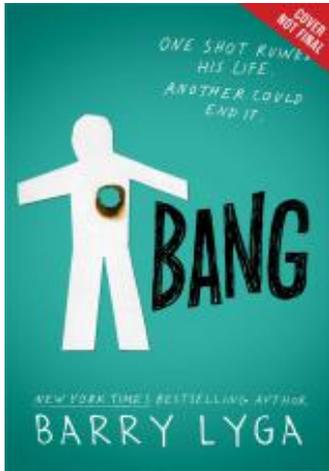


# Bang

by Barry Lyga

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## About the Book

**THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS, HATE LIST and FORGIVE ME, LEONARD PEACOCK** readers will appreciate this heartbreaking novel about living with your worst mistake from *New York Times* bestselling author Barry Lyga.

*A chunk of old memory, adrift in a pool of blood.*

Sebastian Cody did something horrible, something no one --- not even Sebastian himself --- can forgive. At the age of four, he accidentally shot and killed his infant sister with his father's gun.

Now, 10 years later, Sebastian has lived with the guilt and horror for his entire life. With his best friend away for the summer, Sebastian has only a new friend --- Aneesa --- to distract him from his darkest thoughts. But even this relationship cannot blunt the pain of his past. Because Sebastian knows exactly how to rectify his childhood crime and sanctify his past. It took a gun to get him into this.

Now he needs a gun to get out.

Unflinching and honest, BANG is the story of one boy and one moment in time that cannot be reclaimed, as true and as relevant as tomorrow's headlines.

## Discussion Guide

1. What were your first impressions when you started reading? Why is the first-person narrator so powerful for this story?
2. Why is the book divided into ?History,? ?Present,? and ?Tomorrow?? What effect does this narrative structure have

on the story while reading? What other unique narrative features did you notice?

3. What is the importance of Sebastian's friendship with Aneesa? How is it different from his friendship with Evan? Why is the timing of his new friendship with Aneesa significant?

4. Sebastian describes his room as "a museum to the old, to things I love." How does his room contrast with the rest of his house? How does he treat memories differently than his family? Why does Sebastian say his sister is in the memory hole, and does it affect how he treats his own things?

5. Why does Sebastian wait so long to tell Aneesa about his sister? Do you think it was a good idea?

6. This book is described as "ripped from the headlines." Why is this story so important for people to read? What impact did it have on you emotionally?

7. Sebastian admits that he never believed the adage, "Time heals all wounds," but has found a different kind of solution. Why is that phrase so commonly used as advice? Do you agree with Sebastian?

8. Why do we see the newspaper article at the end? Does it complete the story for the reader? Why or why not?

## Author Bio

Called a "YA rebel-author" by *Kirkus Reviews*, Barry Lyga has published seventeen novels in various genres in his eleven-year career, including the *New York Times* bestselling *I HUNT KILLERS*. His books have been or are slated to be published in more than a dozen different languages in North America, Australia, Europe, and Asia.

After graduating from Yale with a degree in English, Lyga worked in the comic book industry before quitting to pursue his lifelong love of writing. In 2006, his first young adult novel, *THE ASTONISHING ADVENTURES OF FANBOY AND GOTH GIRL*, was published to rave reviews, including starred reviews from *Booklist* and *School Library Journal*. *Publishers Weekly* named Lyga a "Flying Start" in December 2006 on the strength of the debut.

His second young adult novel, *BOY TOY*, received starred reviews in *SLJ*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Kirkus*. *VOYA* gave it its highest critical rating, and the *Chicago Tribune* called it "an astounding portrayal of what it is like to be the young male victim." His third novel, *HERO-TYPE*, according to *VOYA* "proves that there are still fresh ideas and new, interesting story lines to be explored in young adult literature."

Since then, he has also written *GOTH GIRL RISING* (the sequel to his first novel), as well as the *Archvillain* series for middle-grade readers and the graphic novel *MANGAMAN* (with art by Colleen Doran).

His latest series is *I Hunt Killers*, called by the *LA Times* "one of the more daring concepts in recent years by a young-adult author" and an "extreme and utterly alluring narrative about nature versus nurture." The first book landed on both the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestsellers lists.

Lyga lives and podcasts near New York City with his wife, Morgan Baden, and their nigh-omnipotent daughter. His comic book collection is a lot smaller than it used to be, but is still way too big.

Photo Credit: Devon John Photography.

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**Publication Date:** September 4, 2018

**Genres:** Fiction, Young Adult 12+

**Paperback:** 304 pages

**Publisher:** Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

**ISBN-10:** 0316315516

**ISBN-13:** 9780316315517