



Giant Trouble

Ursula Vernon

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A magical beanstalk leads to a GIANT surprise in book four of the series that's chock-full of girl power and perfect for fans of Princess in Black and Babymouse

Princess Harriet Hamsterbone doesn't go looking for trouble. She prefers to think of it as looking for adventure. But when she climbs to the top of an enormous beanstalk and sneaks into the castle at the top, Harriet finds plenty of both. The castle is home to one very poetically challenged giant rabbit with two unusual prisoners a girl who is half harp, half hamster, and an extremely large goose. This calls for a heroic rescue, and Harriet is just the hamster for the job.

The fourth installment of the critically acclaimed Hamster Princess series turns the story of Jack and the Beanstalk upside down, with plenty of laughs along the way."

Giant Trouble Details

Date : Published May 9th 2017 by Dial Books

ISBN : 9780399186523

Author : Ursula Vernon

Format : Hardcover 250 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fairy Tales, Humor, Childrens, Middle Grade, Juvenile

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From Reader Review Giant Trouble for online ebook

Brenda says

Giant Trouble is a twist on the Jack and the Beanstalk tale with Harriet being approached by a chipmunk who's trying to trade three of his magical beans for Harriet's faithful battle quail and best friend, Mumfrey. Now anyone who knows Princess Harriet could guess that she would never exchange Mumfrey for any price, but apparently, the chipmunk salesman thinks his offer is too good to pass up on. He's also not very knowledgeable about quails either cause you really shouldn't be waving beans in front of Mumfrey because he'd surely eat one. Which is of course exactly what happens. Frustrated by the loss of one of his magical beans the chipmunk disappears in a puff of smoke leaving poor Mumfrey with some stomach troubles. The next morning, Harriet awakens to find a huge beanstalk extending up into the clouds and the sounds of harp music being played. Upon climbing up the beanstalk to investigate, she finds a Harpster (half hamster, and half harp) named Strings and a giant goose being held captive by a very large Giant Lop-eared rabbit. Harriet even promises Strings that she will help them escape.

Ursula Vernon's books are always so much fun to read especially when I don't usually get around to reading many graphic novels so it's always a treat. I love how Harriet isn't a typical princess, she's adventurous and daring climbing up the beanstalk, even when's she's facing down the Giant. Vernon's stories are always filled with laughs and I especially enjoy how she twists these tales often in amusing ways. Like Mumfrey eating the bean and then providing the fertilizer so it can grow into the giant beanstalk. Such fun.

Kristen says

This series continues to be great fun!

Kenya Starflight says

Ursula Vernon's "Hamster Princess" books seem like they should be typical sparkly-fluffy Disney-Princess-esque fair, judging by the cutesy series title and the adorable cover art. But don't be fooled -- this princess isn't going to sit back and let Prince Charming do all the work for her. Not only are these books funny twists on classic fairy tales, they feature a likable kick-butt heroine and a subversive look at some of our favorite stories and their characters.

"Giant Trouble" has Harriet returning home after her latest adventure... and promptly falling straight into another one after a chipmunk tries to sell her magic beans and, through a fart-joke-laden mishap, a gigantic magic vine is the result. Never one to turn down adventure, Harriet and her loyal battle-quail Mumphrey climb to the top to see what's there. Of course it's a giant's castle, and of course the giant has a sentient harp - - a harpster -- as his treasure. But Strings, the harpster, has bigger dreams than simply playing lullabies for a giant, and Harriet's going to need all her cunning and strength to free Strings and save her kingdom from the giant's wrath.

Like the others in this series, "Giant Trouble" is a witty and fun twist on a familiar tale, this time "Jack and

the Beanstalk." It pokes fun at some of the logistics in trying to navigate a giant's world, and shows us not only a capable heroine but a damsel (or harp) in distress who's willing to do what it takes to help free herself instead of just sitting back and letting the hero (or heroine in this case) do the job for her. And did I mention it was funny? Yes, there's a bit more gross-out humor in this book than in previous ones (the aforementioned fart jokes and some mentions of boogers and foot odor), but kids tend to find that sort of humor hilarious, and there are plenty of other witty jokes to make up for them.

It's also nice to see Harriet's character continue to develop. Sometimes books that try to give us kick-butt heroines accidentally veer too far the OTHER way and turn the female characters into overpowered, emotionless Mary Sues. Harriet is strong and smart, yes, but has plenty of wit and personality of her own, and it's established that she has her flaws -- the biggest of which is running into a situation without fully planning it out first. I like capable heroines, but I also like them to be human as well... and even if Harriet is a hamster, it's nice to see that she's a realistic strong character.

A delightful series as always, and one that both boys and girls should be able to enjoy... as well as adults, I might add. A refreshing change of pace from the often-saccharine world of "princess" stories.

Becky B says

Princess Harriet thought she was on her way home, but then a travelling salesman tries to fast talk her into trading Mumfrey for some supposedly magic beans. Of course Harriet says no, but when the salesman persists Mumfrey takes offense and eats one of the beans. Some horrid gastric distress results and for the good of the kingdom Princess Harriet decides to camp another night instead of going home. In the morning Mumfrey is feeling better but there's been a change of scenery in the shape of a giant bean stalk. Normally Princess Harriet would just chop it down, but there seems to be someone in the cloud stuck at the top of the stalk so she's gotta investigate before clearing the overgrown plant. And of course, nothing can be boring where Harriet goes.

A fun twist on Jack and the Beanstalk. This one isn't *quite* as hilarious as some of Harriet's previous adventures, but it is still a good read. This one actually tackles slavery in a kid-friendly way, so if you're looking for a way to talk about human trafficking this may be a safe segue. A great series for those who like fairy tale rewrites, strong female characters, and reluctant readers.

Notes on content: No language issues. No sexual content. One thrown out back and some scary falls, but no one is seriously hurt. There is some bodily humor thanks to Mumfrey's bean eating and the giant's huge nostrils.

Lata says

4.5 stars. Another totally fun and funny installment in the further adventures of Harriet Hamsterbone. This time she climbs a huge beanstalk and encounters a Harpster, a goose that lays eggs when freaked out, and a giant rabbit. And Wilbur and Hyacinth get involved, too. And Harriet again figures out fractions of things. Why I love Harriet and her propensity for adventures, her slashing things with her sword and rescuing those in need: "*Harriet had owned a dollhouse when she was young, because her mother thought that dollhouses were the sort of thing a princess should own. This lasted until she discovered Harriet using her dolls to play*

Invading Army, where the heroic defenders of the dollhouse stood off a siege by attackers, and occasionally threw the attackers off the roof. Her mother had been horrified and the dollhouse had been banished to the attic." Harriet and Mumfrey, with oddly enough Wilbur and Hyancinth, make for an unstoppable force.

Elizabeth says

I don't know if I was just in the mood for feminist fractured fairy tale hamster goodness but this one was the best yet. Harriet was wonderful as always but Strings was so fantastically cool. I hope she shows up in later books. This is obviously a Jack and the Beanstalk retelling and a very well done one at that. The giant is literally a Giant Lop. And the end was tied up so neatly I'm very impressed.

Yapha says

Another great fairy tale reinterpretation! This time, Mumfry the battle quail eats a magic bean. When it comes out the other end, it grows into a giant beanstalk. Of course Harriet climbs up! At the top she discovers a "harpster" (half harp/half hamster) and a goose being held captive by a giant rabbit. (A Giant Lop, of course.) Of course Harriet must rescue them! Filled with same fun wit and amusing take on adventuring, this latest book in the Hamster Princess series is not to be missed! Recommended for grade 1 & up.

Heidi says

Princess Harriet finds herself in trouble again when her battle quail, Mumphrey, inadvertently eats a magic bean. After a night of tummy troubles for the quail, Harriet awakens to find an enormous beanstalk in the middle of her campsite. Naturally, she has to climb it. At the top she discovers a castle (more of a cabin really). Inside is a harpster who desperately wants to be rescued. And Harriet can't bring herself to say no. This leads to some real trouble as Harriet attempts to steal a giant's stinky shoelace, unchain the harpster, free Mumphrey, and convince a goose that lays eggs when panicked to follow her to freedom. With plenty of daring-do and amusing illustrations, Vernon continues to provide young readers with lots to enjoy.

Stephanie Tournas says

Its sparkly cover promises a princess, but Princess Harriet is an adventure-loving, cliff-diving hamster who is unlikely to sport the garb of a traditional princess. After an altercation involving some questionable beans, Harriet Hamsterbone finds herself at the top of a beanstalk in the lair of the giant evil rabbit. There she meets Strings, a harpster (part hamster, part harp), who is the giant's prisoner. Harriet knows that Strings must be rescued, and that she is the hamster to do it. Harriet's daring deeds, with assistance from her trusty quail Mumfrey, show that a hamster princess can hold her own in the face of fairy tale bad guys. Clever writing with bold black, white and blue cartoon-like illustrations make this a satisfying and humorous take on Jack and the Beanstalk.

Jessica Robbins says

For complete review check out my blog at <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogs...>

Elizabeth says

Another great entry in the Hamster Princess series. This time Harriet encounters a chipmunk trying to sell her magic beans. Mumfrey ends up eating one, and suddenly there's an enormous beanstalk that Harriet finds herself climbing. At the top she encounters a giant and a Harpster (a hamster combined with a harp), and finds herself diving headfirst (at one point literally) into another adventure. My daughter continues to enjoy this series being read aloud to her, and I continue to enjoy the humorous twisted fairy tales.

Lola says

Although it was somewhat entertaining, this is my least favourite Hamster Princess tome.

Let's just say that Jack and the Beanstalk is *not* my favourite fairytale. I barely even consider it to be a fairytale—more like an adventure of a sort, but not a tale that makes me dream and wonder.

So it's no surprise that I wasn't impressed by this one. There's also the fact that Wilbur makes an appearance *very* late into the story, meaning that it's mostly Harriet, her quail and the new friend she made.

I did like the humour, since this is something the author excels at. I doubt I'll ever read a book from her that I'll find boring. However, this story was all over the place, and yet took place in only one setting, which I did not appreciate.

Fortunately Harriet was there to lighten the mood—and eventually Wilbur. I counted on them to bring originality to the story and divert my mind. Mixed feelings for sure, but not a bad sequel.

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Ms. Yingling says

Copy provided by the publisher

Harriet is enjoying her newfound ability to return to cliff diving when a gerbil in a dark cloak approaches her to try to sell her a handful of beans. That's one of the downsides of being a famous warrior princess "cloaked figures are always jumping out at you from behind bushes". Harriet knows better than to trade Mumphrey for the beans, but Mumphrey eats one. The gerbil disappears in a puff of smoke, and Harriet hopes for the best. However, the bean makes its inevitable way out of Mumphrey and ends up growing into a giant beanstalk on the castle grounds. There's no way to chop it down without devastating the surrounding countryside, so

Harriet makes her way up the stalk and discovers a harpster (hamster/harp) and a golden goose who are being held captive by a giant lop eared rabbit. In typical Harriet fashion, she goes about freeing them, with the eventual help of Wilbur.

Strengths: Harriet's fractured fairy tale adventures should be required reading for younger students, but have enough sophisticated humor that they make older ones laugh as well. I adore Harriet's spirit and can-do attitude. Stinky monster shoelaces that need to be chewed to unknot them? Harriet knows it's all in a day's work and just gets it done. She's a great role model of feistiness and a much needed antidote to the traditional Disney-esque princess trope. Harriet doesn't need to be saved by anyone, although she does occasionally accept help in a pinch!

Weaknesses: I have a lot of success in getting boys to read these, but the sparkly, pastel covers do work against their success with boys.

What I really think: If I had small children to whom I needed to present gifts, this series would be at the top of my list. As it is, I love having them on hand to give to reluctant middle school readers.

Anna Hepworth says

I adore Vernon's writing, and am particularly fond of the Harriet Hamster series, and this story did not disappoint in any way. The quirky extra details are often the things that really make the stories for me -- the rescue of the harp/hamster hybrid character who is all about the heavy rock/metal music, and the basic genderqueer nature of battle quails are the ones that come to mind here.

As with the previous three books, fairy tales aimed squarely at pre-teen girls which are about heroism without the requisite romance sub-plot are a delight to read, and I'm so happy that Vernon is continuing to write for this market.

Stephanie says

Funny, adventurous and just so much fun, like all the other Hamster Princess twisted fairy tale adventures. My 8-y-o, 3-y-o and I all love this series!

This one is a 4-star rather than 5-star book for us only because most of the jokes in the final chapter, including some of the details of the story's final resolution, completely sailed over the heads of both of my kids (the actual target audience for chapter books like this one) because they were all about threatened-lawsuits and how lawyer-talk works - and, hello, young kids have no clue about any of that stuff, so those jokes fell flat for them and they were baffled by that part of the plot's resolution - but literally the whole book up until then was wonderful and delicious, hilarious for all of us, and we raced through it as a family. Cannot wait for the next one - we'll be pre-ordering it the moment it's available!
