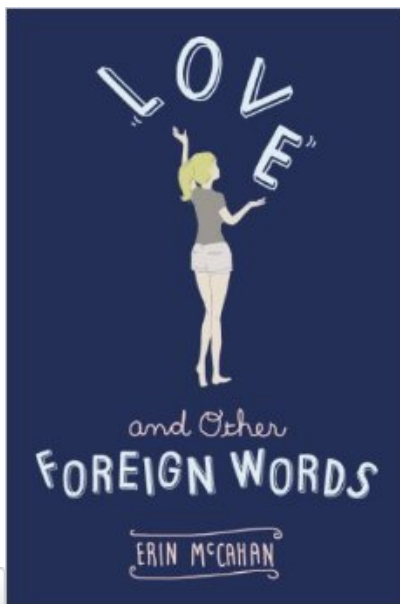


## Quirky Is The New Black

Posted: 05/27/2014

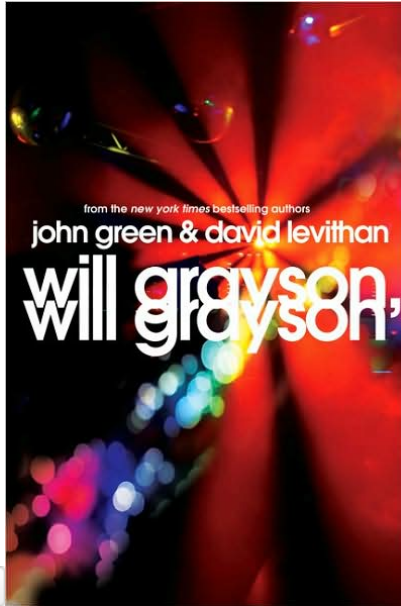
Quirkiness is like irony--hard to define, but you know it when you see it. Far more charming than weird, far less studied than cool, quirkiness is that indefinable quality that turns an idiosyncratic, slightly rigid neurotic into a lovable, idiosyncratic, slightly rigid neurotic.

It seems as if these days, we're seeing a lot more quirkiness in YA novels, which is good news for me, since I write YA novels, most recently *Love and Other Foreign Words* [Dial, \$17.99], which are regularly described as quirky. But this isn't a new trend. If anything, I'm coming late to this party, following on the heels of some of my all-time favorite quirky YA love stories. Here are my 11 favorites--or 10 favorites plus mine, which is a favorite, I admit, so, yeah, that's 11, and this is just redundant. Also unnecessarily complicated but correct math.



Love and Other Foreign Words by Erin McCahan

Quirk Factor: Teenage genius with a knack for languages takes on sister's pretentious fiancé in a battle of epic proportions. Her weapons of choice? Spaghetti sauce, vocabulary, and bathroom ambushes.



Will Grayson, Will Grayson by David Levithan and John Green

Quirk Factor: John Green and David Levithan. Need I say more?



Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell

Quirk Factor: Love blossoms over comics and a Walkman on a school bus in the 80s. A Walkman! Google it.

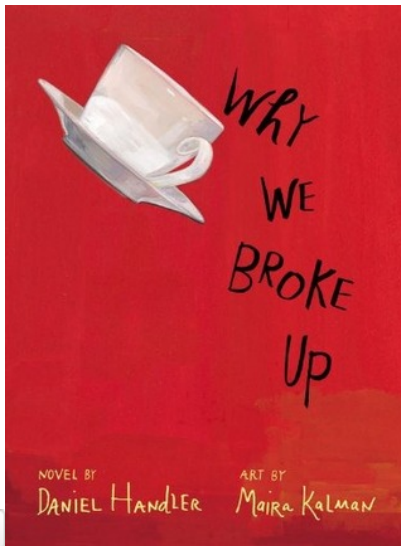


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stephen chbosky

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

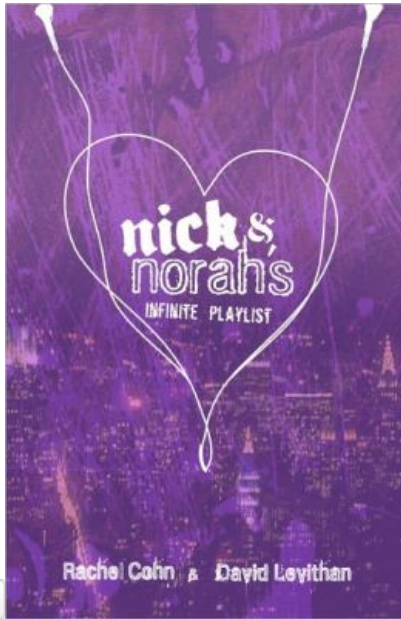
Quirk Factor: Charlie, a shy sophomore, copes with some dark, difficult issues, writes about his masturbation routine and makes remarks like this: "Incidentally, I only have one cavity, and as much as my dentist asks me to, I just can't bring myself to floss."



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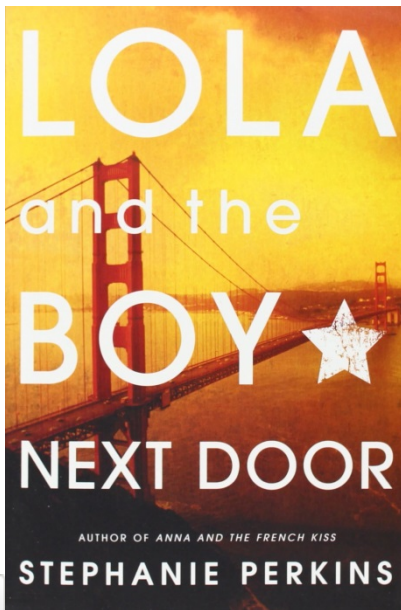
Why We Broke Up by Daniel Handler

Quirk Factor: Intellectually matched, social opposites Min and Ed experience first love and then heartache in this story--or more a fabulous diatribe, as Min tells it--written by Lemony Snicket.



Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan

Quirk Factor: Best first-date story ever, written by David Levithan who is, after all, David Levithan, and Rachel Cohn, whose author bio begins, "The great wish of my adolescence was to be diagnosed with scoliosis."



Lola and the Boy Next Door by Stephanie Perkins

Quirk Factor: Bewigged--I should just stop right here because where else can you use the word bewigged in literature--Lola is called "delightfully screwy" because she really is delightfully screwy and the compliment, like Lola, just works.



My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and

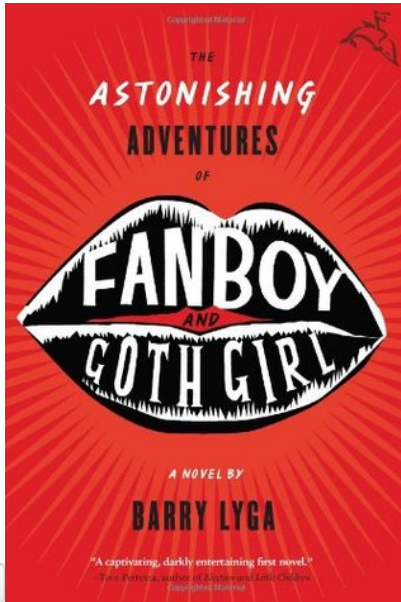
Fenway Park by Steve Kluger

Quirk Factor: Its hilarious subtitle: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park. Jacqueline Kennedy as role model and a deaf six-year-old figure prominently, too.



Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews

Quirk Factor: More a loving friendship than a romance, this novel has the most gorgeously sardonic, self-hating narrator, Greg, who will never get over the fact that people like him.

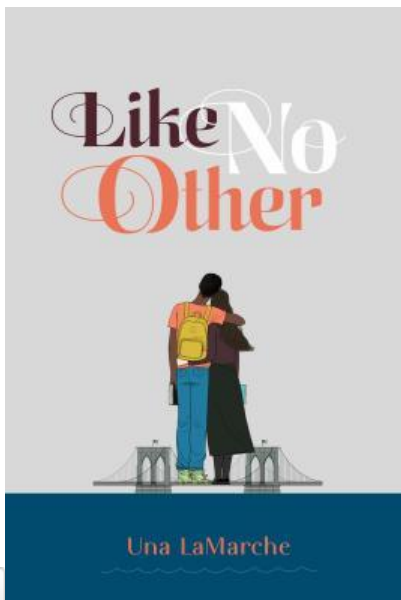


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The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl by Barry

Lyga

Quirk Factor: Withdrawn, bullied Don, who calls his step-dad the "step-fascist," bonds over mutual hatred of classmates and an enduring love of comics with goth girl Kyra who renames him Fanboy.



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Like No Other by Una LaMarche

Quirk Factor: Cross-culture romance? Stuck on an elevator in a hurricane? Una LaMarche? Count me in-- this is going straight to the top of my TBR pile come July 24th.

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