



## Ladycastle #1

*Delilah S. Dawson , Ashley A. Woods (Illustrator)*

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## **Ladycastle #1** Delilah S. Dawson , Ashley A. Woods (Illustrator)

When King Mancastle and his mighty vassals ride off on crusade, the women left behind are not at all put out—that's a lot less armor polishing for them to do. Of course, when the men get themselves eaten by a dragon and leave a curse that attracts monsters to the castle...well, the women take umbrage with that. Now the blacksmith's wife Merinor is King, Princess Aeve is the Captain, and the only remaining (and least capable) knight Sir Riddick is tasked with teaching the ladies of the castle how to fight, defend, build, and do all manner of noisy things the men had been doing while the women assumed they were just drunk. Novelist Delilah S. Dawson (Star Wars: The Perfect Weapon, As Wicked as She Wants, Wake of Vultures) brings her first original series to comics, and is joined by breakthrough illustrator Ashley A. Woods (Niobe: She Is Life) for a rollicking fantasy adventure featuring women reclaiming their lives on their terms.

## **Ladycastle #1 Details**

Date : Published January 25th 2017 by BOOM! Studios

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Author : Delilah S. Dawson , Ashley A. Woods (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Ladycastle #1 for online ebook

### Julie says

Imagine trudging mile after mile in the worlds hottest, dryest desert. Your hands are caked with dust, your mouth is crackled and peeling, your brain is on fire. You have forgotten the taste of water yet imagine it is the sweetest of juices, pure nectar crisp on the tongue, shocking yet instantly satisfying. You are desperate, parched beyond belief. And then, you come upon a stream. In the middle of this desert, it flows with rushing, gurgling joy cutting straight across the bitter waste of sand all around you. Finally, finally, you drink and are quenched.

This is what reading Lady Castle felt like. Finally, finally, my thirst for a DIVERSE ASS, WELL WRITTEN, FEMME AF, MELINATED AF, QUEER AF graphic novel has been QUENCHED.

Considering the LITERAL DESERT that is American media when it comes to serving up unique storylines and diverse narratives ...I feel like I finally found water. As I await next book in series, I'm excited where this river will take me.

In this book, ya got:

- womyn using their BRAINS and BRAWN to ward off scary monsters
- A black women as KING of this castledom, HELLO.
- A castle dome filled with BADASS MULTITALANTED women who use their many skills and work together to ward off enemies STRATEGICALLY vs. AGRESSIVELY (cough, cough, men)
- Representation of all different skin shades, body types, ability status, gender, and more. Like, Halle-fucking-lujah.
- Constant snark and sarcastic comparisons to the men who previously ruled in typical, oppressive patriarchal fashion. Now these ladies got it wayyyyy more under control.

I'm ready for another round of this - are you?

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### Helen says

This was a solid graphic novel that has great "women" power in it. I enjoyed the almost all female characters and liked the medieval aspect of it.

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### Danielle says

Originally, I thought this was gonna be a medieval knock-off of Steven Universe, but it thankfully wasn't. It's an engaging little story that has a diverse cast of characters who added their own touches to the story. The art is super cute! There's little designs in the characters that you don't often see, which was kind of refreshing to see in a comic book. I really enjoyed the small nods to Monty Python and the Holy Grail

It would be a 5 star rating if the way they introduced new characters wasn't the same every chapter. "Who are you?...You're free now...You can come out if you want. Or not. It's up to you."

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### **Mattie says**

This was a very cute, female empowering story. The art was very beautiful. I don't think I'll read the next one but I really enjoyed it.

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### **Anne says**

So I know this is only 28 pages and I'm unsure whether to count it as a book but holy cow its 28 pages of wonderfulness!!

Basically the title says it all - it's set in a magical medieval setting where Ladies rule, there is more to it but I don't want to spoil it. I wish I had the rest of the books, this comic is just really funny and interesting and also kinda kick-ass.

FYI: I got this book through Lootcrate, they apparently now give a free e-comic book with each crate.

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### **Amina says**

2.5

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### **Jim says**

preachy, overwritten w/art that reminds me of Squirrel Girl, still worth a read. maybe a good book for those who think Holly Near, Dykes To Watch Out For and Ms. magazine are too conservative.

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### **Donna says**

I've been hearing about LADYCASTLE for a while now so when I got the chance to nab a copy at BEA I took it. When I first started reading I was a little discombobulated with Aeve's singing. Not too sure what was going on or what I was supposed to be reading. And then I got to the part where it's basically making fun of Disney princesses and word comes back to the castle that all the dudes are dead and things finally settled in.

The art is cute without being cutesy and is an excellent compliment to the story itself. Both bring it all together to give you a little bit of snark, a little bit of humor, and a lot of BAMF women having to take care of themselves after their husbands got themselves killed. I look forward to reading more in the series and where Merinor takes her feisty band of badass broads next.

I received a copy of this comic from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Hannelele says**

Read #1-4 and it was pretty fun, though felt somewhat constructed around bringing in diversity and different issues and the like - that's good in itself, it just wasn't the best craftsmanship... maybe. I'm not really sure, somehow I didn't get that involved with the characters (except for Aeva), but it was a fun read and a nice thing to see so many courageous ladies. Reminded me a bit of Rat Queens but obviously meant for younger readers or a different demographic and thus a lot milder. The art was occasionally a bit too simplistic for my tastes but not bad.

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### **Melanie R Meadors says**

I was lucky enough to receive a review copy of the new comic Ladycastle by Delilah S. Dawson and Ashley A. Woods (Boom! Studios). I say lucky, and I do mean lucky, because this comic...

This comic. It's what we've been waiting for, you and I and everyone else wanting women to have a stronger voice in fantasy and comics. And it's more than just badass babe fighting. It's more than just a comic for girls. It's more than just "Whee, we princesses are free, let's go on an adventure!" This is something I have seen far too little of. A comic that takes women--people with actual roles in life who act like real women, not just guys with boobs--and explores what would happen if they had the power that men usually do in the story. There is a princess locked in a tower, who sings songs about what she sees down below (heavy wink-wink, Disney), imprisoned until she marries a worthy prince because her father saw her marriageability as her only gift. When all the men are killed by the curse, she is released...and her first action when she is freed is a moving one, one of my favorite frames in the whole comic. There is a blacksmith's wife--whose husband, along with all the other men, have gone with the King to find a worthy prince, and along the way fell victim to a curse--who is charged with taking up the mantle of King. There's a young princess who grew up believing she should have been a boy...that she should have been someone useful. Until her big sister tells her the truth: "You were supposed to be you." These women grab the strength that is inside them, that's always been inside them, and they rise up to take their new responsibilities as leaders, as people who now have the freedom to be useful rather than exist as tokens. Their first test is covered in this first issue, and it's solution is definitely an "Oh!" moment.

Ladycastle has action, emotion, princesses, knights, magic swords, magic, and more. It's something that can be enjoyed by men, women, and children. It has laughs but also made me teary at a couple spots. It may only be 22 pages long, but it packs a punch and leaves you ravenous for the next issue.

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### **Paul says**

A fun start to this mini-series that I hope turns into a regular series. There are subtle points of humor in the words/pictures that made me smile. I wasn't a huge fan of the song that Aeve sings at the beginning but there were some small tidbits of humor in it. Another woman-power comic from Boom! that might interest a lot of readers.

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### **Bridget McKinney says**

Lady Castle is, for me, the first must-read comic of 2017. I don't read a ton of comics, to be honest, and I'm pretty choosy about what I spend my time and money on, usually going for limited projects with women writers and artists and steering clear of superhero stuff. I've also, in recent years begun avoiding any of the trite '90s-esque girl power stuff being put out by a certain breed of right on self-identified feminist white dudes, which has sadly left me with a medieval fantasy adventure comic-shaped hole in my life. Long story short, Lady Castle is exactly the comic that I've been yearning for over the last several years. It's perfect and I love it and you should be reading it right now if you haven't already.

Read the full review at [SF Bluestocking](#).

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### **Susan says**

Likes: good representation, feminist themes, pop culture references, and that every chapter has a "musical number" in it.

Dislikes: pacing feels too frantic, plot points shoved one behind the other at the cost of character exploration / development, representation felt like the authors were crossing items off of a list.

Generally very competent art and writing, though nothing that particularly stands out. More unique in terms of representation / feminism - I think they've hit every thing on the minority group bingo except queer and mental illness (and even those two you can make a case for).

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### **Rachel says**

I love anything that touts feminism and Ladycastle does exactly that. When all the men in Mancastle are eaten by a dragon, save one, the women reform Ladycastle and band together to save the city from werewolves and harpies using their skills of negotiation and tea making. Despite all the sisterhood and friendship and badass ladies, I didn't love this. It's such a great concept, I didn't want it to be a joke, and with the Fresh Prince and Fight Club references, it gets a little silly.

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### **Racheal says**

This is cute... maybe 3.5? I mean, I love me a good feminist twist on princess stories (Dealing With Dragons being my ultimate), but it remains to be seen if this brings anything new to the table beyond what we've seen in Princeless or Princess Princess Ever After...

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