

## Love and Wonder (Small Town Witch #1)

Alex Singer

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Small Town Witch is a noir with a fantasy twist. Set in a 1920's New York where Prohibition outlaws the brewing of spells, the story follows Vincent Byrde, a hard-boiled PI who struggles with a magic curse. After a long career hunting magic bootleggers, Vincent has become obsessed with the frustrating case of Jimmy Wonder: a young, up-and-coming spellrunner who keeps slipping out of the hands of the law. Their dance takes a complicated turn when Kitty Lovelace -- well-known to be Jimmy's main girl -- walks out on Wonder and into Vincent's life.

#### Love and Wonder (Small Town Witch #1) Details

Date : Published November 8th 2015 by Little Foolery

ISBN:

Author: Alex Singer

Format: Hardcover 145 pages

Fantasy, Sequential Art, Comics, Historical, Historical Fiction, Graphic Novels, Fiction, Graphic

Novels Comics, Urban Fantasy

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# From Reader Review Love and Wonder (Small Town Witch #1) for online ebook

#### Monica Fastenau says

Read the full review here: http://newberyandbeyond.com/comics-ro...

#### J. Kiakas says

Absolutely stunning.

#### Robin Zeno says

Gorgeous art & great snappy writing! A fun adventure in a cool setting that wonderfully lives up to its premise. The little 'book one' on the spine is verrrrry interesting, I'll be keeping an eye out for news of a sequel

#### S.M.M. Lindström says

It's the prohibition era, but not only alcohol is banned. In this version of our world magic exists and after the last war it has been banned. We follow a private investigator working for the police as he investigates local rumors about people smuggling magic. Well, not just 'people' but a very familiar person known to the police, a slippery fellow that the cops never get anything to stick to.

The art in this book is gorgeous. Really, it's a feast for the eyes and I'd recommend it on that alone. The story itself is very noir, straightforward and not too difficult to guess how it ends. But it's well written and, again, the art is beautiful.

#### **Candice says**

Honestly, I loved this from start to finish. The only thing I wanted from this was more! It's a delightful noir short illustrated story (A graphic novella?) set during Prohibition with a twist - it's MAGIC that's been made illegal. (I mean, booze too, but mostly magic.)

A slick young alchemist, a hot girl whose been done wrong by him, a ball-busting lady DA, and... a werewolf PI.

It's got gorgeous art and a funny, dark, fill-in-your-own-blanks intelligent setting and plot.

#### Steph says

Interesting concept and I liked the illustrations. I didn't find it so easy to follow though, and it might take a reread to completely get it.

#### Nell says

4 stars for the story, 5 for the art and presentation.

#### **Patrick says**

This book is a bit of an odd thing. It's not a comic, but a straight-up illustrated novel. That by itself would set it apart as something odd. But what \*really\* makes it unique is that it's not Young Adult, either in it's subject matter (It's gets reasonably sexy) or it's timeframe concept (The book is Alt history Magic Noir.)

It's a cool story, tone is very appropriate for the Noir genre, and while I could see some people being thrown off by the anime style of the art (in conjunction with a genre that already has a very distinct visual style) I liked it.

Story was well-told, doing a nice job of bringing in some of the classic tropes, while shucking out of some of the lousy stuff that wouldn't do well in this day and age.

Truth be told, I enjoyed this book to about a 4 star level. But I'm giving it an extra star for being brave enough to do something really different, both in its concept and its execution.

#### **Kyle says**

A fantastic mix of magic and noir. The story was well crafted and the art is wonderfully atmospheric. I hope there will be a book two in the near future.

#### Anna says

a noir light novel with *excellent* illustrations. Come on, who doesn't wanna read AU with witches set in prohibition-era, with extremely tasteful page of smut in the middle

#### Valerie says

I got this book during a kickstarter binge a while back because it was an illustrated novel about a Prohibition Era that included Magic Prohibition. The concept is great, and as a fan of both graphic novels and comics, the idea of an illustrated novel, a picture book for grown-ups, was deeply appealing. I wasn't disappointed. The art is gorgeous and complementary, helping this story move along when words to describe it would feel forced or inadequate. The writing, however, shares the stage with the art, and it is one of the better crowdfunded pieces I'ver read. The story is simple, maybe a little predictable, but still enjoyable, particularly given the length. You can easily read the whole story in a single sitting. Overall, for comics fans that would like a little more depth to the prose or fantasy fans with an artistic bent, this book is a great combination. I hope the team continues in this world for a few more adventures.

#### Emma says

In 1920s New York, magic is outlawed by Prohibition, and a werewolf gumshoe finds himself at the heart of magical crimes. Absolutely brilliant and beautiful, I can't recommend this highly enough. The prose is punchy and powerful, the typography is beautiful, and the art, the art is goddamn beautiful.

Alex "Muun" Singer (writing) and Jayd "Chira" Ait-Kaci (artwork) are such a brilliant team, their work together really sings. Their free webcomic Sfeer Theory is a great example of how well their art and writing pairs together.

#### **Peter says**

Random find, looked interesting, decided to check it out.

I found both the premise and style of the book far more interesting than the actual story itself. The prohibition-era USA with magic mixed in is a cool idea, and was utilized pretty effectively; focusing on the small-time gangsters gave the world a much more realistic feeling. This isn't an epic, just one story out of thousands that could happen in this world.

I would love to see more books done in this style; not quite a comic, but not a novel either. Each page was covered with beautiful art, and the prose varied in length, sometimes taking center stage, and other times only having a few sentences, or even none at all, letting the pictures take hold.

The problem I had, however, was in the writing. The author seems to have an aversion to commas, instead using periods for incredibly short sentences. This made many paragraphs feel much slower than they needed to be, jerking to a halt every second or so, when commas and a few changed words could have made the whole thing flow so much better.

Here's an example of what I mean, pulled directly from a non-spoilery section of the book:

'Timothy Katz got his coffee. He ordered hash. He didn't order sausage. He was waiting for friends. He said they'd be along in just a bit.'

It feels like reading a telegraph, or having a robot as narrator. I wonder if the author was trying for it to feel like a newspaper article from a 1920's newspaper, but it kept pulling me out of the story.

Everything else about the story worked well, though. The characters are lively, and though we don't get enough time with them to see any real depth, they all feel well-rounded and unique. Everything moves at a nice pace, though some parts seem rushed or skipped over, possibly due to the overall length of the book.

Overall, I enjoyed reading through it. Its something I'll probably flip through again at a later date, but probably more for the artwork than the story itself.

#### Laura says

I eagerly anticipated this because I had backed it on Kickstarter. The story is good, the characters intriguing, but the illustration is what's really special about this. The layout is very unique and original compared to other graphic novels I've read before and the quality of the art is fantastic.