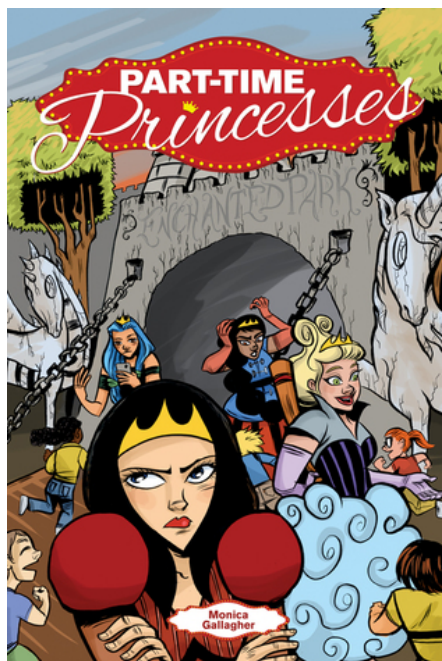




Part-Time Princesses

Monica Gallagher

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Working as costumed princesses at the local amusement park is a nice gig, but it's not what Courtney, Amber, Tiffany, and Michelle want to do with their lives. These queens of high school have their own plans for life post-graduation, and they do not involve fixed games and fried pickles.

But when all their plans fall apart, what are the girls to do? Left with no other options, they decide to keep their part-time jobs as princesses—for the moment. But even that plan is threatening to fall apart, thanks to the sudden and increasing muggings plaguing the park and chasing away customers.

With their back-up jobs in peril, the girls have no choice but to take matters into their own hands and fight back. But the more they work to save the park, the more their part-time jobs become full-time, and the more their carefully-planned futures get pushed to the wayside. Will these princesses ever get their lives back on track?

Will they even want to?

Part-Time Princesses Details

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From Reader Review Part-Time Princesses for online ebook

Krystal says

There were a lot of issues I couldn't let go of when this story wrapped.

-The chicks' personalities on a whole sucked. They were rude to everyone: parents who are bankrolling their lifestyle, peers at school simply existing next to them, friendly co-workers/owner, etc. No apology is ever forthcoming and it gives the impression that it's okay to be a total asshole if you sorta apologize 6 months later. But really, give a girl some slack for being a bitch because she was sooooo stressed out. Parents cancelled the free European trip, yo.

-How were the girls able to "take over" an amusement park business, make executive decisions, and chase the owner out of a closed staff meeting? There's no common sense. If people are getting mugged, you hire security. Give a visual presentation that you care about the safety of your customers. You don't sit on your hands and give the future of your company to 4 teenagers who completely alienated all your support staff because they don't understand the concept of teamwork.

Pass.

Jeanne says

The art was good, the story was kind of slow, and I wasn't really invested in any of the characters. I usually like unlikeable characters, especially girls, but not this time.

BookGirl says

Cheesy?

Chris says

Delightful and fun short graphic novel. I love the characters

Maggie Gordon says

This was an odd little graphic novel. It stars four very unlikeable, snotty teenage girls whose life plans suddenly go arwy. Instead of fleeing their home town for modelling/acting/cheerleading/university, they are stuck working at a local amusement park and trying to save it from destruction. This could have worked well as a story, but the author made a lot of weird/unfortunate choices that resulted in a very unsatisfying book.

First of all, the characters were not very pleasant. The four girls were the popular, mean girls of their high school. They looked down on everyone else, and this really didn't change much throughout the book. They

were snobby and conceited, yet faced few direct consequences for their self-absorption. I just didn't enjoy reading about them, and I found it hard to believe that they could have been so self-deluded.

The plot was also strange and not very developed. The four girls all try really hard to follow their dreams, but none succeed. However, we never really learn why for most of them. One is supposed in trouble from her parents for not trying harder so... she stops trying? The "smart" one gets rejected from EVERY university on her list. Did she only apply to Ivy League schools? Was she really not a great student? Who knows! The model and cheerleader both have one audition, but neither work. Thus, LIFE IS OVER. I know rejections suck, particularly when you are young, but it seems silly that this group barely tried! Perhaps this was not the author's intent, but it would have been best to show readers a bit more about how these girls prepared in order to really show how devastating this blow was.

Furthermore, the fact that they became interested in other things and talents was a good path to follow, but we didn't get enough development of this part of the plot. They decide to protect the park from an evil scheme of the mayor's (because he's... evil? Or something?), and they learn a lot as they try to upgrade infrastructure and make the park a better place to be. However, the whole problem just seems so silly (hoodied gang members attack attendees!), and in a black and white comic, it's hard to actually see the improvements that were made.

In the end, there's conflict over whether the girls should actually be working harder towards their original goals, with the smart one feeling upset that only she seems to be trying again. Perhaps this is the hook for a second book as she gets into university and seems torn between whether she should go off and capture her dreams or stick with her friends. In any case, at the end, the girls all seem to be sorta-friends with the other park kids, but they are still snobby, I have no idea if they still want to really follow their dreams or now have new dreams, and why the hell was the mayor trying to underhandedly destroy the park? Weren't there legitimate means of doing so?

Part-time Princesses definitely needed some editing, and colour would have made a lot of the plot much more apparent. However, props for the queer relationship that was normalised!

Amanda says

2.5 Stars I really enjoy black and whites but for this one I really wish it was in color. The story was not what I expected it to be at all. I feel more could have been done. The girls in this were super stereotypical.

Melodie Roschman says

Scattered plot, unlikable characters, and I was 2/3 of the way through before I was able to tell the girls apart. It gets some points for featuring a queer relationship and diverse body types though.

Amber says

Story was ok. Needed more oomph, more reform. Wish art was in full color.

Ashley says

Four best friends, high school seniors whose dreams for post-graduation aren't panning out - college, modeling, etc. This ends up being good for them, though, as they find out they're interested in more than they realized. The cheerleader likes engineering. The avid actor enjoys architectural set design. Bonuses: a romance develops between two of the girls. And a few different shapes/sizes are represented. Will appeal to princess lovers, while showing them they can like and be more than hyper feminine. But the snobbery though... This book was too Mean Girls for me. The attitude all four girls hold that they are above everyone persists for the entire book. There is maybe an insightful moment of insecurity here and there. They are good friends to each other but treat everyone else poorly. 2.5.

Miranda says

Oh no, teenage girls who are *GASP* UNLIKEABLE! Say it ain't so!

Whatever, I liked this a lot.

Peter Derk says

Okay, a little Scooby-Doo-y. There's a derelict amusement park and a shadowy figure who is being bothered by these damn meddling teens. But overall I kinda liked it.

What I liked about it is that the characters are a bit unlikable. Which is to say, they are flawed, jerkass people. Which is to say, in Tina Fey parlance, they are Mean Girls.

But in the end, they totally change! 15%. Maybe 10%. Okay, they don't totally change. They make a slight improvement to being less jerkassy jerks.

What I like about this, it's something I don't see as often in books, especially books that seem targeted towards teens. I think so many of us are so afraid to hand this kind of book to teens because it's like, "No! Bad! There's someone drinking beer in here! And smoking! And one of our protagonists calls people nerds!? They don't respect their peers! They're self-absorbed! One of them sleeps with multiple partners, and though I'm totally okay with people expressing their sexuality and whatnot, and though I would never slut shame, it seems best to just avoid even implied sexuality. What kind of example are these characters setting?"

I feel like there are two possible missteps in that line of thinking, or two areas where I have a difference of opinion.

Number one, I feel like giving teens only the most positive of characters, only telling stories about role models, is something we do because we're afraid that teens will emulate the bad behavior. I think teenagers deserve a little more credit than that. I honestly don't believe that we can attribute, say, the consumption of a beer in this book to teen alcoholism. That's Seduction of the Innocent horseshit. That's saying Superman shouldn't exist because one time a kid jumped out a window. That's saying Beavis and Butthead shouldn't exist because one time a kid burned down his house and killed his younger sister. That's saying certain types of music need to be labeled and potentially banned because of the content of the lyrics. Look, Catcher in the Rye has a weird history with this stuff, John Hinckley, Mark David Chapman, possibly Lee Harvey Oswald,

ALL alleged fans of the book, all assassins. So how can we possibly still teach it in schools? Because 250,000 copies of that book are sold every year. Well over 65 million total copies have been sold. Is three people who committed a violent act statistically significant and loved this book statistically significant? No. It's a much stronger case for the book NOT being a problem, that of 65 million copies, 3 have sparked something. Even if it were true that the book caused something to happen, those numbers don't really tell us much of anything.

Short version, I don't really think teens are going to become assholes because they read a book about assholes, especially when, like this one, the assholery is not shown as being awesome. It is what it is.

Number two, I feel that reading about characters who you don't particularly like is a great way to develop empathy. We ALL went to high school with some assholes. Or we say, "Everyone pretty much got along when I was in school" which probably means you were the assholes. This might be a rebellious, un-internet thing to say, but I think that assholes...also deserve empathy. I'm not really with this trend where, if someone acts like an asshole, it's game on and we just light into them. And maybe they work for some, but I don't feel that the stories where none of the main characters are assholes feel very real. That's just me, but I suspect others feel very much the same way. I can't say I entirely "get" stories where everyone is so nice and perfect because that's not how I think things are. I suppose it could be escapism, and that's legit, but I feel that escapism is one reason readers read, but it's not why everyone reads.

Anyway, I think it's a good read for people who have read some teen-centric comics and are looking for something with main characters who can be willfully problematic.

Laura says

This was...okay. I like some of it and I liked that most of them kinda grew up and changed, but they were all really cruel and treated everyone terribly. I do like how they all joined together to save the park.

Julie says

The story was ok, but the characters started out insufferable and only some of them changed that at all. I think they will continue to learn and grow past the end of the story (and goodness knows we're basically all idiots in high school), but their snobbiness didn't really change and that was the part that bothered me the most.

The art is fun and suits the story nicely. I think if there were more volumes I would keep going to see how the characters do now that they've discovered some new things about themselves.

Gail says

A little Scooby Doo-ish, "those meddling kids!"

However, 4 main characters were totally unlikeable teenage girls whose plans on getting out of town after graduation for bigger things fall through made me feel "meh" about the book over all.

LibraryDanielle says

the artwork was good, the story ok, but the princesses sucked.
