



2007

Big Fat Manifesto

Larysa Bordner

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Vaught, Susan. *Big Fat Manifesto*. Bloomsbury U.S.A., 2008. ISBN 9781599902067. \$16.95. 308 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction; Humorous Stories;

Subject: High schools--Juvenile fiction; Overweight persons--Juvenile fiction; Interpersonal relations--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Big Fat Manifesto is the life and story of Jamie Carcaterra, a senior in high school whose troubles with being overweight are just the beginning of what she is dealing with. She has the typical worries of a senior, such as passing the ACT and applying to college, but she is also worrying about her boyfriend undergoing gastric bypass surgery and her qualifying for a much needed scholarship. Jamie pours her thoughts and attitude about all of these issues into Fat Girl, her column in the school newspaper, as she strives to understand what her boyfriend is experiencing and what is happening with her college future, while facing what she truly feels about herself.

This book is written with a sarcastic attitude to fit the larger-than-life personalities of Jamie and her friends. The quick wit is both entertaining and exhausting, as Jamie uses it against everyone around her. The Fat Girl column is intermixed with the story to give another perspective of what is taking place. Overall, the story gives an interesting insight into what Jamie experiences as an overweight teenager. However, the blunt treatment of certain adult subjects and some crude language make this book inappropriate for younger audiences or others who may find this offensive.

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