



## And Then There Were Gnomes: Book 2

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**And Then There Were Gnomes: Book 2** Colleen A.F. Venable (Illustrations) , Stephanie Yue (Illustrator) Sasspants, PI(G), the world's fluffiest detective, is back on the case?or she will be, if her sidekick Hamisher can convince her there's really a mystery afoot. Hamisher has made up so many stories, Sasspants doesn't believe him. But one by one the mice in Mr. Venezi's pet shop are going missing, and all the spooky clues point to...a ghost! Once our shaggy Sherlocks start digging for answers, they will stop at nothing to ferret out the truth!

## And Then There Were Gnomes: Book 2 Details

Date : Published August 1st 2010 by Graphic Universe (first published January 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780761345992

Author : Colleen A.F. Venable (Illustrations) , Stephanie Yue (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 48 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Mystery, Humor, Comics, Animals, Childrens, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review And Then There Were Gnomes: Book 2 for online ebook**

### **Smitha says**

This was a hilarious read. haven't read the first one but enjoyed reading with my second grader! loved the little nonfiction insert at theend!

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### **Sarah Sammis says**

And Then There Were Gnomes by Colleen AF Venable is the second book in the Guinea Pig, Pet Shop Private Eye series. It and the first one were nominated for a Cybils.

In this volume there appears to be a gnome on the loose. The pet shop owner is too clueless to even know what animals he has. So it's up to the guinea pig with the rabbits to figure out what's going on.

I couldn't get into the series. Maybe the problem was the fact that I started with the second book first. I never got the hang of why the pet shop owner is so clueless. The plot is as disjointed as the pet shop owner.

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### **Nicole Harris says**

Seriously cute and a bit silly, great illustrations and fun characters.

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### **David says**

I read this one first, and I am hooked. Sasspants the Guinea Pig is back on the case. More mystery at Mr. Venezi's shop. My 6 year old Grandson proved how wonderful this book was by reading it, several times. When I told him I had ordered the first book from the library, he immediately wanted to get his hands on it. I do believe we have found an author who has thoroughly captured the lad's imagination. I really don't need further encouragement to continue getting her books.

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### **Cemeread says**

This series takes place in a pet shop with a variety of animals whose cages are mislabeled. Sasspants the guinea pig is a voracious reader, which is probably why that cage has the correct animal label. Hamisher, the hamster wants to be friends with Sasspants and is constantly making up mysteries to be solved so he can be the sidekick. So when a real mystery does need to be solved it takes a bit of convincing for Sasspants to get involved. Will they be able to solve the mystery before all the mice disappear?

Bottom Line: This is a short, humorous, graphic novel for the younger readers who like rodent pets (mice,

hamsters, guinea pig and chinchillas) and mysteries. There are plenty of details in the pictures to add to the story and the panels are easy to follow. A rising second grade and fifth grader gave it two thumbs up.

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### **Courtney says**

Still adorable upon re-reading!

Hamisher is desperate to find anew mystery to explore with Sasspants... so desperate he starts trying to make some up to catch her interest! So when a real mystery turns up, Sasspants doesn't believe it's for real. But then all the mice in the petshop start to disappear, one by one...

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### **Alison says**

I was anxious to read this young graphic novel, having LOVED the first installment in the series, but ultimately I was let down. Sasspants' delightful personality isn't given room to shine here, and some of the kid-friendly jokes in the first book seem to have run their course by this point. I was previously somewhat entertained by the fact that the pet shop owner gets his animals confused, but in this second book that same concept just feels old, too far-fetched, and therefore rather unfunny. Of greater concern to me, though, is the fact that the mysteries in this book have less satisfying resolutions, and one of them is LITERALLY flawed -- as in, there's a serious error in the book's artwork.

(Warning: SPOILER!) When the pet shop owner and others believe they have witnessed a ghost, it turns out what they've actually seen is the shadow of the toy diver floating in the pet shop's aquarium. His shadow is shown, both in the book and on the cover, with his arms raised, but if you look at the toy diver (which I did early on, because I initially suspected he might be casting the shadow), you will see that his arms are NOT raised in either of the illustrations in which he appears. It is therefore simply not possible that the diver cast the shadow shown in the book! I find it frustrating that this is case, because it means a kid reading the book can't actually solve the mystery on his/her own. I'm also dismayed that this mistake wasn't caught before it made it onto the pages of the finished book.

Having said all this, I do think a lot of kids will still find this book entertaining -- hence the three stars here, despite my disappointment in it. I'm not giving up on this series, as I think Colleen Venable has created a really unique and fun character in Sasspants and I'm optimistic that later adventures will offer a return to the genius displayed in the first book. (Fingers crossed!)

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### **Kaethe says**

A quick read, and just way the hell too much fun. Tasha called dibs, and finished it in no time so I could have a go. She enjoys mysteries, she's reading through the Nancy Drew series right now, but she wouldn't be aware of all the classics of the genre. But Very read And Then There Were None, and we had talked about the two titles [note to publishers: stop giving your books different titles in various anglophone nations; you're just annoying the eager readers to no benefit]. So, Tasha got the joke and felt very clever and part of the

## **Dolly says**

This is a humorous mystery in the Guinea Pig, Pet Shop Private Eye series. We've read the first two books in the series and we all like them.

In this story, Sasspants has to figure out where the mice are disappearing to each day. The illustrations are colorful and cartoonish and the narrative is entertaining, but sometimes a bit disjointed. I think a large part of it is the fact that Mr. Venezi is very nearsighted and labeled his pets as another completely unrelated animal or thing.

We all read this book independently and thought it was pretty entertaining; the animals are so adorable. I loved the literary references, like Five Children and It, And Then There Were None, as well as nods to Nancy Drew and Sherlock Holmes.

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## **Nicola Mansfield says**

Reason for Reading: Both books 1 & 2 are Cybils '10 nominees and as a panelist for Graphic Novels they are required reading for me.

This second story is almost as fun and cute as the first one and it does clear up some information for us. References to book 1 are mentioned so it is best to read them in order. The little hamster, Hamish, whose name is consistently referenced this time around is dying for another mystery for Sasspants to solve and for him to be her trusted sidekick. Only problem is he is driving 'Pants crazy by inventing mysteries all week, his latest one being to get all the hamsters to hide so he can claim they are all missing. Then the mice start to really disappear one by one and it takes some convincing to make Sasspants realize Hamish isn't crying wolf again.

Once again it is the personalities that win the read over which specifically focuses on Hamish and Sasspants this time though all the others do get some page time, including my favourite, the goldfish. It is also made clear in this volume that Sasspants is a girl. Halfway through the book she is called "she" and from that point on the words "she" and "her" are used frequently. I had mistakenly taken her for a boy in the first book, but as far as I can remember no mention of her female status was mentioned. Poor Mr. V. the owner has some children in to buy a pet, and they tell him his signs are all wrong thinking it's a big joke when he tells them walruses make nice pets, meaning mice, and when he asks the children what they are really called they jokingly answer alligators and the next day he relabels some of the animal cages with some more funny names. The last pages include an article on a non-fiction topic relevant to the story, this time explaining how mice can get through walls and a last page telling the differences between what Mr. V. re-labeled the animals and what they really are. A delightful comic series that I think will appeal to many ages for its sheer humour, which manages to hit several levels from young to older.

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## **Nick says**

Really cute, but eventually the fact that only the guinea pig and the snake have any brains at all is going to wear thin in this ongoing series. The human pet store owner and his inability to tell animals apart is a "funny once" gag that becomes less funny as soon as he begins to feed animals the wrong foods, as he does in this book.

The actual mystery and its solution were better, and an interesting twist.

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## **Arminzerella says**

Not quite as amusing as Sasspants' first detective adventure, *And Then There Were Gnomes*, still has its moments – particularly when the pet shop owner attempts to research the animals he carries, so that they can be re-labeled appropriately. Unfortunately, his efforts lead to gnomes, chimney sweeps, alligators, and tractors. Hamish (the hamster, now gnome) is trying to convince Sasspants to continue her detective work (mostly so he can be her sidekick), but Sasspants isn't interested. Hamish concocts a bunch of different scenarios to trick Sasspants into working on a case, but it isn't until the mice start disappearing (a real case!) that Sasspants agrees to get involved. Where are the mice going? And is the pet shop really haunted? All these questions and more will be answered.

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## **Laurie says**

Booklist (July 2010 (Online))

Grades 2-4. Sasspants the prickly detective guinea pig and Hamisher the hamster return in another graphic-novel mystery in the *Guinea Pig, Pet Shop Private Eye* series. This caper involves disappearing mice, and all clues point to a ghost as the culprit. Pet-shop owner Mr. Venezi continues to mix up his animals, this time deciding that his hamsters are gnomes. Astute young readers can follow the visual clues to solve the mystery as they read. Most of the fun lies in the relationship between the bookworm guinea pig and the enthusiastic hamster who wants to be her sidekick.

Horn Book (Spring 2011)

When mice disappear and a ghost is discovered in the pet shop, guinea pig Sasspants reluctantly agrees to help hamster Hamisher figure out what's happening. In weak attempts at humor, the animals are frequently unpleasant to each other and the shopkeeper mislabels the pets. The story is told through occasionally hard-to-follow comic panels. Facts about some animals are included.

Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2010)

The denizens of Mr Venezi's *Pets & Stuff* return for another hilarious mystery. Sasspants the guinea pig solved the mystery of the missing sandwiches in *Hamster and Cheese* (2010); now she's doomed to be

thought a detective even though she has replaced the final "G" on her cage label. Hamisher the koala (actually hamster; Mr. Venezi is nearsighted and clueless, though not neglectful) loves being a sidekick, and he comes up with so many fake mysteries that Sasspants doesn't believe him when he has a real one. The mice are going missing one by one, and everyone's sure it's a ghost. Sasspants takes the case to get Hamisher off her back so she can get back to reading her much-loved books. Venable's second adventure does not disappoint. The celebutante chinchillas-er, camels-(one of whom has a pet mouse, "Mr. Sparkles," la Paris Hilton's chihuahua) and the bubble-headed goldfish will inspire giggles. The deadpan expressions of Yue's pudgy animals colored by Hi Fi Design supply many of the laughs. A gem-please, tell us we'll be seeing more of Sasspants! (Graphic fiction. 6-11)

Publishers Weekly (September 6, 2010)

Venable and Yue's clever series about a detective guinea pig continues into its second volume. Sasspants is a very intelligent guinea pig at the pet store who likes to spend her time in quiet, reading. Despite her wishes, she's often interrupted by Hamisher, a flighty and overly adoring hamster. Hamisher, impressed by the mystery solved by Sasspants in the first book, now seeks another mystery for the two to solve (with Hamisher as the sidekick, of course). A mystery soon becomes clear as pet mice are disappearing, and the pet store owner, along with some of the animals, is convinced there's a ghost on the prowl. Sasspants doesn't believe in ghosts, so she has to find a different explanation for the disappearances. Despite the frequent talk of ghosts, the story is never scary. Everything about it could be described as cute, from the art to the characters' personalities. Ages 7-11. (Nov.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

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## **Robin Duple says**

This children's graphic novel was awesome. I even made my husband read part of it because I loved it so much.

It was cute and hilarious -- a guinea pig who loves to read and occasionally solves mysteries happens to live in a pet shop where mysterious things begin to happen. A clueless pet store owner adds to the humor when he mistakenly labels animals -- sometimes even guessing that various unidentifiable animals (to him) may be gnomes, chimney sweeps, or tractors. Reading it sort of reminded me of watching Scooby-Doo as a kid, with the mystery elements mixed into humor and directed at a young audience. I'd highly recommend it for elementary school audiences, and perhaps middle school audiences as well, depending on reading level and interest. I believe it would appeal to boys and girls equally.

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## **Leah says**

In this graphic novel Sasspants who is a good at solving mysteries. The mice are disappearing from the pet shop and there may be a ghost involved. Will the mystery be solved or will the mice revile their secret. Sasspants and his friend Hamisher find out the truth. This book was a little boring and flat the mystery was solved easily and did not make a lot of sense.

Recommended age 7-10

