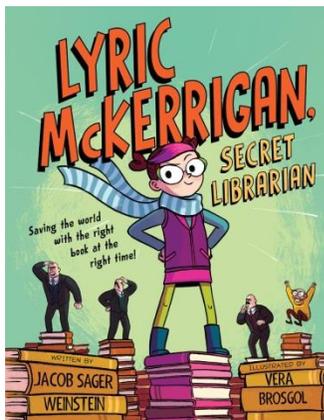


SPOTLIGHT ON BOOKS



As October comes to a close, so does Canadian Library Month. This year we kept it a low-key affair at Yellowknife Public Library, or rather, we kept things as busy as ever—we feel celebrated by the community every month as literally thousands of people come to our programs and check out our resources. One small promotion we did have in October, however, was a chance for patrons to write on a heart to tell us what they loved about the library. These we put on display. Two common responses were “the helpful staff” and “great books.”

Both of these ideas are present in *Lyric McKerrigan, Secret Librarian*, a picture book written by Jacob Steiger Wienstein and illustrated by Vera Brosgol, which would also be a great introduction to comics for younger readers.

Unfortunately, when I see "Librarian" in a title I immediately think it's going to be well-intentioned but ultimately boring and/or schmaltzy. Or miss the mark on librarianship altogether.

Weinstein's story of the evil Doctor Glockenspiel and his threat to destroy the world's books unless he's given one billion trillion dollars is action-packed and anything but boring. It's also, with a large credit to Vera Brosgol's art, hilarious in a *Despicable Me* silly and over-the-top sort of way. I especially enjoyed Glockenspiel's three henchman, identical except for their varied facial hair.

Given the ludicrous plot, you might think that my other fear (i.e., missing the mark on librarianship) was justified. It's not like most of us deal with super-villains on a daily basis after all. However, *Lyric McKerrigan, Secret Librarian* saves the day with reader's advisory which is an actual librarian skill. Sure it's never referred to specifically as "reader's advisory" and sure, she also makes use of a series of physical disguises, but these are just fun liberties. (And some of us librarians have been known to wear wigs at work.)

On that note, if you would like our “helpful staff” to recommend one of those “great books” that people are raving about, be sure to check out our website to find out how to get your very own personalized reading list.

John Mutford, Library Manager

October 31, 2018