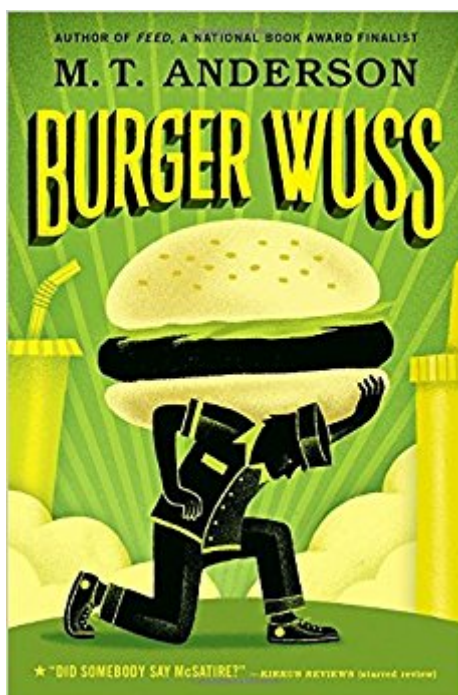


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# Burger Wuss



## Synopsis

M.T. Anderson, author of the award-winning THIRSTY, cooks up a story of love and betrayal, with a side order of revenge—and serves it all with comedic relish. Anthony has never been able to stand up for himself—that is, not until his girlfriend, Diana, is in someone else's arms. Then Anthony vows revenge and devises The Plan. It begins with getting a job at the fast-food restaurant where Turner (a.k.a. the guy who stole his girlfriend) happens to be a star employee. But when The Plan is finally assembled in this hilarious novel that PUBLISHERS WEEKLY called "both a tasty treat and a stinging satire," will Anthony's hunger for revenge be satisfied? And more important, will he prove he's not a wuss?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It looked to be a love story for the ages. They first met as she was handing over his order of a Big O sandwich, six-piece nuggets, small fries, and a medium chocolate shake. He had exact change. They spent a magical night together with a gang of young rebels, traipsing through town on a mission to correct grammatical errors in street signs and graffiti ("Drive Slowly"). But just when it seemed things couldn't be better, tragedy struck. Anthony caught his beloved Diana making out at a party with another guy. And what's worse, he was a high school graduate from the neighboring town, hailing only by his last name: Turner. Now Anthony must devise a vengeful plan by which he can humiliate his humiliator and win back his girl. M.T. Anderson, author of the darkly comic suburban vampire tale Thirsty, here turns his attention to the of-this-world horrors of high school romance and minimum-wage drudgery. The result is a hugely funny, fast-paced romp through teen

angst. Passages describing the O'Dermott's experience (the fast-food joint where Turner works and where Anthony gets a job as part of his evil plot) are spill-your-soda hilarious--obviously the words of someone who has lived the nightmare. Anthony laments, "It was hard not to feel ugly. Crusty. Doped. My fingernails were black. My shirt was stiff. My hair hung flat. My skin was shellacked with ambient lard." Not to mention the fact that he works side-by-side with his nemesis, his two best friends have fallen in subverbal saccharine love with each other, and his only hope is teaming up with Shunt, the vegan, anarchist grill cook. As Anderson clearly understands and as Anthony notes (while mustering the courage to kiss his archenemy's girlfriend), "There is a certain ferocity you need, to be a teenager in America." Indeed. (Ages 13 and older) --Brangien Davis --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

In a world where every teenager works at one fast food chain or another and likes it, Anthony just doesn't fit in. His first real girlfriend has dumped him for a meathead named Turner who works at O'Dermott's, so Anthony plots revenge. He gets a job at the restaurant and embarks on a complicated plot to pit the kids from Burger Queen against the kids from O'Dermott's and thereby draw the BQ wrath down on company-man Turner's head. Like Anderson's *Thirsty*, this book is a burlesque of teenage angst and conformist culture; the vacuous foundation of the vicious rivalry between the two food chains is underscored by a caustic portrayal of Anthony's two best friends, giddy with their own puppy love. They call each other "Ricky Licky" and "Jennster Junebug," have eyes for no one else, and then, after finally having intercourse, break up over a movie rental. Anarchist vagabond Shunt is Anthony's partner in his anti-conformity crimes: "I'm Shunt," he says, on Anthony's first day at work. "Welcome to corporate hell. Start screaming now." Although the ending is a little sudden and although Anthony's long delay in realizing that a girl can't be "stolen" makes him seem like a bit of a meathead himself, Anderson's witty tale of a lovelorn boy and his corporate antagonists is both a tasty read and a stinging satire. Ages 14-up. (Aug.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"Burger Wuss" is about a teenaged boy who starts dating the "girl of his dreams". It is bliss for a few months of them spending time together. He does not make any "moves" on her (though he thinks about it) because he respects her. Then, he finds her at a party underneath a faster boy- he wants revenge on the boy, but instantly forgives the girl. He begins to set a plan in motion to get revenge on the girlfriend-stealing-jerk... and that is the whole book. He gets hired at a burger joint (like McDonalds) to be closer to Turner (the jerk) but ends up getting tied in a whole bunch of knotted

relationships that are much more complex than he believes them to be. It is short and to the point= but maybe a bit too much to the point. I didn't believe the whole infatuation with Diana (the ex-girlfriend) I had barely met her before they were already breaking up because she was cheating on him. I didn't understand the "revenge" part either. If the kid had any sense, he'd be angry at Diana, not Turner. He frustrated me, but I guess that's what teenagers do. The only redeeming character was Shunt. He was a misfit who wanted to bring down the entire burger conglomeration- that they were abusing the animals before they were cut up. Shunt's character was believable and almost entertaining- and even interesting. The rest of the people were flat and didn't have much of a story. And Shunt only took up about 10 pages. He wasn't in the story much until near the end. If you liked MT Anderson's style of writing in this book (repeatedly saying "like" and run-on sentences) then you will probably like "Feed". It was a much better book of his and had a great plot.

Hilarious

A wickedly funny Zindelian spin on teen love, the male code of behavior, and corporate food companies. Condiment trolls, bullies, and teen sweethearts! Gotta love rebel "Shunt," and feel for Anthony's broken heart! Also, a disgusting yet hilarious "Farrelly Brothers" type moment, for those into that sort of thing (read it and find out!) Mr. Anderson just may inherit the late Paul Z.'s throne as emperor of delightfully offbeat fiction about -- but not only for -- teens 5 stars and an order of fries!

What a great book. An amazing portrait of small town culture, and fast food in general. What I especially liked was the depth of each character -- there was compassion for the villain, while the hero wasn't perfect either.

I feel this particular book was not worth the money in my opinion and was meant for a youth reader.

This book was boring, it was written at a young reading level. I quit reading in the middle. I don't recommend this book for anyone 8th grade or over.

Anthony catches his girlfriend Diana kissing Turner and all hell breaks loose. At a fast food joint, Anthony works side by side with Turner, who harasses and humiliates him any chance he gets. Plots are hatched. Fast food restaurants compete with each other while Anthony attempts to get back at Turner for stealing Diana. This novel is humorous and fast-paced. Also, I don't read enough

books with male main characters, so this was a nice change in my reading habits. And after reading this, I'll think twice about what goes on behind the counters at fast food restaurants. Who knows what drama ensues beyond the uniforms and grease.

I enjoyed *Burger Wuss* immensely. I'm not a fast reader and I admit it took me two days to read it. But every chance I had, I'd pick it up and plow through 10-15 more pages. (It's a fast just-under-200 page book.) The main character Anthony is flawed. He's a shy, nice guy who finally gets a "dream" girl for a while before she humiliates him by making out with another guy at a party. Their fling is over. Anthony is distraught and seeks revenge on the guy who "stole" her. Of course, he should blame the girl just as much or more. But that's not how he, nor most teenage boys, would think. I found Anthony to be very cleverly drawn. The author takes you into his head and Anthony's thoughts are often a mishmash of tidbits hitting him from every direction. He tends to repeat himself. Uh, I believe that's what happens when you're obsessed with someone. Furthermore, I enjoyed the details the author brings in regarding the operation of a burger joint. It's obvious that he had had experience in such a place (or knows someone who has). The major characters are well-drawn and believable. An exception would be the manager of O'Dermott's (the hamburger joint) who comes across as a total corporate toady. Also, the character of Shunt, the most idiosyncratic of all the kids, is a bit too well informed, but I forgive that for the comedy he brings to the story. I thought the dialogue between the teenagers was spot on, not in the least literary, just the usual junk you'd hear in such situations. It's not like kids have deep, meaningful conversations (using proper grammar) that often. Turner, the object of Anthony's hatred, is a thoroughly despicable human being and I found myself really rooting for Anthony to succeed in his schemes. I suffered with him. I was disappointed with the ending, not because it was unrealistic, but because it was logical. Bullies don't usually become nice guys, shy kids don't grow cajones overnight. Over time, this might happen, but the book doesn't span twenty years. Also I found a softball game played on a totally flooded field to be a bit of a stretch, but M.T. Anderson fooled me in other ways by having scenes end up opposite to what I expected to happen, yet they still rang true. Props for that. Anderson has a delightfully warped sense of humor and injects pieces of fun that made me start reading short selections to my girl friend, whether she invited them or not. My favorite was the group of kids who go around and "vandalize" public property by correcting the grammatical errors on signs and even on graffiti. Hilarious. *Burger Wuss* was a pleasant surprise. For me it was an absolute page-turner and I was disappointed when it ended. Tremendous movie potential here. I will definitely visit Anderson's other work.

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