



# Space Battle Lunchtime Vol. 1: Lights, Camera, Snacktion

*Natalie Riess*

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## **Space Battle Lunchtime Vol. 1: Lights, Camera, Snacktion** Natalie Riess

Collecting the first four issues of Natalie Riess's delectable series, SPACE BATTLE LUNCHTIME! Earth baker Peony gets the deal of a lifetime when she agrees to be a contestant on the Universe's hottest reality TV show, Space Battle Lunchtime! But that was before she knew that it shoots on location... on a spaceship... and her alien competitors don't play nice! Does Peony really have what it takes to be the best cook in the Galaxy? Tune in and find out!

## **Space Battle Lunchtime Vol. 1: Lights, Camera, Snacktion Details**

Date : Published October 25th 2016 by Oni Press

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Author : Natalie Riess

Format : Paperback 120 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Science Fiction, Young Adult, Food and Drink, Food, Childrens, Middle Grade, Humor



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# From Reader Review Space Battle Lunchtime Vol. 1: Lights, Camera, Snacktion for online ebook

**anna (readingpeaches) says**

this is such cute shit !!!

i absolutely love all the alien designs, they are so much fun! i don't think there were two who looked alike & it's so cool to see, when we so often have to suffer aliens just looking like humans.

there are also hints of a sapphic relationship and i cannot wait to see how that develops!

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**Rachel (TheShadesofOrange) says**

## **4.0 Stars**

This is a super cute all-ages graphic novel that combines delicious cooking and science fiction with this fun alien reality tv show drama.

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**David Schaafsma says**

If one of the urchins in this house comes to me and sez, "Dad, you gotta read this," I read it. And did. And liked it. We have two young wannabe celebrity chefs in this house, so you can see why they might enjoy a series about an intergalactic chef competition featuring bookish (meaning: bespectacled and somewhat shy) Earth cupcake chef Peony and alien chefs Neptunia, Melonhead, Jacques, Owline, Meatabax and Cherisa. Extras include Space Food requests taken from Twitter. I like the artwork and maybe particularly the color, but okay, everything is adorable.

Are there other comics series about food? There are plenty of manga series about food and wine! And Lucy Knisley, a chef and cartoonist, writes comics about her life as a chef. Great stuff.

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**Rosemary Standeven says**

I really liked the story of this comic – much more than the graphics. Earthgirl baker Petunia gets chosen to enter an intergalactic cooking contest, Greatest Chef in the Galaxy, competing against a weird array of aliens, with an even weirder array of foodstuffs. Will Petunia's cupcakes get universal acclaim? Competition is fierce, and not all chefs play by the rules. Chefs that are eliminated from the contest seem to wind up (voluntarily?) in another competition: "Cannibal Coliseum".

After the initial shock of going off world, and meeting some very weird beings, Petunia settles down and appears to (surprisingly) do well in the contest, which antagonises some of the other chefs – especially Chef Melonhead.

All the chefs apart from Petunia have strange names, and even stranger bodies. I found this aspect a bit much to cope with, but the comic is directed at much younger readers than me, so most targeted readers will

probably find that aspect a winner. I was also not really enamoured of the garish colouring of the drawings and the over-emphasis of expressions (again, the fuddy-duddy) with even Petunia switching colour at random.

The one character (apart from Petunia) that I did like, was Chef Neptunia, who I had down as the mysterious, aloof sexy male love interest, an alien Mr D'arcy. Neptunia's physique was close to human (apart from the blue skin), with a very attractive side quiff.

At the end of Issue four (and end of my copy), there was a very useful "spectacular insight" into the alien chefs who had made their appearances. It just showed how little I had gathered from the preceding pages about the chefs.

I did enjoy the story, but probably not enough to continue with further issues of "Space Battle Lunchtime"

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## **Sesana says**

Exactly what I was hoping for: Iron Chef in Spaaaaaace! So much fun.

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## **Skye Kilaen says**

Fun graphic novel duology with a queer girl main character, about an intergalactic high-stakes cooking competition reality show. I'd felt lukewarm about the pitch for this because I've never really watched cooking shows, but I'm so glad I got over myself and gave it a shot. Peony, a baker from Earth, gets picked to compete in an elimination-style cooking program. The competition is much more brutal and backstabbing than she'd imagined, threatening not only her dreams for the prize but her budding romance with fellow chef Neptunia. Totally satisfying "underdog wins the day with help from her friends" story. My son (nine at the time) fell for this instantly. Can't wait to see what Riess does next.

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## **Diz says**

Imagine Iron Chef in space. That is the basic concept of this story. Peony, a baker from Earth, gets selected as a last minute replacement for a galactic cooking competition show. She's thrown into the competition without getting any instruction on how to use the equipment or any information about the ingredients (some of the ingredients are quite weird). Peony is a great character. She keeps a bright and positive outlook on what is going on even if she doesn't have any idea of what is happening. The art style perfectly matches this bright and positive attitude.

One thing to note is that this seems to be written for younger readers, however there is a rival show where chefs hunt and cook each other, which seems surprisingly dark for this story. It also comes out that Peony's predecessor was kidnapped and sent to this show and perhaps eaten. Nothing is shown on-page, but I feel that it would have been better to keep that sort of thing out of the story.

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## **Krista Regester says**

Cute!

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## **Renay says**

This was super adorable. That cliffhanger, tho!!!!

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## **Tudor Vlad says**

This isn't something that I would normally read, but seeing as I got it as a freebie from the publisher as part of a newsletter, I had nothing to lose. The thing that caught me by surprise was that I had a lot of fun reading it. Not to say that I expected it to be bad, but I certainly did not expect to like it as much as I did. I started it, and without even knowing in half an hour I was done and craving for more.

The best way this graphic novel could be described is by using just 3 words: Masterchef in space. It sounds ridiculous and it is, but it's not like it takes itself seriously. I'm currently reading The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series and this little graphic novels fits surprisingly well in that world, which is probably why I embraced its weirdness from the get go.

For what is basically a cooking competition, the plot of the book had an intensity which made it even harder to put down, all this is helped by the GORGEOUS artwork and a lot of creativity both in the design of the aliens, the world and of course, the food (it's about cooking after all). A relaxing read that is bound to put a smile on your face.

**3.5 stars** rounded up to 4 because it was too cute not to.

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## **Ana says**

My God, the absolute cuteness of this intergalactic cooking TV competition was undeniable. And the cliffhanger really got me...

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## **Maggie Gordon says**

O...M...G. I think I just died of adorable and I must have more of this series! Space Battle Lunchtime is a comic series aimed at younger readers about a woman who ends up competing on an alien competition cooking show. Simple set-up, hilarious payoff! Plus there's some lovely lady crushing going on :) This is a fantastic, colourful, funny, and heartfelt book that's just perfect for kids, teens, and adults alike. Seriously, where is volume 2?

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## **Romie says**

Well that was cute.

I really liked the art style, it's definitely something that made this read even more enjoyable.

I was expecting a bit more from this story tbh, like Peony has no problem competing in a space culinary competition, she didn't know some people lived in space but why not? I don't know, it was a bit too convenient for me.

The story is cool, but nothing much happened in 125 pages or so . . . so I don't know, I probably won't be continuing this series because I'm not that much intrigued in knowing what happens next.

2.5

*Thank you Diamond Book Distributors for providing me an e-copy in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Raina says**

Adorable, cute, great.

Both of my coworkers took this out to our schools in June 2017, so our kids want it pretty badly.

I agree with the people who say it would have been more satisfying to have a complete story (i.e. a complete competition) in this volume, rather than leaving things at such a big cliffhanger.

The variety of alien lifeforms reminded me of Zita the Spacegirl. There's very little character work - we get thrown right into the action. The fully saturated illustrations are great.

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## **[Shai] Bibliophage says**

Space Battle Lunchtime is a cute and entertaining comic series about Penny and her adventure competing to be the greatest chef in the galaxy. If you enjoy watching cooking show competitions on TV, there's no doubt that you will also enjoy reading the 1st volume of this comic series.

*Thank you to Oni Press for sending me a free copy of this.*

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