

***The Moth Keeper* by K. O'Neill**

K. O'Neill's newest graphic novel is the story of Anya, the young new Moth Keeper in the night-village. The village was gifted Moon-Moths from the Moon-Spirit, and the Moths pollinate the Night-Flower that helps the village in different ways. Taking care of the Moon-Moths every night is great honor, but it's also a heavy burden, especially for someone so young. It's lonely work for Anya after she takes over for Keeper Yeolen. She's still very new to her responsibilities as Moth Keeper, but she knows how important the job is. For a time, Yeolen stays with her while Anya is still learning the ropes, but she wants to take on the role on her own, probably sooner than she should have.

You really feel for Anya. After a bit of a rough childhood, she just wants to feel like she's important to the village. She has the support of her mentor Yeolen, plus her friend Estell, as well as Estell's mentor Aimoss. But they can't spend the long, lonely nights with Anya, her lantern, and the Moths. When Anya makes a mistake, her friends do step in to help, and she owns up to it and works her hardest to fix things. This is such a lovely story that I kind of wish it weren't a standalone graphic novel, but part of a series about this fascinating, magical place. I'd love to know more about Aimoss's backstory, about the Moon-Spirit, about the sun-village, and so much more! O'Neill has just created such an intriguing world here that I don't want the story to end!

After reading the whole book, I noticed that there is a note in the beginning on the copyright page that this entire graphic novel was created on an iPad Pro using the Procreate app. I was absolutely amazed, because it definitely looks like the type of art that is hand-drawn on paper! I love O'Neill's illustration style and use of color, it's soft and sort of dream-like. If you've read *The Tea Dragon Society* series, also by O'Neill, this will definitely be up your alley. If you haven't, I highly recommend all three of those graphic novels (as well as all of O'Neill's other work)! The art in this one is similar, while still retaining its own distinct style. But while I was reading, I couldn't help but wonder if it's set in the same universe as *The Tea Dragon Society*. It would be very cool if that were the case!

GK