



Another Castle: Grimoire

Andrew Wheeler , Paulina Ganucheau (Illustrator) , Jenny Vy Tran (Letterer)

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We are thrilled to invite you on a journey of courage, friendship, and rebellion—Another Castle: Grimoire! This volume gathers all the issues from the hit comic book series centered on the adventures of Princess Misty of Beldora, whose courageous spirit leads to her capture, and ultimately, to a heroic adventure that spans two kingdoms.

Our tale begins when Princess Misty of Beldora, who longs for a more exciting life, gets more than she bargained for when she is captured by Lord Badlug, the ruler of the neighboring kingdom of Grimoire. He intends to marry her and conquer Beldora, leading the land into ruin and chaos. The people of Grimoire already suffer under his rule and desperately need a hero... luckily, Badlug has just kidnapped one! Together with the citizens of Grimoire and a certain bumbling prince, Misty must fight to protect her kingdom and free both realms from Badlug's tyrannical rule. Misty is determined not to be another damsel in distress; and with her new friends to protect, she'll discover just what it takes to be the hero of the story.

Another Castle: Grimoire Details

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Author : Andrew Wheeler , Paulina Ganucheau (Illustrator) , Jenny Vy Tran (Letterer)

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From Reader Review Another Castle: Grimoire for online ebook

Rebecca says

I think my favorite part of this was that the princess was both feminine AND kickass - she didn't have to reject her femininity in order to save the day, and wearing pink dresses didn't make her any less of a good fighter. We don't see that sort of acceptance often enough.

Ellyn → Allonsythornraxx says

04 January, 2017

01.01.2017

I just got this on Netgalley and am pretty hyped about it. I love Ganucheau's artwork so I can't wait to get to this.

I received a free copy from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

A story with brilliant art and a kickass heroine, what more could you ask for?

Things to look out for:

- The artwork
- The writing
- The kickass Heroine
- Race and sexuality not being used as a plot point

I assumed that I would enjoy this because I've heard great things about Ganucheau's previous works but this comic really went beyond my expectations.

Paulina Ganucheau's artwork is adorable and bright. All of the characters look amazing and none of them look the same, they all have their own unique qualities and shapes. Throughout the comic we meet a whole world of different monsters and by the end of the story they end up coexisting with each other. The monster all look astounding, they are all different and they're not too scary either!

I also loved the writing, there is no stilted conversation and all of the dialogue sounded natural and like stuff a normal teenager would say. Andrew Wheeler created an impressive, beautiful and strong-willed princess. Misty, the main character of this comic is a princess who is actually trying to defend her kingdom instead of just hanging about and providing support when required.

Something I really loved about this comic and one of Paulina Ganucheau's other works is the diversity, somics are really stepping up! Not only do we not have an all white, all straight cast but we have humans and

monsters in healthy relationships with each other. The characters really make this comic!

Release Date ~ February 28th 2017

Anusha Narasimhan says

[There is the idea that monsters can be nice too. The dashing righteous heir to the throne is a Person of Color. I liked how a homosexual relationship was casually mentioned, without making a big deal about it. And no, the kickass princess is not exactly a tomboy either. She likes her dresses and makeovers and wants to fight too. Yes, wom

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

I have to admit, I am very ambivalent about Another Castle. On the one hand, I really appreciate that this gives us a strong heroine who does all the saving herself. Similarly, the cast is diverse and there are some good messages in there about breaking stereotypes and letting people be who they want to be. But at the same time, the plotting was off, the panels lacking fluidity, the storyline extremely simplistic, and the characters lacking nuance and depth. I'm guessing from the Disney-esque heroine design that young girls and boys are the target audience and I think they will enjoy this fairy tale.

Story: Princess Misty doesn't wish to marry and instead wants to take up the kingdom's magical sword and defeat the evil Badlug. When Badlug tricks her into surrendering herself to save her kingdom, she feels all is lost. But she makes friends among the monsters at Badlug's kingdom and soon finds ways to fight back. At the same time, her fiance, a nice if somewhat bumbling prince, will use the magical sword to fight to get to her. But Badlug has his own allies and soon Princess Misty must use all her resources to help save two kingdoms - Badlug's Grimoire and her own Beldora.

Author Wheeler cited video games of the hero saving the princess as his inspiration and I can't help but feel the Dragon's Lair video games of the 1990s must have been that influence. Our heroine is feisty, sure, but she doesn't really have to use her brain so much as circumstance to figure out how to outwit the somewhat dim villain and his one-dimensional henchmen. All the typical fairy tale tropes are here: a dragon a prince and princess, and an evil single-minded bad guy. But of course, the prince and princess changed roles, the sword is bright pink, and hey, the monsters are people too!

Artwork inspiration was listed as coming from Legend of Zelda, Magic Knight Rayearth, and Dragon Age. But honestly, it felt more like a cross between He-Man (Badlug looks to be the son of Skeletor and Hitler, oddly enough) and The Little Mermaid (Ariel and the princess Misty of this story are dead ringers). Missing for me was the charm of Zelda, the heart of Dragon Age, and the subversive pluck of Magic Knights Rayearth. The art is nice and easy to follow but if you've seen one Don Bluth movie, you've seen these characters before (minus the songs, of course).

I had a hard time with the panels/layout. There were odd segues that could have been drawn differently to help the story flow better. E.g., characters would suddenly appear or a scene would abruptly change without

enough transition information to help it make sense. I found I had to go back to reread several times, assuming I had missed something. Layouts could have been much tighter and thought out better, to be honest.

I did like the side characters, even in their simplicity. Misty was a bit overwritten to pound in that she's fierce and the plot was kind of silly and all over the place. As such, the lack of sophistication means this is likely to appeal to a fairly young audience. But I do feel that toddler and elementary school level readers will really enjoy this story of a plucky princess who saves the kingdoms and promotes democracy and harmony among races. Most importantly, you can see the author and artist's hearts clearly in this work (a rare thing these days in the graphic novel medium). Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

Fleur (FranklyBooks) says

Occasionally, you'll come across a sweet and short book that was nothing more than a good story. This was only *kind of* that book.

At first glance, *Another Castle* is one of those feel-good stories. It's loud and fun. The art is reminiscent of Princess Peach from the Mario franchise and the characters didn't have quite as much depth as one might have hoped. They had just enough for you to enjoy their presence, but not enough to form a complex character. Therefore, when there was a happy ending, it was satisfying but not truly meaningful. Yet there is still a moral to the story. It was just stated very plainly.

In that sense, it was quite like a children's book. The message is "*gender stereotypes are bad*". Wheeler demonstrates this by subverting the traditional roles of the heroic prince and damsel in distress princess. He also touches on racism by using the monsters as the outsiders or oppressed. None of this is done very subtly, but it is done well. It would be a good book for children (although it's a fun read for adults as well).

Read this if you like:

- princesses kicking ass and taking names
- princes who are a little useless, but sweet all the same
- monsters who might be terrifying on the outside, but are beautiful on the inside
- dragons and witches

Bill says

Harkening back to the strong, skilled, and resourceful female fantasy characters of my childhood (She-Ra and Amethyst coming to mind), Princess Misty is not a passive character waiting to be rescued -- she fights her own battles and sees her capture as an opportunity to undermine the reign of her captor from within. Lots of interesting world-building, complex characters, and welcome diversity make this a unique and entertaining story with a satisfyingly complete arc in one volume.

[Read via the Comixology Unlimited service rather than print]

Ronyell says

I would like to thank NetGalley and Oni Press for providing me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Introduction:

Now, even though I had read many graphic novels that featured a strong female protagonist, I had never read a graphic novel about a kick butt princess quite like this one! “Another Castle: Grimoire” is a cute and exciting graphic novel that is written by Andrew Wheeler along with artwork by Paulina Ganucheau that will certainly be a memorable and exciting read for many readers!

What is this story about?

Princess Misty of Beldora is not your average princess as she is able to defend herself easily with her trusty sword and refuses to bow down to the conformities of being a princess. One tragic day however, Princess Misty is kidnapped by Lord Badlug, the ruler of the kingdom Grimoire and Lord Badlug tries to force Misty to marry him or else he will destroy her kingdom and even the citizens of Grimoire to get the power he desires. As Misty remains in Grimoire, she ends up befriending Lord Badlug’s two servants Gorga, a beautiful female medusa monster and Fogmoth, a homosexual gargoyle and together, they try to take down Lord Badlug himself by trying to save the Prince who is not only coming to rescue Misty, but also possesses Misty’s precious sword, the one weapon that could destroy Lord Badlug!

What I loved about this story:

Andrew Wheeler’s writing: Wow! I was quite impressed with Andrew Wheeler’s writing of this story as it was truly unique and fresh for the audience! I loved the fact that Andrew Wheeler made Princess Misty into such a strong female protagonist as it was rare of me to read a princess story that dealt with the princess actually trying to defend her kingdom through wit and courage while swinging around a sword like it is nobody’s business! I also liked the fact that Andrew Wheeler was able to explore Misty’s insecurities about not being who she wants to be because since she is a princess, she is expected to do activities that princesses should do, which she does not agree with and I loved the fact that she rebelled against the stereotypical activities of a princess and be her own person. I really enjoyed the diversity among the characters as it brings a sense of creativity to the story as we see monsters and humans get into relationships with each other, which I thought was really cute and I enjoyed seeing the character interactions between all these characters as you can see that the main characters try to defy the rules they are forced into by their societies and they become closer to each other as a result!

Paulina Ganucheau’s artwork: Paulina Ganucheau’s artwork is extremely cute and gorgeous to look at as all the characters look similar to the characters from “Avatar: The Last Airbender.” I really loved the design of Gorga herself as she is a blue skinned cute monster woman who has a pair of adorable snakes that stand in as her hair, which makes her the cutest character in the entire story! I also enjoyed seeing the images of monsters and humans coexisting with each other as it creates an exciting fantasy world that I would love to

live in!

What made me feel uncomfortable about this story:

For anyone who does not like violence in a story, this graphic novel does have some violence that involves many characters getting beaten up and bruised by the antagonists and that might be a bit unsettling for some readers to handle; although the violence in this story is not as graphic as some of the more mature graphic novels like "Saga" and "American Vampire."

Final Thoughts:

Overall, "Another Castle: Grimoire" is a fantastic volume about the importance of standing up for what you believe in and a great story to read if you are looking for a strong female protagonist!

Review is also on: Rabbit Ears Book Blog

Collin says

Mergh... I'm on the fence. I like the idea. I like the art a LOT. But it's so... unsubtle. Like, at every turn you're getting the whole "MISTY isn't like OTHER USELESS PRINCESSES" vibe, the "MISTY is KICKBUTT and you should LOVE HER" vibe, even though there wasn't a whole lot to her. Idk, I just think she would have been as strong a character as, say, Gorga, if the writer hadn't been so obsessed with making her Cool And Feminist (which is different from being cool and feminist, it's all in the capitalization, you feel me). And then the whole bit with Robin was just a vague basic political/social tract and while it's not BAD politics/social tract stuff, it's politics/social tract stuff with very little else to go with Robin, who I really would have liked otherwise. How did he and Fogmoth meet, what does he actually do, where is the rest of his family? His whole character was wasted by having him just be the Jaded Political Messenger.

Tl;dr, if the book hadn't been walloping me in the face with the Point of it all, it would have been a lot more fun to read.

Artemis says

'Another Castle: Grimoire' is a fun fantasy graphic novel that is, appropriately enough, like a classic video game presented in another art form. It's a simple story with themes of rebellion and empowerment in all sorts of ways - nothing special, but enjoyable. The art is by the same person who worked on 'Zodiac Starforce', Paulina Ganucheau, and that ranks the book high in my, ahem, book. It is passionate, and adorable.

Artemisia, or Misty, is a princess who wants to kill an evil king, Badlug, using the only sword that can do the

task. But her selfless, noble heart gets her locked up in his castle and forced to be his bride so he can rule over her kingdom of Beldora. It is Misty the story focuses on while, in the background, her "prince" comes to try to rescue her. She doesn't wait around for a mini-second, and by her own efforts, she uncovers the horrific truth behind Grimoire, the kingdom of monsters. With the help of Badlug's equally-trapped servants, the princess vows to set Grimoire free from tyranny, and kill her captor once and for all.

We've seen the rebellious princess trope so many times now that we've become as sick of it as we had the passive fairy tale princess trope that's existed since storytelling began. But at least Princess Misty, who excels with a sword and is as assertive and smart as they come, also likes dresses and jewelry, plus pink. There is more to her than any boxed gender stereotypes.

'Another Castle' is about Misty wanting freedom - from her external prison and to be whoever she wants, never ruling anywhere; alone or alongside anyone else. There's a revenge motif to her character; part of her motivation for going against Badlug is a vendetta for her mother's death years beforehand. She is hard yet kind, and cries in practically every chapter. That just makes her more brave and worth rooting for.

There is also a homosexual couple going through an on-and-off-again breakup that's a small detail to the story and not made a big deal of at all. Female friendships and sisterhood are put to the forefront. Fantastical racism with goblins and monsters - overcoming racism and loving and helping each other despite our differences really is a theme that is everywhere nowadays, and in fact was always around and we didn't care to see it until we realized how important it truly is to see in fiction right now. To that I say, "Good, keep it up, everyone always needs to be reminded about equality."

Overall 'Another Castle: Grimoire' isn't particularly groundbreaking. The villain Badlug is one-dimensional (he is just like Skeletor from 'He-Man', only not nearly as entertaining or memorable), and Princess Misty, however good she is, doesn't stand out much in comparison to the other colourful and charming characters (the monsters, including Gorga the half-gorgon, are funny and great to know over the course of the story). But as a comic for all ages, it is an exciting adventure. Energetic and not too violent, it is a fun-packed homage to eighties' Saturday morning cartoons and arcade games, notably Nintendo's 'Super Mario' and 'The Legend of Zelda'.

For a progressive, feminist dragon quest about hope, go read 'Another Castle'. The princess is in another castle, because she escaped and is on the move towards justice.

Final Score: 3.5/5

Cat (cat-thecatidy) says

the art, the message, the plot, everything!! this comic is amazing. I was so pleasantly surprised by it, it was like a breeze of fresh air. bring me more please!

full review here: <https://catshelf.wordpress.com/2016/1...>

Katelyn Powers says

This is easily one of my favorite graphic novel/comic series I've read in the last year. It stars a young adult princess, who's kingdom is at stake from an evil monster/king/warlord. Her father is pressing her to marry to strengthen the kingdom's alliances, but she cares more about saving the kingdom herself!

Lots of great characters, detail, and storytelling in only a few short issues. Plus, Paulina Ganucheau's art is what it always is: beautiful, gripping, captivating, and brings the story to life.

I would definitely recommend this to anyone and everyone.

Sesana says

Neither a traditional damsel in distress story nor a nearly as traditional inversion. Artemisia, or Misty, is not content to wait in a tower to be rescued, nor does she run into the heat of battle, sword swinging. Instead, she largely works behind the scenes, though no less bravely than the prince who has set out to rescue her. And with a delightfully nontraditional happy ending, I'm pretty much entirely charmed by this book.

Maggie Gordon says

Another Castle: Grimoire is a delightful all-ages comic about a princess trying to figure out what the right thing to do is in a nation ruled by a tyrant. Give in to marrying him after he kidnaps her just means that his evil will continue, but the last princess who refused him was killed along with all the kingdom residents. What's an angry princess to do? To make matters worse, she needs a special sword to defeat the evil king, but her betrothed has it and he's just... not so great with swords.

The book has many feminist themes, queer characters, and lots of interesting concepts to chat about with the kiddies. The story is strong, with lots of diverse, interesting characters, and vibrant art. There's a good dose of humour, though serious moments too. It's nothing particularly novel, but a strong, fun comic for an age group that needs more interesting stuff!

Victoria ? says

The art in this was lovely but I'm glad it was only one volume...

Paige says

Adorable! Picked this up because of the gorgon character, wonderful plot with all of the lady power! Paulina Ganucheau's art is simply stunning, if you haven't picked up Zodiac Starforce yet (why haven't you?) definitely recommend all of Paulina's work.
