



Cloudy With a Chance of Destruction

Gwenda Bond

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In a high school science class, Lois Lane must deal with some bad chemistry. . .

This is an official teaser short story for the young adult novel LOIS LANE: FALLOUT that takes place before Lois moves to Metropolis. FALLOUT is forthcoming from Switch Press in May 2015.

Cloudy With a Chance of Destruction Details

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Author : Gwenda Bond

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From Reader Review Cloudy With a Chance of Destruction for online ebook

fleegan says

This is a short story prequel to Gwenda Bond's new YA book Lois Lane: Fallout. It introduces us to teen Lois Lane as a new student in a high school chemistry class. Now, here is the thing, I actually read the novel Lois Lane: Fallout first, and I'm glad I did, because Cloudy With a Chance of Destruction is so, so short and it has so little meat to it that if I had read the short story first I don't think I would have picked up Fallout because I would have reckoned the novel to be just as weak as the short story.

I LOVED Lois Lane:Fallout. So I'm glad I read it first.

So if you read Cloudy first, and like me, you thought it was weaksauce, I suggest you still give Fallout a try because it is a really fun reimagining of Lois Lane.

Steven says

Lois Lane: Cloudy with a Chance of Destruction by Gwenda Bond

Published 2015, Capstone

Stars: ★★★★☆

(Prequel short story for Lois Lane: Fallout, just released)

Review also posted at: Slapdash & Sundry

Thanks for Netgalley for providing a review copy of this exclusive short story prequel in exchange for an honest review.

This mini-novella gives a little background information and sets up the storyline for Lois Lane: Fallout by giving us a sneak peak at Gwenda Bond's take on the famous female love interest for Clark Kent/Superman, this time imagining her as a teenage Army brat with a penchant for Nancy Drewing, snark, and putting her foot in her mouth.

"Who even asked you?"

"No one... Unfortunately for you, I've always been on the nosy side."

Essentially, she's the perfect YA version of the young woman who's going to end up at the Daily Planet as a tour de force of reporting glory, and I can't wait to see how her move to Metropolis and getting a full length book will work out. Guess I'll have to pick up a copy of Fallout and find out, eh?

(I also loved the hints at other DC characters, like Lois' General father, her sister Lucy, and a certain bumbling geek with secrets.)

Will M. says

A very short preview of an upcoming young-adult novel. It was so short that I didn't think it deserved 4 stars.

First things first, the main character was not even the focus here. It was the dumb guy and his girlfriend. I wanted to know more about Lois Lane, aside from the ones that I already know from the comics, but I think I'm reading the second (correct me if I'm mistaken) short story about this series so maybe the author is already expecting that I know more about her from the first one. Despite that though, this was too short to be fully enjoyed. A short story is a short story, but I consider this as a preview instead.

3/5 stars. Can't wait to read the upcoming novel. Not the best way to introduce Lois Lane, but I guess it's an adequate preview.

Bree says

Lois Lane: Cloudy With A Chance Of Destruction is a prequel/teaser short story for the recently released *Lois Lane: Fallout*.

Overall I was not impressed by this short story, and don't think I'll be looking further into the Lois Lane series by Bond - however, if you're a fan of fluffier YA reads with a dose of action, I'd recommend giving one of the short stories a shot and deciding for yourself.

Personally, this short story really fell flat for me, and I am disappointed. I was hoping for a lot more.

It seemed like the main character was supposed to be the only intelligent person in the book, which was... offputting. Also ironic, because Lois is the one I found the most unlikeable. I am always looking for my next favorite Strong Female Lead.... but Lois did not deliver. The only reason she's useful in the plot is she's in the Right Place At The Right Time... she hears a conversation, she watches things unfold, and at the end she swoops in when things are almost too late. But she doesn't even save the day on her own know-how, she texts SmallvilleGuy so he can explain what cold fusion is. In between the action, she's passing judgement on all the people around her, offering rude snarky advice when it's not being asked for, and generally being... really annoying.

On top of disliking the main character, I found the writing style to be too simplistic for my taste. It's straightforward and nondescript, no unique narrative voice to get attached to. I prefer a bit more artful prose to my books. That's a matter of personal taste though, your mileage may vary.

I was really interested in this new series by Gwenda Bond, because I enjoy following her on Twitter and she seems like a super awesome person. But these books definitely don't look like they're for me. =\

Disclaimer: I received a copy from Netgalley for early review.

Nouf *LostinFantasy* says

Actual rating: 3.5 stars.

I liked this short-story a lot better than the other one!

This happens before Fallout (before her move to Metropolis) and Lois's actually commendable actions in this one are also briefly mentioned in that book as a huge misconduct on her permanent record. What she's done here is create a harmless but explosive chemical reaction in chemistry class to cover for - and save - her classmates from serious harm.

I actually would recommend you read this before Fallout. It's quick, fun, and it gives a clear look at how self sacrificing and "nosy" Lois can be. But you love her for it, of course. She's sassy, smart and resourceful in this one. Her online friend "SmallvilleGuy" helps her too - and worries from miles away again. And dodges alien jokes. Poor secret alien boy.

I really liked it and can't wait for the sequel.

Jana says

Another story, another school, another escapade -- Lois has an upcoming presentation for her high school chemistry class, and in the meantime, one of her fellow students takes an impossibly bad risk while trying to impress his girlfriend. Great lead-up to Lois Lane: Fallout, particularly for readers who want an idea for what Lois was up to before her family moved to Metropolis.

Yolanda Sfetsos says

I've had this short story on my phone for a while--and have always been a Lois Lane fan--so I finally decided to read it this morning.

Lois Lane is in a new school, and because of that she doesn't have a chemistry partner. This gives her the opportunity to work alone, and eavesdrop on a couple breaking up.

Good thing she does, because in an attempt to get his girlfriend back, the guy takes a dangerous device to school that might end up getting the attention of everyone in the class. And not in a good way...

This was a fun short story. A cool snippet into Lois Lane that totally captures her investigative skills. If not for her curious nature, the idiot guy in this story would've caused a lot of trouble.

I liked this intro to teenage Lois and can't wait to read the first book. And to find out who this SmallvilleGuy could be. ;)

Frannie Pan says

Rating: 3.5 stars.

Awesome, just awesome!!

Here we have another Lois Lane adventure! Once again, it's a prequel set before Lois moves to Metropolis. This time she has to save her classroom from a possible radioactive contamination and.. well, she did it thanks to her explosive personality!

The writing style is definitely more mature than how it was in "A real work of art", the story more intriguing but still funny and so enjoyable!!

My questions about the mysterious SmallvilleGuy have multiplied!

I am most definitely looking forward to reading the whole novel Lois Lane: Fallout!!

Althea J. says

Meh. Don't read this, read the full-length novel, Lois Lane: Fallout.

THAT is a 5-star read (here's my review).

THIS is a 17-pg teaser, which is actually just a quickie description of an event mentioned in the book... a Lois-shenanigan that took place prior to her moving to Metropolis. It's a bonus scene for those who have read the book, and not at all representative of the fantastic character-development and storytelling of the full-length novel.

THIS was enjoyable, though, because I love the Lois Lane: Fallout Lois and want to read more of her in general.

This teaser was given to me by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Anna says

ACTUAL REVIEW

Finally got around to actually reading this. I liked it, but it was nowhere near the same level of awesome as the first short story. I found the idea that a girl as smart as the one breaking up with her boyfriend in this story, could have ever dated someone this dumb in the first place!!! Seriously!!! The kid takes a device from his scientist father to make their project the "best" without knowing what it even is or what it does! Also, this is after trying to blackmail/threaten her into not breaking up with him. It's up to Lois Lane to save the day, of course. The ending was rather anti-climactic but I did love the IMs between Lo and SmallvilleGuy. Hoping the full book errs on the side of the first short story that I had the privilege to read. Overall, fun but kinda meh. That guy tho...man, was he dumb as a freaking fencepost...

INITIAL REACTION

YASSSSSS!!!!!! So excited to read this one! Granted, it's yet another short story under 20 pages in length, but the last one was in the favorite-things pile for the year so far. Also, they just make me more and more excited for the full-length book at the end of the month/beginning of next. Three cheers for Gwenda Bond!

Fun side-note, I finally figured out why her name sounded so familiar: I previously read/enjoyed her book *Blackwood*, which is her take on the legend/myth of the Roanoke colony! D'oh!

Dory says

This teaser short story made my fourth period civics class 500% better. I really enjoyed reading this short story almost as much as the first short story. The first short story was amazing and really made me want, no **need** to read Fall Out. This one made me want it more, but if someone else read this story before reading the one before, they wouldn't be allured.

Cloudy With a Chance of Destruction did portray the snarky heroine as have as a protagonist, yet it focused far too much on the secondary character, AKA jerk who doesn't know how to handle NOTHING. But you can feel a relationship growing between Lois and Sophie. We also learned more about the guy from online.

I can't wait for the release of Lois Lane: Fallout.

Thank you NetGalley and the author for the free review copy in exchange for a honest review.

Morgan says

I received this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

This is a short story to sort of lead into/tease full length books about Lois Lane before she moves to Metropolis.

Lois overhears (and sort of butts in on) an argument between the (now-ex) couple who share the chemistry table with her. She's working alone, and other than her inability to keep out of other people's conversations, she seems to like that.

The guy, Mike, says some problematic things about his girlfriend breaking up with him. He'll change her mind. He'll make her see. He refuses to accept that she's one big #NOPE when it comes to him. Basically a delightful guy.

But what happens after Lois notices something strange in his bag on the bus one day?

There are little texts between SmallvilleGuy and Lois that hint at things to come (since it's no big leap to figure out who SmallvilleGuy is. At least for us.) and they are cute.

Mike was not only problematic, but weak and more than a little dumb.

It really is more of a "teaser", but it did the job and I'll be looking for a chance to read Lois Lane: Fallout to see how a full length story goes.

Nancy The book junkie says

Rating: 3.5/5

Tiara says

More reviews @ The BiblioSanctum

Lois Lane: Cloudy With a Chance of Destruction is a short story tying in with Gwenda Bond's novel Lois Lane: Fallout, which was released May 1st. This story takes place right before Lois, who is an Army brat, and her family moves to Metropolis where she'll set root to become the Lois Lane that you love and/or hate. In a high school chemistry class, Lois finds herself in the middle of a turbulent love affair of two of her teen classmates, Mike and Sophie. What love affair at that age isn't turbulent?

Sophie has decided that she's had enough of Mike and his stupidity and dumps him during their lab project, and Mike tries to cajole Sophie into taking him back because their grade counts based on group effort (and Sophie is apparently something of an honor student), which he's not willing to make if she's not willing to take him back. In an effort to win Sophie back, Mike decides to bring an "awe-inspiring" experiment to school the next day to impress Sophie. Lois' current residence is full of scientists, including Mike's dad, and she has a bad feeling about what he's carrying around in the bag.

I know Young Adult books are all the rage right now, but I'm not fond of them at this age (used to love them when I was younger) and I'm very particular about the ones that I read. I'll be the first to admit that I can be harsher on them than I should be. That's not to say that I haven't read Young Adult books that I absolutely adore, but they are few and far in between. However, this was a cute story. I loved the burgeoning attitudes of the Lois that I've come to love in the comics. However, this still wasn't really for me, and that's because of two words: Clark Kent.

He's not called out by name, and Lois only knows him from message boards they both frequent. I'm not the biggest Superman fan in general for various reasons, but my personal reasons for not caring for the character are not the reasons why I disliked his place in this short story. I wanted to read a story where Clark doesn't factor into Lois' life. True, I love Lois and Clark as a couple in DC Universe when they become adults, but what made me excited about reading a story about a young Lois was seeing her develop outside of Clark. Even in this story, Clark is her go-to texting buddy about all things science instead of allowing her be the little investigative reporter that lives in her.

Clark has been allowed to live his life before and even after Lois. Sure, she eventually shows up in many of his stories, too. However, he's been still allowed to shape himself without Lois while in this story Lois immediately runs to him for help. That turned me off to this short story and has made me decide that I'll pass on the novel as well. I don't want a story where Clark is her secret internet buddy that gives her the answers

she needs. I want a story about Lois showing her true skill and wit without having to send texts to Clark for science help.

Despite that, I do recommend this for fans of Lois Lane who want a spin on her story and how she became the biggest force The Daily Planet has ever encountered. I found this highly imaginative, and I loved seeing Lois Lane snarking and being "in-your-face" when it came to Mike's craziness and gross behavior. She also showed that she's fearless and can come up with solutions on the fly. I'd probably be more excited for reading the novel if it wasn't for that one annoyance.

This short story was provided to me by Capstone through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Jim says

[Bonus points for not relying on Superman(boy) to save the day since I thought that's where this
