

Spotlight

August 18, 2017

I have a new guiding star and that star is the Lumberjanes. This New York Times bestselling comic series is a perfect mix of campy, spunky, feminist fun. The series (now in its 38th issue) follows five friends who are scouts in the Roanoke cabin at Miss Quinzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet's Camp for Hardcore Lady-Types. During a seemingly never-ending summer they simultaneously discover what it means to be a true friend, find themselves, and defeat supernatural monsters and beasts. Peppered with quirky humour the scouts invoke the names of feminist pioneers (some of which, I'm ashamed to say, I had to look up making this book a good tool for a little extra feminist education) while trying to solve the mysteries surrounding the camp.

The Lumberjanes break female stereotypes in half and the comic is endearing without being overly sweet. The five scouts at the center of the series – Jo, April, Molly, Mal, and Ripley – each bring their own charm to the story and provide many different versions of what it means to be a Lumberjane (i.e. what it means to be a girl). The Lumberjanes is incredibly inclusive and it could easily be enjoyed by pre-teens, teens, or adults. Each issue is organized around a camp manual write up about the various badges that can be earned and is a wonderfully tongue in cheek play on camp life familiar to anyone who has ever been a girl scout.

The Lumberjanes are a product of Boom! Studios approaching writer Grace Ellis to create a girl-centric comic series. The resulting collaboration between Ellis, Brooke. A. Allen, and Noelle Stevenson is a comic that was born of friendship and teamwork and these values are celebrated throughout. By the end of the first volume, I wholly believe you will have adopted the Lumberjanes slogan, "Friendship to the Max!" and will be quick with a "What the Junk?" for all the bizarre magic you find in your own life.



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