

The Tea Dragon Society

Katie O'Neill

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The Tea Dragon Society by Katie O'Neill is an adorable graphic novel following Greta, an aspiring blacksmith who discovers a lost tea dragon and finds herself immersed in a world of novelty. Upon returning the tea dragon, Greta befriends the shy Minette and together their friendship develops over the course of four seasons. With the help of Hesekeiel and Erik, Greta learns the ways of the tea dragons and continues to invest in her family's blacksmithing traditions.

The Tea Dragon Society is an incredibly beautiful story of two young girls that involves magic and dragons, friendship and family. While this graphic novel isn't plot focused, I loved the book's message about memories, legacy, and staying true to one's passions. The lore behind the tea dragons was not only interesting, but also imaginative. Reading this book is immersing yourself into a world of happiness, comfort, and cuteness. This book also features a diverse cast of characters in terms of the LGBTQ+ community, racial representation, and disability. I really appreciate how O'Neill normalized these characteristics in our main characters and wrote a story that could be enjoyed by anyone.

The Tea Dragon Society is first and foremost a children's graphic novel meant for middle schoolers or elementary aged kids. However, I would recommend this book to anyone interested in a heartwarming story featuring young love and magical creatures. While this is a children's book, there is still plenty of dialogue to accompany the images, so I believe this book would be best enjoyed by beginner readers who are interested in starting their first light-hearted fantasy book. This book would be an incredible gift to anyone of all ages; the messages in O'Neill's story transcend generations and can be enjoyed for years to come.

Recommended Titles:

Sheets by Brenna Thummler

Nimona by Noelle Stevenson

The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang