

***Nimona* by N.D. Stevenson**

I am a huge fan of N.D. Stevenson's work, so the fact that I didn't read *Nimona* until 2023 seems very odd. The graphic novel actually started as a webcomic in 2012 and then the full comic was later compiled and published in 2015. From what I was expecting from the cover, I figured that it would be a fairly typical fantasy graphic novel. But it is SO much more interesting than that!

Nimona is quite a character. She's a shapeshifter that wants to be the local villain's sidekick. She's young, and she's kind of small, but she can sure pack a wallop. Her new boss Blackheart isn't your typical villain, nor is the Institution's lead knight Goldenloin your typical hero. I like that they are all a little more complicated than they first appear.

I love Stevenson's art style and use of color throughout the book. Flashbacks have a sort of sepia tone to set them apart from the more colorful action of the present. There is so much more that I want to say, but I feel like the less you know going into this book the better. It's so full of heart and humor, so it was really nice to experience this amazing world without really knowing anything going into it. If you're a fan of Stevenson's other work, be it the *Lumberjanes* comics and/or the TV show *She-Ra and the Princesses of Power*, I would highly recommend this earlier work. Or if you enjoy K. O'Neill's graphic novels (*The Tea Dragon Society*, etc.), I think this would be right up your alley. It's a fun, quick read. And now that I'm done reading the graphic novel, I can watch the *Nimona* animated film that just came out on Netflix last month!

GK