



## **W.I.T.C.H., Part I. The Twelve Portals, Vol. 1**

*Elisabetta Gnone*

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Twelve portals have opened between Earth and the dark world of Metamoor, weakening the mystic veil that separates the two and protects humanity from an evil that threatens to consume it. Five girls have been chosen as Guardians to stand against this menace. Gifted with powers over the elements, Will, Irma, Taranee, Cornelia, and Hay Lin step into their new roles and together become the force for good known as W.I.T.C.H.!

## **W.I.T.C.H., Part I. The Twelve Portals, Vol. 1 Details**

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Author : Elisabetta Gnone

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# From Reader Review W.I.T.C.H., Part I. The Twelve Portals, Vol. 1 for online ebook

## Aušrin? says

### VAIKYST?!

Aš nežinau, kaip štie komiksai atrodyt? suaugusiam žmogui, savu metu j? nepirkusiam ir neskai?iusiam, bet man ?ia yra netik?tai galvon dingtel?j?s lobis - kaip gerai, kad prisiminiau! Ir kaip nuostabu, kad šiai laikais jie taip patogiai skaitosi per tam specialiai pritaikytas programas (nors turb?t smagiau b?t? aplankyt? seneli? sod? ir rasti kr?vas ap?iuopiam? žurnaliuk? kokiam apdulk?jusiam spintos kampe...).

O ir pati istorija su savo personažais turi kažk? tokio... Nežinau, ar tai tik itin subjektyvi nuomon?, atkeliaus dar iš vaikyst?s, bet man atrodo, jog W.I.T.C.H. yra labai nusisekusi komiks? serija. ?ia beveik klasika, kaip koks Sailor Moon.

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## Laura says

\*This review is for the first 3 volumes\*

This comic series is amazing. It's about five middle school girls in the real world who gain magical powers to control the elements and have to fight off evil that comes to their world from different dimensions. Sound familiar? That's because it's basically Sailor Moon, but that's not a bad thing. Though the series is undoubtedly inspired by the phenomenal success of Sailor Moon, it manages to stand on its own and shine.

This comic series is made by Disney Italy and though the first story arc was published in English years ago, the rest of the series was never officially translated. There are 11 story arcs total currently and Yen Press is planning to translate and publish them all! So excited! (1 story arc, in 3 volumes, every 4 months starting Oct 2017). There is also an animated series that came out years ago that follows the first two story arcs, though I think the comics are better.

The artwork is lovely and in full color!!! I never get tired of the artwork. The main 5 girls and the side characters are brimming with life. They all have distinct personalities, and each girl receives focus on their character motivations, hobbies, love lives, family lives, etc. In fact I think this series does a better job giving story time to the non-leader girls of the group than Sailor Moon did. Sailor Moon certainly gave some screen time to Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, and Venus, but it was ultimately Usagi's story. Will definitely gets the most focus in W.I.T.C.H., but not by much, and the other 4 girls are well fleshed out. I also really like that the comics give some focus and screentime to all five girls' parents and siblings. They all have pretty distinct home lives, and it helps to flesh out why they became the people they are.

The side characters and villains are equally endearing. The girls have a very personal stake in the fight in this first story arc, and the adventures they go on are fun to read about. Just like Sailor Moon, it's entertaining to see these characters try and balance their normal lives and their magical ones.

In case it wasn't obvious, if you liked Sailor Moon, or the magical girl genre in general, you will love this series. It's fun, quirky, and endearing and I highly recommend this series to people of any age.

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### **Parker Jensen says**

One of childhood favorites! So glad Yen-Press is doing a re release of the series. I'm loving re reading this gem of a series

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### **Earnest says**

One of the very first graphic novel series that i got into. It's a magical comic that perfectly captures the ups and downs of being a preteen/teenager. We follow 5 girls as they go through school, crushes, and parents. Plus the occasional villain along the way.

I like that the series created a rich mythology of its own without needing to resort to direct references to classical stories. It gives originality. I enjoyed adventuring in the different worlds shown and Heatherfield seems like a city I want to live in.

My favorite out of the five is Will. In every aspect her story is always the most interesting. Her relationships with her mom and love life is the most fleshed out and as the series progress we delve even more into them. We also get to see her growth as a leader among other characters whose personalities are stronger than hers. Nevertheless, almost all the major characters get a spotlight of their own. This is not a solo hero's quest story. In some ways it is a slice of life drama, others a magical girl story adventure story.

One gripe that I have with this series is that it is a case of diminishing returns. Halfway through the series' 139 issue run the steam seemed to have ran out with the plots becoming either repetitive or boring. Maybe the authors didn't map out the long term story and just winged it as the popularity of the series demanded a longer run.

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### **Emma says**

The nostalgia! Such a cute read. Love the art style and colours. So glad they're doing a re-print of this series!

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### **Corley Elizabeth says**

*W.I.T.C.H.* had such a profound influence on me as a child: it showcased a group of empowered girls who saved the world on a daily basis but still had to deal with the drama of being teenagers. They also had control of the elements, a plot device that I've always liked in any media. When I found out the comic series was going to be rereleased in its entirety, without censors, I knew I wanted to get at least the first couple of volumes and relive this childhood favorite. Reading volume one was such a blast from the past, but it also allowed me to appreciate it as an adult—the characters were still fun, the art captivating (and reminiscent of manga in some ways, which might have been one of the things that initially drew me to the series), and the bind-up done by Yen Press was well worth the money. This new translation seemed a little immature at times compared to what I remember from the original English, which is the only downside to this edition that I can

think of at the moment. As for the story, now that I'm looking back on it as a 22-year-old, I can see that some things are a bit rushed (like how quickly one character goes from friend to foe), but this didn't detract from my enjoyment of the first four comic chapters. I'll definitely be picking up more!

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### **Mira says**

So much nostalgia for a series of comics I originally picked up in Dutch years ago. And don't get me wrong, I still love it, along with the girls! But a lot more comes to my attention and is clearer this time around, so consider some opinions changed

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### **Daphne Maatman says**

childhood memories! this series was my life!

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### **Kevin says**

#### **THE MAIN VILLAIN REVIEWS**

I have no idea that I would enjoy *The W.I.T.C.H. Series* again. I used to read this when I was in high school. I love how it jogged my memory on why I love this series so much. Let me tell you some of the reasons. Number 1: the series is diverse. We have an Asian character and an African American character. I know we need characters with disability too and all that, but looking at when this book was originally published, you can say that it was way ahead of its time. The second reason is the mythology is big. Monsters, the guardians, and more. This world is full of potential to have a bigger plot. And, of course, the world is just full of magic. Fans of the *Amulet* series by Kazu Kibuishi should pick up this series.

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### **Artemis says**

For my past thoughts on this series - a childhood favourite of mine - read:

My The Power of Five (W.I.T.C.H. Chapter Books, #1) review

My The Power of Friendship (W.I.T.C.H. Graphic Novels, #1) review

So Disney is reprinting the original Italian 'W.I.T.C.H.' comics - with three volumes together in a single trade paperback. I am glad this is happening, for it shows that the franchise has not been forgotten about; it has not received any attention in over a decade, though it isn't even twenty-years-old yet.

'W.I.T.C.H.' (the comics, not the cartoon) is to me what 'My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic' is to the mass

cultural landscape. An underrated and charming series about girl power, magic, and friendship - it is lathered and rinsed in them; foamy and bubbly but with added consequences, darkness and sharp violence (for a children's comic) to it as well.

'W.I.T.C.H.: Part I. Vol. 1 The Twelve Portals' is a straightforward beginning of the series, with a huge mystery element clouding and fogging it that is both frustrating (especially if you know everything that's going to happen already) and clever for making the reader want to find out more. Aside from the magical stuff reminiscent of fantasy series of old, what really sells 'W.I.T.C.H.' is the characters - the endearing, multilayered and likable cast, revolving around five pubescent girls.

Real world struggles for young girls and otherworldly, universe-threatening ones are mirrored and explored - heck, Will, Irma, Taranee, Cornelia, and Hay Lin deal with brutish monsters and sorcerers far easier than they do school, family and boy drama, and keeping their friendship alive through so much. The five chosen Guardians of the Veil have each other, which is their greatest strength, never mind the Heart of Kandracar and the powers of water, fire, earth and air. They are pretty ordinary overall, yet they are extraordinary.

After reading this new release, I came to realize that I had talked a lot about 'W.I.T.C.H.'s theme of friendship before, but I haven't touched upon any other relationships the girls have. Specifically, Will's relationship with her mother. Susan wants to spend as much time as possible with her growing daughter, upon arriving in a new town to make a fresh start in their lives. They are loving, supportive friends as well as family, but between adjusting to a new life in Heatherfield and to her sudden duties as a Guardian and leader, Will doesn't have enough time anymore for her mum. She takes her for granted, not noticing the loving attention she gets, not appreciating the kindness and hard work Susan does for her. Add dating Will's school history teacher as the extra rust in the spanner in the works, and the mother and daughter bond seems tragically broken. They drift apart, much to Susan's dismay. But at the end of this volume, on the final page, their relationship, gradually tearing up throughout the comic, starts to repair itself, when mum sets up a candlelit dinner for herself and her complicated girl, rather than for her date. It is incredibly sweet and touching, and the most satisfactory conclusion to any of this volume's subplots. Susan is a nice, funny character in her own right, who has a life outside of care-giving motherhood, which works for the scene's favour, because the reader will want to see the two get along again, hence the vital emotional punch is successful.

Mother and daughter relations need more focus in media - a focus that is positive - and 'W.I.T.C.H.' shows that as well as friendships between girls in the same age group, friendships between mums and daughters are just as real, just as powerful. They contain a magic of their own. Bonus for teaching kids to appreciate their caring parents, and telling them they love them as often as possible!

'W.I.T.C.H.: Part I. Vol. 1 The Twelve Portals' - yes, there are plot holes and things that don't make sense in this graphic novel series (most notably concerning the "traitor" magical girl Elyon and her motivations), but the charm is present. It doesn't fade.

Creative, dramatic, funny and fun, I still love 'W.I.T.C.H.' with all my nostalgic heart.

Final Score: 3.5/5

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**Nessa [October Tune] says**

It's so great to relive my youth again with these comics! I'm definitely going to pick up the other volumes asap, and then pick up part 2 as well! Fingers crossed that they're going to release all the W.I.T.C.H. comics that exist, because there are a lot and I've literally only read this first story!

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### **Panda says**

This series has been one of my favourite comics for as long as I can remember and no matter how old I get it will always have a special place in my heart. I am so happy these new editions exist; they're gorgeous.

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### **Natalie (CuriousReader) says**

The W.I.T.C.H. series was published in volume format in the Swedish translation from 2003 and forward, I was reading them as they were being published - as a young teen myself, and loving every second of it. The same way people look fondly of their time reading super hero comics as young readers, I think of this series and the excitement I felt upon each new volume being released.

When I saw that Yen Press had re-released the first few volumes, and had plans for 2018 to release the rest, I was thrilled. Not only has this comic been out-of-print for a long time, but I have never read the English version of it before so I was very much looking forward to returning to the Guardians of the Veil, and their adventures in Heatherfield and beyond.

Rereading this was even more nostalgia-filled than I had expected. Within these pages, my twelve year old self had been preserved; not only did I remember myself reading the comics but things about myself and my life at the time that I thought I'd forgotten. Putting all the nostalgia and background history with this comic aside - this is a genuinely entertaining comic, a story filled with magic and adventure to set the world-order right, the battle for friendship and protecting what is important, the strength in these young girls as they push their own boundaries and what they ever thought they were capable of. The comic itself is, I think, a tribute to Sailor Moon and other series like it while keeping a original tone throughout with an inclusion of the girls families as important characters and who shape the main characters lives and their characters crucially (which certainly, cannot be said for many comics of this era - where families I think are mostly absent).

Another thing I love about this comic is that while the girls discover they have magical powers, they stay true to their character even as they as discovering their new limits. Cornelia being one for logic, has a hard time accepting what she doesn't understand, even when her own eyes witnesses the impossible. Irma, happy and spontaneous, uses her powers irresponsibly to hang out with a guy she likes. Will, with her own inner turmoil, a new home, new friends, new life and her mother's new partner, shows this confusion through her dreams (nightmares), her unwillingness to take charge despite getting the 'leader' role for their group, and indecisiveness in her choices and actions.

These are girls of thirteen and fourteen years old, like with the Sailor Moon cast, but they seem to me in many ways more identifiable as teens, dealing with school, crushes, arguments over petty things, irritation towards younger siblings, while these things are not taken to extremes but rather as a nice contrast to their fantastical adventures in other dimensions.

I am definitely going to be continuing on rereading these volumes as they are released through the year,

seeing them both through a nostalgic lens and with fresh eyes as an adult reader.

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**ribbonknight says**

Very happy for this rerelease, and really looking forward to the story arcs I never had a chance to read! The art alone makes this series worth it.

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**belle ?(bookishlybelle) says**

I loved these graphic novels when I was younger, and honestly loved them just as much rereading them now! The illustrations are gorgeous and then story is so fun for all ages.

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