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# The Demon Of River Heights (Nancy Drew Graphic Novels: Girl Detective #1)



## Synopsis

Everyone's favorite girl detective makes her graphic novel debut! An all-new series of full-color Nancy Drew graphic novels, with all-new comics stories based on the series by Carolyn Keene, starts right here! Join Nancy, along with Bess and George, as they search for missing student filmmakers and discover the deadly secret behind the local urban legend known as "The Demon of River Heights." Ages 8 to 12. Papercutz is the exciting new graphic novel publisher that's building a huge following among the next generation of comics fans. Even the most reluctant readers are becoming addicted to the Papercutz approach of giving classic characters a modern makeover! Each Papercutz graphic novel features comics stories drawn in the style of the popular Japanese comics known as manga, and beautifully rendered with state of the art color. While educators rave about the high quality of the Papercutz writing and artwork, readers 8 and up are simply enjoying the great adventures found in each fun-filled volume. Be sure to check out other Papercutz titles such as The Hardy Boys, Zorro and Totally Spies.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4 Up-The latest incarnation of children's literature's most famous girl detective is this crisp, stylish graphic novel. Although fully updated with new stories; dark, edgy illustrations; and all the latest technological gadgets, the plot is drawn out in classic Carolyn Keene-style-all action at a brisk pace. Nancy tracks down two missing film students while uncovering a businessman's sinister plot

to blow up a depleted iron mine. While investigating, she fights off a bear, gets lost in the woods, falls down a mineshaft, and reveals the identity of the Demon of River Heights, all without a scratch or a hair out of place. The sleuth's 21st-century makeover introduces traditional mysteries to the world of juvenile graphic novels, and is most welcome. Expect new titles in the series every three months.-Karen T. Bilton, Somerset County Library, Bridgewater, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Reviewed with Scott Lobdell's *The Ocean of Osyria*. Gr. 4-6. These graphic-novel-style versions of the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew adventures will appeal to young graphic-novel fans as well as readers new to the venerable amateur sleuths. The pocket-size books, first in their respective series, are appealingly presented. The manga-influenced art is very colorful, and the brisk pacing, with just a few frames per page, makes for an easy read--perfect for reluctant readers. In *The Ocean*, those well-mannered Hardy boys, Joe and Frank (reimagined as tech-savvy crime solvers), return to fight a new generation of foes, the majority of whom appear to be Middle Eastern and French. Here, the young sleuths travel around the world in an attempt to recover a stolen artifact and save their best friend, who has been framed for the theft. Although this is a modernized version of the classic capers, with the Internet and cell phones playing key roles, the wholesomeness of the boys' principles remains the same. In *The Demon*, Nancy, the classic American teenage heroine, manages to solve cases that baffle local police. This time she becomes involved in a student film about a local monster legend, which may turn out to be real, and a suspicious stranger arrives in town. For the most part, the artwork is crisp enough, but several pages appear to be substandard reproductions of original art. Carlos Orellana Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Nancy Drew, *The Demon of River Heights*, is Volume 1 in the full color graphic novel series. Since it is a graphic novel the drawings are absolutely critical. In that department the book is outstanding. The drawings are a treat in and of themselves. Artist Sho Murase, with 3D CG elements by Rachel Ito, creates drawings that pull the reader into the panels in a compelling fashion. One example: pages showing Drew inside a half darkened room, interrupted as she paws through private items, have sunlight passing through the half closed blinds and crossing the apartment-scape and characters in an eye-catching fashion. The effect is mysterious and rather uneasy. Not at all unusual for this graphic novel. The artists really know their craft and put together a mysterious feel that is

worth the price of the publication. As this is the heart of a graphic novel, 4 stars. Sadly, the story itself is insubstantial and in no way lives up to the drawings; however, it is interesting to a point. The story line tends to be predictable and has a definite formula feel. Nancy and her two friends are engaged in an investigation into mysterious goings on with an upstart amateur movie company. They quickly encounter villains and danger without even trying. Ms Drew personally narrates the story and her friends somehow come to the rescue when the plot closes on Nancy's worst dilemma. So what else is new? Doesn't every mystery novel follow this path? Every 10 year old will recognize where this is headed even though the personal narrative keeps the reader in the dark as to what the friends are doing (only in the final instance however; up till then Nancy effectively tells us what the friends are up to even though she is not present when the events occur). Critically, *The Demon of River Heights* fails to show Nancy as especially bright. She is more tenacious and lucky than smart. This is the only Nancy Drew graphic novel I have read so I cannot tell if other novels in the series suffer from the same flaw. I think the author has dramatically underestimated the aptitude of the teen reader. Even the old Nancy Drew movies, black and white as they were, displayed Nancy as especially intelligent as well as bold. In *The Demon of River Heights* we find a bold Nancy Drew, ready to investigate the smallest clue, but she does not come off as super intelligent. That is a major difference in the "old" Nancy and this graphic adaptation. The old Nancy was smart almost beyond belief. This Nancy is pretty normal in the brainpower department. In my opinion the major appeal of Nancy Drew was her intelligence quotient. By failing in that area the writer has failed entirely. The artists alone make this volume worth buying, but they do their job so well I can recommend the book without hesitation. AD2

"*The Demon of River Heights*" is the first installment in the latest reincarnation of Nancy Drew, girl detective. This version takes the form of a graphic novel with rather dramatic comic book style artwork. Nancy Drew, her best friends Bess and Georgina, boyfriend Ned, and father Carson Drew have been reimagined into the 21st century. High tech gear plays its part in the story. The new series advertises itself as based on the original series by Carolyn Keene. The plot presented here is a new one, in which two art students are making a movie in River Heights based on an urban myth about a local demon. There is of course a mystery behind the movie, that plays itself out in a series of scary encounters with unexpected creatures. The story line is fast-paced and features Nancy's usual sleuthing skills and her talent for getting into trouble. The content is entirely safe for grade-school readers. "*The Demon of River Heights*" is meant to appeal to the latest generation of Nancy Drew's young fans, and is recommended to that audience.

Luna liked these books very much.

I loved Nancy Drew books when I was young and now my daughter does too. It gives us common ground. Plus, she loves that it's in comic style. More pictures, more fun.

I purchased this book for my daughter so she can have fun with the story while reading. This book is really easy for my daughter to read and understand.

This book was awesome because it was totally my type which is the thriller crazy action funny type. This book was amazing. When my parents told me it was time for bed, I put it under my pillow when they weren't looking but they found it.

I read this book aloud for my tween boys. I felt a graphic novel was the only possible way to introduce them to Nancy Drew, a character I grew up with. We liked the story, although it didn't really grab my boys until the final chapter. I've read other graphic novels aloud, and it can be hard to keep the flow when there are too many textless drawings that you need to study in order to see what the point is. This Nancy Drew graphic novel was NOT a problem in that respect. The thing I liked least about the book was the illustrations. The girls wear tight clothes -- in fact, in a tan shirt, Nancy actually looked naked! A lot of the action takes place at night, so the illustrations are not only dark but the colors are also distorted. For example, a blonde has blue or green hair in some of the pictures. In another picture, Nancy steps on some rocks which look more like large blueberries.

Sometimes a picture is not worth a thousand words. First, the graphics are not good, in my estimation. Imagine the artists of the Mary Worth comic strip doing a teen novel. Muddy colors, uninteresting drawings. Best Friend Bess drawn as a 50's pinup. The monsters would have been much scarier imagined. Unlike a good graphic novel (such as Bad Island), in which the sparse dialog allows the reader to fill in the spaces, in this one the story is just cut to the bone and there is no space to envision.

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