



# Scary Godmother: Omnibus

*Jill Thompson*

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## Scary Godmother: Omnibus Jill Thompson

It's Halloween night, and it's up to Scary Godmother to show one little girl just how much fun spooky can be! Meet Hannah Marie, who, with the help of Scary Godmother, stands up to her mean-spirited cousin Jimmy and her fear of monsters on her first Halloween adventure with the big kids. Later, Hannah joins forces with Orson, the vampire boy, to unravel a mystery near and dear to their hearts. Some of Scary Godmother's closest (and most frightful) pals get in on the fun too, including Bug-A-Boo, the Boozle, and Skully Pettibone.

- Four of Thompson's Eisner Award-winning, fully painted children's books are collected here, in their entirety, for the first time (*Scary Godmother*, *The Revenge of Jimmy*, *The Mystery Date*, and *The Boo Flu*). This deluxe edition also features some of the earliest concept designs for this haunting and imaginative series.
- Thompson's *Scary Godmother* series resulted in a successful stage show and two animated specials shown on Cartoon Network, *Scary Godmother: Halloween Spooktakular* and *Scary Godmother: The Revenge of Jimmy*.
- "Jill Thompson's *Scary Godmother* is another of this comics maestro's knockout punches. Thompson delivers a series that shrugs off the censors like the dead weight they are and writes and draws directly at readers of all ages, all experience. Her work is always a delight, and much more: her craft, her precision, her delicious whimsy, all serve as a goad to the rest of us cartoonists to have as much fun as she's obviously enjoying, and to work our butts off as hard as she does. She only makes it look easy. That's the sign of a master."—Frank Miller
- "A beautiful and ambitious piece of work."—Alex Ross
- **Eisner Award-winning series!**

## Scary Godmother: Omnibus Details

Date : Published October 26th 2010 by Dark Horse Books (first published 2006)

ISBN : 9781595825896

Author : Jill Thompson

Format : Hardcover 117 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Fantasy, Childrens, Holiday, Halloween, Fiction

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# From Reader Review Scary Godmother: Omnibus for online ebook

## Maija says

Jill Thompson's watercolor images are gorgeous! While I mostly enjoyed the art, the stories were good, too (and I especially enjoyed the title character). I would immediately buy this book for my friend's kids, if it was translated so that they could enjoy it.

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## Leah says

If I were under 12 years old, I'd probably go bonkers over everything about the Scary Godmother stories. But I'm not, so while I LOVED the art, the stories were *meh*. I could live in those pictures, though; uncanny, whimsical, and bursting with colors that scream Halloween.

Includes Scary Godmother, The Revenge of Jimmy, The Mystery Date, The Boo Flu, the short story "Tea for Orson" and about 20 pages of concept art.

4 stars (all for the illustrations)

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## Malene Erika Kristensen says

Jeg var simpelthen vild med den her historie! Jeg elsker den! Den er sjov, skør og utraditionel og unik! Helt klar en bog jeg vil anbefale at læse. Den gav mig et smil på læben og grin!

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## Danielle says

This is the perfect book to read for Halloween. The stories are fun and the art is beautiful. Jill Thompson is one of my favorite artists.

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## John says

Another excellent collection by Jill Thompson, along the lines of her Little Endless books, intended for juvenile to teens. Her work has tightend up a bit since this was published but she's always masterful with her watercolors and drawings.

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## Morgan says

Yes this book is meant for children, but as an adult male I really liked the book as well. I've been a fan of

Thompson's work since her Vertigo days (mainly Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall). I also liked the Cartoon Network specials of Scary Godmother back in the good ol' days of cartoons. Don't ask me why it took this long to actually read the Scary Godmother books, but I'm glad I found this omnibus edition. You can read this in a day, but the art work is so fun to look at and it really puts you in a good mood. I think this is something I might have to look at every Halloween.

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### **Emily says**

3.5 stars. Fun one for kids, perhaps especially for the ones prone to getting the heebie jeebies. All the monsters and creepy folk in Scary Godmother's world are actually just big sweeties who enjoy a good scare. The first story's the best one, and the artwork is cheerfully spooky.

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### **Lloyd says**

Yesterday, I went to a signing that the incredibly talented and fun Jill Thompson did. There were stacks and stacks of this hardcover there. I had been a fan of her work on series like "The Invisibles" and "Sandman", but had not seen any of Jill's work on characters that SHE had created.

I picked this hardcover up and as soon as I got home last night, I read a couple of the stories. As I read, I discovered that a smile had grown on my lips as Jill had taken me back to childhood and all those spooky, fun nights trick-or-treating. We'd carry plastic pumpkins and trade stories about that one house that everyone was afraid of and had to run past. We'd get our costumes on, go downtown for the Halloween parade, watch a scary show or movie when we got home...

As this magical feeling streams through your heart and mind when you read "Scary Godmother", your eyes are treated to Jill's wonderful, spookily beautiful paintings. It's been a while since someone has so successfully pulled me entirely into a world of their creation. This won't be my last visit.

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### **Fefs Messina says**

Molta gente ha dimenticato (o non conosce) la Strega Madrina, ma io è praticamente da anni che desideravo leggere questo piccolo classico del fumetto, che fece di Jill Thompson la vincitrice del premio Eisner come miglior pittrice nel 2001. Bellissime, infatti, le illustrazioni in acquarello con uno stile di disegno che ricorda molto quello burtoniano, solo un po' più colorato.

Sarebbe una raccolta di avventure a tema Halloween, ma io le ho lette in estate e ho comunque gradito i toni allegri e bambineschi sia delle illustrazioni che delle storie.

Consigliato a chi ama l'autrice e Halloween!

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### **Kaethe says**

It's Hannah Marie's first Halloween going out trick or treating with her cousin Jimmy and his friends. She's not scared, but just in case, she's told, her Scary godmother will take care of her. When Jimmy and his

friends attempt to scare Hannah Marie into quitting, the Scary Godmother shows up, and introduces her to some wonderful monsters: Mr. Pettibone, the skeleton; Bug-A-Boo, the monster under the bed; some ghosts, etc. Now Hannah Marie loves Halloween above all.

In her continuing adventures, Jimmy tries to wreck Halloween (he's a little Grinchy) and she spends a lot of time hanging out on The Fright Side once she masters the trick. [Of course, the PandaBatWolf read this first and is trying to figure out which is the fright side of her bed].

Just a great graphic novel for kids, full of scary things made manageable.

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## **Nancy Kotkin says**

Text: 3 stars

Art: 5 stars

Full-color children's graphic novel about a little girl who befriends her "scary godmother" to deal with her fear of Halloween and its array of monsters. Very Halloween-focused. Fun cast of characters on the "Fright Side," including an animated skeleton, ghost cat, werewolf, family of vampires, and a large blue hairy monster. Protagonist is very young, probably pre-school or kindergarten age.

Not scary enough for middle schoolers, but just right for elementary school students. The format, in which the chapters all read as separate stories, also works well for that age group, since youngsters can read and digest the book in pieces, or even separate sittings.

The book's format is a bit odd - something of a cross between a picture book and a graphic novel. The art is definitely sequential, but there are many inserts of text between frames. The additional text ranges from a single sentence to an entire paragraph, but sometimes it is missing altogether, creating a lack of balance, consistency, and predictability. I find this text distracting and feel the dialogue could have been strengthened to stand on its own. Often the text repeats what is already being said within the frames, but sometimes it is new information. Sometimes the new information would best be read between talk bubbles in the same frame. So even when it is needed, it feels in the way.

The art is marvelous. Back of the book contains a lengthy peek into the creator's sketchbook, including the various facial expressions of the characters, but also some extra color art not found in the stories.

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## **Colona Public Library says**

I find this story absolutely charming and spooky! The art style is fantastic and the characters are very likable. This book is perfect for Halloween because Scary Godmother is basically the Halloween equivalent to Santa Claus but she is much more to my liking! Hopefully she will get another movie soon because I absolutely adore her. ~Ashley

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## Quentin Wallace says

This is great, especially for its target audience which are younger readers. I was familiar with Jill Thompson's more mature work for DC/Vertigo, but really I think this is more where she shines. She does an excellent job at writing a Halloween theme story for younger readers that is a little creepy but far from really scary. Her art is excellent in this format. I've never seen the animated series but from what I understand it's popular as well. As an aside, it's fairly obvious the Scary Godmother is based on Thompson herself, which really just makes it all cooler. The main character is a girl, but there's a main boy character as well so I think both boys and girls will like this one.

This story is aimed at kids, but it's a fun read for adults as well. If you have any readers in your family from say ages 5-10 that love Halloween, this is something they need to read for sure.

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## Artemis says

Boo.

Yeah, 'Scary Godmother' is cute. No, more than that. This Halloween comic for kids is freaking adorable.

I wanted to read more of Jill Thompson's stuff after the triumphant 'Wonder Woman: The True Amazon', and her 'Scary Godmother' stories fit wonderfully with her watercoloured art - it's surreal yet loopy and sweet all at once. There are surprisingly subtle little touches throughout in terms of story and characters.

It's a comic collection for children so it's not really scary, but there is the message about not fearing - not judging - anything or anyone just because you don't understand them. Scary Godmother even says, in her first story, "Monsters? HA HA! Why, some of my best friends are monsters!" Up close and personal you might find they can be fun and friendly. Those who are perceived as monsters can be as human as you, and that is an important thing for children to take away from this. "Freaks" are not wrong or abnormal, judging and bullying are. Also don't give in to peer pressure.

The Scary Godmother is like the Santa Claus of Halloween - a green-skinned, frizzy-haired witch just ripe for cosplay (and really, who wouldn't want healthy green skin?), it is she who makes Halloween into what it is every year with her magic and travels from her monster world of the Fright Side. She conducts and prepares all creatures for their scares, sets haunted houses and spooky forests up like on a stage, and vacuums the arches in Halloween cats! Like Miss Frizzle from 'The Magic School Bus' and Mary Poppins, children can easily latch onto this eccentric adult female character.

The little girl protagonist, Hannah Marie, is the main instigator to the book's adorableness. She is a scared trick-or-treater who turns brave, resourceful and responsible in later stories - she even rides Scary Godmother's broomstick! I could identify with the chubby-cheeked, big-eyed Hannah through a young version of myself and not only in looks. Her baby sister Ellie is also a sweetie, for the few panels she appears in.

The stories are fun, creative, and contain good messages - accept that following your crush and sneaking around as a secret admirer? Yeah, kids, there is a word for that: Stalking, and it's wrong. Don't do it! Even Scary Godmother thinks it's creepy! She gets that it's scary, and not in a good way! 'Scary Godmother' also

has bits of prose written on every page as well as word balloons for its graphic novel format, and on-and-off again it goes into rhyme. One of the stories is all in rhyme. It's not that I mind much - it works well and the rhyming scheme is clever when it shows up - it's just inconsistent. Speaking of inconsistency, at the beginning Hannah's mother tells her not to be afraid to go out tick-or-treating because the Scary Godmother will protect her. But when Hannah meets the witch, who then introduces herself, Hannah doesn't know what a Scary Godmother is. Even if used for encouragement by a parent, how does the mum know about any Scary Godmother when it appears that nobody else did before?

But what an ooky-spooky book, full of nooks and crannies: pumpkins, candy, shadows, cobwebs, ghosts, a vampire family, skeletons, a pizza-loving werewolf with a human mum, cats, and nice surprises to go with your treat. And all sorts of tricks.

'Scary Godmother' - To be read to kids every Halloween.

Final Score: 4/5

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### **Kristin El says**

Loved the art. First few stories were the best.

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