



# Grilled Cheese and Dragons

*Nancy E. Krulik , Ben Balistreri (Illustrations)*

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**Grilled Cheese and Dragons** Nancy E. Krulik , Ben Balistreri (Illustrations)

**Meet the princess who'd rather wear a suit of armor than a crown!**

Princess Serena (or as she prefers, Princess Pulverizer) doesn't want to be a princess--she wants to be knight! But her father, King Alexander of Empiria, thinks she still has a lot to learn when it comes to exhibiting valiant behavior. So he presents a challenge: the princess must first go on a Quest of Kindness and perform good deeds to prove that she truly deserves to go to knight school. With help from a friendly dragon named Dribble and a perpetually terrified knight-in-training named Lucas, can she complete her quest and discover what it really takes to be a hero?

## Grilled Cheese and Dragons Details

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Author : Nancy E. Krulik , Ben Balistreri (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review Grilled Cheese and Dragons for online ebook

### Michele Knott says

Another fun series from the author of Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo.

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### Jessica says

@kidlitexchange #partner I received a free copy of this book for review through Kid Lit Exchange. All opinions are my own.

King Alexander knows his daughter, Princess Serena (aka Princess Pulverizer), well enough to realize that the way to best help her grow is to send her on a Quest of Kindness. If she can complete eight kind deeds, she will be permitted to leave the Royal School of Ladylike Manners and instead attend Knight School, and eventually realize her dream of joining the Knights of the Skround Table. This quest is the background for this new series from the author of George Brown, Class Clown and Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo.

In the first installment, Grilled Cheese and Dragons, the task is to recover priceless jewels stolen by an ogre from the Queen of Smergermeister. To this end, Princess Pulverizer allows herself to be taken prisoner by the ogre, and is soon joined by her sidekicks, Lucas, a knight in training, and Dribble, a peaceful dragon who uses his fire breathing skills to make grilled cheese.

This series is targeted toward a slightly younger audience than Katie Kazoo. With its themes of teamwork, kindness, and girl power, it would make a good addition to 1st-3rd grade classroom libraries.

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### Mehsi says

Meet Princess Serena, or no, I should say, Princess Pulverizer!

This is a girl who wants to be a knight. Yup, she is currently at princessschool but that just isn't the place for her. Curtsies? Eww! Learning how to dance? Ehhhh.

But before she can go to Knightschool, she has to go on a quest! Completing 8 kind deeds, and our first one is going to be getting back those gems from a big bad ogre. I had lots of fun seeing her try to get those gems back, from singing (no, not the good way) to get captured, to trying to get out to find those gems.

And then she meets two other characters, Lucas, who is a tiny knight and a wimp at that, and Dribble, a dragon who wants to be a chef (yes, really). I wasn't an instant fan of both of them, but as the story continued I liked them better. I am definitely curious about those grilled cheese sandwiches.

I have to say that I wasn't quite enthusiastic about our princess. I thought it was really cool that she wanted to be a knight, that she didn't want to be saved by boys or anyone, and that she could kick some serious butt. BUT. Yes, a big but. She was quite mean at times, thought she could just do anything, and when she heard she had to go on a quest of kindness she was trying to think of ways to just get out of it. She even threw a tantrum because her daddy wouldn't give her whatever she wanted. Not to mention that there are other times

that I just wanted to grab her and throw her away.

But sure, as the book continued our princess learns some valuable lessons, including teamwork, grilled cheese is delicious, and how to be kinder to those around her. She is also finding out that maybe, just maybe, those few princess lessons do come in handy (especially when meeting a queen).

I was already wondering what kind of items she would receive upon doing the good deed, as she does need to show her dad something, but our first item is quite fun and probably will come in handy in the future quests.

Yes, future quests! Our girl has to do 8 kind deeds, and this book just has the first one. So I am guessing we will get 8 books in total, unless our princess does more than one.

The book is also filled with illustrations, and I just love the design of our princess, she is just as I would imagine her, tough and kick-ass.

All in all, I had fun reading this one, and I want to see more of Princess Pulverizer's quests/adventures.

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

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### **Jane Maple says**

Princess Serene doesn't want to be a princess and learn how to pour tea, curtsy, and dance. She wants to be Princess Pulverizer and go to knight school. Her father says she can as long as goes on a quest to preform kind acts. As her first kind act, she tries to force an old woman to let her carry her basket of potatoes, but in the process she only ends up spilling the potatoes and the princess runs away. Next she hears about some jewels that were stolen from a nearby queen. Princess Pulverizer decides it will be a good deed to find the jewels and return them. She finds the ogre who stole the jewels, she allows herself to be captured by the ogre, who locks her up in a room full of what he calls treasure but which is actually mostly just smelly garbage and the ogre feeds her horrible gruel. Pulverizer can't figure out how to get out when a small knight and his friendly dragon appear to save her. The knight and dragon get locked up. Pulverizer is frustrated and says she will slay the dragon as another good deed, but the dragon proves that he can be useful by toasting grill cheese sandwiches for the hungry princess. The ogre smells the grilled cheeses, comes up to check on his captives, Pulverizer kicks and hits him, knocking him out. Eventually the ogre is buried in his own trash/treasures and the princess, knight and dragon slide down the pile of trash out of the castle. They ride on the dragon's back to return the jewels to a grateful queen who rewards them with a ruby ring which has magic powers. Pulverizer decides that the Knight and Dragon should join her as she continues her quest of kindness (in other books)

It is a fine little story with a spunky hero, but often relies on gross out humor and cartoon type violence to further the plot.

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### **Jaymie says**

Solid story, terrific illustrations. Has a similar feel to the Hamster Princess series or Princess Pink series from Branches/Scholastic and a little like the Princess in Black. If you haven't tried any of those, I would start

with the Princess in Black for this age group (6-10) or Hamster Princess (which can skew older because the stories are longer). But if you have fans of those books, they might enjoy Princess Pulverizer.

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### **Rachel says**

Such fun! A great girl power book with unique characters. The illustrations add emotion and fun.

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### **Emma Andje says**

\*actual rating is 3.5 stars\*

Princess Serena (aka Princess Pulverizer) does not want to be a ladylike princess who has tea parties and ballroom dances. She wants to go to Knight School and go on heroic adventures. In order to fulfill her dream, her father makes a deal with her: she can go to Knight School if she can complete eight good deeds and bring proof of each completion back to him.

This book is filled with rich language, female empowerment, and hilarious obstacles. It promotes a wonderful message of the necessity of logistical problem solving and the importance of team work. This may be a bit on the crude side, but I think fans of Princess in Black may like this one as well. Overall, this will be a fun book to recommend.

I was given an ARC of this book from the publisher in return for an honest review.

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### **PEI Public Library Service says**

For fans of Princess in Black we have a new great series to try! Princess Pulverizer: Grilled Cheese and Dragons is the first in the latest series by children's author Nancy Krulik, who has delighted readers with George Brown Class Clown, Katie Kazoo Switcheroo and Magic Bone.

Princess Serena is not a typical princess - especially with a nickname like "Princess Pulverizer". She's not interested in dresses, abhors sewing, despises tea parties and hates attending classes at the Royal School of Ladylike Manners. More than anything, she wants to go to Knight School where rather than dance classes, she would learn to fence! Thinking she isn't allowed to go to Knight School because she is a girl, she begs her father, the king, to let her attend. To her surprise, it's not because she is a girl he is hesitant to let her attend Knight School, but rather her temperament. In order to prove she has what it takes to go to Knight School, the king sends her on a Quest for Kindness. Princess Pulverizer must complete eight good deeds. What follows is a hilarious caper as she tries to complete just one good deed.

From the beginning, Princess Pulverizer is set to be a great series for readers! Kids ready for early chapter books who still enjoy illustrations will quickly engage with this book. Princess Serena is a strong, but admittedly fallible, lead character which many kids will understand and relate to. While sometimes impatient and rude, you can see in this first installment how she is learning to be more kind, caring, and even tempered. Readers will be rooting for her to complete her Quest for Kindness as the series develops. The only problem is that only two books are published so far! This series is perfect for kids transitioning into chapter books

(grades 2-4), and would be a fun read-aloud for families or in a classroom.

Borrow a copy: <https://bit.ly/2jh4Hpd>

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## **michelle says**

Thank you @kidlitexchange for providing me with a copy of this book to read and review. All opinions are my own.

Princess Pulverizer (aka Princess Serena) doesn't want to be a princess, she wants to be a knight. Unfortunately, she is stuck in etiquette classes and her attitude leaves something to be desired. After getting sent home from Princess School yet again, she tells her father that she wants to go to Knight School. Her father says no, but not because she is a girl but because he doesn't think she has what it takes to actually be a knight - "great honor, kindness, and sacrifice." Princess Serena only thinks of herself. So he tells her that she can go to Knight School if she completes a Quest of Kindness, performs 8 good deeds, and brings back proof of her accomplishments. Out in the real world, she struggles to find good things to actually help people.

The first half of the book struggled to get going, but once she purposely convinces an ogre to capture her so she can return jewels the ogre has stolen, the book definitely picks up. Princess Serena has to problem solve and even meets two friends - Lucas, a failed knight-in-training who is afraid of most things, and Dribble, a fire breathing dragon who likes to use his fire to cook delicious meals instead of destroying villages. Together, she realizes that there are things that she needs to learn about being a knight, including how to work as a team.

This book is definitely aimed at fans of The Princess in Black who are ready for something a bit longer. My 7 year old struggled to get into it, but I'm going to encourage her to try again to see what she thinks. I appreciated the Princess Serena is very strong and sure of herself, but that she is also learning along the way that she doesn't actually know everything and that she can't exist completely on her own.

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## **Michelle says**

Princess Serena is a little bit of a spoiled girl but she doesn't want to be a fluffy princess, she wants to be a knight and fight dragons. She also doesn't want you to call her Princess Serena, you can call her Princess Pulverizer. She begs her dad to let her be a knight but he said the one thing that knights have is kindness, so he sends her on a Quest for Kindness to prove that she can be a hero.

On her quest she meets to unlikely heroes that I think will be able to help Serena find her kindness. I thought this was a very cute book and the illustrations are gorgeous! I just loved them. I liked Serena but she is a little harsh at times however it is a quest for her to find kindness so she couldn't be the nicest person to start otherwise the quest would be pointless. :)

I thought the situation that her and her friends were put in was very funny and I thought they were very smart with how they handled it. I am looking forward to seeing there the story does and if Princess Pulverizer can find kindness.

Overall, I thought this book was very cute, she is a little harsh at times but over all I think it will be find to watch her grow into a true hero, I highly recommend to younger kids and adults. This would be a great book to read to your kids or have them read aloud to you. :)

### **AUTHOR BIO**

**Nancy Krulik** is the author of more than two hundred books for children and young adults, including three *New York Times* Best Sellers. She is best known as the author and creator of the Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo; George Brown, Class Clown; How I Survived Middle School; and Magic Bone book series. Nancy lives in Manhattan with her husband, composer Daniel Burwasser. When she's not writing, Nancy can be found reading, going to concerts, traveling, or running around Central Park with her crazy beagle mix, Josie.

Goodreads | Twitter

This review was originally posted on Because reading is better than real life

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### **Alyx Campbell says**

Early Readers can often be tricky because they can often be too plot driven without taking care to develop well-rounded characters (see: rainbow magic). I really appreciate this one because we have a strong female character at the center of this story, the book does a nice job at weaving in vocabulary words, the plot moves quickly, and there's humor throughout the whole book. Would definitely recommend for fans of Magic Treehouse, the Branches series, or the fairy books.

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### **Ashlee says**

A spunky in-between series. Lighthearted and funny.

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### **Jo-ann Walsh says**

@kidlitexchange #partner Thank you to @kidlitexchange for the review copy of this book. All opinions are my own. Princess Serena is not your typical princess. She has no interest in tea parties, tiaras, or attending the Royal School of Ladylike Manners. She wants to be called Princess Pulverizer and attend Knight School. The princess convinces her father to let her go to knight school, but he will only let her do so if she learns what it really means to be a knight and go on a Quest of Kindness. She will be allowed to go to knight school if she completes 8 good deeds and shows proof for each.

While heading out on her quest, the princess hears two women talking about a queen's jewel's that have been stolen. The princess decides that recovering the jewels can be her first quest. She discovers that an ogre living up a steep, steep hill has stolen the queen's jewels. She purposely gets herself captured by the ogre so she can get the jewels back. While she is captured, a young knight and his dragon companion show up and vow to save the princess. They get captured by the ogre, too. It turns out that Lucas, the knight in training, has left knight school because he was made fun of for being so scared of everything. The dragon had left his

lair because he was made fun of for not being mean. He was a grilled cheese making dragon who wanted to be a chef! Together, Princess Pulverizer, Lucas, and Dribble the dragon find a way to escape from the ogre and return the jewels to the queen. The queen gives the princess a ruby ring, and she now has proof of her first good deed!

This is an adorable transitional chapter book. My 8 year old niece really enjoyed reading it with me! There are pictures in each chapter which will keep readers interested in the story. The author's descriptions, and the contrast of the princess who wants to be a knight, and the knight who's a "scaredy-cat" keep the story fun and engaging for young readers. I highly recommend this series for children in grades 2-4.

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### **Erica Sonzogni says**

Are you sick of stereotypical princess books? Tales where a damsel in distress needs to be saved? Stories where queens need to follow the direction of the king or the princess needs to listen to the advice of the prince? Then look no further- Princess Pulverizer, Grilled Cheese and Dragons is the series for you! Princess Serena is a girl who hates being a princess; so much so, that she changes her name to Princess Pulverizer. She despises her dance classes, tea parties and manners lessons. Instead, she wants to horseback ride and learn how to duel with swords like the knights of the kingdom. The princess pleads with her father to join the knights and he agrees, but Princess Pulverizer must do eight kind deeds first. During her quest, she meets Lucas, a knight that was kicked out of knight school, and his friendly dragon named Dribble. They work together to escape the danger of a disgusting ogre and help others in the process.

Princess Pulverizer, Grilled Cheese and Dragons modernizes the classical princess story and breaks stereotypes. It shows others how it is ok to be a princess who likes tea parties and dance lessons OR one that wants to wear chain metal and get dirty. The main character is dynamic and funny, yet is also brash and needs to learn humility in order to understand her mistakes. There are pictures throughout which aid in comprehension and shorter chapters for those new to reading chapter books. For those that would not be interested in fairy tales or princess books at all, this story is suitable for those readers too. There is humor and a variety of conflicts which keeps the reader engaged. Additionally, the first books ends with a "Too be Continued..." so children will be excited to read the second book in the series and find out how the story continues to unfold.

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### **Susanne Davison says**

A princess who wants to be a knight, enough said!!!

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