimed at struggling readers, the scattered nature of the narative may make this novel too challenging.
