



That One Spooky Night

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This collection of graphic short stories written by Dan Bar-el contains three separate tales of strange and surprising events that all happen one Halloween night. In 'Broom with a View,' a girl's broom for her witch costume mistakenly gets switched with a broom belonging to a real witch. Featured in '10 000 Tentacles under the Tub' are two rambunctious boys who fight sea monsters while trick-or-treating as aqua-heroes, only to discover that their biggest challenge still awaits --- in the bathtub. In 'The Fang Gang,' everything gets turned around for four wannabe vampire girls when they meet up with the real thing. Naturally, all the parents are clueless about what's going on (though in one, the pet dog is in on things!). The stories are just spooky enough and tempered with a touch of silly humor. They're an easy read with minimal text; some panels are even completely wordless or contain only sound effects along with the art. The engaging comic illustrations by David Huyck are darkly toned with lots of softly focused scenes, adding to the mysterious allure. Sharp-eyed readers will notice characters from one story making an appearance in the artwork of another. This book is a perfect classroom choice around Halloween, either as a fun read-aloud or as a great reference for discussing why we celebrate this holiday and the cultural origins of legends about witches, vampires and the like. But it would also be enjoyed year-round by children who like scary plots with not-quite-human characters.

That One Spooky Night Details

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From Reader Review That One Spooky Night for online ebook

Jon-henry Kubej says

I was lucky enough to meet the illustrator of this book, David Huyck. He came into Franklin Elementary during the schools Halloween party! This book was really fun and would be great to read during Halloween. It follows a comic book style with a bunch of windows of smaller pictures telling the story. This book also has three stories within it. My favorite story was of the two boys having a bath after a night of trick or treating. The boys get sucked into a scary abyss under the sea. It is a fun book with great illustrations and I plan on adding it to my library as soon as possible!

Nick says

This cute little graphic novel is all about Halloween. Three of the four stories were excellent. The fourth, a simple frame for the book, was nothing special, but the main stories were a lot of fun. Two stories ["Broom with a View" and "The Fang Gang"] were about kids meeting real versions of the things they dress as on Halloween. Both produce clever and unpredictable results, and "10,000 Tentacles Under the Tub," a story about two boys getting a little too caught up in the spirit of their costumes, is delightfully goofy. Their father will win no parenting prizes, though, as he is rightly criticized by his wife and his neighbors for his inattention to his children.

Kids who like funny stories about scary things will love this.

Eden says

This book contains three stories about Halloween night. The first is about a girl who dresses up as a witch for Halloween and she accidentally switches her broom with a real witch's broom!

Story two is about two wild boys. They misbehave while trick or treating and even when they take a bath. They got a surprise though. I felt bad for the dad in this story.

The third story is about a group of girls who go trick or treating for Halloween. They dress up as a nurse, fairy, a mermaid and a ballerina. But, later, when no one is around, they pull out their real Halloween costumes and begin scaring everyone they can! They eventually get a surprise too.

Overall, it was a fun read. Not really spooky, but fun and enjoyable. I liked the first and third stories the best.

Lyn says

These three spooky tales are perfect for Halloween, but young readers will be back to reread them again and again. Done in graphic novel form, the illustrations by David Huyck are as funny as the stories are creepy – but not too creepy.

In A Broom With a View, Giselle finds the perfect witch costume and completes it with a broom. When she dresses for trick-or treating her broom's behavior leads her into trouble. Her one spooky night is just beginning.

In 10,000 Tentacles Under the Tub, two brothers dress up as Aqua Heroes. After leading their dad on a laugh-filled Halloween journey as they keep Sea Monsters in check, they return home for a bath. The bath is just the beginning of a scary adventure that could only happen on that one spooky night. My favorite part of this story involves the dog.

In The Fang Gang, four friends are laughed at because their costumes aren't scary enough. They change costumes and change that one spooky night for everyone.

H says

This JLG Graphic Novel selection is a surefire winner. Kids love "scary" books and graphic novels, and this Halloween themed 3-story collection will keep them happy. The artwork is really lovely - I particularly liked the orange and green tones used in the first story of a girl who gets her costume broom mixed up with a real witch broom in a collision at a street corner. Kids will love playing spot the fairy tale as the girl accompanies the witch on her Halloween "rounds." The second story of terrible twins who almost become monster bait in their own bathtub will induce shivers and delight, and the third story about "mean girl" trick or treaters who encounter REAL scary girls is great too. This one will fly off the shelves of my K-5 library. It's just scary enough to keep those little ones happy.

Stephanie Croaning says

I really liked the cover of this graphic novel, so I was surprised when I started reading and didn't really enjoy this book. The book features three separate spooky Halloween stories -- Broom with a View; 10,000 Tentacles Under the Tub; and The Fang Gang. The first two were mediocre with pretty annoying characters, but the last story, The Fang Gang, really bothered me. I know it's a made-up story, but it involved young children going into the homes of strangers and it creeped me out, and not in the Halloween-spooky way! Kids will read it because it's a graphic novel and many of them tend to like scary stories, but there are better ones out there!

Nan says

I may be writing very similar reviews for a little while. I'm looking for comics which would appeal to the type of students I work with -- mostly boys, mostly on the ASD spectrum, mostly immigrant or African American, mostly picture oriented, kinesthetic learners, mostly emergent, some in third grade reading at kindergarten level. This book works well. The frames carry the story, but the words add depth and just may coax a reluctant reader into the stories. It's appealing subject matter. The cast is a little white, but...

Ionia says

This reminded me a lot of the old style comic books for kids. I loved the illustrations as they really brought the story to life. There are three individual stories in this book, each with a Halloween theme for kids 7 and older. This is the first graphic novel I have read that was intended for a younger audience, and I think it really worked well. The stories are more geared toward having fun than being very frightening and the characters are cute. There are so many illustrations on each page that it is difficult to get bored with so much to look at. With three stories, you and your child have choices about how much you want to read at once. The text is easy enough for a new reader and the stories are filled with adventure and excitement. My personal favorite was the first story in the book, but the others were really good as well. I also liked the way this book didn't seem to show a preference for a female or male audience. It would work for either.

I would recommend this book to parents. It would make a fun addition to a Halloween sleepover!

This review is based on a digital copy from the publisher.

babyhippoface says

Three short stories are combined into one, telling the story of that one spooky night. In the first story, which was my favorite, a young girl, Giselle, picks out her witch costume for trick-or-treating. On her way home from the costume shop she accidentally bumps right into a genuine witch and they unknowingly switch brooms. When the real witch magicks her broom back to her, Giselle follows it and spend the evening flying around with the witch delivering homemade soup to other monsters. It's the night of her life!

In the 2nd story two obnoxious twin boys who haven't listened to their bedraggled father even once throughout the Halloween night discover their bubble bath suddenly leads to a mermaid-filled lagoon. The mermaids, though, are not all Disney-and-Ariel-sweetness, and the boys' efforts to escape them lead them into even greater dangers. (Personally, I thought the boys were little snots, and since this was supposed to be scary, I wanted them to get the fear of God put in 'em. Instead, the poor, pitiful, exhausted dad just got yelled at some more by the overbearing mother.)

The last of the trio of stories centers on a group of girls who head out for a night of trick-or-treating and scaring, as they turn their girly costumes into frightening, monstrous ones. They enjoy frightening other trick-or-treaters until they are invited to a Halloween party inside a house they've never seen before. A house which happens to be inhabited by genuine vampires.

The stories here aren't really scary, but they have a playful sense of Halloween fun. Elementary kids will probably like it, though some will still ask for something scarier.

Kaethe says

Three short stories set on one particularly memorable spooky Halloween. A girl costumed as a witch gets a real flying broom by mistake; two boys dressed as aquatic superheroes get to try out their skills; some very girly girls costumes get switched to something scarier. Recommended to fans of Scary Godmother: Omnibus, and vice versa.

Library copy

Patrice Sartor says

My 12 year old son rates this 4-stars, if that helps anyone.

Good information about Goodreads for me to have---if I open a review window in the morning, and then don't fill it out until 10 or so hours later and then submit the review, my review will vanish.

That's what happened, so I'm not very motivated to retype my thoughts. Basically, the books is three tales that all take place on Halloween. The stories annoyed me, the characters annoyed me, I didn't find it humorous OR scary (but that's good for younger kids), and the artwork didn't appeal to me.

Calista says

A graphic novel for those just getting into the genre. There are 3 stories collected here:

Broom with a View

10,000 Tentacles under the tub

The Fang Gang

I really enjoy the 10000 tentacles story. The kids in the tub found a doorway to another underwater world. That was excellent.

Broom story - a girl gets to take a ride on a broom with a real witch for Halloween.

Fang Gang was good too. Some girls trick-or-treating meet up with some real monsters that leads to a scary night never to forget.

It's a good story for young teens 10-14. There are some nice ideas here. I didn't think the art was great, but it told the story. It did have personality in spades. The age really came through.

Abby Johnson says

This graphic novel collects three completely unrelated stories about Halloween. A young girl dressed up as a witch accidentally switches brooms with a real witch and accompanies her on her errands, two obnoxious boys grapple with a tentacle monster in their bathtub, and a posse of tween girls dressed up as vampires scare the pants off the kids in their neighborhood before meeting a posse of actual tween vampires. I guess the stories are a little related since they all deal with kids unexpectedly running into real monsters on Halloween night? But I wanted them to be more connected, some reason that they were here together. As separate stories, each felt pretty flat and short.

But hey, kids love graphic novels and kids love Halloween (most kids, anyway).

Jess says

Three spooky/Halloween graphic novel stories.

I feel bad for the dad in the second story. His kids don't listen to him and it seems likely that his wife is verbally abusive or at the very least rather mean to him.

The third story creeped me out more than I'd like. I just don't like kids being fooled into going into a dangerous unknown house. It works out (they all work out) but it rubbed me the wrong way.

Now all the professional reviews I read and many of the ones here call it silly fun. I'm willing to be wrong on this one, but I'd like someone else to read it and talk about it with me in person.

Liz says

One night in particular is more scary than the rest. One book divided into three different stories, Halloween takes on a three different perspectives.

1. Accidentally bumping into a real witch and grabbing her broom instead of her fake, custom broom, a young girl is taken for the ride of her life.
2. Two boys dressed as Aqua-Ninja and Aqua-Ranger go trick-or-treating with their dad. When the boys come home needing a bath, they find their bathtub has been transformed into a bottomless lake complete with sea monsters, mermaids, and something with tentacles.
3. Four girls set out to scare some nearby trick-or-treaters. The girls run into another group of kids in costume (or so that thought) and are invited to a Halloween party where they are meant to be a snack. The girls narrowly escape with their lives.

"That One Spooky Night" is appropriate for ages 7+ (Grades 2+).

I like that this book was divided up into three short stories. Each story was spooky, entertaining, and easy to read. Graphic Novels are a great way to introduce early readers into the world of literature. The stories are not scary enough to upset readers, but are wonderfully illustrated and will invoke creativity and fun. The stories are not gender specific and will be enjoyed by everyone regardless of whether or not it is Halloween.
