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Amulet #1: The Stonekeeper

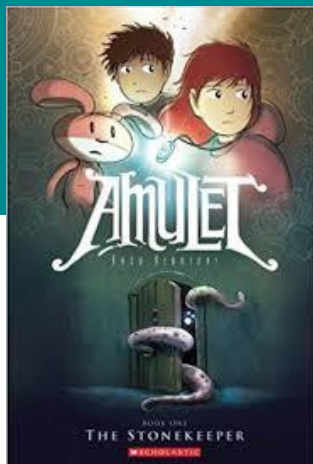
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Book Review

Amulet #1: The Stonekeeper

Author

Kazu Kibuishi

Illustrator

Reviewer

Emma Patton

Rating

Dependable

Level

Intermediate, Young
Adult

Pages

185

Year

2008

Publisher

Graphix

ISBN

9780439846813

Emily, her mom, and her brother just moved into her great-grandfather's house, and it's rumored to be haunted. When a strange creature comes in the middle of the night and kidnaps Emily's mom, it starts to seem like that rumor might be true. Emily and her brother, Navin, must embark on a quest to save to their mom. An amulet that Emily found in her great-grandfather's study is giving her instructions on where she should go and how to survive. It's clear that it has powers beyond those found in this world, and it leads Emily and Navin to an alternate version of earth, where the amulet and its powers are highly sought after. Emily must make the tough choice of whether she will become the keeper of the stone, accepting all the responsibility that comes with it, or stay with her normal life but lose the help of the stone in finding her mom.

The Stonekeeper is the first installment in the graphic novel series Amulet. The Stonekeeper would not be satisfying for a reader just as a standalone novel because the book ends in the middle of the story without providing resolution. This seems to hint that the story will be continued in the subsequent books. The Stonekeeper is an excellent choice for readers with short attention spans, as the book is packed with action scenes that are described primarily through graphics rather than words. However, some of the other elements of the story are sacrificed for the action. The characterization is pretty weak, and any information a reader gets about a character is gained in the heat of a very chaotic moment. For that reason, it is difficult to connect to any of the characters. It is possible, though, that characterization will continue as the series progresses, but it would be nice to read this book on its own without feeling like it is incomplete without the rest of the series.