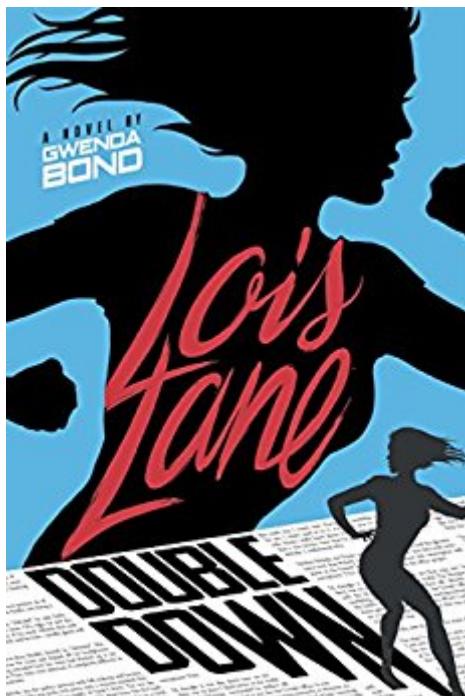


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Double Down (Lois Lane)



Synopsis

Lois Lane has settled in to her new school. She has friends, for maybe the first time in her life. She has a job that challenges her. And her friendship is growing with SmallvilleGuy, her online maybe-more-than-a-friend. But when her friend Maddy's twin collapses in a part of town she never should've been in, Lois finds herself embroiled in a dangerous mystery that brings her closer to the dirty underbelly of Metropolis.

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Customer Reviews

I liked this book so much better than the first one. With the first one there were some issues I had with it, like it being too slow at times, that made me almost DNF it, and I did consider not continuing with the series. But I am so glad I did, and I found that none of those problems make a reappearance here, I love it when I find the sequel better than the first book. With this one the plot was fast paced and I was engaged throughout. The main plot is definitely an improvement, thanks mostly to the fact that now Lois knows that weird things are possible in this little world of hers and without her unacceptance of all these things from the first book, it felt like the plot flowed so much

better this time around. The side plot was also a high point for me, I love seeing Lois interact more with the Smallville Guy a.k.a. Clark Kent, a.k.a. Kal El, also a.k.a. Superman (wow that's a lot of aliases). Here we see him dealing with a little crisis of his own and he goes to Lois for help and advice for dealing with this situation that threatens them both. It's so much fun to see them grow closer as the series goes on, I can't wait for book three, at the end of this book the author talks about so many people asking the question of when will Lois and Clark finally meet IRL and she said that book three is when it will happen. I am so looking forward to it. Overall I'm really glad I gave this sequel a read, and I do recommend it.

You might like this if you like:^{*} Lois Lane in Superman the Animated Series^{*} Young Adult mysteries with female protagonists (Nancy Drew - ish) But, if you want a Superman story, you'll have to look somewhere else as he's a side character in this one. The protagonist of both stories is Lois Lane. They're in first person narration, and the voice strongly reminded me of Lois Lane from Superman the Animated Series. (So much so that I heard Dana Delany's voice in my head while reading. If that was an audio book option, I would have bought it). Lois is independent, gutsy and practically obsessed with getting to the truth of a story and using the press as a vehicle for justice. The tone is fairly light with some sarcasm (often self-deprecating) thrown in. While attending high school (mostly), she goes on several adventures in order to uncover secrets, help people and right wrongs by using the power of the press. (Sort of Nancy Drew style plots with a journalistic spin.) The prose was strong and easy to understand. These are young adult novels, so there are plenty of teenage elements, but they don't suffer from cringe-worthy, OMG-filled dialogue. Overall, I had a good time reading them and am looking forward to the next installment of the series.

Double Down: Gwenda Bond A number of years ago, at the community college where I teach, two of my colleagues—one in English and one in Sociology—did a great presentation about the character of Lois Lane and how her portrayal in different Superman incarnations (comic, movie, TV shows) has been shaped by the time periods in which she and they were created—shifting from independent woman to more helpless damsel in distress and back again. Similarly, a friend of mine from grad school, is currently focusing a lot of her academic energies on this character. Truthfully, I always felt that Lois Lane was more interesting than Clark Kent/Superman and this latest version of Lois, brought to life by Gwenda Bond, is both engaging and very much in the now. Double Down is Gwenda Bond's second outing with Lois, who is a

teenager and recently moved to Metropolis. Lois is an army brat with a knack for getting into trouble and a passion for seeking out the truth and this has led to the creation of a very thick and thorny permanent record. One that Lois has never seen but her current principal, Mr. Butler, keeps sitting on his desk. However, since Lois's father, General Lane, has promised that the family will stay in Metropolis for the next few years, Lois both wants to make friends and keep out of trouble. Luckily for us, she's much better at the former than the latter. In the first book, *Fallout*, Lois gets involved with the student paper, *The Scoop*, which is sponsored by the Daily Planet, so Lois gets some direct mentoring from Perry White as well as meets a group of fellow student reporters who, over the course of the first book, become her friends: Maddy, Devin, and James. As this second book begins, Lois is heading to Suicide Slum to do what she considers a puff piece for the school paper—an interview with a fellow student, Dante Alvarez, who is painting a mural in his neighborhood. As Lois wraps up her interview, she is surprised to see Melody, her friend Maddy's twin sister, stumble out of a cab across the street and crumple to the ground. The events that have brought Melody to this neighborhood are mysterious and not surprisingly, pull Lois, her Scoop team Scooby Gang as well as Dante into a situation and a potential story that are definitely not superficial—a secret scientific project involving twins as well as a disgraced mayor who may be innocent. As in the first book, Lois is not only dealing with the mystery of the month but also negotiating her developing virtual relationship with SmallvilleGuy, a boy she met on a discussion board (for people who have seen strange things in the sky). Lois now communicates directly with SmallvilleGuy via a special app on her phone as well as meets him in an online gaming platform, Worlds War Three. Though she has never met him face to face and doesn't know his real name, it's clear that SmallvilleGuy is her best friend and someone she relies on. In this novel, there's a problem happening at SmallvilleGuy's end and this time, it might be Lois who needs to save the day. I don't want to get too much into the plot here because part of the fun is seeing how the story unfolds and figuring out what is going on. As I said before, Lois is a great combination of Veronica Mars and well, Lois Lane. She is constantly doing stupidly dangerous things for all the right reasons and is incapable of not helping someone in trouble. At the same time, she is a typical teen—worrying about curfew, trying to keep her grades up, worried about maintaining her friendship with Maddy, and unsure if she should take her relationship with SmallvilleGuy to the next level. I feel like Gwenda Bond is having a lot of fun with this and so, as a result, do I. The hardest thing about finishing this book is that I can't just jump to the next one, Netflix binge style; I have to wait for Bond to write it. Sigh.

I am miles outside the target demographic on this book - except that I've been a fan of Lois Lane since Teri Hatcher. (Ugh, I just made myself feel really old.) I thought that my favorite Lois would forever be Dana Delany's animated version, who is sharp and snarky and stubborn and dedicated and not afraid to do truly stupid things in the pursuit of a good story. But this Lois, the one Gwenda Bond has crafted, is all of those things, plus a wonderful, believable teenage girl finding her place and figuring out her future. In a word: amazing. And darn if these books don't have the cutest, sweetest, most squee-worthy Lois/Clark romance of all. I've heard there's some doubt about a third book in the series. That would be a crime, because Bond understands these characters better than anyone in Hollywood these days - and we the readers deserve to see what happens next!

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