



Science Comics: Plagues: The Microscopic Battlefield

Falynn Koch

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In PLAGUES, we get to know the critters behind history's worst diseases. We delve into the biology and mechanisms of infections, diseases, and immunity, and also the incredible effect that technology and medical science have had on humanity's ability to contain and treat disease.

Every volume of Science Comics offers a complete introduction to a particular topic--dinosaurs, coral reefs, the solar system, volcanoes, bats, flying machines, and more. These gorgeously illustrated graphic novels offer wildly entertaining views of their subjects. Whether you're a fourth grader doing a natural science unit at school or a thirty-year-old with a secret passion for airplanes, these books are for you!

Science Comics: Plagues: The Microscopic Battlefield Details

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Author : Falynn Koch

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From Reader Review Science Comics: Plagues: The Microscopic Battlefield for online ebook

First Second Books says

In this volume we get to know the critters behind history's worst diseases. We delve into the biology and mechanisms of infections, diseases, and immunity, and also the incredible effect that technology and medical science have had on humanity's ability to contain and treat disease.

Cindy Mitchell *Kiss the Book* says

Koch, Falynn Science Comics: Plagues: the Microscopic Battlefield, 122 pages. NON-FICTION/GRAPHIC NOVEL. First Second, 2017. \$13.

A female scientist and her ECHO team have created technology that allows them to speak to germs, bacteria, viruses, ect. They created a simulated environment which allows them to learn about the immune system and how the bubonic plague and the Yellow fever plague interact. Together with a T cell and a variety of guests –the reader learns the in's and out's of the immune system and a whole lot about the history of plagues.

This isn't the first book from the Science comics series I have reviewed but by far the most interesting topic –and I am still not a fan. It reads like a textbook that someone tried to inject some fun into. It got technical and confusing very quickly, the only parts I enjoyed were the historical components –I don't think young readers will stick with it long enough to make it that far. The illustrations are busy and often small.

EL, MS – OPTIONAL Stephanie, Elementary School Librarian & Author
<https://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2018...>

Ashley says

My thanks to Netgalley for the egalley in exchange for review yada yada yada...

There are two things I love: comics and reading about infectious diseases. Science Comics: Plagues combined both, making me a very happy nerd. Definitely recommend to young people, or anyone, really, looking for a refresher in microbiology.

Emyrose8 says

I have mixed feelings about this book. First, the illustrations are great, eye-catching and the characters have been developed in an interesting way. However, the text is very science heavy, which is good, except the average reader will likely have a hard time focusing and absorbing what is actually being talked about. There isn't much of a plot for the first half of the book (as far as I could tell), which made it hard for me to get into the book. I did learn some new things though, and it grabbed my attention more as the book went on (talking

about the history of some diseases).

Melissa says

Science Comics are my new favorite series. This one was as gross as it was informative (even in illustrated form, you might need a strong stomach to get through this one!) It followed the history mostly of bubonic plague and yellow fever, but dabbled in all manner of bacteria, viruses, protozoa and fungi - explaining how they make us sick, how they spread, and how science can contain them. I didn't expect it to be funny but there were many laugh-out-loud moments - like when one poor guy gets all three types of plague and states "I don't look so good..." or when the yellow fever character "boops" a rat on the nose! Also just the fact that throughout, the Yellow Fever character refers to the Bubonic Plague character as "Bub" hahaha. Loved it!

Maximilian Lee says

I LOVED this book because it was very Very VERY informative. It had TONS of information in it. It was about plagues. In this book someone made an AI thing that can simulate anything even yourself! If something happens in the simulation, it happens in your body. A woman was trying to convince plagues to become antibiotics. Along the way the plagues told the woman facts about themselves.

Eme87 says

Fantastic graphic novel describing how viruses and bacteria function. Delves both in to the science of plagues and how they spread as well as the history and how vaccines and inoculations were developed to fight them. I enjoyed the process of the scientist talking to the germs to enlist them in helping to fight other diseases as that is what many labs are doing- albeit not in quite the futuristic way they are presenting. Very enjoyable and informative!

(SRA 2018?)

Stacey M says

I really enjoyed this graphic novel. The set up for this book was very interesting and would be an excellent book for students to read. It really goes into the science of plagues and germs and the different types or microorganisms. It also explores some of the newer science and where we may be going and how humans relationships with disease has and keeps changing. If you have a kid who loves science this series is something you need to look into. I did receive a copy of this graphic novel from Net Galley in exchange for a review. This book is scheduled to be published August 29th.

Ron says

Two plagues (Bubonic and Yellow Fever) are taken into a lab and persuaded to aid humanity in fighting

other nasty bacteria, fungi, and viruses. In the course of their discussion, the reader is presented with a wealth of information on plagues, infections, body defenses and the like. An interesting way to introduce multiple scientific concepts to junior high/high school students.

Dakota Morgan says

I'm a big fan of the Science Comics series, but this entry is undercooked (there's a better, illness-related joke there, but I just can't think of it at the moment). The framing device revolves around a scientist who has recruited anthropomorphized versions of the black plague and yellow fever to be cadets in a disease-fighting force. Shoehorned into a lot of weird conversations between germs and humans are various facts about bacteria, viruses, and other assorted tiny nasties. That part of the book is fascinating, but any time we return to the framing story, all momentum and interest is lost.

Paula says

While I like the series SCIENCE COMICS I thought "The Microscopic Battlefield" was a little tough to follow. The science was complex enough with so many strains of viruses, bacteria, fungi, and flagella to keep track of, but the authors wanted us to follow the story of the scientists who use simulations to study them. I found the banter between humans and microbes a bit distracting, but learning about Bubonic plagues and Yellow Fever were fascinating. I kept wondering who the intended audience was—older students might follow the science but the design and illustrations looks like it was addressing younger readers. Still, I think there is a lot for students to take away from this and enjoy.

paula says

The first 30 pages, which describe the types of cells involved with the human body's immune response, are not easy to get through, but persistent readers will be rewarded with all the juicy details any discussion of plagues entail. Buboes! Necrosis! Window screens in Panama!

Bill says

Plagues: The Microscopic Battlefield by Falynn Christine Koch is part of the SCIENCE COMICS series, a graphics series of books each of which explores a single scientific topic. In this case, as the title might indicate, its plague, but more broadly it's an examination of how pathogens (bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, parasites) infect and damage the human body, how the body (sometimes with medical help) tries to fight them off, and, to a lesser degree, how such illnesses have affected human history.

Plagues begins a bit roughly. The frame story is an unnecessarily confusing bit involving conversations inside a virtual body (that somehow still gets sick from virtual germs?) between the scientist whose virtual body it is, a T-cell, and two plagues—yellow fever and bubonic plague. The plagues are just as confused as most readers probably will be, but while the frame story still is an obstacle to clarity and fluidity now and then, once it's mostly left behind the text becomes more expository and straightforward, and thus more clear,

with the scientist explaining how medicine has progressed with regard to germs, the T-cell explaining the immune system responses, and the germ explaining how they attack the body and their various types and shapes. The language might at times be a bit much for the very young, but YA will be fine and MG will get either all or the vast majority of what is being said. There's also a helpful glossary toward the end.

Stylistically, it's pretty text heavy and, as noted, straightforward. The attempts at conversational tone or humor I didn't find all that successful (at times I might even call it detrimental), and I wouldn't call it the most engaging text, but it is certainly informative and, for the most part, clear and logical. In particular I liked the historical bits, as when the virtual simulation becomes a medieval street for instance to show how the lack of sanitation aided the pathogens.

The art is not particularly aesthetic (of course, these are germs), and in the muddled frame story not very helpful, but similar to the narrative, once the frame is somewhat dropped and the artist is able to broaden the palette so to speak, the artwork becomes more clear and does a nice job of conveying meaning or supplementing the text. The medieval street is one such example. An even better one is the drawing of a medieval plague doctor in a large panel as it's being explained how their "uniform" actually protected them from the plague, though the doctors themselves thought that to be the case for all the wrong reasons.

I would have preferred a smoother, more clear entry into the exploration of the topic, and it's too bad that the book somewhat fights against itself in terms of clarity and engagement early on, but if one can get a reader past that point, then Plagues is a nice detailed and informative text to introduce young readers to the topic.

Darcy Roar says

Definitely one of the better volumes in the science comics series. Still fairly dense for younger readers, but the frame story is fun and interesting and the science is great! Possibly too much for a first dive into the material, but an excellent follow up to the very basics.

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/sc...>

Science Comics: Plagues: The Microscopic Battlefield

Science Comics

By Falynn Christine Koch

ISBN: 9781626727526

Author's Website: <http://www.falynnkc.com/>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Andra

Summary

In PLAGUES, we get to know the critters behind history's worst diseases. We delve into the biology and mechanisms of infections, diseases, and immunity, and also the incredible effect that technology and medical science have had on humanity's ability to contain and treat disease.

Review

This is my first foray into graphic novels. SCIENCE COMICS: PLAGUES is a journey through history describing the how's of infections, diseases and our immunity. Entertaining in such a way that I was also able to follow the educational aspect without getting bored or confused.

Bubonic Plague and Yellow Fever are dropped into a host (so they believe) and promptly begin their attack on the body. As they proceed (unsuccessfully I might add) they are quickly interrupted by a white blood cell. Given that the white blood cell is there to fight off infection and disease, the depiction of the white blood cell is fitting – the cartoon character looks like a linebacker. Humour is sprinkled throughout the dialogue...for example, when the white blood cell is describing both bubonic plague and yellow fever to Elena during a bit of a scuffle he says – “They have the critical thinking power of Jello”.

The artwork is cartoony with the characters drawn with simplicity yet with just enough detail, capturing the individuality of each of the characters/diseases:

I appreciated the glossary at the end of the book providing a concise and easily understood definitions of what was discussed throughout the book, with pictures. Good for visual learners.

With the author presenting complex scientific concepts by using illustrations and humour, I was able to understand the concepts more easily and hopefully I will be able retain this information for a long period of time ?. I would like to think that if I had had this book available when studying these concepts in school, I would have understood and enjoyed the learning even more than I did.

This book is for anyone who wishes to learn about plagues, infections, diseases in an entertaining and educational manner and enjoys comic books.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review