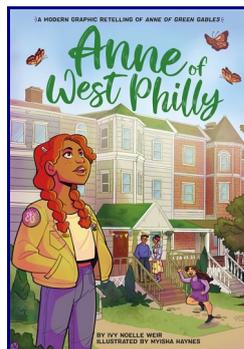


Anne of West Philly: A Modern Graphic Retelling of Anne of Green Gables

By Ivy N Weir & Illustrated by Myisha Haynes
Publisher: Little, Brown Young Readers US / Hachette
ISBN 9780316459778 SCIS: 5394627
\$19.99

Blurb:

Anne of Green Gables with a twist: in this follow-up to Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy and The Secret Garden on 81st Street, this full-color graphic novel moves Anne Shirley to modern-day West Philadelphia, where she finds new friends, new rivals, and a new family. When Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert decide to foster a teenage girl for the first time, their lives are changed forever. Their redheaded foster daughter, Anne Shirley, is in search of an exciting life and has decided that West Philly is where she's going to find it. Armed with a big personality and unstoppable creativity, Anne takes her new home by storm as she joins the robotics club, makes new friends in Diana and Gilbert, experiences first love, and turns the ordinary into the extraordinary. But as Anne starts to get comfortable, she discovers one thing she wasn't looking for: a family.



Lamont Review:

Anne Shirley is creative and full of energy, and is not backward in saying what she thinks. But when you are settling into a new home and a new school, this does not always go down well!

Anne has recently been fostered by siblings Marilla and Matthew, who are used to having boys as their foster children - not an outspoken eighth grade girl, who has been through a lot in her short life! With no family of her own, she has been in the foster system since she was young, and really just wants a place to call her own.

But will life with Marilla and Matthew, and the new friends that she has made, be the future she is looking for? Anne has a very resilient attitude towards life, and likes to help others, but trouble has a knack of following her. She learns some tough lessons along the way about how people perceive her, and learning to be truly sorry for her actions is something that shows how she matures throughout the story.

A modern take on Anne of Green Gables, with themes of family, friendship, belonging and personal growth, this is a wonderful graphic novel for junior to middle secondary students.

Reviewed by Sam

The Awakening Storm (City of Dragons #1)

By Jaimal Yogis
Publisher: Scholastic Inc
ISBN 9781338660425 SCIS: 5381056
\$17.99

Blurb:

When Grace moves to Hong Kong with her mum and new stepdad, her biggest concern is making friends at her fancy new boarding school. But when a mysterious old woman gifts her a dragon egg during a field trip, Grace discovers that the wonderful stories of dragons she heard when she was a young girl might actually be real—especially when the egg hatches overnight. The dragon has immense powers that Grace has yet to understand. And that puts them both in danger from mysterious forces intent on abusing the dragon's power. And now it's up to Grace and her school friends to uncover the sinister plot threatening the entire city!



Lamont Review:

Containing many of the best features of graphic novels—with action, great illustrations, ancient mythology and good versus evil, this is a terrific book.

Based around the story of a quiet, bullied girl named Grace, whose father died of cancer. Fast forward three years and her new, highly driven, step-father takes them to Hong Kong for his job in a biomedical company.

Grace makes some wonderful friends at the International School, and when a dragon's egg is given to her, her life instantly changes.

This turns into a fun filled fantasy adventure, where bad guys are seeking her dragon, evil scientists abound, and our well intentioned teen heroes must band together with their dragon friends to maintain world balance.

An easy and appealing graphic novel is suited to upper primary and lower secondary readers.

Reviewed by Rob