



Lucky Penny

Ananth Hirsh , Yuko Ota (Illustrator) , James Lucas Jones (Editor)

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If Penny Brighton didn't have bad luck, she'd have no luck at all. She lost her job. And her apartment. In the same day. But it's okay, her friend has a cozy storage unit she can crash in. And there's bound to be career opportunities at the neighborhood laundromat— just look how fast that 12-year-old who runs the place made it to management! Plus, there's this sweet guy at the community center, and maybe Penny can even have a conversation with him without being a total dork. Surely Penny is a capable of becoming an actual responsible adult, and if she can do that her luck's bound to change! Right?

Lucky Penny Details

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Author : Ananth Hirsh , Yuko Ota (Illustrator) , James Lucas Jones (Editor)

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From Reader Review Lucky Penny for online ebook

Sooraya Evans says

Had a Scott Pilgrim-vibe.

Very cute artwork.

Overall enjoyable.

Mehsi says

This was pretty great, though I have to say the ending really didn't make sense and just went totally over my head.

Most of this book is about Penny. Penny who has no home, no place to stay, so she lives in a storage box with all her stuff. :P She works for a 12-year old kid at the laundromat (don't even ask, I also have no clue why or how), and her luck is terrible (like really terrible). Throughout the book you see her fall in love, get in trouble, kick kids their butts (also very weird), find a cat and name her Boyfriend (she thought the cat was a he), and much much more.

As I said it borders at times on way too silly, but the ending was totally weird. So kids steal her stuff? Suddenly there are 100 middle school kids, there is an epic battle? Walter is captured? Wrestling commences, and much more other stuff? Was that all a dream? Or just something else? I know one thing, it makes me deduce one point from the book.

Penny was an epic MC though, I really liked her and how even though stuff doesn't always go right, she continues on her road to find happiness. I loved how resourceful she is (showering at the gym, staying at the storage unit, sending her mail to her work, etc.), it really shows great character. No matter what lands on her road, she will defeat it. Her love for romance books (with awesome titles though also a bit cringey) were fun, especially when she saw various things in real life as something out of her books. :P I loved her enthusiasm for her books and how she was able to make everyone love the books, even if they never did before. Even me. I normally stay away from those books, but I wouldn't mind reading them now if they were as awesome as Penny's books were.

The art was AMAZING! Really, it was! Sometimes I am a bit on the mixed side of things, but I just adored the art here. The expressions of Penny (and also others) they just made me laugh so much.

Walter and Penny were a cute couple, and I liked how they grew to each other. It wasn't instant lust, as some books do when people meet, instead you can see them get closer to each other, until that first kiss, which does take a while to happen. <3 <3 After that they became even cuter. :P

All in all, I truly enjoyed this book to bits, though again, that ending could have been so much better. :(

But I would still highly recommend it. It has romance, comedy, a great cast, and fantastic art.

Review first posted at <https://twirlingbookprincess.com>

David Schaafsma says

Penny, maybe 20, loses her job, has to move into a storage unit, gets a job working for a 12 year old manager of a laundromat. Bur if this sounds like some bleak analysis of the contemporary economic scene--nope! This is essentially a cute rom-com, down by Yuko Ota, that owes much to the manga-ish drawing style of Faith Hicks (The Adventures of Superhero Girl, Friends with Boys, The Nameless City, who blurbs the book by calling it "perfect.") and (especially) Bryan O'Malley's Scott Pilgrim series. It's basically the women's Scott Pilgrim, complete with battles, but not quite as funny or entertaining.

Well, maybe this is a little "softer" than either O'Malley or Hicks because of the budding romance, because the heart of it is Penny's gradual crushing on this boy. So it has this cute quality to it. The story is light and breezy and fun. It's about the transition between teens and twenties, that transition to adulthood.

Oh, there's one little thing I like a lot: when they all go out drinking, there are these drink scorecards above each person's head so you can see the number and kinds of drinks they have had.

But overall I liked it just fine. I smiled a few times, think of it as a kind of 3-3.5, but I bump it up because of the crushable artwork by Ota and because it is a kickstarter project that really took off, I want to support this kind of work and help it get it out there.

Hannah says

[a coi

Ash says

This filled me with glee!

Jane says

The story seemed a bit confusing and convoluted at times, but I LOVED the art style and the compelling characters.

Elizabeth A says

New Adults. Emerging Adults. Whatever you call them, this genre tends to deal with collage age-ish people and their woes and misadventures. I can see how this would appeal to many in a similar situation, but unless the story sheds some new light they don't work for me.

This graphic novel is about a young woman who loses her job, loses her apartment, and ends up living in a storage unit. The story is light and fluffy, and given some of the issues lightly touched upon, this would have been a much more interesting read if the author had dived deeper. The art is cute and manga-ish, with all those large eyes. A fast read that I will not remember having read in a week or two.

Kristine Hansen says

Penny is a girl who gets fired and loses her apartment in the same day. Her solution? Move into a storage unit (kids don't try this for a home). What follows just gets even stranger. Working at a laundromat for an 11 year old kid, Penny finds a way to con everyone around her into liking her and helping her out.

Sometimes you rate a book just by how much you enjoyed it. So while the story of Penny is kind of weird and the plot doesn't always make sense, reading about a girl so positively unlucky is kind of fun and interesting. I wound up liking Penny and even Walter grew on me. Overall I'd give this a 3 star on technical merit, but I'm bumping it up a notch just because I had fun reading it. Cute book!

Eleni (OverThePlace) says

This was SO much fun.

Sam Quixote says

Penny gets fired from her job and booted out of her flat all in the span of a day. Ooooh, I gets it, the title's iroooooonnnnicccc! So she moves into a storage unit and goes to work at a laundromat run by her friend's kid brother for comedy reasons. But romance is around the corner in the form of nerdy Walter - could Penny... get Lucky, (ohohoho, nudge nudge)?!

I quite liked Ananth Hirsh and Yuko Ota's comic Lucky Penny - up until the final act anyway. In the same vein as Scott Pilgrim and Giant Days, it has a very easygoing, charming style to it that's amusingly quirky but not annoyingly so. Penny and Walter are both likeable characters and their predictable romance, if not original or surprising, was pleasant to see unfolding. See, I'm not a heartless ogre!! Walter naming his car Ophelia and quoting Hamlet at it was the only moment that was too twee for my blood.

Buuuut... the wheels on the bus fall off in the final act for me. In Scott Pilgrim, Scott's fantasy fight sequences were just that: fantasy. Hirsh/Ota attempt something like that here but it's not fantasy. So the characters engage in weird Kill Bill-type fight scenes, smashing machines with their fists - it's much too ridiculous. These are just ordinary young people! It would've worked far better if it was fantasy; as it is, it's a misstep that totally lost me.

Also, the "villain's" motivation was awful, trite nonsense and the kids trying to bus' into Penny's storage unit was a pointless subplot. Ota's art is decent but it's standard manga illustration and nothing special.

Lucky Penny is a delightful romance comic for the most part that overreaches when it broaches Bryan Lee O'Malley territory. I'd still say it's worth a look if you're a Scott Pilgrim/Giant Days fan but it's also not as good as either of those titles so don't get them hopes up too high.

Zombieslayer/Alienhunter {merry wanderer of the night} says

"They seriously fired you?"

Penny is a twentysomething who, ironically, isn't lucky in the slightest. She loses her job and gets kicked out of her apartment on the SAME day. Her best friend Helen, setting out to move in with her husband, has the burden of an empty storage unit to bear.

"Sell this thing to me."

"Sure? I don't see why- OHHHH NO. No no no. You're a crazy person and there's no way I'm gonna be part of this."

"You're a succubus, Penny Brighton."

"What's that?"

Helen might think Penny's lost her marbles, (which she stole anyway) but Penny thinks, at a hundred bucks a month, she struck a pretty good deal... That she can't tell the unit manager about.

Even better than that, Helen hooks Penny up with a job at her family's Laundromat. Penny DOES kind of have to bow to Helen's tyrannical twelve-year-old brother David, who thinks he's the manager, but in exchange for free laundry, Penny can deal with that.

"You've washed your clothes. Now wash yourself."

"Hey! That's no way to talk to a lady!"

"I'll let you know if I see one."

It's scrounging for free showers at the community center where Penny hits a snag. That snag is the dude who works the front desk, Walter.

And the snag's not *exactly* a bad one.

Adventures in storage-unit-living, 'dates' that involve babysitting and DnD, a pocket-sized dictator for a boss, and a gang of miscreant middle-schoolers terrorizing her home, our Penny is definitely an unlucky one. But, hey. Bad luck, is still luck.

"I wish I knew what to do next..."

"We'll think of something."

Lucky Penny is about being a fuckup.

Believe it or not, many, *many* people are fuckups purely because they're born that way. We don't all have the work ethic of a mollusk and the attention span of a gnat. A lot of us do our best and try our hardest, and still end up unemployed C-students.

... Right?

Regardless, Penny is not lazy, entitled, or stupid. She's just unlucky.

Lucky Penny is, unsurprising seeing as it was published by Oni Press, (notice me Sensei!) very much a more down-to-earth, role-reversed *Scott Pilgrim*. With that same feeling of loudness and absurdity with less fantastic circumstances, this book is obviously aimed at that fanbase.

The only problem is that *Lucky Penny* is so normal and down-to-earth that the ending, not fantastic in the *Scott Pilgrim* sense but still hard to believe, didn't fit with the slice of life aspect of the first seventy-five percent.

It had the ending of an eleven-minute cartoon segment, in that bows were too neat and things were too easy. So, yeah. Three stars, more like a 3.5 with deducted points for the ending.

It might sound like Penny and Walter's relationship takes center stage. It DOESN'T.

What takes center stage is these two dorks' struggles to get together, stay on the same page, and not be such fricking weirdos in general (to no avail).

I'm not a romantic and I didn't mind their hookup at all. It was snortingly accurate.

art specs

Yuko Ota's art was *perfect* for this story. While the content was an obvious nod to Bryan Lee O'Malley's magnum opus, Ota's art stands far away from that manga/arcade-inspired style and gives you more of a soft, animated feel (think Steven Universes or Gravity Falls).

The art is a five-star, easy.

Lucky Penny is a worthwhile read for graphic novel fans, cartoon fans, *Scott Pilgrim* fans, millenials, fuckups, unlucky ducks, or any cross-section thereof.

"Am I bad luck?"

"Eeehhh... Wellllll..."

Maddie says

I've read Panagariyas and Yukos autobiography comic Johnny Wander and really enjoyed it. This one not as much, but still an interesting read. It's got the same sort of feel as the Scott Pilgrim novels by Bryan Lee O'Malley; sarcastic and witty, just not as memorable.

Amy says

Penny Brighton is an unapologetic casual smoker, has a neck tattoo of a snake beginning to coil itself around a heart, and reads steamy romance novels with titles like “Succubus Seduced” for fun. When she is fired from her job and is forced to move out, she convinces her best friend, Helen, with coffee (a dash of milk, two sugars, and cinnamon) to get her a job at Helen’s family’s laundromat and let her stay in their storage unit.

Review:

<http://noflyingnotights.com/2016/09/1...>

Ran says

This is cute fluff: young protagonist Penny's trying to figure out her life, her relationship(s), and make it all work. It's adorably drawn. But it's kind of mindless in a way that's enjoyable like a rom com movie.

Tasha says

What do you do when you lose your job and your apartment on the same day? Well, if you have a friend with a storage unit, you move in there! Penny lands a job with her friend’s family too at their laundromat working for a 12-year-old manager. As Penny figures out the tricks to living in a storage unit, she also meets a boy who works at the community center. At first she tries to trade him a date to be allowed to shower there, but their connection grows. Still, there are problems with living in a storage unit like heat, kids trying to break in, and more. Perhaps it will take a villain and his henchmen to battle to change Penny’s luck. Or not.

I loved this playful graphic novel that will work for both teens and adults. Penny is clearly out of high school but also in that bizarre interim before becoming a “real” adult. She is entirely lovable in her own unique way with a tattoo she hates, plenty to worry about and very few plans for the future. Still, she manages to take care of herself, keep a job, flirt a little, and fall in love.

I particularly enjoyed the way that the book would suddenly have battle scenes. The majority of the book is a slice-of-life from Penny’s world. It is filled with small moments that are charming and lovely. Still, there is real humor here such as the scores above characters’ heads as they drink in a bar. The fighting too brings this graphic novel to a different and unexpected place where it pays homage to plenty of hero comic tropes.

Funny and smart, this graphic novel will be appreciated by older teens and adults, some looking forward to life beyond high school and some looking back to when they weren’t adults either. Appropriate for ages 15-18.
