



Band Fags!

By Frank Anthony Polito

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"Ever since I first heard that Lionel Richie and Diana Ross song, 'Endless Love,' all I've wanted is to find The One. Someone to love. Who will love me back."

September, 1982. John Cougar's "Jack and Diane" is on endless radio rotation, and Dallas and Dynasty rule the ratings. Jack Paterno is a straight-A student living in the Detroit suburb of Hazel Park, with his own Atari 5200, a Beta VCR, and everything a seventh-grader could ask for. The only thing he has in common with foul-mouthed Brad Dayton, who lives on the gritty south side near 8 Mile, is that both are in Varsity Band. Or maybe that's not the only thing. Because Jack is discovering that while hanging around with girls in elementary school was perfectly acceptable, having lots of girl friends (as opposed to girlfriends) now is getting him and Brad labeled as Band Fags. And Jack is no fag. Is he?

As Jack and Brad make their way through junior high and then through Hazel Park High School, their friendship grows deeper and more complicated. From stealing furtive glances at *Playgirl* to discussing which celebrities might be like that, from navigating school cliques to dealing with crushes on girls and guys alike, Jack is trying to figure out who and what he is. He wants to find real, endless love, but he also wants to be popular and "normal." But, as Brad points out, this is real life--not a John Hughes movie. And sooner or later, Jack will have to choose.

Filled with biting wit and pitch-perfect observations, *Band Fags* is an exhilarating novel about lust and love, about the friendships that define and sometimes confine us, and about coming of age and coming to terms with the end of innocence and the beginning of something terrifying, thrilling, and completely unpredictable.

Advance praise for Band Fags!

"For those of us who came of age in the 80s, reading Frank Anthony Polito's novel is like being teleported back to high school. Filled with pop culture references that will have you saying, 'I remember that!,' this is a love letter to a time when happiness was a pair of Calvin Klein jeans, and every heartbreak

could be fixed by listening to your Bonnie Tyler or REO Speedwagon albums. Most important, though, it is a portrait of a friendship between two boys struggling to find themselves without losing each other."--Michael Thomas Ford, author of *Last Summer*

"With the Motor City running on empty in Reagan's America, Frank Anthony Polito's characters dance their mystery dance of teenage longing as if Motown never left for California. Sexy, funny, and wiser than it wants to be, *Band Fags!* pulses with a ragged beauty and bounces to its beat. I give it a 98.6." --Thorn Kief Hillsbery, author of *What We Do Is Secret*

"More than just a novel, *Band Fags!* is a virtual time machine that transports you smack dab into the cheesy heart of the 80's. It's like a queer *Wonder Years* as it follows Brad and Jack's memorable journey through high school hell. Screamingly funny, surprisingly charming and, ultimately, truly moving, it's a fresh take on the importance of friendship during the worst/best years of your life." --Brian Sloan, *A Really Nice Prom Mess* and *Tale of Two Summers*

"A consistently hilarious story of the best-friendship we all seem to have had, set in a time we can never seem to forget -- the totally awesome '80s -- *Band Fags!* never misses a beat in its affectionate, moment-by-moment chronicling of the complicated journey we take from cradle to closet to what lies beyond." --Matthew Rettenmund, author of *Boy Culture*

"*Band Fags!* is like the gay teen flick John Hughes never got around to making. Let's face it, there's a Band Fag in all of us and Frank Anthony Polito has his on speed dial. This book is a sweet, funny, deeply felt valentine to the wonder/horror of coming of age in the 1980's. You might just pee your parachute pants." --Dennis Hensley, author of *Misadventures in the (213)* and *Screening Party*

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Mess and Tale of Two Summers

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Editorial Review

Review

"Polito captures perfectly the acne and the angst of teen boys...with the agonies of raging hormones, lunchroom cliques...cute boys who keep their distance, and the heartbreak of adoring a female TV soap star too much." --Book Marks, Richard Labonte

"Band Fags!" is one of those rare books you may want to read not once but, like, totally a billion times. --H/X Magazine

Band Fags! explores the difficulties of growing up gay in the 1980s, all told with a sense of humor and affection for its characters. As you would expect from a playwright, *Band Fags!* shines with its clever dialogue and witty comments. --AfterElton

"If the words *Dallas*, *Dynasty* and the Go-Go's resonate with you, get this book." --IN Los Angeles

"The book jacket alone is enough to make anyone who loves a man in a white uniform with red trim quiver with glee..." --The Advocate

From the Author

If you enjoyed *Band Fags!* be sure to check out the official sequel "*A Christmas to Remember*" as featured in the collection *Remembering Christmas*.

From the Back Cover

"This book is a sweet, funny, deeply felt Valentine to the wonder/horror of coming of age in the 1980's."

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alicia Gentry:

Reading a e-book can be one of a lot of exercise that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new info. When you read a book you will get new information simply because book is one of many ways to share the information or their idea. Second, reading through a book will make you more imaginative. When you examining a book especially fiction book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to others. When you read this Band Fags!, you could tells your family, friends and also soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire average, make them reading a guide.

Avril Morris:

The e-book untitled Band Fags! is the book that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the

publication content that will be shown to a person. The language that writer use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of research when write the book, so the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of Band Fags! from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Preston Garza:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both everyday life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read is definitely Band Fags!.

Tommy Wright:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Band Fags!, you could enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its named reading friends.

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