



Ghost Friends Forever #1

Monica Gallagher, Kata Kane (Illustrations)

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Sophia Campos is only just getting used to her new life with her divorced dad and managing their business of helping ghosts, when she meets a ghost girl who changes everything. Not because she's a ghost - but because of what it brings out in Sophia.

Soon her brother, her best friend, her old crush Jake, and her parents are all entangled together on solving the case of the dead girl. Because she's not just any average ghost girl. She also holds a piece of the puzzle to something Sophia cares about very much -what was the paranormal event that caused her parents to split up in the first place?

Ghost Friends Forever brings together YALSA-nominated writer Monica Gallagher and rising star Kata Kane. For fans of Nancy Drew and Scooby-Doo.

Ghost Friends Forever #1 Details

Date : Published December 19th 2017 by Papercutz

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Author : Monica Gallagher , Kata Kane (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Ghost Friends Forever #1 for online ebook

Candis says

Overall, Ghost Friends Forever #1 (GFFs) had a unique storyline, cute characters, and an eye-catching illustration style. However, it wasn't the story for me. As a more advanced reader, character and plot development is very important to me. Unfortunately, this story lacked both. I liked the concept of the Campos family owning a paranormal services business. As well as, Sophia falling in love with a ghost while solving her first paranormal mystery. It's a unique plot!

The story revolves around the theme of all sorts of relationships: family, platonic, and romantic. That's an excellent foundation for a story, but I personally did not feel connected to any of characters or their relationships.

Upon meeting Whitney, Sophia feels a special connection with her. Their connection is very sweet, but at the same time the progression of their relationship is extremely rushed. After only knowing each other for a few days, the pair professes their love for one another. It's very insta-love, which did not feel realistic, or genuine. It is hard to imagine such a connection, when there isn't a lot of heartfelt dialogue between the girls. I think adding a few more scenes of Sophia and Whitney getting to know each other would have helped establish the special bond they have.

It's really important that the story touched on Sophia's family dynamic. Naturally, the divorce of their parents greatly affected Sophia, and Felix. By their family being divided, their relationship as siblings has been negatively impacted. While working together to solve Whitney's murder, the siblings start to mend their broken relationship.

It's amazing how many authors nowadays are writing stories about LGBTQ+ relationships including Monica Gallagher. I love the LGBTQ+ representation in Ghost Friends Forever #1, but Sophia's journey of self-discovery was missing for me. I wanted to know more thoroughly how Sophia felt when she discovered that she may be bisexual. As well as gain an insight to Sophia's romantic feelings for Whitney – the first girl (and ghost) she's ever had a crush on.

Fortunately, Volume 1 of Ghost Friends Forever had a pretty decent conclusion. Most importantly, Sophia, Felix, and Jake unmasked Whitney's murderer. In addition, Sophia and her brother learned why their parents divorced, which in turn helped mend their broken relationship.

Volume 1 leaves us with a cliffhanger. When Linda tries to banish Whitney's soul, she opens a supernatural vortex. To close the vortex, Whitney enters it leaving Sophia wondering if she'll ever see her again. A week later, Sophia finds a note from Whitney, which gives her hope that this isn't the end for them...

I gave Ghost Friends Forever: My Heart Lies in the 90s... 3 out of 5 stars. GFFs was a pleasant read, but the graphic novel did not leave a lasting impression on me. Therefore, I'm not planning on continuing the series. Even though GFFs wasn't my cup of tea, I think a Middle Grade audience might better appreciate its youthful tone. Although, I truly believe this is a story I would have picked up as a kid.

To read my full review, check out my blog post: <https://bit.ly/2C19XGu>

Rachel says

I did enjoy this, I just think the execution needed a little work. Some better panel layout (I found myself reading them in the wrong order from time to time) and a little longer to flesh out some parts would make this great. As it is, it's a fun read still. I mean, I am always down for girls kissing.

B says

Good graphic that leaves you hanging.

Better for YA then middle grades, there is some issues of love\ex-boyfriend\LGBT that may be complicated to explain to a younger reader.

I liked how they worked together as a family- and there was hope that the family would be reunited maybe in the next book?

Laura says

First I should say what I liked. I liked that the ghost is lesbian, and it isn't a big deal. I like that Sophia tries to solve the murder on her own. I liked the mystery, and the concept of the story.

Here is what I didn't like. The whole story was very forgettable. So forgettable that I forgot that I had read it, and had to go in and reread it so I could remember what happened the first time. There is a lot of running around, and trying to figure out things, her parents' divorce, and a lot of mean girl stuff thrown in for good measure.

Either the characters should have been more developed, or the story should have been shorter. As it was I didn't really care about her parents divorce. I didn't really care about much of anything. The story feels unfinished, and perhaps there are more in the series, and some things left unresolved will work their way out.

Thanks to Netgalley for making this book available for an honest review.

Manon says

This was hella cute. Good characters, interesting dynamics, pretty great plot.

I want more.

Andrea says

Imagine meeting the girl of your dreams... except she's a ghost! Sophia is a paranormal investigator, at least now that her parents have split up and dissolved their family business that's what she's telling ghosts. Right away she meets this really cute and interesting ghost, Whitney, who died in 1996 by a bridge. Sophia isn't

entirely sure what to do on her own, and after her parents split she went with her dad who sells herbs and potions, while her slightly younger brother, Felix, goes with their mom who still does some spiritual consulting. Her ex-boyfriend, Jake, does some meddling and tries to reunite her with her brother, and once angrily teamed up, the trio tries to figure out what happened to Whitney. Except things are complicated because Felix is still angry, Jake is still into Sophia, Felix and Sophia don't know why their parents split up, and there's something weird about Jake's teacher, Miss Fairweather.

I liked the story in this graphic novel, loved the drawing of Sophia, but didn't really like the overall art style personally. It looked like too much of a cheesy anime and I could hear their annoyingly bubble gum happy voices. Though, I really like that this deals with family issues, and the main character is questioning her sexuality, and she and her brother are biracial. So, probably a 3.5 for me, but I'd still read the next book to see how all of the relationships progress.

Tina (As Told By Tina) says

3.5

Maggie Gordon says

Cute, but a bit too compressed for my tastes. Can our romantic leads have a chance to get to know each other before they are in lurve? On the other hand, props for a bisexual protagonist, and on-page lady-on-lady kisses! The story deals with a family split by divorce, some sibling drama, and ghosts! I would probably eaten it up when I was younger despite my adult complaints about a lack of build-up :)

Rachel McKitterick says

thank you to Netgalley and Papercutz for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

4 stars.

I had no idea that this was also a lesbian themed graphic novel! It was SO adorable and heartfelt. Plus it was about a (broken) family who are paranormal investigators. The daughter lives with the dad and the son lives with the mother. The kids want so badly to get the family back together and the heart felt emotions were evident. The kids are obviously in pain, struggling with the separation of their parents and have avoided talking to each other. Well at the beginning anyway. The story then takes us to a ghost who died in the mid 90s and that Sophia can see. She wants to help Whitney (the ghost) remember what had happened to her all those years ago. I was really really pleased with this and I can't wait until the next in the series comes out! After that little bit of a message at the end, I'm really interested for book number 2!

Mehsi says

I received this book from Netgalley in exchange of an honest review.

What starts as a way for Sophia to get on with her parents' ghost business turns into so much more, and I was just squeezing in delight every page that Sophia and Whitney got closer and closer, and I was worried and angry (at who did that) when Sophia couldn't see Whitney. Would she be able to see her again?

This book sure was a ride. I loved how Whitney and Sophia connected. They had an instant bond, and I just adored it. Sophia could tell Whitney all sorts of things, and Whitney was there to listen and give advice.

I liked figuring out what happened to Whitney, who the culprit was, and the reasons why it happened. I liked that it wasn't a reveal that happened instantly, instead it took much longer and was spread over the entire book.

Plus due to Whitney other things also came to light + it gave the parents a bit more of a spotlight.

We don't really find out much about why the parents got divorced. Yes, we get some hints, but not much. Something big happened, but that is it. Frankly, given that they still seem to love/care about each other I don't see why they even divorced in the first place. Did someone threaten them or their kids? I don't know. Hopefully we get some more answers in the next book.

The brother? What a terrible dorkweed that was. I am sorry that your best friend has a crush on your sister, but no need to go angry when she doesn't reciprocate those feelings and instead falls for someone different. Gee. And then there are many other times I just wanted to hurl him off a cliff. :|

I also didn't like what Jake and Whitney did at one point, it just felt out of place and weird. Plus later on it is like it never happened....

Then there was a problem with pacing issues. At times we are at x location and the next page is a whole different location. But you haven't had the feeling these characters actually moved. At times I just checked the page numbers to make sure that I was actually at the next page and not a few pages further. Case in point, after the parenting conference the mom returns home with notes from the kid and confronts him, the next page however is our group at the bridge again. And there are other instances in the story. It is quite jarring.

The art was so-so. It was a bit weird how a lot of the adults looked like teens (especially the dad) whereas the teens looked either older or their age. Perspectives are also a bit wonky at times (what is up with the giant teacher in one of the later pages?).

But all in all, this book definitely had its good moments. Whitney x Sophia (ship ship ship), the mystery of what happened to Whitney, the big battle/ending, that sweet thing on the last page, Sophia was a great character, I loved that each parent had something they were good in regarding the ghosts.

I will be reading the second volume when that one comes out.

Review first posted at <https://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Kristin says

This has a plot and characters as flimsy as the ghosts in it. Hardly a page goes by where somebody *isn't* blushing.

Gracie (MARVELousBooks) says

Oh my freaking god.

74 pages of awesomeness and everything was adorable and AH I JUST CANT

Amber says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. GFF #1 started off to be pretty interesting. A family torn apart by an event they won't talk about. A teenage girl just wants to fit in and for things to go back to normal. On her way to school, Sophia decides to take a shortcut because she is running late. She runs into a ghost named Whitney who appears to be a reoccurring apparition at an old covered wooden bridge. Since ghost "counseling" runs in the family, Sophia decides that if she can solve why Whitney is stuck at the bridge, she might be able to fix what is wrong with her parents and get them back together. On the other side of town is Felix, Sophia's brother, and his friend Jake, Sophia's ex. When Jake stops and talks to Sophia to see how she is doing, he sees that she is up to something and recruits her brother to help with the problem. Once Sophia gets to know Whitney, she feels compelled to help but also is afraid to lose her new "friend". On a chance meeting during a full moon, Whitney becomes solid and decides to take things a little further, which makes things a lot more complicated for Sophia. On top of her parents recent divorce, her ex and brother following her around and meddling with her "professional service", Sophia is now dealing with feelings she never thought she would have towards a girl. I liked the context of the story but I didn't care for how it developed. It changed very rapidly and didn't seem well developed towards the middle and end. With some editing and a bit more filler (details), I think this could be a great graphic novel. I do like the idea of a strong headed female-lead figuring things out for herself and finding out about herself and what she does and does not like.

Rod Brown says

The heavy-handed writing-down-to-kids tone told me early on that I was not the intended audience. There were some elements to like in this tale of a family of paranormal investigators dealing with divorce and the newly discovered ghost of a murdered teenager, including the LGBTQ themes, but the storytelling and art were just too wooden and clumsy.

The previews included for Stitched #1: The First Day of the Rest of her Life and Scarlet Rose #1: "I Knew I'd Meet You" looked pretty awful. Definitely not reading those.

Stephanie says

A very cute story with a different kind of romance and a fun mystery.

Sophia and her brother, Felix's parents are ghost hunters. They had a paranormal family business until their

parents got a divorce. Sophia meets a ghost named Whitney and decides to help her herself. She learns more and more about Whitney's murder but also learns about herself along the way. Felix tries to stop her from solving the mystery and tries to banish Whitney's ghost, but ends up causing more harm than good. This was a great story of self-acceptance and a great murder mystery with an awesome AHA moment!
