

Iyanu: Child of Wonder Volume 1

By Author, Roye Okupe

Reviewed by: Chloe Poon 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Rich, vibrant art fitting for a small and colorful window into a Yoruba-inspired tale.

In Yorubaland, a vast region with those divided by walls, there is a rampant curse thriving in creatures called The Corrupt which devour humans. Amongst the people of Yorubaland stands a young orphan girl named Iyanu. She is discovered to have a mysterious power and ends up on a journey on her own as others are unraveling. With bright and lush illustrations and inspirations from the Yoruba people, YouNeek Studios brings a new spotlight on a new world.

Although the book is quite short with not much detail given, the story still manages to make a lasting impression with its beautiful art and interesting plot. It does a good job of drawing you into it without releasing too much. The short time slot given really helped narrow down the plot to the best that it could ever be. The problem with fantasies in general for me is how long winded the story can end up being, and I lose myself in what the fantasy side of the story is supposed to be instead of the actual plot. I do not have any real, based complaints!

This book is perfect for those looking for a fun little read into a bit of Yoruba culture! I would recommend this to anybody ages 9 or up. There are a few scary moments here and there, but it is overall a comfortable read. Most of the titles I recommend below are not graphic novels since I have not dived into this particular format, but they do offer the same magical and powerful lead feel.

Recommended Titles:

Last Gamer Standing by Katie Zhao

The Case of the Missing Marquess by Nancy Springer

Explorer Academy by Trudi Trueit