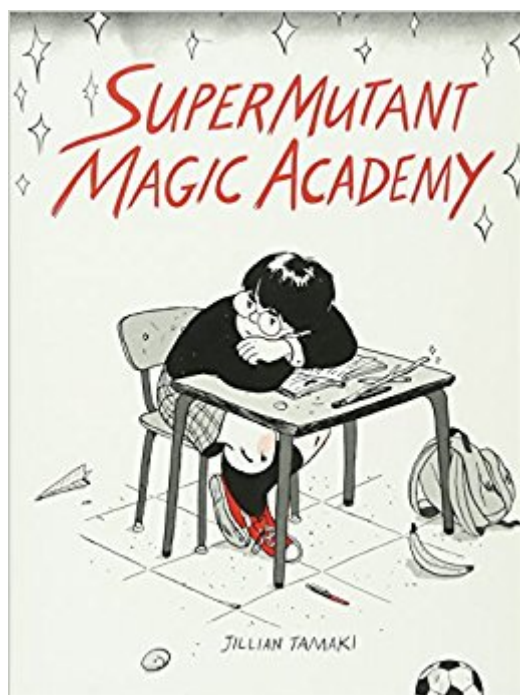


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# SuperMutant Magic Academy



## Synopsis

Unrequited love, underage drinking, and teen angst rule at a high school for mutants and witches. The New York Times and New Yorker illustrator Jillian Tamaki is best known for co-creating the award-winning young adult graphic novels *Skim* and *This One Summer*—moody and atmospheric bestsellers. *SuperMutant Magic Academy*, which she has been serializing online for the past four years, paints a teenaged world filled with just as much ennui and uncertainty, but also with a sharp dose of humor and irreverence. Tamaki deftly plays superhero and high-school Hollywood tropes against what adolescence is really like: The *SuperMutant Magic Academy* is a prep school for mutants and witches, but their paranormal abilities take a backseat to everyday teen concerns. Science experiments go awry, bake sales are upstaged, and the new kid at school is a cat who will determine the course of human destiny. In one strip, lizard-headed Trixie frets about her nonexistent modeling career; in another, the immortal Everlasting Boy tries to escape this mortal coil to no avail. Throughout it all, closeted Marsha obsesses about her unrequited crush, the cat-eared Wendy. Whether the magic is mundane or miraculous, Tamaki's jokes are precise and devastating. *SuperMutant Magic Academy* has won two Ignatz Awards. This volume combines the most popular content from the webcomic with a selection of all-new, never-before-seen strips that conclude Tamaki's account of life at the academy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • This quirky solo work from Caldecott- and Printz-winning graphic novelist Tamaki collects strips from her long-running webcomic about a school for mutants and witches into one

mostly cohesive anthology. Riffing off popular phenomena, such as Harry Potter and the X-Men, this title sets teen angst-y situations in a world populated with cat-eared prom queens, the Everlasting Boy, and superpowered jocks. Most of the strips are a page-long, with the exception of the never-before-seen 40-page story arc that concludes the series. While at times these snippets may confuse readers because of their brevity and often weighty existential themes, these snapshots often center on the same cast of characters, each of whom teens get to know more deeply by the book's end. The mostly black-and-white art is divided in a range of single, full-page to six panels, and rare bursts of color are deftly used to moving effect. Marsha, the misanthropic witch with a crush on her female best friend; Frances, the boundary-pushing artist; and Cheddar, the athlete trying to find the meaning of life, among others, stand out as the more fully developed protagonists, but readers will find bits of themselves in many of the realistic characters. Poking fun at the "Chosen One" mythos, Tamaki has created a stellar graphic novel that combines her slice-of-life expertise and clean, uncluttered art style. VERDICT A must-have volume reminiscent of Alan Moore's *Watchmen* (DC Comics, 1987) and her and Mariko Tamaki's *This One Summer* (First Second, 2014) in sensibility and Raina Telgemeier's works in appearance. —Shelley Diaz, *School Library Journal*

—“Tamaki's sense of comedy and pacing owes a lot to Charles Schulz's "Peanuts," although her subject matter is decidedly less innocent. And she delights in breaking her own rules: Her artwork is black-and-white except when she throws in impish splashes of color, drawn with broad, rough brush strokes except when it's composed of felt-tip scribbles or shimmering digital gray. —New York Times —“SuperMutant Magic Academy... exudes an irresistible wit. —The Guardian —“This collection is a great read for comic fans and genre newbies alike. —Bust Magazine —“[SuperMutant Magic Academy] is smart, thoughtful, and too hilarious to gobble down in just one sitting. —Bitch Magazine —“When it comes down to it, this is one of the best books... of any kind to come out in a long time. —Autostraddle —“The humor [in SuperMutant Magic Academy] is sometimes slapstick, but more often it offers ultra-dry observations on modern disengagement. Tamaki is playful and loose with her art, unafraid to be experimental as she draws us into a world where true feelings are the greatest danger. —Publishers Weekly Starred Review —“Though Tamaki's black and white panels shift from detailed and realistic to dreamy and atmospheric and back again, she consistently and expertly captures subtle emotion and subtext with only a few strokes of the pen. [SuperMutant Magic Academy is] simultaneously heartbreaking

and hilarious. [Booklist Starred Review](#) “SuperMutant Magic Academy will reassure teenagers that high school is a weird place, even for humans, and will remind adults that it is an experience we never really outgrow.” [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

Although the art varies in quality depending on the time of the section presented, Tamaki offers a story and a quirky set of characters that engage consistently. The book contains the occasional bit of humor too.

I read all of the comics on the website. Then I bought the book and read them all again, plus some extra fun goodies at the end. It is a magical world full of angst and more angst that Jillian Tamaki has created. I can't wait to see what she does with the series after this or what other projects she will work on but she is definitely someone to keep an eye on.

Love Jillian Tamaki's work. Not as good as *This One Summer* or *Skim* - and it's not a single complete story but a series of short stories - but worth owning nonetheless.

I love this graphic novel. The art is fantastic, and Jillian Tamaki does a great job of writing high school students who are believably optimistic, cynical, and foul-mouthed. This is maybe the best book I read in 2015: it made me laugh, cry, and want to draw comics. Highly recommended for teens and fans of YA/graphic novels..

It wasn't quite what I expected - I thought it would be more of a novel than journal style stories - but it came together in a great way near the end. I really enjoyed the little arcs and narratives that formed during school life, and the little weirdness made me celebrate how I felt during high school. Good read.

I've been a fan of Jillian Tamaki's work for awhile and to have an anthology of her SMMA work is pretty great. Another wonderful addition to my collection of her work.

I loved this so much! The stories and characters are adorable. Somehow has a dark humor but still an optimistic message. And the art is beautiful! Only con is that...it ended.

I just didn't like it. It wasn't bad but most of characters and I just didn't connect.

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