



NewsPrints

Ru Xu

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Blue is an orphan who disguises herself as a newsboy. There's a war going on, and girls are expected to help the struggling economy by selling cookies. But Blue loves living and working at the Bugle, the only paper in town that tells the truth. And what's printed in the newspapers now matters more than ever.

But Blue struggles with her secret, and worries that if her friends and adopted family at the Bugle find out that she's a girl, she'll lose everything and everyone she cares about. And when she meets and befriends Crow, a boy who is also not what he seems, together they seek the freedom to be their true selves... and to save each other.

NewsPrints Details

Date :

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Author : Ru Xu

Format :

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Childrens, Middle Grade, Science Fiction, Steampunk, Comics, Fantasy

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Ms. Yingling says

I've purchased a couple of "better" graphic novels for my collection, but my students seem to prefer the falling apart copies of Stickman Odyssey. For \$25, I think I'll pass on this one, although it's very well done. The whole Steampunk trend has completely passed my students, and I think that my graphic novel readers would be a bit confused by the setting.

Definitely a better quality graphic novel, but I don't think it would circulate well.

Robin Stevens says

An odd, beautiful and unique graphic novel about a girl pretending to be a boy in a fantasy steampunk world at war. I love how much Ru loves birds (I agree with her, they are the best), and I loved how sparky and fun this story was. (10+)

Please note: this review is meant as a recommendation only. Please do not use it in any marketing material, online or in print, without asking permission from me first. Thank you!

Molly says

All right, I might be coming around on the robot civil rights movement with this one. GIVE ME TIME, ARTIFICIALLY INTELLIGENT FRIENDS!

Raina says

Fun little sci-fi adventure, with full-color, manga-adjacent art.

The world here was interesting - it's a little early-20th century with the newsies and architecture and the mechanistic innovation. It'll appeal to kids who like Kazu Kibuishi's stuff, and Tower of Treasure and Agatha Heterodyne and the Beetleburg Clank. Oh, and I always have a weakness for the girls-dressing-up-as-boys/genderplay genre (Newsgirl, Shakespeare natch).

Didn't blow me away as much as I expected it to, but you know what they say about high expectations. Planning to take this out to elementary schools in May/June 2018.

Lola says

I quite like Ru Xu's art, especially the colours she uses. She fills the layout of the graphic novel - every panel

has beautiful detail - which is not something every graphic novel artist does. Some don't take the time to draw a background, but Ru Xu does.

So this story is definitely pleasing to the eyes. It makes reading it not dull, tedious or repetitive. Wonderful vibrant colours.

Therefore, the art is not at all a problem. Even the story isn't awful. I mean, it's been done before, what with this war happening somewhere we can't see and young men going off to fight. It's a historical, steampunk work, with elements that are predictable.

Blue, the newsboy, who is actually a girl, is very charming. She looks more like a boy than a girl, so it's not hard for her to pass as a boy, but she feels as if she is hiding an important part of her; she just wants to say it for everyone to hear that's she's a newsgirl. This dilemma brings a salient theme to the graphic novel – identity.

Feminism is also a rather present theme. But about the other characters, they're not actually original. They're nice, in the sense that they all have a different, quirky personality, and together they make a great team, but they're obviously recycled from other pieces of work.

This is the kind of graphic novel that would make for a good read for people who are new to graphic novels.

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Minseo Kim says

This book had many aspects of feminism and I loved the wonderful illustrations as well!

There was the classical but also significant, modified symbolic elements (such as the birds) which really made the puzzle in this comically made story fun to figure out. I had a great time reading it!

Maggie Gordon says

NewsPrints is a cute little story about a girl disguising herself as a boy so that she can sell newspapers. Then she meets a scientist and becomes his apprentice. Then she meets a strange boy. Also, the world is at war and everything is steampunk! The plot of this book isn't particularly unique. The world is not our own and is fleshed out enough to make sense, but not enough to really capture my interest. The art is just fabulous though. Full colour pages with detailed backgrounds. It's a joy to look at!

Mandy Kirkendall says

So I have a soft spot for girl newsies. Whatevs.

Kate (GirlReading) says

This was a fun read and I loved the art style but I unfortunately felt as though the story was a little disjointed and the pacing felt somewhat frantic and lacking in explanation/information. I especially found this to be the case when it came to gender identify and a few other key plot points. However, it was a super quick read and I now have a major craving to watch newsies...

Lata says

I love stories about girls or women disguising themselves as boys or men so they can circumvent societal restrictions. Here, Blue works as a newsboy, and a very good one. Most people she interacts with don't know she's a girl.

After a run-in with the opposing newspaper's newsboys, Blue meets an inventor, who decides to take her on as an apprentice. Blue and Jack, the engineer, suss out spare parts, and on a visit to the navy's offices, Blue encounters a strange boy, Crow, whom she befriends immediately. He's afraid of grown-ups, while Blue finds out that Jack's got his own secrets.

Ru Xu's artwork is phenomenal, conveying tremendous energy and character. I loved the look of the buildings, vehicles and clothes, as I got a mixture of early 1900s, Victorian and 1940s from the designs. Blue is energetic, honest, loyal and compassionate, while also questioning people's assumptions. The characters sometimes behave a bit simplistically, but as this is a middle grade story, I'm willing to overlook this as this was a fun story to read and beautiful to look at.

David Schaafsma says

Steampunk meets the twenties and AI civil rights, as a girl disguises herself as a boy so that she can sell newspapers. Then she meets a scientist, becomes his apprentice, and then meets a boy who is also keeping a secret. There's a war on! Art is very good, and the story is solid, if not all that original. Good, not spectacular, but an impressive debut!

Another book about girl newsies? Brian Vaughn's Paper Girls.

Alexander says

I'm wandering around my school's book fair, thinkin', "What do I wanna get?" Then I looked around a bit and OHMYGOSH THAT LOOKS AWESOME! So I read the blurb and the title, Newsprints, purchased the book, and I start reading. SO worth it.

The actual book is about two people, Blue and Crow, who aren't as they seem, in a cross between steampunk london and 20th century New York. One is an orphan who disguises herself as a newsboy under the Bungle, while the other has a seemingly unnatural connection to birds. Things quickly get crazier, with inventions, old friends, and a conspiracy against a government. As for what exactly happened, well, you are just gonna have to read the book!

I really love the book, as it moves at a really nice, fast pace, has cool inventions, like robots, GPS, robots, airships, and ROBOTS! It has a great art style, and would fall into the hearts of any steampunk fans. So, seriously. Go get this book.

McLaryn G. says

To put this into words....I can't live right after reading this?? Literally?? There was the biggest plot twist, I can never think about the ending without sobbing a little each time. Crow was my favorite character, he was so mysterious and weird, but that's what I loved about him, the birds were attracted by the sound his head made, that was the first clue of what he really was, (You have to read the whole book) along with the fact he said he could fly.

There is a second graphic novel, the sequel to the first one, you should read that one too.

Levi says

For some reason, this wasn't quite working for me. I really liked the characters and the messages that Xu presented, but I didn't sync with the art well. Plus, there were times when information seemed missing or glossed over.

I may come back to this at some point, but most likely not.

Bogi Takács says

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The protagonist is a girl who poses as a boy (I think - see later) so that she can sell newspapers - somehow an occupation only open to boys in this rather contrived steam-/dieselpunk setting where women can work in factories to aid the war effort, but not as... newspaper boys?

It was somewhat unclear to me whether the protagonist identified as a boy or a girl, there were lines in favor of both - I f
