



Making Friends

Kristen Gudsnuik

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Sixth grade was SO much easier for Danielle. All her friends were in the same room and she knew what to expect from her life. But now that she's in seventh grade, she's in a new middle school, her friends are in different classes and forming new cliques, and she is completely lost.

When Danielle inherits a magical sketchbook from her eccentric great aunt Elma, she draws Madison, an ideal best friend that springs to life right off the page! But even when you create a best friend, it's not easy navigating the ups and downs of relationships, and before long Danielle and Madison are not exactly seeing eye-to-eye.

To make matters worse, Danielle has drawn the head of her favorite (and totally misunderstood) cartoon villain, Prince Neptune. He's also come to life and is giving her terrible advice about how to make people like her. When she rejects him and he goes on a rampage during a school pep rally, Danielle and Madison have to set aside their differences to stop him!

Making Friends Details

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Author : Kristen Gudsruk

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From Reader Review Making Friends for online ebook

Amanda says

This was a little all over the place and some of the references seemed aimed at adults rather than the intended audience but still a fun, fantasy-filled adventure story about surviving middle school.

Kendall Ball says

This one should be a hit for the middle-schoolers!

Brianna says

I was a big fan of Henchgirl, so I was immediately attracted to this GN. I love the art style and how a large part of the plot of this charmingly weird book feels like fan fiction. Some readers might have a hard time with the more quirky ways that Gudsnuk moves her plot along, but I really love the absurdity. It was also balanced with a lot of heart and real-life issues that many middle grade readers will be able to identify with.

Laura Gardner says

Just putting this fabulous #graphicnovel on your radar. It's not out until July 31, but it is going to be a HIT! Thanks to @Scholasticinc for sharing an ARC with me; I will be adding this to the @kidlitexchange network and sending it to @theloudlibrarylady first!

~*~*~*~*~*

MAKING FRIENDS by Kristen Gudsnuk, @henchgirl_comic, is SO ENTERTAINING. Imagine you have a magic notebook and anything you draw comes to life. Dany is in a new class in 7th grade without her friends from 6th so when she discovers a magic notebook in her great aunt's attic, she draws herself some friends...who then come to life...and make everything better...OR NOT.

~*~*~*~*~*

My students are going to EAT. THIS. UP. Not only will it appeal to kids who are fans of supernatural GN, but kids who love Smile, Drama, Sisters, Roller Girl, etc will also love this book. I can't wait to see the final copy. This one only has 16 pages in full color, but the final book will be in full color. Pre-order this one now and be sure to get multiple copies. It's going to be a hit!

~*~*~*~*~*

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Stephanie Tournas says

For Dany 7th grade is full of inscrutable social rules. Nothing feels as fun and effortless as 6th grade. When she is able to conjure a new best friend magically from a deceased great aunt's sketchbook, life seems to improve. But then her new best friend has needs too. I love the mashup of real middle grade angst with nerdy fandom and cosplay. Nerds, geeks, punks, goths, family disfunction, also come to play. Clever and relatable. Artwork, unfinished in this ARC, is engaging and active, and echoes Raina Telgemeier's expressive characters.

L. B. Bugle says

This book is about a 12-year-old girl named Danielle who finds her dead aunt's magical sketchbook which makes anything you draw in it become real. She draws a head of a character she likes, which comes to life as a floating head. She also draws a girl to be her friend, Madison.

The story was very interesting, funny at times, cute, and a little surprising. The illustrations were very cute and well-drawn. I loved it!

Laura says

I loved it. A fun, tongue in cheek homage to childhood difficulties and passions with a delightful dash of magic. Art fit the story perfectly.

Vernon Area Public Library KIDS says

Now that Danielle is in seventh grade, she's in a new middle school, her friends are in different classes and forming new cliques, and she is completely lost. When her great aunt dies, she inherits a magical sketchbook where whatever she draws comes to life as she draws it (think: head without a body). When she draws her favorite cartoon character and a new best friend, hilarity ensues and shenanigans begin, but is having "the perfect" life really worth it?

Recommended for 5-8 grade.

Reviewed by Rebecca, Youth and School Services, Vernon Area Public Library

Sylwia (Wish Fulfillment) says

This is the kind of work that depends on its morals and messages and I didn't feel like they shone through enough as they came in at the far end and at that point I was so bored that I was skimming.

Mehsi says

Ahhhhh, this was just too much fun to read! I just adored it. It is full of magic, making friends (which isn't

easy to do), imagination, and finding a place to belong. I adored the characters, though I did feel sorry for Madison. I wish that Danielle had talked to her sooner about where she came from, instead of making up lies. The floating head? Made me laugh so much, but I kept wondering when it would show its true colours! The ending was spectacular, a bit chaotic though, but still it fit with the story. And then those last pages? Made me smile!

Of course the art is fabulous. Kristen Gudsruk just makes awesome things!

Bitsy says

The plot was a little all over the place, but I still found this book really, really fun and charming! It's a great mix of wacky wish fulfillment fantasy and dealing with real-world problems. Plus, the whole thing is filled with humor, both in the writing and the cartooning.

Dany is a seventh grader who's having a tough time making new friends in middle school until she finds a magic notebook. Suddenly, everything she draws becomes real, including the severed head of her favorite anime character Prince Neptune (which is not as gross as it sounds) and a brand new best friend named Madison. Hijinks ensue and things are going great for Dany until Madison finds out that she's a creation from the magic notebook.

At this point, the plot continues to center on Dany trying to make friends, while also bringing up questions about free will, trauma, and what it means to have infinite power, which is... a lot for one book. And maybe the answers that we do end up getting aren't 100% perfect, but it's an ambitious and incredibly fun story.

The Prince Neptune storyline, in particular, was a blast. And I loved Dany! She's self-centered—like most middle schoolers!—but she cares about her friends, and she doesn't go too crazy with her powers (after the whole “literally creating an actual person just to be her friend” thing).

Overall, I loved it!

Elaine says

Danielle is struggling to adjust to her new middle school life. Hers is the typical tween story until she draws her favorite manga character, heartthrob villain Prince Neptune, in her eccentric aunt's inherited sketch book. He emerges, alive, from the pages into her room, but since she only sketched his pretty face, he is just a talking “floaty head.” She wants to keep him around and secret so she carries him in her backpack and keeps him in her locker. Once she knows the power of the sketchbook, she draws a new perfect bestie, Madison, who will surely make her popular. Floaty head Prince Neptune and full-body but homeless Madison become rivals, and Neptune shows his true colors when he tries to take over the school with his evil powers. The first few pages are in full color, but the rest of the book is black and white with sometimes vague minimal line drawings. Even with significant editing, it is hard to imagine this story becoming visually appealing or coherent. Awkward jumps between scenes and tiny illegible jokey comments in the frames' backgrounds (which ARE sometimes funny when you can actually read them) are just two of the numerous problems with this disjointed story. Graphic novel fans who are also manga readers may be OK with a spasmodic storyline

which can be more common in that format. Unfortunately, it's a Scholastic Graphix publication which means it will likely be available at book fairs. Fans of Telgemeier will grab it based on its cover and will be completely confused and disappointed.

Lexi says

A fun wacky read. Very middle school with interesting art. It is a little annoying how "damsel in distress" dany is, but the other characters do balance out.

Kathy says

Even though I tagged this as fantasy, really it's a read-alike to Raina Telgemeier's "Smile" series, where Dany has to explore how to make friends in middle school. In this case, she finds she can literally "make" friends by drawing in a magic notebook she inherited from great aunt. Things get more complicated than she foresees, of course.

Shannon Owens says

Cute!!!!
