



Zodiac Starforce Volume 1: By the Power of Astra

Kevin Panetta , Paulina Ganucheau (Illustrator)

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They're an elite group of teenage girls with magical powers who have sworn to protect our planet against dark creatures . . . as long as they can get out of class! Known as the Zodiac Starforce, these high-school girls aren't just combating math tests. They're also battling monsters--not your typical afterschool activity! But when an evil force from another dimension infects team leader Emma, she must work with her team of magically powered friends to save herself--and the world--from the evil Diana and her mean-girl minions!

From Kevin Panetta (*Bravest Warriors*) and Paulina Ganucheau (*TMNT: New Animated Adventures, Bravest Warriors*), this super-fun and heartfelt story of growing up and friendship--with plenty of magical-girl fighting action--delivers the most exciting new ensemble cast in comics!

Collects Zodiac Starforce #1-#4

Zodiac Starforce Volume 1: By the Power of Astra Details

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Author : Kevin Panetta , Paulina Ganucheau (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Zodiac Starforce Volume 1: By the Power of Astra for online ebook

Jillian (bookishandnerdy) says

i loved every second of this. GOOD LORD GIMME THE NEXT VOLUME!!!

Lainey says

One of those rarities that can back up being marketed as "Buffy meets Sailor Moon."

I really enjoyed the graphic novel and graphic novels aren't really my thing. I really enjoyed that this first volume wasn't the journey of the girls getting their powers. I loved that it started as they had already saved the world two years ago and kind of disbanded, but not circumstances are putting them back together again.

Molly is my favorite for sure.

I read this graphic novel for #Diverseathon because of how diverse the characters are in appearance (Emma is biracial, Lily is black, Molly is Asian, and Kim is plus-sized) as well as the LGBTQ+ relationship!

Guts Reads says

Okay seriously? If you like anything related to Sailor Moon, astrology, or ass kicking, this is the comic for you. Did I mention it's females doing the ass kicking? That's right! This comic is beyond awesome. Paulina's art is so magically colorful that I just want to stare at it for days. Really. Get this comic.

Jes Reads says

Nothing could have prepared me for how good this comic was. Zodiac Starforce follows a group of high school girls who are granted superhero abilities. They're fighting monsters, saving each other, and trying to keep their grades up.

I have to say my very favorite thing about this comic was how badass, but also relatable the girls were. I love how they worked together as a team and each personality was complimentary. I think you'd be hard pressed to find a character you didn't relate to. Not to mention the LGBT rep in this is phenomenal. It's adorable, well done, not forced, and seamless to the story.

The art in this is beautiful. If you like full, vivid color and clean lines you'll love this comic.

I also really loved the "bad guy" in this. I think the story behind why they do what they do really teaches a valuable lesson. I didn't think I could get much from a comic, but here we are.

I would recommend this comic to anyone who loves girl gangs that lift each other up, fight for their friends, and are all around badasses!

Cat (cat-thecatlady) says

oh gosh, this was so good.

I love magical girl stories and this one was just my cup of tea. the girls are lovely together and I love the lore with the signs. besides, the art is just jaw dropping and I love love love the colour palette. I can't wait to read more.

full review here: <https://catshelf.wordpress.com/2017/0...>

rachel says

I found out about this series on a recommendation list for diverse graphic novels. It was everything - and more - I wanted from Power Up so I'm so thankful my library was able to order it in!

- The cast were all completely adorable
- I was invested in all of their relationships - friendships and romances alike
- Anything with female friendship at its core is a win for me, really
- This cast had something special about them, though, that really drew me in
- Lots of queer/sapphic and poc rep!
- The mythology was different and intriguing
- There were a few moments that I was a tad confused, however
- It almost felt like a spinoff of an existing series somehow??
- Despite that, I was never disengaged from the story
- I was hooked from the very first page
- The art style was glorious with its beautiful, bright colour scheme
- The fluidity of the panels made the story flow so well
- It was just so much fun??

If you're looking for a ya sff graphic novel with a sapphic ship, female friendships and an interesting mythology, this is not one to overlook. Please let there be a second volume in the works!

Also, can someone please make this series into a tv show?

? Trigger warnings for physical injuries/blood, death of a mother, death of a friend, kidnapping, assault, and bullying.

Alison says

This was a fantastic graphic novel!!!

First of all, the art in this is stunning. I love how bright and happy it feels.

This is probably one of the few "superhero" comics I will ever enjoy, especially because the characters are so relateable and lovable.

Excited to see how the next volume is because I am already OBSESSED.
also, there's a f/f romance that I am LIVING for.

Maddie says

This just proves that another magical girl graphic novel can only make your life better. Zodiac Starforce is such a brilliant team because it was formed prior to the comic's beginning. I really liked how this followed a different storyline than most magical girl series, which is like 'let's collect a new member in each comic!' I loved the diversity of the girls, I loved the transformations and the colour palette is so cosmic cute <3

Where's Volume Two???

Kayla (BOOKadoodles) says

Girl power + female friendships + LGBTQ romance + bold and colorful art = when is volume two coming out??

ALEXA says

Ultimately a fun story of friendship and magic! It definitely had modern day Sailor Moon vibes to me, even though the story is def different.

Melanie says

First off, this was nothing short of probably the most adorable graphic novel I've ever read. Secondly, I love magical girls, always and forever. Thirdly, I never knew I needed magical zombie girls until now, but it turns out I did. Fourth, the color pallet and art throughout this entire story is beyond words beautiful. And lastly, this showcases how girl friendship can be the most powerful magical force in the world, and I loved this.

Oh, and this is about magical girls who all embrace a different zodiac sign. Like, can I yell how perfect this is any louder? This story embraces and celebrates body diversity, ethnic variety, and multiple sexualities! Like, there was a text message in this using the pan hearts and I promise you that I was hollering over it for at least fifteen minutes.

I loved this! I loved how unconditional friendship was always at the forefront. I loved all the diversity (Molly is Asian, Lily is Black, Emma is for sure not white at the very least, Savi is a bi/pan main character, and Lily is a lesbian/bi/pan main character)! I also loved the constant portrayal of grief from Emma. I will always love

seeing girls ditch abusive boys and getting with sweet girls, let's be real. And this was nothing short of a treat to read! Also, it feels like a good standalone, but I want so much more from these girls and this world! I can't wait until July! Oh, and I'd commit a minor felony to get a Virgo Zodiac! You all, pick this graphic novel up!

Okay, I'm going to briefly break down each of the issues in this bind up volume, so **there will be spoilers ahead!** I just always like to break down graphic novels this way, so I can come back and remember each issue! Plus, I think people like it. Hopefully. Okay, moving on to the break down!

► CHAPTER ONE

We get to learn all the characters, but this issue really focuses on the Starforce leader, Emma! She is a sixteen-year-old in high school, when a monster attacks! After defeating it, she starts to feel weird. Then her friend, Kim, finds her and stresses how important it is to get the gang back together! Also, Kim is looking for a missing friend named Alice, who happens to be at a party the girls attend.

► CHAPTER TWO

The girls made a new friend named Lily, who Savi has taken an interest in! They all attend a volleyball game together, which more monsters attack. Emma's infection is spreading, and the girls need to do something quick!

► CHAPTER THREE

Well, a portal is now open, and monsters are everywhere in Virginia! Emma is unable to move and has passed out. We find out a mean girl that we met at the party in issue one is a much worse mean girl than originally anticipated. And she wants to sacrifice Emma to Cimmeria to please her.

► CHAPTER FOUR

Cimmeria offers Emma something that would be hard for any child to turn down, but luckily for us, Emma isn't any child. And.... I got all the zombie magical girls I didn't know I needed! The conclusion was super satisfying, but I want more. And... I want to meet these new characters! And like, please give me my Virgo Starforce girl, please!

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Bee (Heart Full of Books) says

Colour Palette - 5 stars

Character diversity - 5 stars

Every outfit (background or main) - 5 stars

Actual Story - 5 stars.

SOOOOO CUUUUTE.

Riley says

I LOVED THIS!

Liv (???) says

Well this was cutesy.

2.5 stars. Not enough substance for a higher rating, but it was nice nonetheless. I'll probably be checking out the next volume once it comes out.

Also, I'll be basic and say what everyone else is saying about this- it totally is like Sailor Moon.

Jackie B. - Death by Tsundoku says

Zodiac Starforce is a wonderful modern rendition of the Magical Girl Warrior trope. A bright, bubbly, action story which defies stereotypes on so many levels. Our quartet of heroines is diverse. The story picks up two years after the Zodiac Starforce girls saved the world and are now trying to just live out their lives. We begin both in the middle of the story and at the start of a new one. Monsters are returning, it seems like the school's mean girl Queen Bee could be more than she appears to be, and the girls need to figure out how to rebuild their friendships after the last battle broke them apart. Will they be able to get it together to save the world?!

I adore the art and coloring of this graphic novel. Reminiscent of Jem and the Holograms, we have soft outlines with a bold palette of colors giving them a modern look. It's a bit retro but in a respectful and intentional way. As our girls are diverse physically, their outfits represent them as much as the Zodiac Starforce team. This is a refreshing change from identical school girl outfits for thin high school girls. Instead, the personality of each character comes through in their costume design. For example, sporty, bisexual Savanna sports sneakers and a baseball cap. But aggressive, punk Kimberly dons elbow pads and a short jacket with spikes around the collar. Each outfit is unique and practical, but the uniform look of the Zodiac Starforce girls persists.

A smart, colorful, and creative read, I strongly recommend Zodiac Starforce: By the Power of Astra to all fans of the magical girl trope, and to anyone looking to discover a heartwarming story of maintaining friendship against all odds.
