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I Am Princess X



Synopsis

Once upon a time, two best friends created a princess together. Libby drew the pictures, May wrote the tales, and their heroine, Princess X, slayed all the dragons and scaled all the mountains their imaginations could conjure. Once upon a few years later, Libby was in the car with her mom, driving across the Ballard Bridge on a rainy night. When the car went over the side, Libby passed away, and Princess X died with her. Once upon a now: May is sixteen and lonely, wandering the streets of Seattle, when she sees a sticker slapped in a corner window. Princess X? When May looks around, she sees the Princess everywhere: Stickers. Patches. Graffiti. There's an entire underground culture, focused around a webcomic at IAmPrincessX.com. The more May explores the webcomic, the more she sees disturbing similarities between Libby's story and Princess X online. And that means that only one person could have started this phenomenon---her best friend, Libby, who lives.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Review based on the full released version with comic graphics:I had a major issue with this book which I think is due to it's hybrid nature. Unlike the vast majority of the reviewers who have already posted, I read the the e-book version, complete with the full accompanying graphics (which I do think add a lot to the story). Unfortunately, in e-book form, the formatting of the book causes serious issues. The pages are fixed, unlike most e-books where the words on a given page vary depending

on font size and screen size. The book acts more like a .pdf than a traditional e-book, and I couldn't find a way to zoom in or out. In my opinion, in e-book form this book is unreadable on anything smaller than a Kindle Fire or Nook, and it isn't great on those. I tried it on three devices, a Kindle Fire HD, a Samsung Galaxy S3 and my PC. The font is so small on the phone that it was completely unreadable for me. The Kindle Fire worked better, but the font was still very difficult to read. The illustrations worked fine though. The most annoying thing was that I went to my PC thinking that the big screen size would make the book very easy to read, only to find that the Kindle for PC program will not display this book, in fact wouldn't even download it. I made do with the Kindle Fire, but it was a painful read. Anyone with a full size tablet should be OK, but anything smaller will probably be an issue. Beyond that, however, Ms. Priest's first foray into the YA genre is a fun, if light, read. Numerous other reviewers have left summaries of the book, so I will skip that. As a YA book, I think it will work best for readers at the younger end of that scale. I did enjoy it and will pass it on to my 12 and 13 year old daughters.

I loved this novel. I was somewhat dubious about it, because I am not YA, and since I did not grow up on comics, I find that language hard to parse sometimes. Not here, though! The comic panels added a lot to the overall plot, and were fully integrated into the text. More importantly, it's an exciting and suspenseful adventure story. I loved the bond between the 2 primary characters, and very much appreciated that sexual menacing of either of them did NOT happen, because that's a cheap shot. Instead, our 2 heroines, and a couple of guys who ended up involved, save the day based on their own considerable resources and cleverness. I also have to give serious compliments to the book designers here. The book is GORGEOUS- from the hot-pink spine, through the decorative end pages, and including the typography as well as the paper chosen (a pale cream), and using both a black/brown ink and a purple one in the printing. Brilliant! Highly recommended if you like kick-ass heroines who prevail, and/or beautifully designed books.

I Am Princess X By: Cherie Priest, Kali Ciesemier Unfortunately, I am reviewing the advanced reviewers' copy (ARC) which does not include the graphics. I Am Princess X is a hybrid novel "part text and part graphic" with an intriguing mystery about a girl, May, still mourning the loss of her best friend Libby. One day May is stunned when she begins seeing Princess X posters around town, the character the two friends had developed together and whom May thought was lost forever when Libby died. May originally wrote the comics' stories and Libby drew the graphics. Like the two fictional friends' collaboration, the book has one character

speaking in sentences and the other mainly in graphics panels. Unfortunately, not being able to see the graphics in my reviewer's copy, a great chunk of the impact is blunted making the story seem somewhat simple and revelations, perhaps, arriving much too soon. There is much potential with this format, however, and the final product with the graphics should be an entirely different experience. For this reason, I am giving the book the benefit of the doubt. I believe *I Am Princess X* is meant to appeal more to younger teens. It is not particularly complex (in adult novel terms, anyways) but it is a likable tale focusing on the friendship May and Libby had and how friendship can overcome adversity and fear. Not a bad little mystery/intrigue story overall with some action tossed in the mix. Maybe I'll get my niece a copy when it comes out.

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