

*The Tea Dragon Society* by Katie O'Neill

In this beautiful graphic novel, we meet Greta, who is learning the blacksmithing trade from her mother. While visiting the market for supplies, Greta rescues a small green dragon in trouble. After returning the dragon to Hesekeel at the tea shop, she learns that the little creature is a tea dragon. Hesekeel, Erik, his wheelchair-using partner, and the mysterious newcomer Minette make up what is left of the Tea Dragon Society. Greta befriends the trio and they teach her the art of taking care of tea dragons.

This was the first of Katie O'Neill's books that I read, and she has quickly become one of my favorite authors and illustrators. O'Neill's art is whimsical and gorgeous, with a subdued color palette that is absolutely perfect for the story. There's no real conflict for Greta or the other characters to go through, just a charming story about friendships and patience in a colorful fantasy world. In addition to having delightful art and a sweet story, this is a wonderfully inclusive graphic novel! It was so nice to see such diverse representation in the characters. The follow-up, *The Tea Dragon Festival*, is also a fantastic read. The final book in the trilogy came out late last year, entitled *The Tea Dragon Tapestry*. I haven't had a chance to read it yet, but I am looking forward to reading it once my hold comes in through interlibrary loan. O'Neill's books are light, quick reads, which are perfect for reading with a hot mug of tea before bed.

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