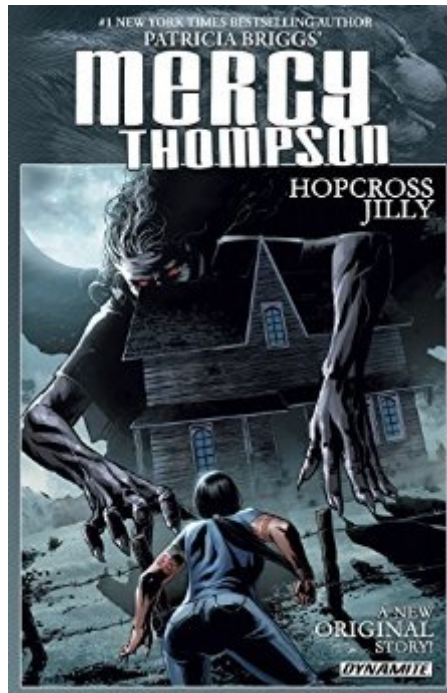


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Patricia Briggs' Mercy Thompson: Hopcross Jilly



Synopsis

Mercy Thompson is a shapeshifting coyote and honorary member of the Tri-Cities werewolf pack. When the pack stumbles upon the buried bones of numerous dead children, she shapeshifts into a mystery of the legendary fae - a mystery that draws Mercy's stepdaughter Jesse into the fray! The supernatural romance series Mercy Thompson continues in this all-new, original story by New York Times bestselling author Patricia Briggs, exclusively created for the comic book medium!

Book Information

File Size: 242104 KB

Print Length: 144 pages

Publisher: Dynamite (June 17, 2015)

Publication Date: July 15, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B011LYG4D0

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #26,469 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Comics & Graphic Novels > Historical & Literary > Biographies & Memoirs #3 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Comics & Graphic Novels > Historical & Literary > Literary #4 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense

Customer Reviews

"All the ancient classic fairy tales have always been scary and dark." -Helena Bonham Carter
I should probably be embarrassed to say this, but here goes. I have never read a graphic novel. I know. Loser, right? But it is something that simply never really interested me. Oh, I read comics when I was a kid. I remember walking to the market when I was able to pull enough pennies together for a comic or two, and I cherished them. But I never really came across a graphic novel whose concept interested me. When I was offered Hopcross Jilly for a review, it was a perfect opportunity to check out the genre and see what I thought with an author whose work I know I like.

The fact that it also features Jesse, daughter to Adam Hauptman and step-daughter to Mercy Thompson, was a plus. I must say, my personal feelings are mixed. That is the problem with building a picture of an author's characters up in your mind over time. If the picture you see, whether on screen or in print is different from what you expect, it can be disappointing. Adam didn't look anything like I pictured him, though Jesse was a good fit. Mercy? Not so much. Now the story, I liked that. Jesse has a really hard time in high school. Well, when your father is the Alpha of the local Pack, and the face of werewolves all over, kids can be vicious. Since kids can be more vicious than a school of rabid piranha anyway, add in the fact that your dad is Top Were and your life can be utterly miserable. That only gets worse when the pack finds the bodies of four children - then four more, then four more, and four more - buried ritualistically on an abandoned farm. And when one of the bodies happens to be the aunt of the Queen Mean Girl in school, things get even worse.

WHAT I THINK ABOUT THIS BOOK: FIRST, let's address the formal components of the book. The cover image (the first image, located at the top left of this post), as you can see, is vibrant, even while the artist, Tom Garcia and colorist, Mohan, chose to set the mood with somber colors. Given that there is a giant reaching over the house, the image should convey an image of horror and forbidding. Looking, however, at Mercy in her fighting stance with one fist clenched and leaning forward to meet the evil head on, it seems to evoke more a feeling of "Let's dance!" than of unapproachability. The light over part of the scene shows hope. So, I think the cover is outstanding in that it leads us to want to know more, and not be afraid to open the book and turn the pages. Inside, where dark forces are at play, somber blues, grays, blacks, punctuated with brick reds and reds to warm the image, a bit--just like the cover. The pages dealing with the high school are full of light, colors, and openness. So, Garcia and Mohan did very well with the use of color in setting the scenes and atmosphere. Additionally, the images are just beautiful. To say that I like the graphic images would be an understatement. SECOND: Audience: In the early days of comics, the "funnies" were for children, fairly exclusively. Since the growth and popularity of the graphic novel, the line is much harder to draw. (no pun intended). Graphic novels made comics acceptable. They also went from "episodic" publications to full novels with a beginning, middle, and end--told in pictures. So, then given those brief considerations of audience, just who is the audience for Hopcross Jilly? At first blush, most would think it a YA (young adult) novel.

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