



***The Breakaways* by Cathy G. Johnson**

First Second, Macmillan Publishers, 2019

ISBN: 9781626723573 (trade paperback)

\*Age Range: 8-11 (suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 4-8 (recommended by *School and Library Journal*)

---

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

Quiet, sensitive Faith starts middle school already worrying about how she will fit in. To her surprise, Amanda, a popular eighth grader, convinces her to join the school soccer team, the Bloodhounds. Having never played soccer in her life, Faith ends up on the C team, a ragtag group that's way better at drama than at teamwork. Although they are awful at soccer, Faith and her teammates soon form a bond both on and off the soccer field that challenges their notions of loyalty, identity, friendship, and unity.

The Breakaways from Cathy G. Johnson is a raw, and beautifully honest graphic novel that looks into the lives of a diverse and defiantly independent group of kids learning to make room for themselves in the world.

---

### REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“Groundbreaking—and as complicated as middle school.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

“A down-to-earth friendship story for readers of Svetlana Chmakova’s *Awkward*, Jennifer L. Holm’s *Sunny Side Up*, and Raina Telgemeier’s *Drama*.” —[School Library Journal](#)

“Johnson’s graphic novel will resonate with readers who are figuring out who they are and where they belong.” —[Publishers Weekly](#)

---

### MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [The Beat](#) (review)
- [Page 45](#) (review)
- [Smash Pages](#) (interview)

---

### \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the

Updated March 20, 2025

Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group

mary.vanakin@macmillan.com

appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.