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Space Battle Lunchtime Volume 1: Lights, Camera, Snacktion!



Synopsis

Collecting the first four issues of Natalie Riess's delectable series, SPACE BATTLE LUNCHTIME! Earth baker Peony gets the deal of a lifetime when she agrees to be a contestant on the Universe's hottest reality TV show, Space Battle Lunchtime! But that was before she knew that it shoots on location... on a spaceship... and her alien competitors don't play nice! Does Peony really have what it takes to be the best cook in the Galaxy? Tune in and find out!

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE -- In this graphic novel, contestants from all over the galaxy compete on a cooking show. Readers will watch as, for the first time ever, a contestant from Earth, Peony, joins the competition. Peony is spunky and determined to do her best (even though she mostly just made cupcakes in the past-though none of the alien judges really know what cupcakes are). Of course the competition is intense and some of the other competitors are downright evil and cunning; so not only is Peony's chance at winning in question but her very life is at stake. The illustrations are a good mix of sweet for Peony (her chef's jacket has hearts on it after all) and oddly quirky for all the unknown aliens and their alien cooking ingredients. However, readers who really want to know the

whole story will need to look for further installments. This particular book ends on quite the dramatic cliffhanger-like almost every good television show might. This is a good graphic novel for those who love quirky cooking reality shows and aliens all mixed together.

KIRKUS -- An Earth patissiere is beamed up to an intergalactic cooking competition reminiscent of Iron Chef. With oversized glasses, light skin, and a hairstyle reminiscent of Lucy's from "Peanuts," Peony spends her days whipping up culinary delights at the bakery where she works. However, one fateful day, she is visited by a bespectacled frog who invites her to participate in a competition to find "the greatest chef in the galaxy." Suddenly, Peony finds herself on Space Battle Lunchtime, a televised show staged in an out-of-this-world kitchen with alien ingredients (literally) and odd appliances unlike anything she's ever seen. Undaunted by her exotic surroundings, Peony finds that her relentless optimism and cooking know-how help her persevere and woo the extraterrestrial judges. Threatened by her success, her ET opponents are not above sabotage, and Peony soon discovers the lengths some of them would go to ensure she does not win. Will Peony survive, or is this just the way her cookie crumbles? Riess' series opener is highly imaginative and enjoyable, with strong worldbuilding working joyfully alongside bright and humorous illustrations. An odd yet well-spun mixture of food fiction and space tales, with a dash of pop culture, this unusual charmer defies genre conventions and seems to revel in its own sheer individuality and campy wonder. Delicious fun that's out of this world. (Graphic science fiction. 7-14)

BOOKLIST -- Peony feels she is one of the best bakers in the universe; now she's been given a chance to prove it. Accepting a challenge from an odd customer, she is instantly transported into space to perform on a head-to-head competitive cooking show. With no knowledge of the weird alien ingredients she has to use, Peony must forge alliances and friendships to stay ahead of the cutthroat competition. The story moves quickly, focusing less on introductions and more on the competitions between the characters. Although this makes the delivery feel rushed, it certainly matches the quick pace of a televised cooking show. But the centerpiece is Riess' artwork: simple yet vivid, her anime-inspired character design makes everything look adorable and pop off the page. Riess ends the piece on an interesting note, sending Peony onto a competing cooking show where chefs must fight and literally cook their competition, so it definitely will be interesting to see where the series goes. Cute and lots of fun-kids will eat it up.

"Space Battle Lunchtime is incredibly charming and fun! It's an exciting peek at a well-developed cast of characters and an exciting, upbeat Space Bake-Off. I can't wait to read more!" - Carey Pietsch (Lumberjanes, Adventure Time: Marceline Gone Adrift)

"Sweet but filling, Space Battle Lunchtime has given us a fantastic opening issue which leaves you wanting more." - Mairghread Scott

"Chefs have to think on their feet and react quickly, especially when they're in

competition-ESPECIALLY when that competition is in SPACE! With fun characters and delicious dishes, this space adventure fits right in to the young chef's menu. "Chefs have to think on their feet and react quickly, especially when they're in competition-ESPECIALLY when that competition is in SPACE! With fun characters and delicious dishes, this space adventure fits right in to the young chef's menu." - Lucy Knisley (Relish: My Life in the Kitchen)

Seriously one of the cutest comics I've ever read - love the art and love the concept of cute queer bakers in space!

The art was super colorful and interesting, lots of space food puns, and the ending left me starving for more!

There's a whole new subgenre of graphic novel / comics about food game shows in SF settings. This is one of the best.

Absolutely delightful, I didn't want it to end.

Fun comic especially for those who like competitive cooking shows.

incredibly charming! riess is a great comics artist and it shows.

The art is gorgeous and I really love the colors especially. The designs for all the aliens were really cool. The story itself is really fun and since this volume ended on a sudden cliffhanger, I'm gonna go buy the rest of the series so I can read it right now.

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