

Stevenson, Noelle; Ellis, Grace Lumberjanes, Vol 1: Beware the Kitten Holy R* Gr 6-12
Miss Qiunzella Thiskwin Penniquil Thistle Crumpet's Camp for ~~Girls~~ Hardcore Lady Types is an ideal summer camp destination: cabins full of friends (Lumberjanes), hiking in the woods, battles with stone statues, cryptic messages (“Beware the kitten holy!”), and good old mystery solving. April, Jo, Mal, Molly, and Ripley face danger after adventurous danger as they discover that even the most ordinary camp plans (like a canoe trip) turn into extraordinary encounters (like with massive river monsters who smash their boat and almost kill them) that lead them on a quest to uncover secrets of the woods. Above all, the Lumberjanes live by one important code: “Friendship to the max!”

Stevenson and Ellis create characters just as loud and colorful in text as their illustrations by Brooklyn Allen. Action scenes, such as when the Lumberjanes encounter a forest filled with frenzied three-eyed foxes, burst from the page with overlapping panels and full-page graphics. The story carries a theme of friendship and sisterhood with feminist tones that feel natural without forcing a message. It is refreshing to see a group of friends diverse in skills, personalities, personal fashion styles, and general interests; characters are well-rounded and believable, even in the fantastical setting, and provide humor and witty insight in all of their escapades. Readers who enjoy laughing along with thrilling adventure will have plenty of opportunities to do so in this epic tale of hijinks and comradery.

Rebecca Strang, July 2018

R* Starred, Recommended
R Recommended
Ad Acceptable
M Marginal (in content or style), consider carefully

This review was completed for MSLIS coursework.
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