



Pandemonium

Chris Wooding, Cassandra Diaz

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Acclaimed author Chris Wooding's first graphic novel -- fun fantasy-adventure with a macabre twist!

Seifer's life is about to become a royal pain. . . . As captain of the local skullball team, Seifer Tombchewer is the envy of his peers. He's fast, he's strong, and he flies circles around the competition. But Seifer's always dreamed of more--of leaving his tiny, remote village for a new life beyond the mountains.

He just never dreamed it would happen like this. Knocked unconscious and abducted, Seifer awakens in the royal palace to learn that Prince Talon Pandemonium has gone missing. And since Seifer is a ringer for Talon, it's his duty to replace the missing royal in his roles of diplomat, warrior, and Lord Defender of the Realm.

He might fool Talon's sisters. He might fool Talon's army. But Seifer has little hope of fooling Talon's enemies. . . .

Chris Wooding and debut artist Cassandra Diaz team for a classic tale of mistaken identity set against the breathtakingly original backdrop of the Darkling Realm.

Pandemonium Details

Date : Published February 1st 2012 by GRAPHIX (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9780545252218

Author : Chris Wooding , Cassandra Diaz

Format : Hardcover 176 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Fantasy, Comics, Young Adult, Adventure

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From Reader Review Pandemonium for online ebook

Karissa says

This was an okay graphic novel aimed at the middle grade and young adult crowd. I enjoyed the setting and the illustration. The story and dialogue was only so-so.

This is all about a young man named Seifer who is a local skullball champ; he is unsatisfied with his life and wants more. Then he is kidnapped and forced to step in as the Prince of the realm since the Prince is missing and Seifer looks a lot like him. There is some mystery behind Seifer's past but we never really learn about that in this book.

Everyone is surprised when Seifer ends up being a more benevolent ruler than the missing Prince Talon. However, Seifer can't fool Talon's enemies.

The illustration was well done; very colorful and easy to follow. The story was kind of bland and the dialogue felt stiff. This is just the beginning of a story which was apparently never finished (I was not able to find information about any future books in this series).

Overall this was okay but not great. The setting and illustration are well done; the story and dialogue are just okay. Considering this is only the first part of an unfinished story, I wouldn't recommend.

Brittany says

GAAAHWH WHEN WILL THE NEXT BOOK COME OUT???!!!! I loveloveLOVED the first one, so much I went out and bought a second copy, one for friends to read (it gets beat up a bit) and another for myself. XD Chris Wooding, you are a genius, a rock-solid genius. <3

(I've read it like, 20 times.)

Becky Soledad says

I totally loved this and almost wish it was a full length novel. I ordered it because it was recommended during conference I went to so I didn't know much about it. I picked it up as I was cataloging and started to skim through it to see what I could tell kids about it. A period later I was done and checking to see if the second volume is out yet. (It's not by the way.) I can't wait to book talk this one.

The characters are great Seifer is struggling to do the best he can in this situation as well as stay true to what he believes. Cassie is a strong female character who is often rescuing Seifer. They are both smart and funny and great role models.

There isn't much else to say except I loved just about everything about it. The only thing that could have made it better was more details. It reminded me a lot of TenNapel's books in that way. With Pandemonium

as with his books I found myself wishing it was a full length novel because I just wanted MORE! I would have lost out on the beautiful illustrations though.

Verdict: If graphic novels are popular in your library you should definitely pick this one up. I love giving people graphic novels like these to prove that they really do have substance and that they do have a place in libraries. If you are just growing your graphic novels section this would be a good book of substance to get your hands on.

Austin Phadoungsyavong says

I guess if same face and voice but about real name that make me maybe mystery person or may change name before he miss or died then I still don't know about he just same face from prince but they still look like real prince but still kill him for fake prince.

Pamela says

A really fun take on the old story of commoner-subs-in-for-missing royal/important personage. There's great dialogue, a lot of humor, and interesting characters. I really hope this becomes a series!!!

Robert Greenberger says

The Prince & The Pauper badly retold with poorly thought-through plotting, ridiculously named characters and hampered by poor Manga artwork. Lots of potential wasted in a book that feels tired and done before and done far better elsewhere. A real disappointment.

Avi says

Pandemonium is a great graphic novel series by Chris Wooding. I have just finished the first book and it was great. It is about an adventurous teen named Seifer Tombchewer, he is a great skullball player (a sport that in the book they play) and all of his friends are jealous of him. He is knocked out and taken to a castle, he is told that the prince is missing and they chose Seifer because he and the missing prince are 100 percent alike in looks (like identical twins). He has fooled the army, the family, but he doesn't know about fooling the prince's enemies. So far the palace is happy with his work but keep reading the series and you will find out. Pandemonium is a great book that I hope you will like if you read.

James says

Amazing plot, I can't wait to read the next

LG (A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions) says

Maybe I didn't look in the right place, but I haven't been able to find any confirmation on Chris Wooding's site that *Pandemonium* is the first volume of a series. [This was written before a comment on my blog pointed me towards info confirming that this was intended to be the first volume of a series, although it's not clear whether Scholastic will continue that series.] I hope it's not intended to be a standalone volume, because it really doesn't work as one. By the end of the volume, Prince Talon still hasn't been found, there are unanswered questions about Seifer's origins, there's more political unrest on the horizon, Seifer and Cassie's romance is still in its early stages, and Prince Talon's fiancee has just come home.

According to Amazon, *Pandemonium* is intended for readers ages 8 and up. I have a feeling this book would work better for readers who are closer to 8 years old than, say, their later teens or adulthood. As an adult, I found the humor to be a tad too goofy when mixed with all the political unrest. I would have liked it if the balance had tipped more in favor of seriousness, with the humor used to keep things from getting too dark. Instead, there was something over-the-top on almost every page: a giant house cat that wanted to eat Seifer, midgets that liked to cosh people, the Big-Face plague (it's exactly what it sounds like), knowledge of another culture demonstrated via loud burping, etc.

The story was extremely fast-paced. It felt like as soon as Seifer had dealt with one problem (or Cassie had dealt with it for him), he had another problem dumped on his lap. At first, it was an assassination attempt, but, by the end of the book, Seifer was leading thousands of people into battle. The romance with Cassie, too, was fast-paced. Cassie talked a bit about her past and spent some time showing Seifer how to use magika (I'm assuming the color art in the final version shows this better than the line art in my ARC), so I suppose Seifer had some time to get to know her, but the moments when he almost kissed her still felt a little rushed. Speaking of Cassie, I wish Wooding had spent more time developing her character - she had the potential to be awesome, but, after explaining her past and why she came to the palace, she became little more than Seifer's magical sidekick.

I know one of the ways a lot of readers, myself included, initially judge graphic novels is by their artwork. Unfortunately, since only the first 16 pages of my ARC are in color, and the finished work is supposed to be entirely in color, I can't really say too much about the artwork. Those first 16 pages look really excellent, with my primary criticism being that the action scenes could be a little better. Of course, part of my problem with the action scenes may be due to me being used to black-and-white manga and its copious motion lines. Amazon has a few pages available for preview (which appear to be bad quality, since my ARC pages look better than they do), so take a look and judge for yourself whether the artwork is to your taste.

Overall, I didn't dislike *Pandemonium*, and I'd love to see the full-color artwork in the finished book. However, I think I'd have liked the story more if either Seifer hadn't had to deal with impending war or the humor had been scaled back a bit. If this is the first volume in a series, I wouldn't mind reading future volumes – this book left me with lots of questions I'd like to know the answers to. Currently, I'm guessing that Seifer is Talon's twin, and the two were separated at birth.

(Original review, with read-alikes and watch-alikes, posted on A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions.)

P. says

more humor than I expected!

Whitney says

This book/graphic novel was so much fun. I enjoyed every moment of it I just wish that it was longer and had a little more detail. It left us on such a cliffhanger that it leaves you with such excited anticipation that I want more. It's not a complex story line by any means. Its set up so you can really see what direction a sequel would head in that you can kind of guess what would happen but i still would want to read a sequel if it ever came out.

Zach says

The reader will be engrossed by Seifer, a simple peasant who is forced to act like the lost prince Talon. Wooding's novel follows Seifer as he learns to impersonate Prince Talon and command the forces of Clan Pandemonium. Seifer has a hard time acting like the prince because of their differing personalities.

One thing that I liked about the graphic novel was how likable the characters are. While reading I felt sympathy for Seifer and rooted for him when he had to face challenges.

The graphic novel uses a lot of imagery combined with conflict between the characters to make an interesting and compelling story. One of the conflicts is between Seifer and the Royal Adviser. The adviser constantly yells at Seifer when he does something that the old prince would not have done. This is especially shown in the pictures with his over exaggerated expressions.

I would rate this graphic novel five out of five stars and recommend it to people who like interesting and likable characters.

Sofyvk says

love the art, the story is to fast and no character development

Skye (Skye's Scribblings) says

(Read/Reviewed in March 2012)

Genre: Comic Book, Middle Grade Fantasy

Rating: Middle Grade (violence, scary images)

Format Read: Hardcover (library)

Art: Full color; Cute and comical.

Story: Not relatively original, but they do a really good job with it. Lots of humor, action, a little romance, etc. - it has all the elements a good book needs.

Characters: Fun and easy to love, even if they are demons.

Comments: One quick glance told me I would love this, and I did. Comic books usually bore me because they are either pure action or endless dialogue, but this balances both beautifully. In fact, instead of calling it a comic book, I would say it's more "American manga" masquerading as a comic book. Chris Wooding tells a great story (although I can't make it through his novels), and this was no exception. I really hope there will be at least one sequel!

Favorite Bit: Giant Pink Demon Cat! XD

Recommend?: Definitely

Read It Again?: Yes

Samantha says

4.5 Stars

I picked this up because the cover looked interesting, and I really enjoyed it. I wasn't too sure about the very beginning, as I wasn't sure where it was heading (I picked this up blind, not even reading the back), but then I really like where it went.

Seifer wanted more with his life, and he certainly got it. I loved the way he handled the challenges thrown at him, and how he stayed true to himself even when others expected him to act more like the prince he was pretending to be. I also enjoyed the supporting characters (especially the sister and Carcassa).

That ending is such a cliffhanger, though! After doing a little bit of Googling, it turns out there's no sequel because the publisher isn't interested in one... I really hope the author is able to eventually come out with a sequel--whether that be publishing it, or just posting it online. I'll definitely be checking it out if it ever happens.
