



The Lunch Witch

Deb Lucke , Jim Salicrup (Editor-in-Chief)

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For generations and generations, the women of Grunhilda's family have stirred up trouble in a big, black pot. Grunhilda inherits her famous ancestors' recipes and cauldron, but no one believes in magic anymore. Despite the fact that Grunhilda's only useful skill is cooking up potfuls of foul brew, she finds a job listing that might suit her: lunch lady. She delights in scaring the kids until she meets a timid little girl named Madison with a big set of glasses who becomes an unlikely friend. Madison needs help at school and at home, but helping people goes against everything Grunhilda believes in as a witch! Will this girl be able to thaw the Lunch Witch's icy heart? Or will Grunhilda turn her back on a kindred spirit?

The Lunch Witch Details

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From Reader Review The Lunch Witch for online ebook

Tasha says

What is a witch to do when no one believes in magic anymore? She has her family's potion recipes and cauldron, but that's about it. Then she realizes that there is one perfect job for someone who creates horrible brews – being a lunch lady! So Grunhilda becomes a lunch lady, one who scares all of the children. But Madison isn't scared of Grunhilda despite the fact that she is the one person who knows that she is not what she seems. Madison has enough knowledge to blackmail the witch, but that's a dangerous course even when the witch wants to help you. Grunhilda finds a kinship with Madison, but her horrible ancestors are maddened to find their magic being used for good, so they step in and cause all sorts of trouble for both Madison and Grunhilda.

Lucke's story is a delightful mix of horrible potions, bats that don't listen, nasty dead ancestors with too many opinions, and amazingly also two people who may just become friends through it all. Lucke creates a story around Grunhilde that offers her back story and makes her transformation to an almost-good witch believable and organic. Madison too has her own story, one that also makes the story work well and makes her own role and connection ring true.

The art of this graphic novel is gorgeously strange and wild. Each chapter leads in with a differently stained page, from oily splotches to actual tomatoes. The pages too are dark and stained, as if Grunhilda herself had been using the book in her kitchen. Against that the white of aprons and speech bubbles pops. Other subtler colors are also used and create a subtle effect against the dark page.

A funny and heartfelt story of unusual friendships created during the most unusual of times. Appropriate for ages 7-9.

Phillip Vincent says

Spooky yet still age appropriate. Most importantly? This is hilarious and engaging. I laughed out loud in the bookstore several times as I read. I am in love with the Silverstein-esque illustrations and abrupt dialogue. Everything is to the point and doesn't pander. Perfect graphic novel for all ages.

Brenda Kahn says

No one appreciates a good witch anymore. When Grunhilde has to close up shop, the only job she can find is as a lunch lady in a nearby school where a hapless, constantly tardy, misunderstood student figures out she's a witch and demands a potion that will fix her. Quirky, snarky, dark and delicious. This is a unique addition to the graphic novel collection. Looking forward to more in this new series.

Leisa says

Graphic Novel for the Wimpy Kid crowd. Gotta say I laughed out loud a few times, so it can appeal to adults as well as the younger set.

Dov Zeller says

Strange, funny, grotesque, beautiful. A witch is very good at making gross things and has no criminal record, and so is hired to work in a school cafeteria. There she meets Madison, a student who has her own set of challenges, and who, realizing Grunhilda is a witch, tries to, ah, convince Grunhilda to help her.

The storyline feels a bit thin, so I am between a 3 and a 4, but I will go to 4 because it's just so wonderfully off and gorgeously unappealing.

I think my most and least favorite scene comes when the witch needs a nose-hair from the school principal for one of her potions and goes to his office to do the extraction. Some very uncomfortable close-ups here.

May get the second book out of the library. Not sure.

David Schaafsma says

This is a darkly humorous story of a lunch witch who mistakenly (not her fault!) turns a little girl into a frog. Beautifully drawn story that we are told is the first in a series. Feels to me like it has the legs for a series; plenty of funny characters, school-based, lunch-lady and terrible-school-lunch-based. I smiled a lot as I read it on the train and will see if smaller people in my house concur.

Cat says

This was a hoot! A witch becomes a lunch lady at the local school in order to make ends meet (no one Really believes in magic...) she had been a "fake " witch at the Salem Museum, but had lost her job. Now a witch at a school is truly an interesting thought, so, of course, it's a terrific read! Kids 5th grade up are going to enjoy reading this story. So will any one else who picks it up, after all we ALL went to schools and ate in cafeterias! Now we understand the food a bit better! Fun read with great illustrations!

Raina says

Quirky GN about a witch that gets a job as a cafeteria worker.

The style is key here - and not super accessible, as cool as the stained-looking pages might be. More niche than I expected. But those page treatments are awesome!

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

Rating: 4 STARS

(Review Not on Blog)

I have always been fascinated with witches so I often will read anything to do with witches, lol. I picked this up at work as it looked funny and it was! It is a cute graphic novel about a witch, Grunhilda, who finds a job as a lunch lady and an opportunity to do bad things. And, when she meets Madison, a young odd girl, she finds that she wants to help the young girl. Helping Madison goes against Grunhilda's mission.

Melki says

Grunhilda, a down-on-her-luck witch, is perusing the want ads when this one catches her eye:

LUNCH LADY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
GOOD COOKS NEED NOT APPLY

Due to her lack of criminal record, and her desire to make children gag, she's hired.

Hijinks ensue when she meets Madison, a young girl who's convinced of her own stupidity.

Gasp!

Can Grunhilda's "tender feelings" toward Madison be the new norm, or will she follow her ancestors' advice and dump the girl in the pond?

Read this delightfully messy and food-stained graphic novel to find out.

(Spatula, hairnet, and rubber gloves not required.)

Mariah Roze says

My students love graphic novels, so I am trying to get myself more into them. I picked out this one because I thought it would be a fun to read around Halloween. And it totally was! I plan to read the second book when my library gets it.

It was a quick read with "middle school" gross graphics. They did a great job on this book!

Stacy Fettters says

What caught my attention about this was the art. It reminded me so much of Steadman, the great Fear And

Loathing artist. So, I had to read it.

A Witch needed a job after her potion business went under. So, she did the next best thing and became a lunch lady.

Filled with all sorts of black humor and true tales of a mean old hag who turns into a lunch lady.... who did you know makes meatloaf out of sawdust.... and she spits in the food..... while also curdling the milk. What a Witch!!!

Not as great as I wanted it to be, but good for one go through.

Alyssa says

A graphic novel found in the kids section - very appropriate for kids but is one of those stories / styles that you might appreciate differently at different ages. I loved the dark humor and messy / loose drawing style. The artwork had great 'personality'.

Melissa Chung says

I really liked this one. So far out of all the graphic novels I read today. This one is my favorite.

Grunhilda is a (real) witch living in Salem, Massachusetts. She used to be a (fake) witch at the Salem Haunted Museum, but people complained she wasn't scary enough. Without a job to pay for food for her many bats, dog and spider...Grunhilda is desperate. She looks in the want ads and sees a job for Lunch Lady at the Salem Elementary school. She meets Madison C. a new student, who is failing and is always tardy. A diabolical plan to help this girl is in effect. What will happen to Madison and the Witch?

I loved the old brown paper illustrations. I loved the food stains on the pages. I loved how Grunhilda wasn't the best "witch student" and knew what Madison was going through. I thought this story was cute and am looking forward "The Lunch Witch #2: Knee-deep in Niceness" it comes out 9-20-16 I can't wait!

Lindsay says

Loved it so much. All the gross-out humor, the spells, the dead witches, the totally ordinary girl, the tomato stains on the pages. It reminded me of my favorite book from childhood, Malcolm Bird's The Witch's Handbook, and I'm so excited that this is just the first of a series.

Read Harder: Non-superhero comic that debuted in the last three years.
