



## Princeless, Vol. 5: Make Yourself

*Jeremy Whitley , Brett Grunig (Artist) , Alex Smith (Artist) , Emily Martin (Artist)*

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Fresh from fighting vampires, zombies and giant creatures in the swamp—Princess Adrienne, Bedelia the Blacksmith and Sparky the Dragon are in for their biggest adventure yet! Join our team of fearless ladies as they set off into the mountains to save twin princesses Andrea and Antonia. They'll meet a team of dragon slaying dwarf women, a farm full of trained monsters and perhaps some of their most dangerous foes yet!

### Princeless, Vol. 5: Make Yourself Details

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## **From Reader Review Princeless, Vol. 5: Make Yourself for online ebook**

### **Maggie Gordon says**

Princeless Volume 5 already? I think I might have missed a few of the stories in between, but the general story is the same. A kickass princess and her dragon are trying to save her sisters. It's a wonderfully positive story for little girls that looks at women as something other than damsels in distress.

I wasn't too fond of the art in this volume. It's changed a lot from the original stories that I read and is a bit clunky for my tastes. I am also a bit wary of Bedelia's plot involving the mother who abandoned her as a lot of the characters are pressuring her to forgive. I hope the conclusion to that is a bit more nuanced. I truly loathe the way these graphic novels are printed with so many ads in them. But that's been a problem since the beginning. If you liked the first books in the series, volume 5 continues the story and stays true to the characters.

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### **Kendra says**

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### **Rebecca says**

Since it's more of a transition volume I would say it wasn't as great as previous volumes but still great! Lots of respect for the first issue in this series where Adrienne talks about her hair. I really hope there will be more in the series soon!

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### **Brittany Soder says**

AHHHH WHERE IS VOL 6?!?!?!?

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### **Colona Public Library says**

I really enjoyed all of Adrienne's curious and thoughtful questions of social norms, It was a strong characteristic from the beginning and something I enjoy about her. It starts off with her thinking about what to do with her hair because a part was burned off. She thinks about the history of her hair (which is naturally kinky) past hairstyles that didn't work, jealous of her sisters naturally beautiful hair. There is even a reference to hair relaxer that tends to burn the scalp in order to straighten hair. There was a lot of sacrifice and time spent just on her hair and she realizes this and Cuts it off! I love the troupe of women cutting of there hair because frankly there is a ton of time invested in it and cutting off or short is just so freeing! We also meet the Dwarves in this one and I love the Warriors and the Lesbian Dwarves! I love that Adrienne is asking questions to the Lesbian dwarf she's currently on an adventure with and learning more about different

relationships. There are so many characters on side quests right now I have a feeling it's going to get really epic! ~Ashley

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### **Debbie says**

Ahhh! Cliffhanger!

Unlike previous volumes, this is not a full story-arc. Instead, it's part one of a larger arc with multiple threads. But oh, it's so so good. Whitley is at top form with his the first issue focusing on Adrienne's trials with her untameable hair, which A++. Great commentary and much needed for those black girls reading this who want perfect "princess" hair like in the movies.

The rest of the volume has Adrienne and Bedelia entering the land of the dwarves and cultural misconceptions regarding Sparky, since dwarves apparently don't like dragons. There's also a great scene with Bedelia and her grandfather where she comes out as a blacksmith, since it's the realm of men in dwarven society and women were banned from smithing.

I'm also really enjoying the secondary plotline around Adrienne's brother Devin and his quest to find out what happened with his mother ((view spoiler)

A really solid volume, though I'm less than thrilled with the incomplete story arc, since previous volumes had trained me to expect a resolution by the last page.

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### **laura (bookies & cookies) says**

It's so frustrating when these end unresolved, but that's why it's "part one," I suppose. Even MORE frustrating the next one doesn't come out until 2018!

I do have some questions. about if sensitivity readers were brought in for the scenes where 1 of the dwarves in a f/f relationship discusses how she knew she liked girls to the MC. It seemed to be reading through a straight lens appealing to straight readers. The MC asks questions like. "You and Greta (the f/f couple), what's the deal with that?" and "were you always like this or was it something you chose?" which are questions I've heard when people are learning about sexuality, and may be questions kids who are reading this have (it's geared towards middle grade), but it felt written for a straight audience.

It's all handled very respectfully, but I'm not certain if it's the \*best\* way this conversation could have gone. I'll need to read reviews by lesbian and bi reviewers and trust their opinion rather than my own perhaps misguided one.

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### **Kales says**

I love this series. I love Adrienne's new hair. I want more of this story. It's good. You should read it. That is all.

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## **Bruce says**

After their adventure in the swamp Princess Adrienne and her friend Bedelia pause for a swim. Bedelia, tired of Adrienne complaints about how hard her hair is to care for gives her a short haircut. Then they're off to the cold of the mountains to rescue Adrienne's sisters. Unfortunately, their means of transport is on the back of Sparky the dragon. Living in those mountains are dwarfs who assume they're under attack when they see a dragon coming. Fortunately, a near battle turns into a family reunion, when the dwarfs recognize their relative Bedelia, despite her unusual height.

Meanwhile at a lower altitude, two princes and their respective bodyguards are also on quests of their own. Again, what might have been a battle turns into a shaky alliance, but will it hold up when they're attacked by giant prince-swallowing earthworms?

It's more sex-role-swapping, gender-bending adventure from Whitley and company, and lots of fun.

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## **Kathleen says**

CONFIRMED QUEER PEOPLE IN PRINCELESS. REPEAT: CONFIRMED QUEER PEOPLE.

Ahem.

In this installment, Adrienne and Bedelia and their dragon Sparky fly north to the mountains to rescue the twins Andrea and Antonia. They encounter dwarves, many of whom are related to Bedelia, and there is a truly heartwarming moment with her grandfather that just, ah, right in the feels. We also follow Adrienne's brother Devin as he tries to rescue his mother from someone who is totally not her alter ego. Definitely not. No way. Anyway, he also meets some interesting people.

Unfortunately, this is just the first half of the storyline. Adrienne and her dwarf companion (whose name I cannot for the life of me remember, sorry!) have just fallen into severe danger, and Bedelia is close to a major conversation with her mother (yes! we meet her mother!) and the volume ends. I will absolutely read the next one, but aaaaugh why must I wait!

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## **Sylwia (Wish Fulfillment) says**

Another incredible addition to the series. The plot is moving along, the characters are exploring internal struggles, the feminist topics continue to be brought up. Adrienne spends the first chapter/issue discussing her hair, which I personally adored because I love talking about hair and learning about how black women think about and treat their hair. I looked for a review from a black reader, but couldn't find any. (Please link me if you reviewed this element of the volume!) There is an on the page f/f couple in this one and one of the ladies from that couple answers some (pretty invasive) questions from Adrienne, who is wanting to learn about sexuality and specifically homosexuality (though it is pretty clear throughout the series that Adrienne is straight). I still love this series, consider it one of my favorites, and recommend it to all!

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### **Jasmine says**

The art continues to be my least favourite, but everything with the Dwarven Dragon Slayers is pure joy. Also— ELVES WHAT.

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### **E. says**

Haircuts. Lesbian dwarves. Unexpected alliances. Family drama. & *many many monsters. Just chilling. No panic.*

Weird place to place a cliffhanger though?

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### **Sesana says**

Only the first half of the storyline this time, but it looks to be a much bigger and much more complex chapter. Towards the end, scenes are more or less evenly divided between Adrienne's continuing quest, Bedelia's uneasy reunification with her mother (as well as her awesome dwarven family), and Devin's quest to rescue his mother from the Black Knight, who are totally not the same person.

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### **Devann says**

reeeeeeally awkward place for a cliffhanger imo but still a good volume ...er, half-volume

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