



# Monster Mash

*Jennifer L. Holm , Matthew Holm*

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IT WAS A dark and scary Halloween. . . .

This year, Babymouse is determined to have the best Halloween costume and the best Halloween party ever. Will Babymouse be the monster of her dreams? Will Felicia Furrypaws come to the party? And is that *really* the creature from the black lagoon living in Babymouse's locker? Find out in the most exciting Babymouse graphic novel yet, *Monster Mash!*

## Monster Mash Details

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Author : Jennifer L. Holm , Matthew Holm

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# From Reader Review Monster Mash for online ebook

## **(NS) Lisa says**

Babymouse prepares for Halloween, but every time she tries to enjoy herself, mean cat girl Felicia Furrypaws is there to run the fun. Felicia Furrypaws tells Babymouse that girls have to wear pretty costumes (even though Babymouse wants to go as a zombie), that trick-or-treaters must coordinate their costumes (even though Babymouse hates dressing up as a fairy), and that Babymouse has to invite Felicia's friends to her party (even though Babymouse is pretty sure the girls are evil). But when the bullies make Babymouse vandalize houses on Halloween, Babymouse realizes they have crossed a line. Can she stand up to them and have a happy Halloween?

This 9th story of the Babymouse novels continues to intrigue readers from 3rd through 8th grades.

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## **Rebecca says**

Enjoyed this, but not as much as the 2 previous volumes. I liked the way Babymouse got up the courage to stand up for herself in the end.

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## **Fluxbrarian says**

Trading in the typical pink-hued pages for bold splashes of orange, Babymouse is ready to celebrate Halloween! She and best friend Wilson are excited to make scary costumes and have a great party after trick or treating. But when mean and popular Felicia Furrypaws decides to attend Babymouse's party, she sets up all sorts of rules, effectively trampling on all of her hopes for fun. Babymouse gets pressured into dressing up as something pretty and playing pranks on the neighbors. Young readers will cheer when Babymouse stands up to the bully in the end and finally gets to have some real Halloween fun the way she wants. For this special Halloween installment, Babymouse's daydreams are filled with appropriately spooky references to monster films, MacBeth, and sinister personalities, while maintaining their characteristic fresh and funny approach. Even Babymouse's miserable night of trick or treating is a nod to Charlie Brown, although she hauls home a bag of dental products instead of rocks. Of course it doesn't matter if children don't get the allusions; none of this will diminish the enjoyment of another sparkling installment about our spunky heroine.

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## **Meredith says**

Another great Babymouse, this time in orange! Whoever said orange is the new pink was seriously disturbed. JK, it totally works for Halloween. I found the ending to be especially satisfying.

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## **Anne says**

I had to read this one to my 6 year old in the library the other day.  
Which was kind of embarrassing, since she requires me to do the *voices* when I read. But it's all for the Greater Good, right?  
Right?

Anyhoo, **Monster Mash** was a *riveting* addition to the Babymouse library. Really.

Our intrepid hero must decide if it's better to Be Yourself or to be one of the cool kids. In the end, she decides she's rather be cool.

Kidding!

She finds out that it's not much fun pretending to like stuff that you don't, and she kicks the Mean Girls to the curb.

We clapped at the end!

*Well, we made quiet clappy hands. After all, we **were** at the library!*

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## Allison says

Holm, Jennifer L., **Babymouse #9 Monster Mash**, 96 pgs. Random House Books for Young Readers  
~Language G, Sexual Content~G, Violence~G

It's Halloween and Babymouse loves scary costumes! She can't decide whether to be a mummy, a zombie, or a werewolf. She is super excited about her Halloween costume party, but then Felicia hears about it and invites herself. Babymouse is again stuck between being herself and being what the 'popular' girls say she should be. If you haven't experience Babymouse, jump right in and join the fun. This special Halloween edition differs from the black, white, & pink coloring of the previous Babymouse books, replacing the pink with orange for a spooktacular read!

Upper EL/ MS. Essential Allison Madsen~Youth Services Librarian-SJO Public Librarian

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## Morgan says

This was a very cute little graphic novel. I picked up the Halloween one because I am a huge fan of Halloween, and I don't have very many holiday-themed books at my disposal/read library. This was very interesting. Instead of being a pink book, which it looks is the standard of Babymouse novels, this one is in orange! Very festive.

It talks about peer pressure and the wanting to conform. For example, for Halloween, Babymouse wants to either be a Warewolf, a Mummy or a Zombie. However, one of the popular girls greatly disagrees with this, insisting that Babymouse has to be something "prettier" because she's a girl. I think that this idea is something that most girls have one conflict or another with. I know personally I really wanted to be the "cutesy" costume when I was younger, rather than the scary ones.

The thing about this book, and from the reviews that I have read of other babymouse books, is that Babymouse is always pressured into changing her standards to that of the popular crowd, but always chooses to be good and right at the end, and understands that being with the popular crowd doesn't make you a good

person. The reason for this is because the popular girls start egging/TPing houses and Babymouse decides that this is not the right thing to do.

This is definitely a series that will lend itself to girls, but it could be good to have in a classroom where a lot of girl drama is happening.

The only reason that I didn't give this a five would be because of its audience restrictions, as well as the fact that I didn't find the pictures that endearing. When looking at graphic novels, I personally want pictures that aren't so cartoon-y, but to each their own. I think that children will like it, and that is all that really matters. :)

Overall, good read.

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### **Ellen says**

meh. i've never really been a fan of baby mouse, so it was meh.

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### **Scope says**

My worst Halloween costume ever? A member of the hip-hop group (I prefer “crew”) Kris Kross. What can I say? It was the early 90s and I was a fan. In later years I realized that the costume you pick says a lot about your personality. Pick a police officer? You’re trying to be cool. Pick a recently popular figure in the media? You’re trying to be funny. But that’s mostly just for guys. Girls have a whole other set of unwritten Halloween rules, and in “Babymouse: Monster Mash” we see how those rules can have an impact on your social life. Full of the same wit that has been an unfailing hallmark of the Babymouse series, “Monster Mash” is a graphic novel full of the sort of real-life friend troubles that younger readers will identify with.

It’s October and Babymouse is thinking about Halloween. When her mother gives the okay to a post-trick-or-treating party, Babymouse can’t wait. She starts inviting guests, but the invitee list soon gets out of hand. She even invites Felicia and her posse (a.k.a. the cool kids). But these new friends soon start making demands that our heroine isn’t eager to go along with. Although she wants to go as either a werewolf or a zombie, Felicia insists Babymouse choose a prettier costume (it’s a rule). Next, Babymouse is forced to ditch her true friends and trick-or-treat with Felicia and the gang. When trick-or-treat turns into T.P.-ing and egging houses, Babymouse realizes that no friends are worth getting in that much trouble for.

Once I started reading, it was hard to put this one down. Babymouse books have a way of keeping the reader engaged all the way through. Be it with daydream sequences, humorous situations, or moments of genuine feeling, the plot never plods.

The illustrations, created in ink, as inventive as ever. This is the first Babymouse book to forego the pink color scheme in favor of an appropriate pumpkin orange. I think this was a smart move. Not only does it instantly I.D. this as a halloween title, but the absence of pink might also result in more boys picking it up.

Entertaining through and through, “Monster Mash” is a book you should have on hand.

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## **Becky B says**

Babymouse is having a Halloween Party. She's all excited, but then Felicia gets herself invited and starts taking over all Babymouse's Halloween plans turning them into nightmares.

I sure wish Babymouse had learned her lesson and stood up to Felicia sooner. Even the Narrator tried to remind her of what happened in Book 1, but nope, Babymouse had to learn the hard way. It wasn't a lot of fun. She almost got herself into some serious trouble, and the "lesson" seemed more like revenge than a lesson. Could have been better. The creature in her locker that steals her book report and freaks her out so bad she'd rather have an F was the highlight of the whole book.

Notes on content: No language issues. No sexual content. Babymouse and Wilson dig out some gruesome Halloween costumes, including a fake eye that pops out of a socket.

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## **Haleigh Chacon says**

Babymouse #9 Monster Mash by Jennifer L. Holm is a funny,spooky,great book to read if you are into the babymouse series.It was a easy holiday book that includes babymouse and her adventure on halloween.But when a popular cat comes around and tells babymouse what to be for halloween and to prank people,babymouse feels terrible.I love how babymouse still is herself in a humorous way that I loved.Each moment I would laugh at babymouse's jokes.Reading the comic book was very interesting to read since it was about babymouse's expirience during halloween which I've never read before.I rate this book five stars because it is funny,interesting,and overall awesome.Jennifer L. Holm wrote a great comic book for halloween that is now one of my favorite books.

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## **Calista says**

2.5 Stars. It's a little too old for a 6 year old, at least my 6 year old. Still, this is for kids, probably 8-10 depending on your kid. Some of the pictures were too gory for my niece and nephew. The story was good.

Babymouse has some mean kids who invite themselves to her Halloween party. They encourage her to do bad things like TP a house and egg a house. Babymouse is too scared to stand up to them at first. Then she finds who she is and she does stand up to them.

So the story is good. I am not a big fan of the art. I might try another one of these when the kids are a little older.

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## **Pamela says**

SUMMARY: Babymouse #9: Monster Mash / written and illustrated by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm (2008) -- It's Halloween and Babymouse's mother is letting her have a party, but the school bully has taken over the party plans. REVIEW: Number 9 in the Babymouse Series by sister and brother team. Babymouse is a daydreamer and her adventures remind me of Calvin from CALVIN & HOBBS. The books

are oversized trade paperbacks with strong covers that are great for smaller hands. The graphic novel format is easy to follow and is a perfect fit for the character of Babymouse. The series is created with bold lines in black, white, and with pink coloring. However, in honor of Halloween, the usual pink has been replaced with Orange. Favorite part is when Babymouse is trying to toilet paper roll a tree with hilarious results. Enjoy the rest of the series.

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### **Michael says**

This was all about an important lesson for Babymouse about peer pressure and Halloween. Felicia Furrypaws is again her antagonist (the narrator notes the irony of a repeated lesson for Babymouse from book #1), and it is a hard lesson indeed. It was not all fun and games, but it was a realistic slice of childhood. Any lesson that involves zombies must be a good one!

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### **Amelia says**

This book was really good. The only thing I did not like about it is that it was very boring in the beginning and pulled me into the story at the end of the book. And I like books that is interesting all the way to the end of the book other than that, this boom was really good. So I gave it 4 STARS!

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