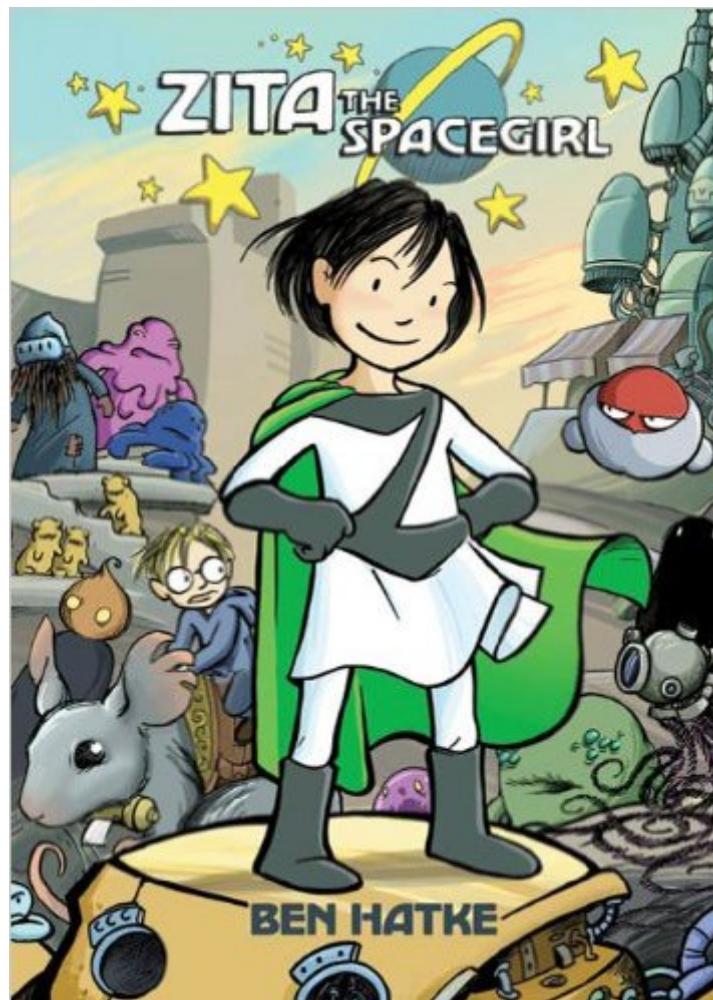


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# Zita The Spacegirl (Zita The Spacegirl Series)



## **Synopsis**

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLERZita's life took a cosmic left turn in the blink of an eye. When her best friend is abducted by an alien doomsday cult, Zita leaps to the rescue and finds herself a stranger on a strange planet. Humanoid chickens and neurotic robots are shocking enough as new experiences go, but Zita is even more surprised to find herself taking on the role of intergalactic hero. Before long, aliens in all shapes and sizes don't even phase her. Neither do ancient prophecies, doomed planets, or even a friendly con man who takes a mysterious interest in Zita's quest. Zita the Spacegirl is a fun, captivating tale of friendship and redemption from Flight veteran Ben Hatke. It also has more whimsical, eye-catching, Miyazaki-esque monsters than you can shake a stick at.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: GN310L (What's this?)

Series: Zita the Spacegirl Series (Book 1)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: First Second (February 1, 2011)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (123 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #6,710 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 inÂ  Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Science Fiction #108 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #121 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

I run a bookgroup for kids between the ages of 9-13. Like a number of American children in the 21st century, these kids have an overwhelming palate for good graphic novels. I can hand them "Robot Dreams" or "Ghostopolis" or "Rapunzel's Revenge", it doesn't matter. Whatever the title, they devour these books in less than an hour and come hounding me for more. The market simply

doesn't exist to satiate their perpetual GN hunger. In fact, far fewer really worthwhile comics for kids come out than you might expect. For every "The Secret Science Alliance" there are twenty cheapo faux mangas ready to clutter up my library's shelves. Fortunately, if you look in the right places you're bound to find something new and interesting. Now there is nothing seemingly original about some of the aspects of "Zita the Spacegirl". The storyline is familiar, the characters give you a sense of déjà vu, and the art feels very Matt Phelan/Raina Telgemeier-esque. That said, what author/artist Ben Hatke does well is dip into a wellspring of familiar ideas to bring us a new world that truly is its own beast. "Zita" earns her stripes.

I have loved comic books since the age of three. I still remember my first comic, an issue of World's Finest featuring Batman and Superman. I still love comic books, but unfortunately have trouble finding appropriate ones to share with my six-year-old daughter. You see, even though I'm now thirty-seven, most Batman and Superman comic books are still written for me. Furthermore, the all-ages comic books released by Marvel and DC tend to be one slugfest after another. I'm not interested in my daughter reading that sort of thing. A few weeks back, I started hearing good things about a graphic novel series called Zita the Spacegirl. My daughter and I love making up space stories, so we headed to the local library and checked out the first volume. My daughter immediately loved it. I read it to her to double-check its appropriateness, and I'm pleased to say it's a perfect match for what my daughter wants and for what I require. I won't lie, I love the character as well. In fact, after we returned that first volume to the library, we bought all three volumes for her birthday. I love Zita the Spacegirl because while it's appropriate for a six-year-old, it's also full of action and real science fiction. There are aliens, spaceships, robots, and explosions. But there's also a lot of positive messages in it as well, such as loyalty, doing the right thing, facing your fear, and self-reliance. Hatke's art, by the way, is top-notch. Yes, it's purposefully cartoonish, but I challenge you to find a more diverse and interesting collection of robots and aliens in any comic book. Furthermore, his sequential storytelling is perfect. My daughter has no trouble following the progression because of Hatke's smooth transitions from panel to panel.

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