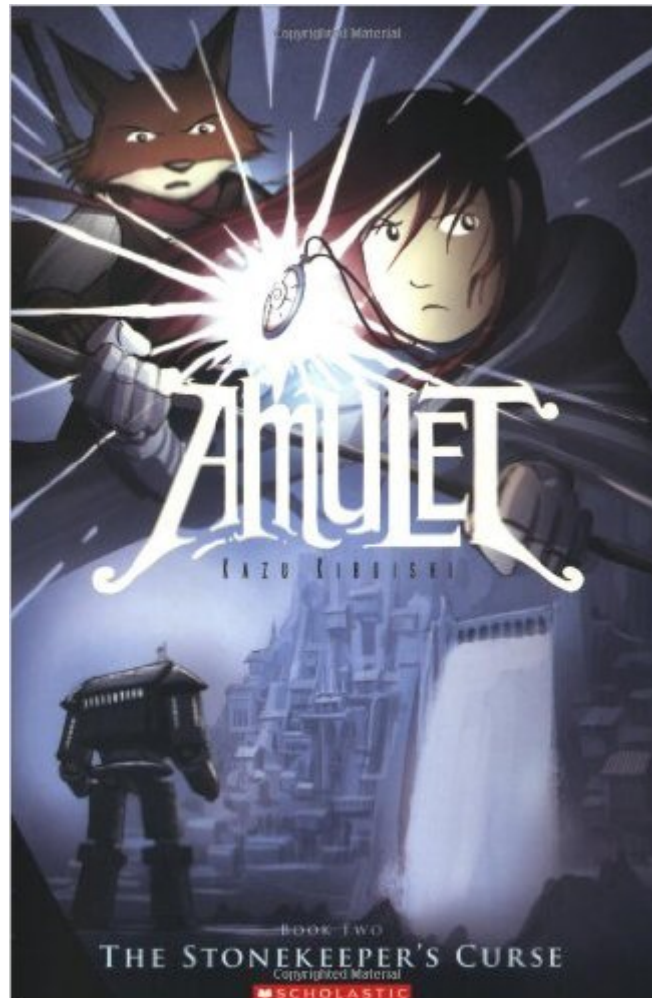


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The Stonekeeper's Curse (Amulet #2)



Synopsis

Graphic novel star Kazu Kibuishi returns with his mysterious world full of new allies . . . and old enemies! Emily and Navin's mother is still in a coma from the arachnoid's poison, and there's only one place to find help: Kanalis, the bustling, beautiful city of waterfalls. But when Em, her brother, and Miskit and the rest of the robotic crew aboard the walking house reach the city, they quickly realize that seeking help is looking for trouble, dangerous trouble.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 340L (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: GRAPHIX (September 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439846838

ISBN-13: 978-0439846837

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (432 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,136 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Â Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Spine-Chilling Horror #54 in Â Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels #147 in Â Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

I am a homeschooling mother with an interest in graphic books, both fiction and nonfiction, for adult or child readers. I just finished reading this book. However my first encounter with it was when it was released three years ago (2008) and my then-ten year old son saw it in the library and borrowed it. He loved the book. Since then two others in the series have been released. In the last month my older son, now 13, re-read or read all three (to find out what happened since he last read the first book) as did my younger son who is ten years old. The Amulet series is a hit with my sons. I also enjoyed the story. Emily is a human girl on a hero's journey aided by her younger brother, to save their mother's life. This is a fantasy story involving magic powers. It starts on Earth but has a gate to another world, a mysterious land which looks wild and medieval in its natural state and filled with

walking and talking animals and weird monsters, living "stuffed animals" and robots, but which has modern technology such as flying ships and a house that looks like a Transformer robot that walks and has a defense weaponry. One of the first things noticed about the book is its high quality full color illustrations which makes it more visually appealing than some other graphic books for children on the market. The pages are high quality glossy paper. This is a high action story that involves brushes with death, escapes and fighting. It's well written in that it is a solid hero's journey story which being done well, draws the reader in immediately, and makes us root for the hero from the start. We want to find out what happens next and we want the good guys to win.

Amulet, a graphic novel by Kazu Kibuishi (Flight, Volume One, Daisy Cutter: The Last Train), is geared towards the 9-12 age group. However, the novel will captivate anyone that begins to read it as they are swept along a moving story with beautiful illustrations. Our young heroine Emily witnesses the death of her father in the opening pages of this novel. Emily, her mother, and her brother Nevin move into the home of their missing great grandfather. There are secrets lurking within the house, one that soon ensnares Emily's mom. She's dragged from the basement by a tentacle through an open door and Emily and Nevin must go on a rescue mission to another world. This story captivates the reader from the beginning. The reader is compelled to feel for the characters of the story, from Emily witnessing the death of her father to watching her mom being dragged away by some unknown creature. Although this is only the first part of the series the reader gets a true sense of the characters, their feelings, and their emotions and is left hanging at the end of this book and wanting more. What really sells the story are the illustrations as they capture and convey the moods of the characters and their surroundings. The drawings have a light airy quality to them, with a simple, but moody, color palette to show off the extensive use of shadows to convey emotions of the character in graphic detail.

The Stonekeeper's Curse is book two in Kazu Kibuishi's Amulet series of graphic novels. I enjoyed the first book recently and decided to go ahead and pick up the second one. The story's pacing in the second novel is frenetic and moves quickly, introducing new characters and new geography almost with the turn of every page. The story picks up where it left off in the last volume, with Emily and Nevin staying one step ahead of the elves that are trying to catch them and use the Amulet for their own purposes. I still love the way the house has come to life and is walking from one place to another. The battle at the end reminded me a lot of the Japanese giant robot stories, but I love the house and hope they manage to hang onto it. But the way has gotten a lot tougher. Emily is forced to

learn a lot more about the amulet in this graphic novel, and what she learns isn't all good. Evidently the amulet wants to use the user even as much as Emily needs the powers it provides her. This type of relationship with weapons and powers has been explored several times throughout fantasy stories and remains a constant, but I like the way it's presented here, and I like Emily's innocence while facing it. We also get to see a bit of Trellis character this time out that makes me want to believe he's going to come around to the good side before it's all over. Of course, he could also become an even worse threat than his father. I'm waiting to see how that develops. One of the most interesting characters this time out is Leon Redbeard, who knows a lot about the amulet and isn't telling everything at this point.

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