

### ***Ms. Marvel, Vol. 1: No Normal* by G. Willow Wilson**

In this collection of the first five comics in the 2014 reboot of Ms. Marvel, we meet ordinary teenager Kamala Kahn. She's sixteen, Pakistani Muslim, an enthusiastic fan of the Avengers, and she suddenly and mysteriously has super powers after wishing to be like Captain Marvel.

This was a fantastic introduction to the series and a really intriguing graphic novel. Kamala is such a relatable teenager! She's nerdy, maybe a bit awkward, and she's trying to figure out her place in the world. Then, on top of all the normal teenager angst, she has these new powers that show up basically out of nowhere. It's a lot for someone who already feels like she doesn't fit in because of her cultural background. It was really nice to see that Kamala found it important to create a bridge between her cultural identity and her new superhero identity, using a burkini (a modest piece of swimwear) to create the Ms. Marvel costume. I love that G. Willow Wilson and the rest of the Ms. Marvel team chose to focus not just on the conflicts with the typical comic book villains, but also the conflicts that Kamala is dealing with at home and with her friends. We don't even really meet the "Big Bad" until late in the game.

While this isn't my favorite art style, I do really like the color palette. I also seriously enjoyed the little jokes in the background of some panels. This is one comic you definitely need to pay attention to the background art! I wish that I'd read this years ago, because it's wonderful. But at the same time I'm glad that I waited to start the series now that there are several collected volumes of the comics to read. I am super excited to read more!

GK