

# Carry On

*Rainbow Rowell*

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## **Carry On** Rainbow Rowell

Simon Snow is the worst chosen one who's ever been chosen.

That's what his roommate, Baz, says. And Baz might be evil and a vampire and a complete git, but he's probably right.

Half the time, Simon can't even make his wand work, and the other half, he sets something on fire. His mentor's avoiding him, his girlfriend broke up with him, and there's a magic-eating monster running around wearing Simon's face. Baz would be having a field day with all this, if he were here—it's their last year at the Watford School of Magicks, and Simon's infuriating nemesis didn't even bother to show up.

*Carry On* is a ghost story, a love story, a mystery and a melodrama. It has just as much kissing and talking as you'd expect from a Rainbow Rowell story—but far, far more monsters.

## **Carry On Details**

Date : Published October 6th 2015 by St. Martin's Griffin

ISBN : 9781250049551

Author : Rainbow Rowell

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Lgbt, Romance



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# From Reader Review Carry On for online ebook

## Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

Sorry, this book is just too meta for me, man.

This book is about a fictional character who was the subject of fascination in another fictional character's life from another book. It's a story about a made-up character from a series that's fictional inspired from another fictional series? Does that even make any sense? I don't even know. It's just too meta, man!

Besides the ludicrous premise of a fictional Harry Potter (can you even have a fictional fanfic of a character who is fiction in the first place? I guess that's what you call <i>Twilight</i>?). It is **all sorts of ludicrous to read a book about a character who is a parody of another character**. This isn't tongue-in-cheek so much as it is absolute lunacy.

I didn't give two shits about Simon and Baz in *Fangirl* to be honest. I don't remember much of them at all besides the fact that Simon is the fictional Harry Potter in the *Fangirl* universe. And I started this book not really giving a damn, hoping the book can convince me otherwise. It didn't.

### **There is no plot.**

Not having cared about Simon's story in *Fangirl*, I still don't care about Simon's story now in a fleshed-out book.

### **There is no plot.**

Literally nothing happens in the book.

### **There is no plot.**

I have never been so bored reading about a world where vampires and unicorns and ghosts exist.

Maybe there is? I don't know. I don't care. I was falling asleep by page 10.

Furthermore, this book is just a sad parody at slash fandom. Baz's unrequited feelings towards Simon felt empty and pointless. Let's get this straight, it's not that I'm anti-gay in the least. It's that if you are to include homosexual and bisexual characters in a book, they should be there as a person. There should be a point to their character. They're not there for the purpose of OMG HOT MAN ON MAN ACTION. This may be a little controversial, but I am largely against slash fiction because I feel they're disrespectful to gays, to rewrite a character's sexuality just for the purpose of titillation.

*Baz's mouth is colder than Agatha's.*

*Because he's a boy, I think, and then: No, because he's a monster.*

*He's not a monster. He's just a villain.*

*He's not a villain. He's just a boy.*

*I'm kissing a boy.*

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## Virginia Ronan ♥ Herondale ♥ says

*"You're so alive, Simon Snow.  
You got my share of it."*

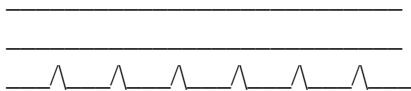
This is probably going to be the most incoherent review I've ever written but I just can't seem to be able to contain myself!!! I mean we're talking about SIMON AND BAZ!!! BAZ AND SIMON!!! <333

**OMG!!! I can't even!!! THEY ARE EVERYTHING AND EVEN MORE!!! XD**

Their love reduced me to a babbling and giggling mess and I can't stop to grin! I'm still grinning like a Cheshire cat and it's starting to hurt!!! BUT oh god, how much I loved those two!!!

There are no words that would do them justice so suffice it to say that I died at least a thousand deaths!! <333 They are too freaking adorable and I want more!! I just want more!!! Rainbow do you hear me?!

**I. WANT. MORE!!!!** \*dies\*



Oh, sorry! Was I out cold again?

Anyway!!! =)

This book WAS EVERYTHING!

BAZ IS EVERYTHING!

SIMON IS EVERYTHING!

And Baz and Simon **GAVE ME LIFE!!!** <3333

They obviously gave me cardiac arrhythmia too and I think chances are high I'll never recover!!! Still, I'll **never** regret that I read this book and it will **forever** have a special place in my heart! =)))

This said I'm heading straight to the characters section because I'm pretty certain that you all know about the plot by now! ;-) If not: The Insidious Humdrum (Haha! What a name!!!) is threatening to destroy the magical world and Simon Snow isn't only the most powerful mage of the world but also the only one who seems to be able to stop him.

**Okay, from now on there will be a ton of spoilers and quotes and uncontrolled, incoherent stuttering!**  
**If you still want to continue: You've been warned!!! ;-P**

**Simon:**

*"I don't know", he says, closing his eyes. "I guess I've never thought much about what I am. I've got a lot on my plate."*

Simon Snow!!! He's clumsy, completely oblivious, he doesn't get anything right and he's basically a catastrophe walking on two legs! And for some reason that makes him adorable as hell!!! \*LOL\* Seriously, Simon is like a puppy you just want to cuddle! I can understand why Baz loves him so much and can't seem to be able to get enough of him! Gosh there were so many moments between those too! It was so funny to see how obsessed Simon was and to read that he had absolutely no clue why he was even so obsessed with Baz! XD I mean Jeez Louise!!! He noticed that Baz looked thinner than usual and that he's limping and he ran to his house at Christmas just to tell him what he'd found out! Ohh and how he almost lost his mind just because Baz wore jeans!!!! \*LOL\* I loved their conversations, because they were always so tender and sweet! Even when they still claimed to be enemies there was always tension in the air!!! <333

*"I don't get to choose a plan. I just take it as it comes. And someday, something will catch me unawares or be too big to fight, but I'll fight anyway. I'll fight until I can't anymore – what is there to think about?"*

*"I've never turned my back on you. And I'm not starting now."*

*"He's not a monster. He's just a villain.*

*He's not a villain. He's just a boy.*

*I'm kissing a boy.*

*I'm kissing Baz."*

**CHAPTER 61 WAS MY UNDOING!!!** I read it 8 times!!! I just couldn't stop to read it!!! It was so damn sweet!!! What they thought, how they reacted! AREAFDKASDLFASDFKASFDJA!!!! I CAN'T EVEN!!!!

*"I'm going to die kissing Simon Snow..."*

*Simon Snow is going to die kissing me."*

**Baz:**

*"Why are you already weeping?" he snarled. "You're ruining my plans to push you to tears."*

Tyrannus Basilton Grimm-Pitch!!! THAT BOY LITERALLY KILLED ME!!! I loved everything about Baz!!! Oh god, I can't even!!! I'm fangirling so hard here I have to calm down so I can write a proper sentence!!! XD Okay, I think I can write now! I loved how rude he was, how his actions were in stark contrast to everything he thought!!! ARGH!!! AEDKLASDLKFASKD!!! His attitude!!! I mean he really "dared them fucking all" and it was sooo damn amazing to watch!!! XD BUT oh god! His thoughts were so hilarious and tender and I couldn't get enough of it!!! Baz's chapters gave me LIFE and I loved each and every single one of them!!! I loved how he noticed that Simon was too thin and how he tried to get him to eat something when they were about to solve the mystery of his mother's death! I mean he even thought about bringing Simon food, because he knows that he needs it to function properly!!! And he didn't let him go on Christmas!!! Every single one of Baz's actions was performed with deliberate care and Simon never realised anything!!! <333 Haha! Oh and that moment when Baz called Simon "love" for the very first time? IT WAS THE DEATH OF ME!!! <333

*"And when I felt myself slipping too far, I held on to the one thing I'm always sure of –  
Blue eyes.*

*Bronze curls.*

*The fact that Simon Snow is the most powerful magician alive. That nothing can hurt him, not even me.*

*That Simon Snow is alive.*

*And I'm hopelessly in love with him."*

*"It dawned on me during our fifth year. When he followed me around like a dog tied to my ankle. When he wouldn't give me a single moment of solace to sort through my feelings – or try to wank them away."*

*"Sharing a room with the person you want most is like sharing a room with an open fire.*

*He's constantly drawing you in. And you're constantly stepping too close. And you know it's not good – that there is no good – that there's absolutely nothing that can ever come of it.*

*But you do it anyway.*

*And then ...*

*Well. Then you burn."*

*"You were the sun, and I was crashing into you. I'd wake up every morning and think, 'This will end in flames.' "*

### **Penny:**

I was so glad that Simon had her as a friend!! Penelope is amazing and I loved how she bonded with Baz!!! XD Their conversation about his mother was so intriguing and I think their friendship will be awesome! =))) Plus I loved how Penny thought about Simon. Her POV was always so nice to read because she truly cared about him and always wanted his best! She wanted him to be okay, to survive and if it would have been possible she would have even run away with him!! Penny is intelligent, brilliant and blunt and probably the best friend anyone can have! In short: She is amazing and Simon was more than just lucky to have her at his side!!! <333

### **Agatha:**

*"I can't break up with Simon for a Tory vampire – my parents would disown me. And I don't even know what that would entail. Would I have to be evil?"*

I didn't like Agatha!!! She was such an egoistic and spoiled brat!!! She was so self-centred; she never even spent a thought about what other people wanted! To read her POV was horrible and the more I read about her, the more I disliked her! How can anyone be so shallow-brained? Plus, she ran away and never even thought about helping her friends!!! What a stupid girl!!!

*"I wish I were wearing something other than leggings and Ugg boots. I always figured I'd make a more beautiful corpse."*

### **The Mage:**

*"The Greatest Mage is our only hope now.*

*But our greatest mage is fundamentally flawed. Cracked. Broken."*

The second character I didn't like! The mage was so mean! All he wanted to do was to use his son and poor Simon would have done almost everything in order to please him!! I hated how he thought about Simon and I felt really sorry for Lucy! She didn't deserve to be used like that! =( It makes me sad that Simon never found out who his parents were and I kind of hate Agatha for keeping it a secret! I mean if she would have told them about Lucy and Davy, Simon and the others sooner or later would have figured it out! I'm sure of that!!! But since she was a coward and ran away they never even got a chance to think about it!

All told, I really loved this book and I never ever wanted it to end! I swear I'm going to buy a physical copy

of "Carry On" and then I'll take it to my bed and cuddle it until I fall asleep!!! \*LOL\* Yes, that's how much I loved it!!! <333

So if you want some fluff in your life, if you want to grin like a Cheshire cat and if you want to laugh out loud while sitting in a train: READ THIS BOOK!!! You won't regret it! ;-P

*"What you are is a fucking tragedy, Simon Snow. You literally couldn't be a bigger mess."*

*He tries to kiss me, but I hold back – "And you like that?"*

*"I love it," he says.*

*"Why?"*

*"Because we match."*

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## Kristina Horner says

Yup, I'm totally on board the "I just want to re-read this book forever" train.

I can't even explain it. I went in to this book with a healthy amount of skepticism (mostly an attitude like "but why does this book exist?") and I was TOTALLY put in my place. This book is perfect.

It's everything fanfic-loving adolescent Kristina ever wanted out of a book. It's everything that never would have happened in Harry Potter. It's delicious LGBT+ representative romance, it's sassy writing, it's delightful unbelievable and it took me RIGHT back to my fanfic days. And for all its impossible ridiculousness, it also somehow manages to be a surprisingly great book.

5 stars, 100%, would read again (and again and again and again). Simon + Baz forever. OTP. <3

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## Kenchiin says

Thanks God I'm already gay, because after reading this I would probably want to turn into one.

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## Em says

hello 911 yes I just finished Carry On and I'd like to surgically remove my feelings

honestly my heart is such a soft and sensitive mess right now. This book was soft love that feels a lot like when you're standing in the sunlight and you don't really want to leave and it somehow gives you the sensation of lazily melting into what's around you as you take it all in. I honestly need to do more to deserve the love I'm feeling right now because I think I'm seriously about to get done for tax evasion.

This review is going to be a spoilery mess so if you haven't read the book, DO NOT SCROLL DOWN. Just know that **it's basically Harry Potter but gayer. A LOT GAYER. THE GAYER THE MERRIER.** Also, Drarry is canon. Mostly, know that this is the kind of book that will make you so giddy you will have to stop

reading for a minute and grin or press your face into a pillow and squeal. But if you ever see someone reading it and appearing calm and emotionless, trust me...in reality they're actually on the brink of fucking death

*"You were the sun, and I was crashing into you. I'd wake up every morning and think, 'This will end in flames.'"*

(x)

? I'm basically 95% harry potter and 5% bad decisions and reading this book is such a great representative of that

? however, the version of myself who kept putting off reading it for so long is not the version I want physically representing me....because this was such a good book why did I make the conscious decision to deprive myself of it??

? me looking back at my decision to not read this sooner: well that um.... really sucks for her

? anyway, I am so grateful for fictional characters and otps for filling the void in me where love should exist as an actual thing and not just an abstract concept. tbh I don't know where I would have been as a person and in society without the option of listening to music and staring at a window while my mind slips away into an alternate reality and I could make up different scenarios involving my favorite ships

? yeah let's just move on before I sound any weirder

### **SIMON SNOW**

? I can't walk up the stairs without wheezing but I would very literally fistfight the fucking moon for Simon Snow

? actually, if I loved him any more, I'd be Baz Pitch

? listen, I have an extreme weakness for characters who are such trashboy dorks their guardian angel probably facepalms himself a lot

? but I also relate to Simon because I, too, am irresponsible and aggressively bisexual and I will always assume that you hate me unless you explicitly tell me you love me and then periodically remind me

? here's a little [ (: : ? : ) ] bandaid for his little heart I hope he's doing his best even though we're all doomed

? most of all, I hope he knows that he wasn't a fraud magician. That his parents were two of the most powerful mages the world of magic has ever known. That he was loved and that his father's awful misdeeds are a reflection of himself and what *he* values out of relationships. They were never a reflection of Simon or of his worth as a person!!

? anyway I love Simon and I hope the people around him match his capacity to love and also get him lots of cherry scones, god knows he earned that

? even though he *drinks* butter like it's a fucking smoothie. jesus fucking christ

### **BAZ PITCH**

? [gently rests my hand on his cheek] I love you but you're kind of an ass



? listen, Baz is basically me: 1) emotionally, I too identify as the sunglasses emoji: the only reason I wear my shades is to hide the tears. 2) I, too, expect people to like me for who I am without actually giving them anything to like while also having about a 2% tolerance for all of humanity. 3) I'm kind of an asshole too but I'm also very kind-hearted and I like making people happy and if I love you I will love you with all my heart and all my soul but don't be confused, I'm also such a fucking asshole. Oh and I also consider salt and vinegar crips a good substitute for actual food.

? so Baz Pitch is a vampire, both literally and figuratively. Figuratively as in, he likes to suck the joy from any situation and also continues to age and wither on all levels except physically

? look, if you want me to bring out the official adoption papers, just give me a character who comes off as rude and unapproachable until it's revealed that the reason for this is because they're fumbling dorks who just don't understand how they're socially supposed to act

? Baz is actually pretty cool. You just have to give him like 10 tries before he gets it right, you feel?

? I mean he would drag you through the fucking dirt while holding a fucking capri sun in one hand and graham crackers in the other but still

? my only christmas wish would be his health and safety

? and that he never gets kidnapped by fucking nupties

? also, @Fiona, let the child take the front seat he's been through enough

## **SNOWBAZ**

? ok so my question now is how in the FUCK am I supposed to live without this ship??

? I know at some point in the future I'm gonna have to get over it but today is not that day. tomorrow wouldn't be either. In fact, come back in sixty years and you would probably still be disappointed

? listen, shipping the (??'-'?) one with the (???\*) one is the reason I was put on this earth

? no trope fucks me up more than having the obnoxiously smug one of my otp be the one who is actually expertly incapacitated by their crush

? the universe was assembled from nothingness so I could witness the stoic and cool person of my otp (baz) get so flustered when their lover just like, looks in their general direction and just overall be so in love with them that they could cast an incredibly difficult spell that requires true love to work

? also, let's make it clear that the whole-hearted, good-natured and angst-ridden pining filled with lovesick gazing and chest aching and fluttering touches is my literal endgame

? if you ever briefly consider that I will grow bored of the unrequited love trope, the answer is no

? with that being said, can we just fucking appreciate the fact that we didn't get a slow realization on both sides?? instead we literally got Baz Pitch straight up telling us on his first day back at school that he was *hopelessly in love with Simon Snow*

? I honest to god read that passage ten times just to make sure my eyes weren't actually betraying me

? also, remember when Baz couldn't believe that agatha and simon broke up because he literally couldn't fathom how anyone would VOLUNTARILY broke up with simon?? he even went out of his way to explain to simon that there was nothing between him and agatha and never has been, all just because he wanted him to be happy even if it physically hurt him to do so??

? I think of that a fucking lot

? but with all seriousness, what the fuck Basilton??

? I mean Baz and Simon were roommates foR EIGHT YEARS. how does that even work?? how do you get the universe to align in your favour like that??

? if I were Baz, I wouldn't waste time playing hard to get!! like, I can talk to a girl for five minutes and already picture our domestic life together let's get this love train going!!

? it's funny because canonically, Baz was the first one to fall hard and fast but never forget that Simon never shuts the hell up about Baz that Penelope literally forbid him from talking about him unless he "*presents a*

*clear and present danger*” and should not take “*more than ten percent of [their] total conversation*”

? he spends ninety percent of his productive time thinking about baz, passionately describing Baz's eyes, obsessing over his eating and sleeping habits. like? simon, sweetie, you're doing a terrible job of pretending to not care about him

? also, can we talk about the fact that Baz was actually about to set himself on fire and didn't mind it at all because at least his path intertwined with simon long enough for him to have something to miss?? but then the love of his life walked into a burning forest and kissed him and he finally had a reason to live

? the only romantic gesture

? for real though, I'm just really grateful to Snow for walking into that burning forest and being there for baz since I couldn't do that myself

? and not to be dramatic but whatever chill I still had by that point left my body when Baz called Simon *love*

? was that really necessary I nearly fucking breathed my kidneys. jesus

? anyway, I hope they're happy and married and living on a mountainside somewhere near the sea and with honeysuckle blossoms blooming almost all year round!! I love them

### **PENNY**

? oh you mean my baby cinnamon apple cloud muffin sugar plum princess peach angel face doll fairy my world my sun my moon my stars??

? I love Penny and I strive to be as vibrant, as full of love and good vibes that people absorb like warmth from the sun as her

? I hope she's always treated very gently and smells like vanilla and wears only matte dusty rose lipstick

? also her friendship with Simon is the kind of good friendships that are the most healing and light things in the entire world and I love it

### **AGATHA**

? hmm

? I don't really like Agatha but we share the same unenthusiasm for any physical activity and I too am always really exhausted for someone who only ever does the bare minimum requirements of getting by so I put up with her, I guess

? I don't even blame her for running like she did. homegirl just wanted to hang out with her Normal friends, she didn't sign up for no crazed magicians and deaths. Come on

### **THE BLOODY MAGE**

? any ideas how to rewrite this book so that he dies in chapter one??

? let it be known that I fucking hate him with a casanovian passion and that I hope he's on a rollercoaster that only goes straight down to hell where he belongs

? what kind of douche kills an entire nursery of babies??? kills a woman to get her job?? KILLS EBB WHO'S A LITERAL BUN OF JOY AND EVERYTHING PURE?? *sacrifices his own son??*

? he's lucky he's only fictional, otherwise he would've gotten a taste of my KNUCKLES sandwich!!

? [Eleven's voice] *mouth-breather*

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## Kat O'Keeffe says

VIDEO REVIEW - <http://bit.ly/1RLgYvM>

New addition to my "all time favorites" list. Possibly new #1 all time favorite. I ADORED this book. Funny and cute and clever with a cool plot and fun world and plenty of squee-inducing moments. I've read the whole book through twice, going on my third read. And there are some chapters I've read at least six or seven times. AND THE BOOK HAS BEEN OUT A WEEK. I'm obsessed. I put the book down and all I want is to pick it up again. Aleister Crowley, I'm living a charmed life.

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## Nat says

*"You have to pretend that you get an endgame. You have to carry on like you will; otherwise, you can't carry on at all."*

This review contains **\*spoilers\***.

This was my first time rereading the *whole* book instead of just reading the really cute scenes over and over. Fangirl was one of the very first books that got me into reading Young Adult and because of that Rainbow Rowell will forever hold a special place in my heart.

So, of course, when **Carry On** came out back in October it instantly became one of my all-time favorites—not only because of its place in Fangirl but also because of how *good* it is. It's the kind of book (the best kind) that you can't stop reading and keeps you up all night.

This was everything I wanted to read right now; it was adorable, funny, and just the right amount of heartwarming. I love Rainbow Rowell's writing. There's just something so special about it that gets me emotional every single time. She can make me cry and laugh and swoon in a single page. And the humor in this book was so well done that I found myself laughing out loud at several times.

I really really really love her books (even my mom knows how much I love Rainbow's writing) .

Rainbow Rowell also has this unique way of making her characters seem so real to me. Whenever I read one of her books, I find myself feeling incredibly attached to them. I would be watching a great movie or reading an amazing book and think— Wow Cath (Fangirl) or Penelope would definitely love this one.

I miss Rainbow's characters every day, even when I tell myself not to.

(What I was telling myself while reading.)

In **Carry On** we follow Simon Snow -'The Chosen One'- that's been destined to save the world from The

Insidious Humdrum.

*“The Insidious Humdrum is the greatest threat the World of Mages has ever faced. He’s powerful, he’s pervasive. Fighting him is like fighting off sleep when you’re long past the edge of exhaustion.”*

And we start this book in Simon’s point of view, freaking out over Baz’s absence (I was honestly smiling every time Snow mentioned him).

I especially loved how Simon was secretly wishing for Baz not to arrive before the start of term (*“Nobody wants to miss the welcome-back picnic on the Great Lawn tonight. It’s always a big to-do. Games.*

*Fireworks. Spectacle magic. Maybe Baz will miss the picnic; he’s never missed it before, but it’s a nice thought.”*) a when Baz actually didn’t show up, Simon got really sad and worried.

*(“I know I should be happy about Baz being gone—it’s what I’ve always said I wanted, to be free of him—but it seems so ... wrong. People don’t just disappear like this.*

*Baz wouldn’t.”*)

The one scene that definitely had me in tears was when Baz’s mom, Natasha Grimm-Pitch, came from *The Veil* to tell her son something vital. Reading that part the second time around did not make it any easier.

*“Where is he?” she asks. “Where is my son?”*

*“I don’t know,” I answer.*

*“Did you hurt him?”*

*“No.”*

*“You can’t lie to the dead.”*

*“I don’t want to.”*

*She looks over at his empty bed, and her sadness is so potent that in that moment, I’d do anything to get him back for her. (I’d do anything to bring him back.)”*

So I was really anticipating for Baz to finally show up— it’s one of my favorite parts in this book because I adore Simon and Baz together. My cheeks literally hurt from smiling too much.

*“When I felt myself slipping too far, I held on to the one thing I’m always sure of—*

*Blue eyes.*

*Bronze curls.*

*The fact that Simon Snow is the most powerful magician alive. That nothing can hurt him, not even me.*

*That Simon Snow is alive.*

*And I’m hopelessly in love with him.”*

I had to take a moment after I read that because it was incredible. I loved that Rainbow Rowell put Baz’s feelings right out there from the start.

I’m rooting for them.

We also got to see more of their relationship during Christmas break. I was honestly smiling and freaking out throughout that whole section.

No words can describe how much I love Rainbow for writing it so well.  
I really missed reading about them together.

*"I lift up his chin. "Baz."*

*"Go away, Snow."*

*"You're not a monster," I say. His face is cold as a corpse in my hand. "I was wrong. All those years. You're a bully. And a snob. And a complete asshole. But you're not one of them."*

And speaking of freaking out, I almost forgot how sweet Penny and Baz were as friends.  
It truly warmed my heart because they're definitely two of my favorite characters and I have tears in my eyes just thinking about them.

*"So...", she says, following him to the chalkboard. "You got a Visiting. An actual Visiting—Natasha Grimm-Pitch was here."*

*Baz glances back over his shoulder. "You sound impressed, Bunce."*

*"I am," Penelope says. "Your mother was a hero. She developed a spell for gnomeatic fever. And she was the youngest headmaster in Watford history."*

*Baz is looking at Penny like they've never met."*

I love how clever and funny and strong Penny is and I also really appreciated her relationship with her mom.  
*"Penny quotes her mum as much as I quote Penny."*  
I really care for close families in books.

That's why I'm glad that Baz was (somewhat) close with his Aunt Fiona.  
Fiona is (of course) vindictive and powerful and honest, and I really enjoyed reading about her.  
And I loved the way she loved her sister (Baz's mom).

*"I told Fiona that I'd go up to the Mage's office and look around, even if it was pointless."*

*"Take something," she said, gripping her steering wheel."*

*"I'm not a thief," I said."*

*"It's not thieving—that office is hers, it's yours. Take something for me."*

*"All right," I said."*

*I almost always go along with Fiona in the end. The way she misses my mother keeps her alive for me."*

Oh, and when Penny's mom, Mitali, mentioned Lucy —whom I had somehow completely forgotten— all of her history with the Mage came rushing back to me so quickly. It played such an important part in the book for me. I would love it if Rainbow decided to write about *their* school years. Lucy and Mitali were such intriguing characters in this story.

Also, something that completely slipped my notice the first time reading was that Rainbow put a **Fangirl** reference (of Levi) in this book.

*"I sit in front of Baz now, on the coffee table—which I carried up by myself. He hands me his cup, and I take a sip. "What is this?"*

*"Pumpkin mocha breve. I created it myself."*

*"It's like drinking a candy bar," I say."*

Here's the reference from **Fangirl**:

*"I haven't paid yet."*

*Levi held up his hands. "Please. You insult me."*

*"What is this?" She leaned over the cup and took a breath.*

*"My own concoction—Pumpkin Mocha Breve, light on the mocha. Don't try to order it from anyone else; it'll never turn out the same."*

It's been so good visiting this world and Rainbow's writing again. I can always count on her books to cheer me up.

ARC from Netgalley (thank you).

*\*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **Carry On**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!\**

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This review and more can be found on my blog.

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### **Jesse (JesseTheReader) says**

4.5, I feel like if I give it more thought it'll be a full on 5 stars. I just felt like the beginning portion of the book dragged a bit.

While this book definitely had elements that we're similar to other fantasy stories, it had it's own refreshing style. The characters we're brilliant (as most of Rainbow's characters are) and the story itself was fun, mysterious, and exciting!

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### **Lindsey Rey says**

One word: BRILLIANT.

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### **Steph Sinclair says**

Does this count as Harry Potter fan fiction? Sirius question.

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### **Claudia Ramírez says**

OKAY. OKAY OKAY...

I don't even know where to start. Obviously I loved this book, but I'm not sure if I loved it enough to be a

TOP favorite of mine, though I really FEEL something, like... I think it'll become one of those books that I'll love more and more with every day that passes. But for now, let's just say that Rainbow Rowell did it again... I'M IN LOVE WITH EVERYTHING SHE WRITES.

The first part of this book was a little slow, but as soon as Baz makes his official appearance, everything gets SO MUCH BETTER! Oh, I love that vampire boy so much. But I also love Simon. And Penny. Those three made me laugh so much. I care deeply about them.

One thing that surprised me was the Magickal World Rainbow created! I was amazed by it! The spells were so silly and clever (I burst out laughing when the Mage was chanting Bohemian Rhapsody!) and I loved the simplicity of them! I loved the similarities with Harry Potter that at the same time were SO DIFFERENT! And I also loved that Rainbow could manage all that world building in just one book :). I'd definitely read more about this world.

Okay, okay, but now let's talk about Simon and Baz TOGETHER. OMG. I couldn't stop giggling in their scenes!!! The synopsis didn't lie: There is SO. MUCH. KISSING. AND I WANTED MORE!!! Rainbow has talent with these cute romantic scenes and all these cute silly banter! I love how their relationship developed and I SIMPLY LOVE THEIR LOVE.

I was fangirling so hard I'm sure tears fell from my eyes, I was squealing and yelping whenever they kissed or showed their love for each other. And the ending, OH, THAT ENDING.

I mean, it was a little bittersweet (the ending, I mean), and I didn't expect it, but I'm kinda okay with it. And also! This feels like the less open ending that Rainbow has ever written! BRAVO! (But at the same time, she left so many questions unanswered! I wouldn't mind a sequel, I really wouldn't. And I hope Simon gets another chance, if you've read it, you'll know what I mean).

BUT YESSS, I'm so happy I finally read this! It was one of my most anticipated reads of this year and it didn't dissappoint :). I think it may become one of my favorites.

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19/10: CRYING TEARS OF JOY BECAUSE I FINALLY HAVE THE TIME TO READ THIS ONE.

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BEFORE READING IT:

A SIMON SNOW BOOK. A SIMON & BAZ STORY. OMG I'M CRYING HERE!!!  
MY DREAM BOOK IS GOING TO COME TRUE!!!!!!

*"It has just as much kissing and talking as you'd expect from a Rainbow Rowell story — but far, far more monsters."*

KISSING. KISSING AND MONSTERS.

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## Maria says

4/5 Stars ?? ?? ?? ??

“You were the sun, and I was crashing into you.”

This book was **MAGIC**. Literal magic. I enjoyed it tremendously. The beginning, though, was a chaos for me. It started off too strong, with too much information thrown at me, with no concept. The story started off from Simon's 8th year in Watford. So, there were many things that had happened in the previous years that the author tried to explain briefly. The first 100 pages were very confusing and disorienting for me, I was trying to keep everything in my head, but after a while I succeeded. And I enjoyed the ride extremely much.

*Simon Snow is the worst chosen one who's ever been chosen.*

*That's what his roommate, Baz, says. And Baz might be evil and a vampire and a complete git, but he's probably right.*

*Half the time, Simon can't even make his wand work, and the other half, he sets something on fire. His mentor's avoiding him, his girlfriend broke up with him, and there's a magic-eating monster running around wearing Simon's face. Baz would be having a field day with all this, if he were here—it's their last year at the Watford School of Magicks, and Simon's infuriating nemesis didn't even bother to show up.*

I have to admit, I should have read this book before Fangirl I would have a better understanding of Cath's obsession with this world and I would have grasped the meaning behind her fanfics. I should read the passages now, actually. I have heard that many people never read the passages of Simon Snow between the chapters. I was one of the people who did, knowing I would read this book next. But now I understand that I would have liked **Fangirl** more if I read Carry On first.

The world of **Harry Potter** was very prominent in this book. The entire time I was reading this book, I was imagining Hogwarts and I was getting the Harry Potter vibes. Which was what the author wanted to do, I suppose. There hasn't been an official statement that this world is based off on Harry Potter, but come on. I relished in the fact that the spells were lyrics from songs or common phrases or funny expressions, they made the book so much more unique. And it was like Rainbow was parodying her own book, which I found hilarious. I don't even know if "parodying" is a word but we'll go with it. Also, oh Rainbow you're such a Drarry shipper. I have never been one myself but how can you not ship Simon and Baz? But we'll talk about them later, cause I have feels to discuss. Plenty of plot parts were similar to Harry Potter, too. The feud between the families, the Chosen One trope, the Humdrum being basically Voldemort plot. But they didn't seem like she copied off of J.K. Rowling work, it was everything its own world. And I truly appreciated that.

I was fond of Simon and Penelope's relationship so much. It was irrevocably platonic, which doesn't happen often. Authors always love to make a boy and a girl fall in love or have romantic feelings for each other or something romantic happening. This wasn't the case here. Their friendship was friendship goals. They were always there for each other, supporting each other, accepting each other. It was beautiful. Penelope was



**HERMIONE.** I got the vibe so strongly, sometimes I would picture Hermione in her place!!! And I loved her to bits!

Agatha on the other hand... She shouldn't even have existed. What a wasted opportunity of a character. She was literally useless and totally unlikable. Her chapters made me die inside a little. Her relationship with Simon was toxic, she treated him like trash, they were both bad for each other. And when I thought she would get a character redemption arc, she ran away. She left her friends... you know... to fucking die! I totally disliked her and I hope we don't see much of her in the next book.

**AND NOW... THE ROMAAAAAAANCE.** Oh shit dawg. Starting off, I **ADORED** the fact that Baz appeared after a long while. It made the anticipation so much better. And when he appeared, I was dying to know more about his character. He was pictured in a specific way by Simon and everyone else, and there was so much mystery surrounding him. The anticipation was truly worth it.

Let me tell you, the enemies to friends to lovers trope is my favorite. I can't get enough of it, especially when it is done right. And with those two, it was incredible. They were the cutest shits I have ever witnessed! When Baz first admitted that he is in love with Simon, I was surprised to be honest. I was certain the whole situation would start off with Simon. And I wasn't wrong. **FUCKING SIMON INITIATED THE KISS.** Which I didn't expect either. Good job Rainbow. I'm thrilled that I can add one more ship to my ships collection. It's always frustrating when I read a new book and don't add a new ship to my list. I'm a ships person, shoot me.

I have to discuss here some punctuation issues that really bothered me in this book. I watch lots of **Booktube** and there are many people who talk about punctuation and editing and all these things. I didn't used to notice them, but after them, I do. Thanks, you have ruined my life. In this book, there were so many redundant parentheses, I wanted to shoot myself. Also, dashes. Dashes everywhere. But the dashes weren't as significant as the parentheses. Sometimes, I would count three uses of redundant parentheses, in the same page. After I noticed them, I would read the sentence again and a parenthesis wasn't needed at all. They just existed to piss me off, it might seem. But anyway, I feel like this is lazy writing and it shouldn't exist.

Overall, this book was truly something magnificent and magical. I can't wait for the next book, which comes out too late for my liking! **Carry On my Wayward Son THERE'LL BE PEACE WHEN YOU ARE DONE.** Fucking Supernatural feels, man. The smartest use of titles I have ever seen. I have to say, Rainbow Rowell you have seriously pleased me. I have read three books of yours, and all of them got 4 starts from me. I will read more of your books in the future. And till the next one... K BYE!

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## **Lola says**

I demand a sequel.

Now.

The fun can't just end. The story *must* continue. Simon and Baz *shall* date and get married and have kids and... and... !

Alright, let's not be too clamorous about this. What we have here is a fantasy. Or rather, *my* fantasy. But really, who never dreamed of sharing a room with a mysterious and handsome boy who constantly gets on

your nerves but who's secretly head over heels for you?

Simon has that. But... he's clueless. And Baz sure won't say anything about his feelings for him because 1. He's the villain, 2. Baz and Simon's destinies are to kill each other and 3. Simon's not gay.

But then something happens, forcing them to make a pact forbidding them from slicing each other's heads off. And now they're together... In the same places... And they...

Don't know what they're doing. It's so much fun.

And you know what's surprising? There's actually a plot. Yes, you heard me: a plot not only there to fill gaps, but one that really helps to understand the characters and gives depth to the story, surprisingly.

When I first started it, I kept comparing it to *Harry Potter*. Honestly, it's impossible not to. The only thing is, the book knows it's a fanfiction story and it *feels* that way, meaning the writing is casual... very contemporary-like and, even if the majority of the characters take themselves seriously, the reader can't help but see humour everywhere.

It's in the spells, which are really just a bunch of idioms and song lyrics.

It's in the magic: wings that sprout out of someone's back, teleportation, flying... it's all for the reader's entertainment.

It's in the world-building: wizards turned into vampires, numphies who kidnap people for ransom, an heir who can't keep his magic in control... anything you can imagine.

And I liked that. I liked the fact that Rainbow Rowell didn't hold back from creating whatever scenes she wanted because she feared they would be too silly. It's silly, but it's a good and, strangely, convincing type of silly.

I didn't want to stop reading it. It puts the reader in such a wonderful mood and let me tell you that, even if the romance takes time to appear, when it does, it's hard not to notice it.

As in, you will LOVE Simon & Baz.

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## **Raeleen Lemay says**

*DNF @ page 163*

In the author's note, Rowell says this is her take on the whole "Chosen One" story. But in reality, it's her take on FREAKING HARRY POTTER. Anybody who tries to tell me not to compare the two... Just no. Every little thing about this story (the setting, characters, etc.) can easily be traced back to Harry Potter and Hogwarts and EVERYTHING IS THE SAME. Plus, the characters are just plain boring and annoying for the most part. I couldn't find anything enjoyable about this in the 163 pages I read, so I'm going to put this down and never pick it up again.

*Extended Review (taking comments into account)*

I am *aware* that this is SUPPOSED to be a Harry Potter parody/fanfic/whateverthefuck, but that doesn't in any way mean I have to like it. I think this should have been an online fanfiction or something, but a published book? Not on board. Also, like I said above, IT'S JUST PLAIN NOT GOOD. I hated the writing and the characters, so it just wasn't my cup of tea.

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**Regan says**

4.5

Really really enjoyed it

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