



Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom

Gigi D.G.

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What happens when an evil queen gets her hands on an ancient force of destruction?

World domination, obviously.

The seven kingdoms of Dreamside need a legendary hero. Instead, they'll have to settle for Cucumber, a nerdy magician who just wants to go to school. As destiny would have it, he and his way more heroic sister, Almond, must now seek the Dream Sword, the only weapon powerful enough to defeat Queen Cordelia's Nightmare Knight.

Can these bunny siblings really save the world in its darkest hour?

Sure, why not?

Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom Details

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From Reader Review Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom for online ebook

First Second Books says

Join nerdy magician Cucumber and his feisty knight-in-training little sister, Almond, as they set out to retrieve the Dream Sword, the only weapon powerful enough to defeat Evil Queen Cordelia's Nightmare Knight. Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom is the first of a series of delightfully pun-filled middle grade graphic novel that anyone would love!

Lola says

What a sweet story.

A true feast to the eyes. I could devour it any time of day. Alright, alright, I will stop, because I could go on like this forever.

But I did like it. So much. It doesn't take itself seriously, so you know from the start that this is a graphic novel for you to enjoy and clear your mind with.

It tries hard to be funny, that I admit, however I personally found it pleasant, clever and very entertaining. I may have chuckled a few times too.

It's EXTREMELY light, so don't go on thinking you'll be able to compare it to Harry Potter because the worlds have nothing in common and neither do the characters (except maybe Cucumber's interest in magic, but that isn't much illustrated).

Each character is memorable. I swear, you'd think it'd be easy to connect to a character that you're able to *see*, but if you read many graphic novels, you know by now that personality matters the most. So if I loved these characters it's not because they looked lovely or interesting, it's because they were uniquely developed by the author.

When is the next out? I need.

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Nat says

I nearly jumped with joy at the sight of this book on my library shelves, which made quite the show for my little sister accompanying me that day. This is just the perfect read to share with your younger sibling.

What happens when an evil queen gets her hands on an ancient force of destruction?

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It didn't take all too long for this book to impress me at once. **Cucumber Quest** is the perfect combination of featuring visually stunning art, hilarious one-liners, and fully-fleshed characters.

THAT LAST PANEL MADE ME LAUGH OUT LOUD.

I appreciated how this book veered from the usual "heroic" arc and tackles often-used (ridiculous) tropes* from fairytales with creative and playful jabs. **Cucumber Quest** not taking itself too serious was a highlight, for sure. Also, the self-empowerment in Almond, the little sister, impressed me, as well, because who said little sisters can't be the hero of the story. Through her character, the idea of a knight in shining armor is spun on its head.

Again, I have to emphasize the rich, dreamy, and vibrant coloring which makes for quite the visual to hold in your hands. I mean:

And:

*Tackled tropes include:

- The villain making those long speeches before acting with his fists.

First, that "instant replay" is epic. Second, Almond is a hero.

- Making the mission harder for the sake of Drama.

Her self-confidence is both aspiring and troubling because it costs them dearly.

There's more to the story than meets the eye, and I'm forevermore shocked that it left of such a cliffhanger. Essentially this first volume builds up the ground for the upcoming adventures awaiting this group, and I'm keen on diving in.

*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **Cucumber Quest**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!*

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This review and more can be found on my blog.

I. says

Cucumber Quest is one of the best webcomics out there, and while the online version currently isn't really doing it for me, looking back at the first arc is very sweet, and reminds me why I feel in love with the comic in the first place.

Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says

This was THE CUTEST. We love a middle grade series that challenges gender norms ??

Michelle says

I'm not sure why this landed so well with me but OMG I absolutely loved loved loved this.

Cucumber is a rabbit boy who just wants to go to school to learn to be a magician. Too bad his dad is forcing him to go on a heroic quest to stop an evil queen from taking over! With the help of his younger sister Almond (who yearns to be a knight) and a disgraced knight, the trio embark on a quest for the legendary Dream Sword.

The biggest and most obvious draw to this book is the art. D.G. uses a stunning painterly style (which eschews line work) to create her magical world. The character designs (which are all based off of food) are A+ - the way she incorporates the food themes into her designs are so well done and adorable!

The plot is a bit meandering, but I didn't mind. It reads like the plot of an RPG and has a similar structure which I enjoyed (mostly because of the familiarity/nostalgia) and I think it will go over well with the intended younger audience. Mileage may vary with the writing/dialogue, but I thought it was pleasantly cheeky and self-aware.

The production value of the book is wonderful too - First Second is releasing these are cute little naked hardbacks and I can't wait to start collecting them.

Laura (???) says

I initially liked this sweet art style, cute characters and story premise. But, started to get bored about half way through. The writing in this felt flat, and the story lost focus. It might make a recovery in the second volume though. I would still safely recommend this to a new reader who was interested in princesses, knights and quests.

Artemis says

OMG this is so cute and hilarious! Why isn't it more popular?

'Cucumber Quest' is a children's comic that parodies the hero's journey in the fantasy genre, and it is spectacularly fun to read.

In the world of Dreamside, Cucumber is a shy kid and aspiring wizard who wants to go to school, after studying hard for admission. But he is suddenly called on by his criminal dad, Lord Cabbage, to go on an epic quest to stop the evil "Queen" Cordelia from taking over Dreamside, using some runes/stones and a Nightmare Knight. The whole thing seems like one of dad's selfish schemes cooked up to receive fame and fortune, throwing his son in the dragon's lair in the process. An unhelpful, useless, lazy, clueless and careless oracle character is a further ice pick in poor Cucumber's side.

He can't fight, doesn't want to fight, has the most common sense out of all of the characters, and he just wants a normal life (well, normal for someone with bunny ears in a food-based world); and he always gets the short end of the stick for it.

Luckily, or unluckily, Cucumber's little sister Almond is more the legendary hero type, and she wants to go on this epic adventure, sword in hand, dragging her brother along for the ride. Convention goes that little sisters don't go on quests and become legendary heroes, but Almond'll prove that fairy tale wrong. Whatever the cost, for a not-boring story...

Man, runes ruin everything.

The art in 'Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom' is colourful, soft, palatable, and freaking cute and sweet. I adore the cartoony, watercolour artwork. The various characters reflect this aesthetic:

A cowardly but gold-hearted knight (Carrot), a strawberry-themed princess in distress (Parfait), an arrogant guard trio (Tomato, Lettuce and Bacon), two female bakers (Baguette and Tartelette), an evil sorceress (Cordelia, duh), a flying little green witch (Peridot), a giant teddy bear in the woods (Grizzlygum), a female cat burglar and urban legend (Saturday), a too-cheerful boat travel receptionist, and a creepy boy genius (Cosmo) - all make up an hysterically funny cast in an incredible comedy comic for all ages. I don't know about anyone else, but I love their names!

The only thing I didn't like about it is the cliffhanger ending. Don't end my investment in an abrupt snap like that! Typical. I was hoping that that would be parodied or subverted as well. Another place to break the fourth wall.

For a good laugh and a fun, sweet time, read 'Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom'. If you like 'Adventure Time' and other Cartoon Network shows, definitely give it a go. Cheery and energetic, what a smoothie in comic form!

Final Score: 4/5

Siina says

Cucumber Quest 1: The Doughnut Kingdom was extremely funny and cute up to a point of being annoying! A weird combination, really. In this dream-filled candyland called Dreamside, the seven kingdoms need a savior, since the evil queen of sorts has decided to revive the dark night and Cucumber "Cuco" needs to save the day. Except he's a young nerd boy, who needs constant saving and his bodyguard is his sister Almond. The adventure is like a magical road-trip filled with odd humor. The most I enjoyed about this comic is that it has everything for everyone. It's like a Disney movie, the basic plot is kid-friendly, and then you have the weird hidden stuff for adults. We need more comics like this! This first part is just a glimpse into the real plot and I'm quite interested in what will happen and I do hope Gigi will keep this awesome approach filled with weirdness the size of an asteroid.

The art is awesome and cute at the same time. The rich and deep colors fit well with the candy and sweetness theme and at the same time there's even humor in the colors. The colors are a good counterpart to the oddness, so that this works for kids too. The naivety is awesome. Somehow this reminded me of Powerpuff Girls and Steven Universe. The comic combines retro well with everything and the panels are clear but with a twist. Especially the expressions on the faces of the characters are perfect! The written and drawn humor together mend an interesting piece surely.

Kristin says

At first glance, Cucumber Quest seem like the kind of book that's going to be obnoxiously cutesy (Everyone is named after food! Wacky! There are BLT knights! Zany! Adults are oblivious ditzes! Ra-ra-random!) but it gradually turns into something that combines the best parts of a video game you'd love to play and an animated series you'd want to binge. It's funny and just self-aware enough to pepper its 'epic quest' story with interesting twists on the usual tropes.

Misty says

3.75 Very cute and silly, sure to win over young readers. Would probably make a great read-along with an adult for younger kids, too.

Elinor Master of Gifs says

NOW THAT WAS CUTE AND FUN

Jeimy says

This story was too cutesy for my taste: While bookworm Cucumber is expected to become a hero, it is his sister Almond who is ready to save the day. Its audience is supposed to be for middle schoolers, but I think it is better suited for elementary.

My favorite part came at the end when readers get a better view of the entire world created by D.G. I was inspired to go back to the story to look at each character's ears and determine where they hail from.

Ash says

This was stupidly cute, and I'm so happy!

Sara says

The art was DAMN ADORABLE and I loved that almost all the characters were named after food!! While overall I enjoyed its lightheartedness and its ability to make fun of itself/point out flaws, sometimes it pointed them out too obviously. Regardless, a super cute, quick read!!
