



Moonstruck, Vol. 1: Magic to Brew

Grace Ellis , Shae Beagle

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Werewolf barista Julie and her new girlfriend go on a date to a close-up magic show, but all heck breaks loose when the magician casts a horrible spell on their friend Chet. Now it's up to the team of mythical pals to stop the illicit illusionist before it's too late.

Collects issues 1 through 5.

Moonstruck, Vol. 1: Magic to Brew Details

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Author : Grace Ellis , Shae Beagle

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From Reader Review Moonstruck, Vol. 1: Magic to Brew for online ebook

Shadowdenizen says

4 stars for a charmingly witty and subversive title. The cartoony art sparkles and complements the story, and the cast is wonderfully diverse and inclusive.

Shan(Littleirishbookcat) says

I wanted to love this so much and I did like it, I just didn't love it.

Let's start with the good

- Julie and Selena are both qpoq and fat. Both characters are also lesbians.
- The fat rep was so well done. The characters were drawn beautifully!!
- It's ownvoices for queer rep.
- Julie's best friend, Chet, is non-binary and a centaur!!!
- Fantasy= Monsters, ghost some supernatural side characters.
- It made me smile so much!!
- The artwork is fabulous.

The reasons this isn't five stars

- We don't know much about any of the characters especially Selena!
- I was disappointed with the way their relationship was portrayed. Selena and Julie have only been on two dates and their romance felt a little rushed. However what really annoyed me was Selena's attitude towards Julie at the end. Especially the scene with the book!! I get she wanted to protect her but the way she spoke to her was horrible.
- Near the end the plot fell short.

Overall I liked it but I wish we knew more about the plot and Julie and Selena's relationship was portrayed better!

Misty says

I'm on the fence with this one. Art and world are fantastic, the plot has potential, but there's something off about the whole thing.

Full review to come.

Lola says

This one reminds me of the webcomics I used to read when I was a bit younger.

The ones that I would turn to whenever I would feel anxious about something – so I could take my mind off of the stressful element – and whenever I needed cuteness in my life.

Because those are the kinds of stories that are going to make my day better. This comic definitely uplifted my mood and entertained me. It's cute in such a way that makes you forget there is even the slightest bit of ugliness in the world.

And the adorable illustrations sure help immerse you into the world. The world itself isn't explained – we know there is magic and all sorts of fantasy creatures, nothing more – but at least the visuals are well done and intriguing.

The main character is Julie. She's a werewolf. But she's such a people person that it also revolves very much around her girlfriend Selena, with whom she has a wonderful relationship, her best friend and colleague, Chet, as well as other lovely monster friends.

The storyline itself is a mess. It goes in a lot of directions. Even though the reader understands that Julie and Selena must help Chet regain what he lost to black magic, there are a lot of random scenes that take away from the seriousness of the situation.

Actually, I wasn't able to take this comic seriously at all. (Did you get my pun??) That's honestly fine because it wasn't written to become the next Buffy the Vampire Slayer comic or something and, as previously mentioned, it's cute, cute, cute.

There could have been more to it, but it's decent enough.

anna (readingpeaches) says

OMG THIS IS THE CUTEST & MOST HILARIOUS & ALSO THE SOFTEST & PUREST & MOST LOVELY THING I EVER SEEN WITH MY OWN TWO GAY EYES

Stephanie says

This graphic novel is utterly adorable and an awful lot of fun. It's set in a college town full of happily coexisting magical creatures, with romantic subplots and a team-of-friends quest, I really, really enjoyed it. I also loved the larger message about not quashing parts of yourself (or anyone else!) to be "normal."

The writing was fun and the artwork was super-cute, but for some reason, there were a couple of key scenes in the second half where I couldn't quite follow the exact logic of what was going on. However, this is where I have to say that I am NOT a visual person, so it's entirely possible that there were clues in the artwork that I wasn't following! And even so, I still enjoyed the whole experience so much. The two bits of action that confused me were very small pieces of a wonderful larger whole, and they didn't stop me from having a great time throughout.

Julie Zantopoulos says

This was such a cute, diverse, and beautifully drawn graphic novel with centaurs, werewolves, witches, seers, vampires, and more & I loved it. It wasn't perfect, there were a lot of insecurities that never got addressed but all the same, it was adorable and I loved it.

Alison says

3.5 STARS

I thought this was fun and the storyline was unique and interesting, but I didn't really love any of the characters and was honestly annoyed with pretty much all of them at some point. Especially because trivial things were fought about and it just made me roll my eyes a lot. It felt like this maybe should have been targeted towards a younger audience.

rachel says

If I have said it once, I have said it a *thousand* times before but I simply adore pastel fantasy worlds: the ones that blend modern technology with traditional mythology. You know the ones that have witches drinking their potions from Starbucks thermos and vampires that cannot take selfies? You can imagine my excitement the moment I learned *Moonstruck* existed. Lesbian werewolves in a pastel coffee shop AU? A dream come true!

From the very first page, I fell in love with the world and its characters. The blossoming relationship between Julie and Selena was wholesome and sweet but still captured the awkwardness and anxiety of developing a crush on someone. Julie's relationship with Chet, her best friend, was also super sweet. They supported each other through some really difficult times and all the bad puns made my heart burst. Cass was probably my favourite character out of the whole series, though. I cannot wait to see more of her in the next volume!

The storytelling and worldbuilding, however, were far from perfect. Some panels were downright confusing. Chapters four and five were a little haphazard and I really hope that the next volume will feel more cohesive and fluid. Elements of the world need more fleshing out. I am still unsure how humans fit into this world and the werewolf discrimination was never really explained. It has so much potential. I hope that Ellis and Beagle are able to tap into it.

The scope of the diversity really made a difference. Attention to detail for small things - like having wheelchair accessible seats for sirens in the background of the theatre scenes - was wonderful. I also loved that identity and labels were briefly discussed. It was mainly around Chet's situation with body dysphoria but there was also an interesting moment between Julie and Selena that I wish had been expanded.

Overall? This was a sweet graphic novel with a lot of potential and amazing artwork. I loved the world and the characters. The world needs a little more detail and the plot needs to be streamlined a little better but damn, its potential has me excited.

? Rep: Julie (mc) is a plus-sized latinx lesbian; Selena (li) is a plus-sized black lesbian; Chet (sc) uses they/them pronouns; multiple other queer, poc and/or disabled scs.

? Trigger warnings for dysphoria, mild violence, slurs, and unconsented body modifications.

Review copy provided by the publisher for an honest review.

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Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says

Absolutely perfect read for this spooky season! I'm obsessed

Erica says

NOT related to

This Moonstruck is super-duper absolutely squeetastically adorbs.
SO much cute!

It stars a low-self-esteemed, overly-apologetic, floofy werewolf barista , Julie, who begins by mooooning over her new crush, Serena.

Her BFF (pictured above), Chet, is a fellow barista and a centaur who can catch dropped mugs between their horse knees. Talent! And they're also crushing madly on local heartthrob floofy hipster-lumberjack Tauren named Manuel.

In this edgy college town, there are vampires and a snake-headed Gorgon person, witches, ghosts, a villain...and a lot of things happen with all these characters.

This has the wholesome, upbeat feel of the old Archie comics or the newer Goldie Vance, only in soft pastel and bubblegum colors. But for some reason, it didn't work for me. It was too much, I am too old, and I found myself flaring my nostrils at the twee of it all far too many times so I just did a quick skim and called it good.

If you like the supernatural, today's hip youth, all the floof, everything LGBTQA + allies, more floof, new love, mystery and mayhem and missing butts, magic shows, con artists, first fights but no make-up sex because this rated E for Everyone, and coffee shops, go get this and consume it now because you will love it. Also, brush your teeth afterward or else suffer the cavities brought on by saccharine overdose.

Jean Menzies says

Yes, yes, yes, yes! This is the LGBTQIA+ comic book of your dreams (I promise) - bring on volume two!

Bri says

"Can you really call yourself a hero if you do things that hurt the people you care about?"

This was one of my most anticipated comics and I gotta say... I'm disappointed. The art style and color palette was GORGEOUS but the plot and writing was not the best. BUT we did get lesbians and a non binary character so I would definitely recommend it in terms of diversity!! I was just super confused as to what was going on and I don't think I'll continue this series.

Stephanie says

2.75

This felt very rushed. I really think it could have been so much better if it was longer and more fleshed out. Parts were confusing like...what happened. Where did the butt go? What is that guys backstory? What did Anderson say? And there are so many unresolved issues with the main f/f couple, which granted I wouldn't expect all that to be cleared up in just one volume, so hopefully that gets more fleshed out later.

Just issues here and there. That isn't to say it doesn't have anything good going for it though because it does. It's cute, very queer positive with several poc characters and they are good characters. I like the fantasy aspect in the real world and how it felt like it wanted to tackle some things but just felt...rushed.

I will consider checking out volume 2 and seeing what happens. It just sadly fell short for me.

Mehsi says

Werewolves, sweet cute romance, a hilarious centaur friend, magicians, drama, and more! This book will pull you in and not spit you out until the end.

So I have been meaning to read this book for ages, the cover was what pulled me in. These girls looked adorable and cute together and I wanted to see them get together/go on dates/etc.

But this book is so much more than just cute dates and cute romance. There is some drama and tension when an evil magician steals Chet's magic (aka his centaurness) and he returns to a normal human. It is up to our characters to get the magic back, unmask the fiend that did it, and fix the problems. But between that we also see two girls getting closer together, and Chet going from worrying and feeling depressed to also wondering if the hot Minotaur guy still would like him.

While I did love Julie, I did think, and sorry if this is rude, that she was a bit too oversensitive. The littlest mention of something dog-related and she raised her shackles or acted like the world was ending. I am sorry, maybe if we had a bit more of a backstory on why she is acting like this, I may have understood it a bit more, but now I just found it a bit silly. OMG someone calls me a puppy, oh no, I must immediately humpfh and leave this building. Grrrrllll....

But I did love her, and I could understand that it wasn't always easy for her to be a werewolf. Especially when one just changes without warning when emotions rise. So I was delighted that she had found a fellow werewolf girl who loves/likes her and was there for her when she needed a cuddle or a hug.

I did also like that she was a barista (albeit a bit clumsy).

Pluspoints go to Cass for being totally epic and fun. I loved her going in prophecy/vision mode and it was always interesting to hear her prophecies.

I also love the rest of the cast (well the good guys at least), they are so diverse and fun.

Oh and it was quite interesting that this isn't a world with just supernatural creatures, but that there are also humans. I would like to see more of how this world works. Are there more humans? How is the relationship between supernatural and humans?

The reason why I am not rating this book a full 5 stars, or even more is due to two points that I didn't like. One the magician and how that was handled. There was such a build-up, so much planning, so much research, and some smaller battles, but then it ends in a very anti-climax and easy/lazy way. Not a bang, but more like a fizz and problem solved.

Then there were those Pleasant Mountain Sisters that were just so boring that I eventually was dreading it when they came around. It definitely didn't help that the style didn't fit the main comic at all.

The art (well the main comic one) is soft, adorable, and pretty. I just adore the way the artist drew the characters.

I hope that there are going to be more volumes in this series, I need to see more Julie and Selena, and of course the ever fun Chet. :)

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