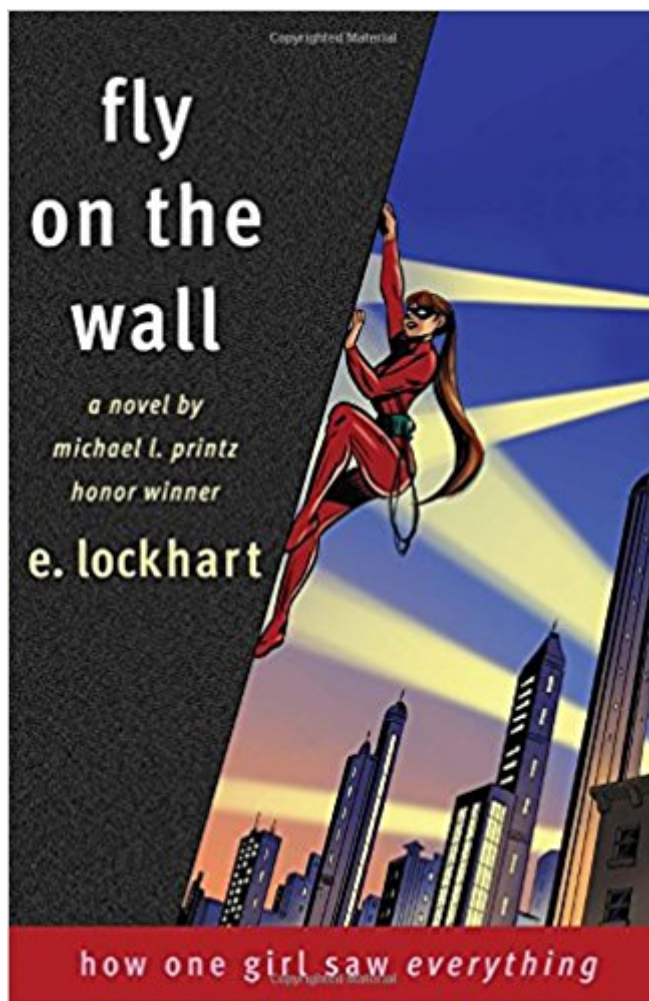


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Fly On The Wall: How One Girl Saw Everything



Synopsis

"I think this might be the best YA novel . . . I've ever read." —John Green From E. Lockhart, author of *We Were Liars* —the *New York Times* bestselling phenomenon —and the uproarious and heartwarming Ruby Oliver books, *Fly on the Wall* comes a fast-paced and hysterically funny novel that answers the question: What would it be like to be a fly on the wall in the boy's locker room? At the Manhattan School for Art and Music, where everyone is "different" and everyone is "special," Gretchen Yee feels ordinary. She's the kind of girl who sits alone at lunch, drawing pictures of Spider-Man, so she won't have to talk to anyone; who has a crush on Titus but won't do anything about it; who has no one to hang out with when her best (and only real) friend Katya is busy. One day, Gretchen wishes that she could be a fly on the wall in the boys' locker room just to learn more about guys. What are they really like? What do they really talk about? Are they really cretins most of the time? *Fly on the Wall* is the story of how that wish comes true. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up — Things aren't going too well for E. Lockhart's 16-year-old protagonist, Gretchen Yee. Not only have her parents just announced they're divorcing and her best friend, Katya, seems to be avoiding her, but she's also doing poorly in English and hasn't read the assigned *Metamorphosis* by Kafka. Maybe it would be better to be a *Fly on the Wall* (Delacorte, 2006). When she wakes up to find herself a fly in the boy's locker room, her response is a mix of comic book

super hero fantasy and panic about her future. When the boys start arriving for gym class, her thoughts turn to inspecting male anatomy. In time, she discovers an unexpected admirer and learns about some guy problems, including one that affects Titus, her love interest. With her parents away, no one questions her disappearance and whatever mysterious force has turned her into an insect returns her to her own bed in a few days. By then Gretchen has learned lessons about patience and she has a new understanding about her relationships with friends and family. Catlin Greer narrates with convincing teen wistfulness and anger that reflects the teen artist's inner turmoil. While this novel isn't exactly parallel with Kafka's classic, it does explore the same feelings of uncertainty and isolation. Gretchen's descriptions of boys below the belt and her occasional four-letter expletives make this atypical fantasy best suited for mature high school audiences. — Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Praise for *Fly on the Wall*: "I think this might be the best YA novel I've ever read. It's hilarious, and it's so very smart. I mean, I'm serious—it's really amazing." — John Green, author of the New York Times bestseller *The Fault in Our Stars* "A super-smart, super-sweet, and super-fantastic read." — Sarah Mlynowski, author of *Don't Even Think About It* "With an appropriate nod and wink to Kafka, this unexpectedly sharp comedy charts its own metamorphosis." — The Horn Book Magazine "Fast-paced, hysterically funny, and a pleasure to read." — Teenreads.com "Fine fun for fans of both Kafka and Spider-Man." — Kirkus Reviews IRA Young Adult Book Choice From the Hardcover edition.

To be honest, the first few pages bored me and I had put it down for a few weeks. When I picked it back up again and read a bit into it (30 pages or so) I started to really like it. It isn't your typical book, and the fact that she literally turned into a fly surprised me enough to almost put it down again. It wasn't an easy read for me, not because it was a hard topic to read or anything I just couldn't get used to the writing style. I love the first part when she turned into a fly and the boys started coming into the locker room. I'm terrible at writing reviews, but here is the gist. I would recommend this to a friend. I wouldn't read it again, but that has nothing to do with the quality of the book, I just don't read books again unless they are LOTR or Harry Potter. Main thing I am trying to say here, yes it is different but it is a good different. Don't knock it until you try reading it.

Love her writing. Weird concept. Great ending. Too sexual for a teenage audience.

Not my taste

I actually cried at one point and laughed throughout. This is good PG-13 rated writing. I loved the concept of the story.

A great switch on the Freaky Friday switcheroo, with the added bonus that guys get a bit of a dose of their own objectification/body classification medicine!

This book is absolutely amazing. It expresses fantastically realistic thoughts and situations. Truly one of the best books by far.

E. Lockhart is loved by my girls!

Fly on the Wall is a fun contemporary with a magical realism twist. Gretchen, our protagonist, feels like she is on the outside of everything and everyone at school. Like she's in a holding pattern for life. Stagnant. Biracial and not quite artsy enough to be one of the Art Rats, and not generic enough to fit in to a normal crowd at a regular high school, Gretchen feels trapped. When her parents break some big news, and she is frustrated about things going down at school. Gretchen wishes she could see what goes on behind closed doors, get answers that seem hidden from her... and then it happens... literally! She becomes a fly on the wall, stuck in the boys locker room. She gets to see them naked, their "gerkins" up close, and all their emotional politics laid bare. It's pretty hilarious and cool. It gives Gretchen perspective. A look into other people's lives at their most vulnerable. And she learns some lessons. As well as some valuable truths that will help her out of the rut she's been in. I love the language and narrative style. Though, *Fly on the Wall* has a simplistic plot and targeted to younger audiences. The storyline is not much of a mystery and fairly predictable; but fun and witty. This was an enjoyable quick read with loads of character development. I loved how it tackled discrimination, machismo, and archaic views on patriarchy, and ultimately instigated change. Also, I liked how it explores female sexuality and how it's okay to feel want. To feel horny or sexual attraction. Not an awakening, just an awareness and acceptance that we are all humans and have

desires. Refreshing for a YA novel to deal with sex, desire and body image without being sexualised.

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