



## Gloom Cookie Volume 1

*Serena Valentino*

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**Gloom Cookie Volume 1** Serena Valentino

*(W) Serena Valentino (A) Various*

*GloomCookie* is Serena Valentino's cult-favorite, goth-infused, satirical soap opera graphic novel series, focusing on the star-crossed relationship between goth clubber Lex and her gargoyle-like friend and lover Damion. Each volume collects a six-issue arc of the series; Volume 1 features art from Ted Naifeh, Jon Gebbia provides art for Volume 2, Breehn Burns works on Volume 3, Harley Sparx draws Volume 4, and Vincent Batignole provides art on Volume 5.

## Gloom Cookie Volume 1 Details

Date : Published June 1st 2003 by SLG Publishing (first published January 26th 2001)

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Author : Serena Valentino

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## From Reader Review Gloom Cookie Volume 1 for online ebook

### Althea Ann says

This is the first 'graphic novel' or compendium of this comic book, which is written by Valentino, and has been illustrated by different artists of her choosing. The art in this volume is all by Naifeh. I'd heard about this 'gothic' comic for a while, and my interest was piqued, so I picked it up from the library.

The story centers around a group of people in a goth scene, and features many stereotypes and kinds of characters that will quickly be recognized by anyone who's hung out in such a scene, with a focus on social drama. It aims for witty, pointed social satire... but a lot of it is just too obvious, (or just not interesting enough) to be really funny. But the thing that really bothered me about it was the plethora of misspellings. In this volume, which is fairly short, there are over a dozen misspelled words that I counted, including inconsistency in the spelling of a character's name, fer chrissakes! It was incredibly distracting - I found myself counting typos rather than concentrating on the story.

The story is rather cute - it features a cute little girl who is in love with a boy who doesn't want to commit to her. Her arch-rival at the clubs is also always trying to steal him from her. But then she hooks up with her arch-rival's boyfriend, and discovers a secret - he and her rival are actually secretly monsters from a fantasy realm... it's a nice concept - but with a little more care put into the presentation, I would have enjoyed it more.

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### Carrie says

A goth soap opera/fairy tale! Filled with misunderstood monsters, vengeful curses, sensitive misfits, melodramatic romance, decadent settings, vampy outfits, bad poetry, and hilarious parodies of Goth angst and Gothlette cattiness, this is full of sweet, guilty pleasures that won't leave you feeling icky or stupid afterwards. The artwork is just as delectable. Out of the first three in the series - the only ones I've read so far - this has the best illustrations.

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### BookCupid says

A collection of short stories about a group of Gothic characters, some monstrous others simply hexed, who more than anything want to be loved. The drawings were strangely artistic and disproportionate, nothing like I've seen before. Be sure to read vol 2, to see what happens to these characters, since many of their woes remained inconclusive.

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### Devann says

You'd think this would be right up my alley but I just found the whole thing to be incredibly boring and

childish ...not to mention confusing. It's set up like a manga and each chapter [6 total] have between 2 and 4 short stories in it. They all kind of loosely connect and I could see them coming together a bit towards the end, but mostly it just seemed like random out of order snippets and AUs and I was not sure what was going on or why I should care. Also the whole thing has that stuck up late 90s / early 2000s ~we're better than those fucking preps~ vibe that I just find so exhausting. Like ...grow up?

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### **CJ - It's only a Paper Moon says**

Loved it. Really really good graphic novel...this is only the beginning of the story as well. incorporates a lot of fairy tale myths and goth culture. It's dark, funny, weird and human.

Good good read!

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### **Marie says**

Squishy and fun!

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### **Kirsten says**

Collects the first six issues of the goth comic Gloomcookie. This was enjoyable; I really like the characters (especially Sebastian). It takes a while to pick up the pace, though, and form a solid storyline, and I felt that a lot of the story elements were sort of glossed over or not explained properly. Also, while Ted Naifeh is great at drawing facial expressions and characters, his action sequences are really confusing and tend towards the static. If the library gets the other collections, I'll check them out, though.

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### **Ezekiel says**

Content Notes: nudity, death, boundary violations, fatphobia in artist depictions

This was... nice? The structure, motifs, use of fantasy themes was all nice. The art was nice too, very stylistic and engaging (black line only). One problem I definitely do have though with the art was the way fatphobia presented itself, the main creeper character is a (relatively) fat guy, and no other characters are fat. I'm also going to critique the hell out of the fact that apparently only white people can be goths? Like, imagine some racial diversity, yo.

I think I would have liked this more as a teenager, when life felt more melodramatic in general (for me). Though also I think I would have felt like the "cool" characters in the world would have judged me. There

was also a mary/gary stu quality that I couldn't decide if I respected (because who DOESN'T want to sometimes just be that gorgeous person who is wonderful and loved, and hey rock your fantasy wish-fulfillment self) or found annoying (because uhhhh eternal love and perfect boyfriends and whatnot is sort of boring/unenjoyable in a "yeah every time I fantasized about that it was a terrible idea" sort of way).

All in all I'm willing to read the next volume and see how that feels, but I'm not SO STOKED about it. Just sort of mildly interested.

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### **Pamster says**

A goth soap opera mixing the social politics of clubbing with supernatural intrigue, this graphic novel is super quick and fun. I kind of want to color it in all purple and pink. It serves as a good reminder that goth men are incredibly not hot. Like not hot to an extreme, like that is their whole entire mission is to not be hot even a tiny little bit. Not even warm. Recommended by Michelle, partly because she loves it, and partly because there is a character called Vermilion who is her boyf.

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### **Chris says**

Gothic fairy tale about love. Not quite as good as Valentino Fairy Tale series, but worth the read.

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### **Monica says**

I was fortunate enough to take a comic writing course from Serena Valentino this past year, although at the time I hadn't even heard of "Gloom Cookie"--I'm awful, right? But now that I've started reading the series, I can say with confidence that this book captures Serena's sassy yet whimsical style perfectly. It's silly and sentimental in all of the right places and I can't wait to find out what happens next!

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### **Jennifer says**

Some of the stories and drawings from this were just squishy. I loved the monster and the carnival macabre. Other elements were oogie. Some of the writing was awkward ("their" instead of "they're", etc.) but the bits that were delightful were so pleasing when coupled with the art that they carried me through. I would say some parts of this book averaged 4 stars and others 2, hence the overall score of 3.

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### **Online Eccentric Librarian says**

*More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>*

What starts as what seems a random collection of unrelated stories slowly but surely start to coalesce, especially by volume 2. By then, you're likely hooked as the big picture unfolds.

The artwork is stylized but clean and the text is sparse and easy to follow. The writer has clearly defined the characters and they make sense in this sort of alternate fantastical reality.

I originally picked up the first volume at the library and wasn't expecting much. But after the first volume, I definitely was hooked and have enjoyed the little original touches to this unique story.

If I have one complaint (and the reason for the 4 rather than 5 star) is that I would have preferred a consistent artwork and style throughout the series.

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### **Misty says**

This is probably just under a 3 for me. It was cutish, fun artwork, interestingish fairytale-like storylines. Not a great piece of lit, but fun.

The basic story revolves around a group of goth club kids, some of whom are not so much "kids" as they are -- well, that would be telling, now wouldn't it?

The story is slightly cheeky, making fun of the scene in the way that only people who are a part of it and sincere can really do. There are a lot of fairytale elements woven in, and a creepy carnival, both of which I loved, and there are some good funny bits. What held it back though, for me at least, was the constant sense of disconnect. The stories jumped a lot, and though they do fit together, and eventually work as a whole (in one volume) I think they would have been frustrating individually. Also, some of the changes within the stories are very abrupt and underdeveloped. For a light, fun, slightly macabre read, it works, but it doesn't go beyond that.

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### **The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says**

Gloomcookie reminds me so much of all my lovely and drama-filled goths in all their extravagant finery. It's sweet, dark, fun and yes, there's bound to be a real-life version of bad goth poet Vermilion somewhere. Serena Valentino knows this scene and writes both lovingly and bitingly about it while embracing its fantasy elements as well. Ted Naifeh's illustrations are amazing, especially Lex and Max--our woebegone couple. Will they or won't they?

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### **Chibineko says**

I picked this series up because it was recommended to me. I loved this book & it's artwork. The characters were cute, but at times I felt like the stories were a bit too fragmented. The storyline was very clear & linear, but at times I felt like the artists could have spent just a teensy bit more time filling in the blank spots between stories. There are parts to the story that just could have used a bit more finesse. Still, I would definitely recommend this to fans of Courtney Crumrin, JTHM, Lenore, & Fables.

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### **Vanessa says**

I remember buying this graphic novel years ago, and I never finished it. After picking it up around an hour ago and reading the whole thing, I know remember why.

*Gloom Cookie* is a comic that I would have expected to love. As a former weird, 'emo' kid at school, there is still a little bit of the goth child inside of me who is fascinated by all those tall dark strangers with the leather and pvc and black lipstick who used to dominate my local rock club back in the day (before it went downhill basically). However, *Gloom Cookie* unfortunately comes across as incredibly childish, with haphazard story lines that could have been good if they had been developed a lot better.

I didn't really like the main character Lex, and I didn't really care what happened to her. Although some of the characters I did like, again I observed their antics with a certain level of ambivalence, and when I closed the book I was surprised at how quickly I'd read it. For a 200+ page graphic novel, you'd think I would have spent more time invested in it, but there was nothing for me to get invested in.

Although some of the more fantastical elements started out well, they just didn't really go anywhere or serve the plot (if you can call it that) very well. Key moments were rushed, and I felt like I was constantly missing something when it came to why certain events happened. Overall, a disappointing read - but I guess I had expected that from the start anyway.

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### **Erika says**

A bit mixed on this one. The art varies from crude to subtle, especially with the faces but overall it serves the stories well, especially considered how disjointed the stories can seem to be.

I enjoyed the common thread that runs through all of the stories but found them overall a bit hard to follow at first, I had to go back and reread the first few stories a few times to get my bearings, but once I figured out what was going on most everything else started to fall into place. I also enjoyed the mix of humor and darkness, the dramatic and the romantic that fill every story. The balance isn't perfect with this either, but like the uneven seeming art it fit the story somehow.

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### **Klay says**

Really more of a 4.5

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### **Stacy says**

Not for me. Couldn't finish. It just didn't grab me. And it was really simplistic, imho.

