



The Flash: Hocus Pocus

Barry Lyga

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Race into action in this all-new original adventure based on the hit CW TV series, *The Flash*!

In a timeline where Flashpoint never happened, The Flash (aka Barry Allen) must face a mysterious villain who can control the minds and actions of citizens. But when Hocus Pocus, as he calls himself, takes control of Barry, it's up to Team Flash to help the Scarlet Speedster before he's forced to do the unthinkable. Written by *New York Times* bestselling author Barry Lyga, this is one adventure fans of the TV series won't want to miss!

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The Flash: Hocus Pocus Details

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Author : Barry Lyga

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From Reader Review The Flash: Hocus Pocus for online ebook

Zuzana says

I am a big fan of the DCTV shows produce by CW network - I think they have a great formula which just keeps on giving ! I've loved the Supergirl novel, so obviously I wanted to read The Flash novel too - but I have to say I didn't find it as compelling as the Supergirl novel ! It was a little slow paced and slightly boring. But I loved how much time was taken by Wally aka Kid Flash ! I got to know him a little better ! And I'm going to read the rest of the novels too !

Gwen says

It's season 5 of The Flash's mid season break, and I got this book for Christmas. I'm glad to have another Flash adventure for while I wait for 5b. This is amazing! I love the plot is great, with Barry being taken over by Hocus Pocus, and Hocus Pocus talking about his master Abra Kadabra. I wonder if it is the same Abra Kadabra from the show. I should rewatch that episode. I'm really excited to finish Johnny Quick (I have already started it as I am writing this)!

Douglas Gibson says

This book is a cute adaptation of the CW show, that would be perfect for kids 12-15ish, but had too many annoying inconsistencies and plot holes for me to totally forgive (and I am a huge Barry Lyga fan. He's one of my favorite YA authors) Flash in book form allows for more insight into these character's which is lots of fun, and also allows the author do things that the special effects budget of a TV show can't afford to do. The book lover in me also loves that they did not just opt to do a comic book form of the TV show, because we already have great Flash comics, so it is nice to give us fans a different medium to enjoy our hero through.

Avery (ThePagemaster) says

4.5 out of 5

This read like a Flash episode! I loved every page!

Jennifer says

Nicely done. Felt like an episode of the show, and the author had a good handle on the characters' voices. (Plus H.R. was in it!)

Silverscarf says

I love the CW DCTV shows and am always excited for new tie-in novels for them. This was an amazing read. This author has captured the show so well, and written it even better in some cases. Setting this in an alternate season 3 where Barry never created Flashpoint was a brilliant move. Anything could happen and readers wouldn't be upset that it was messing with the canon of the show, and as kind of an added bonus it makes things more exciting overall. You don't go into it with the feeling that comes with most tie-in novels, where the story that you're reading, while it takes place in the same universe as a show, it can never actually effect anything about the show. But here you don't quite get that certainty and it's a great way to give the reader that feeling of never knowing exactly what's going to happen next. From what I can tell this is set somewhere in what would have been the middle of season 3, a lot of things that happened in season 3 still happened just in a somewhat different way, so it's almost the same but a little bit different. The characters are all amazing, especially Barry, H.R. and Cisco. Cisco's humor is captured perfectly. I loved H.R. on the show and was sad to see him go, so in this wonderful little pocket timeline, we get to see him again and laugh at his absurd kind of genius. The way Barry thinks is written very well, he has to think about a lot of variables when he's being the Flash, and how he handled everything that was going on in his life was spot on as well. And the science, oh the science. The show has always had a science focus and I love that, but here the author goes above and beyond when it comes to the science, it's all involved and explained in a great and understandable way. We get physics, biology, criminology, and we hear a little about when Barry was just a CSI before he was the Flash and the research he did for some of those cases. Sometimes when you're watching the show it's so focused on Barry being the Flash, you can kind of forget what he did before becoming a superhero, so I really loved all of that attention to detail in here and how much it added to the story. And we get a mystery that leads into the next book so I'm looking forward to seeing what happens with that in the future.

This book surpassed my expectations with flying colors, it's an amazing tie-in for the Flash and even though it's technically considered a middle grade novel it will be so enjoyable for Flash fans of all ages, I completely recommend it and I'm really looking forward to the next book.

Ricky says

If I'm not mistaken, this is to be the first of a potential series of *Flash* adventures from Barry Lyga, based on the CW TV series - and while I know Lyga best for his often very dark YA books, this more MG-oriented book marks a much-needed return to his geeky roots.

Hocus Pocus could be a lost episode of the third season of the TV series, but with a few small changes courtesy of Lyga that make the story even better. Sadly for me, one of those changes is not a removal of WestAllen - heck, a lot of my friends in the fandom might run screaming from this book just for the prologue alone, and frankly I think the book could've done without the prologue, unless it was meant to imply that this is on an Earth identical to Earth-1 in every way except that the *Flashpoint* twist never happened. Just like on the show, the WestAllen scenes feel forced and corny (though at least Barry and Iris draw attention to that fact.) Also, Julian is conspicuous by his absence, with his function in the story largely given to Captain Singh instead, at least in terms of being Barry's superior and constantly wondering why the heck Barry's bailing on everything.

That said, though, I love how Lyga's takes on certain characters - namely, Wally and Caitlin - improve on their TV show counterparts, with Wally even more putting the "Kid" in Kid Flash and cutting loose in a way

Keiynan Lonsdale really hasn't gotten the chance to do yet (and why can't he? The man's made of more sunshine than Supergirl, and that's saying something!), while Cait not only gets to show off her intelligence, but also doesn't have her Killer Frost powers bringing her down like the TV writers keep insisting on doing because they can't give her a Grey Jedi-like sense of balance for whatever reason. Lyga also gets Joe, Cisco, H.R. (thank God for H.R. Wells!), and especially Barry quite on point. And while Hocus Pocus isn't the darkest villain Lyga's created yet (not when we've got his books like *I Hunt Killers* and sequels, or *Boy Toy*, for that matter), his mind-controlling powers, written scarily similarly to Kilgrave, made me want to do like Reverse-Flash Wells and vibrate my hand through his chest. Especially when he turned my DC fave into his top puppet - though Bar being Bar, he's too smart to *entirely* lose his faculties.

While I'm extra-psyched for this book's *Supergirl* counterpart *Age of Atlantis* next month, I'm also looking forward to the promise of another Barry Lyga *Flash* novelette to follow up from this one. With that cliffhanger, a perfectly tantalizing teaser just like on the show, there better be one!

Alisson Couto says

The Flash: Hocus Pocus tem o claro interesse de explorar o universo das séries do CW-verse também no mundo dos livros. A história parte de uma premissa muito interessante, imaginando uma simples questão: e se o Flash não tivesse voltado no tempo ao cabo da 2ª temporada da série?

Assim, a Terra-1 explorada em The Flash: Hocus Pocus não sofreu os efeitos do Ponto de Ignição, configurando uma espécie de 3ª temporada alternativa para a série de TV. Após Zoom ter assassinado seu pai diante de seus olhos e ser, na sequência, impedido de por fim ao multiverso pelo Flash e sua equipe, Iris acaba percebendo o vazio que Barry sentia naquele momento e o calor receptivo de sua amada e de sua família acaba fazendo o velocista escarlate desistir de voltar no tempo e impedir o destino de sua mãe. O vilão principal apresentado no livro é Hocus Pocus, um personagem misterioso e carente de atenção que tem no uso de "mágicas" mirabolantes a sua periculosidade. Embora pareça abordar um personagem 100% novo, o desenvolvimento da história acaba deixando um pouco a desejar por abordar um plot já utilizado na série de TV, na própria terceira temporada. De qualquer forma, o vilão é interessante e coloca a equipe em maus bocados, embora os acontecimentos do livro não desemboquem em qualquer consequência perturbadora.

Um dos maiores méritos de Barry Lyga, autor da história, é conseguir capturar a essência dos personagens da série, com sequências de diálogos leves e engraçadas, facilmente relacionadas às suas contrapartes televisivas. Cisco, Caitlin, H.R. (ainda vivo nesse universo onde Savitar nunca existiu) e todos os demais personagens têm algo a acrescentar. Além disso, podemos ter uma percepção mais próxima de como funcionaria a cabeça de uma pessoa com supervelocidade e como essa pessoa enxergaria o mundo. Lyga consegue trazer uma interessante visão sobre isso, sempre deixando claro que, apesar de superpoderoso, o Flash ainda tem sentimentos e fraquezas humanas.

Além de Hocus Pocus, algumas histórias paralelas permeiam o livro, porém são pouco exploradas e, assim como o plot do vilão principal, não têm uma conclusão após o término da história. Tal fato pode deixar leitores, assim como eu, um pouco frustrados, mesmo sabendo que a história continua em The Flash: Johnny Quick.

Panda Incognito says

I enjoyed this novel tremendously. It rewrites the series three ending of "The Flash" to what I would have

preferred, and then presents an original story from there. The characters and dialogue were so accurate that I could hear their voices in my head as I read, and even though I could nitpick criticisms with the prose, this was a great book overall. My one caveat is that because it spoils many significant series plot lines, people should watch the show before reading the book.

Nevins Memorial says

This book was amazing. I'd never heard of Barry Lyga before, but, if you look on my shelf in this account you'll see that I'm quite a fan of DC Comics properties, (and I quite like some of the middle grade books out there as well), and so I gave this a try.

It's better than the TV show. I've watched all the DCTV shows, from the dour Arrow to the mostly sunny Flash and Supergirl, and I've been reading Flash comics since at least Mark Waid was writing him. And Mr. Lyga gets Barry, and then takes the Barry from the TV show and makes him seem like he's analogous to all the other Barry's that have or will come from the physical comic books. Barry's smart, science-y, and isn't all about just the punching and heroing either.

How will I be able to wait until April 2018 when the next book in this series comes out?

Brandi says

Tons of fun! Each character was used well (but not enough Iris, as usual!) and felt like themselves. And the villain was intriguing. I can't wait for the next one!

Chris Lemmerman says

Do you like The Flash?

Then you'll love this book. There's nothing else to say, really.

Barry Lyga really gets these characters, and manages to balance everyone very nicely (a little more Iris and Wally might have been nice, but that's a small complaint). The story moves at a brisk pace, and feels like an episode of the show as Barry hits walls and tries to deal with multiple problems at once, with a secondary story threaded in to come to fruition in the next book instead too.

The villain of the piece, the titular Hocus Pocus, feels very familiar, for a very good reason. I'm curious to see if Lyga continues with this plot line going forward too. There's also the introduction of a DC Comics character that I never expected to see on the show, so I was very pleased to see here, and Lyga gets her absolutely perfect.

Oh, and there's a cliffhanger ending. It's definitely an episode of The Flash.

Steven R. McEvoy says

Last summer my three children and I started watching Supergirl, and once we were caught up on that we watched The Flash. My daughters prefer Supergirl and my son loved The Flash. So when I found out that one of my all-time favorite authors was releasing a Flash novelization I was terribly excited. My son wants to read this book with me, but to be honest I could not wait and read a chapter or two a day with him. I devoured the book over 2 days in 4 sittings. Each of the three times I put the book down it was only out of necessity. This book was an amazing read. Not since reading Batman Knightfall by Dennis O'Neil back in 1995 have I enjoyed a super hero novel so much. And I now get to reread this book with my son and likely my youngest daughter also.

This story is set in an alternate timeline where Flashpoint never happened. Instead of running off that night after Zoom was defeated, Barry headed back in the house with Iris. As such this is a very different time line then the current TV series, and to be honest it is an amazing read. In this Flash adventure we encounter a new mysterious villain, but he doesn't seem to be a metahuman. He seems to be able to control the minds and actions of citizens, and inanimate objects. He calls himself Hocus Pocus and he takes control of Barry. So it is up to Team Flash to help the Scarlet Speedster before he's forced to do something unthinkable. After he is forced to rob a jewelry store and attack the police, even Barry wonders if Team Flash might have to take drastic steps to stop him.

Barry's life is turned even more upside down in this story than usual. A suspension from work at the police department. Being mind controlled by an ego maniac and turned into a heel. And knowing that there might not be a way out of it this time is weighing on him. But he has team Flash supporting him, Iris at his side, Wally willing and eager to step in. And at Star Labs he has Cisco, Caitlyn and HW willing to go to their limits and maybe beyond to find a solution. The question is can they solve the puzzle in time.

Sometimes when you really like an author and they step in to write characters you know it just does not work. I have seen that with Star Wars, Star Trek and other Super Hero stories before. But Lyga does a masterful job. He has written a fast paced story, stayed true to the characters and the DC universe. Even if this is an alternate possibility it is an amazing story and I already eagerly await the next Flash novel from Lyga due out next year! I have had a growing appreciation for Lyga's craft as a wordsmith for years now. But with this novel I have an even greater respect for his skill with the pen, or keyboard, as it may be.

This was an excellent read. It will be loved by fans of the expanding DC TV Universe. It will also stand solidly on its own as a superhero novel. I look forward to sharing it with my children and will likely even gift a copy to my dad. It is a story for fans of all ages. Well done Lyga well done. And in regards to the next volume all I can encourage is write Barry write!

Read the review on my blog Book Reviews and More and reviews of other books by Barry Lyga. As well as an author profile and interview with Barry.

Note: 2019 have read this book for the third time, first by myself, second with my son, and now again with my son and youngest daughter. They both love the book and look forward to reading book 2.

Gecky Boz says

Fantastic Flash

Wow, I really loved this book. After reading if you're anything like me you'll be wishing that the author Barry Lyga wrote for The Flash TV show. I adore the show too but his version of flashpoint not happening makes for some strong reading.

The author really seems to understand what makes these characters shine. Hocus Pocus is a great villain too.

The ending is To Be Continued, so here's hoping the next book is published ASAP.

Eva says

Actual rating: 3.5

Surprisingly good! It was an intriguing move to ditch the Flashpoint timeline and have Barry not run back in time to stop Reverse-Flash. #evaapproves What I don't approve of is that Kid Flash is a thing because it doesn't make sense - Alchemy wasn't around to give him his powers! (Though I will admit that Wally was a lot less annoying in this book than in the show.) Which brings me to my other beef with this book...there's no Julian. I know he was a result of Flashpoint but he's still, y'know, an actual person and could've easily taken over Barry's position as CSI since Barry got suspended.

Other than all that, this was a really good book. Great energy and I think the author captured the characters and dialogue and general feel of The Flash very well indeed. Looking forward to the next books in the series.
