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Chronicles of Claudette #2: Dragons Beware!

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Book Review

Title: Chronicles of Claudette #2: Dragons Beware!

Author: Jorge Aguirre

Illustrator: Rafael Rosado

Reviewer: Kiersten Carr

Publisher: First Second

Year: 2015

ISBN: 9781596438781

Pages: 160

Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent



Review

Claudette, Marie, and Gaston are after the dragon who took her father's magic sword (and his legs). But trouble is brewing as Grombach, an evil magician, is bent on making another attempt at conquering their kingdom, and the first wave of the invasion is arriving in the form of a flock of gargoyles. Worse, Grombach is capable of encasing anyone in amber or turning them to stone with just a flick of his magic wand. And even worse than that . . . Grombach is Marie's grandfather! Add in seven princes seeking Marie's hand (by trying to rescue her), a hapless kidnapped sentry, Claudette and Gaston's wheelchair-bound warrior father, his trusted assistant Zubair, and an entire brood of dragons, and you have the recipe needed to defeat Grombach and restore peace to the kingdom.

Dragons Beware! has Jorge Aguirre and Rafael Rosado bringing back all the fun along with Claudette and her friends in this continuation of their story. It functions well as a sequel, briefly revisiting many of the characters from the first book as well as adding new ones. The moral lessons from the first book are likewise echoed and deepened, emphasizing non-violent solutions to confrontation. The dragons teach readers about teamwork and friendship as they help Claudette to defeat the evil wizard. The story reiterates and emphasizes the point that no one can, or should, work alone, even if they are as fearless and tenacious as Claudette. Complete with the fun art and witty dialogue that made the first book such a delight, Dragons Beware! is an excellent contribution to the graphic novel genre.