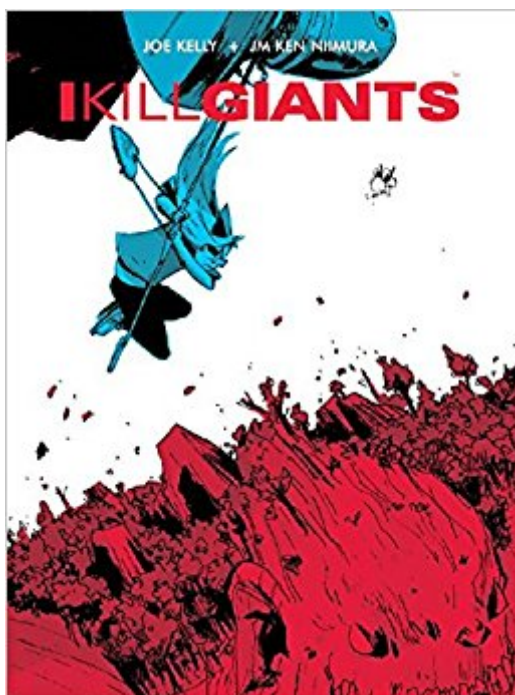


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# I Kill Giants Fifth Anniversary Edition TP



## Synopsis

I Kill Giants tells the story of Barbara Thorson, an acerbic fifth-grader so consumed with fantasy that she doesn't just tell people that she kills giants with an ancient Norse warhammer — she starts to believe it herself. The reasons for Barbara's troubled behavior are revealed through the course of the book, as she learns to reconcile her fantasy life with the real world. In 2012, I Kill Giants writer Joe Kelley and artist J.M. Ken Niimura received the International Manga Award, an honor given by the Japanese Foreign Ministry to an outstanding comic book or graphic novel.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I came to this via a handful of good reviews and the recommendation of my local comic shop and I am heartily glad that I did. The best of any sort of work transcends its pigeon-holes and while this deserves a plumb spot on any middle school or high school library shelf, it also has much to offer an old man like me. That the main character is a school girl, and much of the setting is, in fact, her school, like most good fiction, it explores the universal while sitting in the specific. And universal it is - this is an exploration of fear, bravery in the face of the unknown, standing up for yourself against outside powers both petty and immense. Like most great graphic novels, the art and story work hand-in-hand to achieve effects that neither could quite scale alone. The art here is bold when it needs to be and subtle when it should be. It is by turns fierce, lovely, frightening, heartbreaking and fragile, just like the heroine. I suspect that there will be readers who feel they cannot relate fully with a young girl, or a kid facing these particular giants and demons, and that is all well and good. But

don't let the surface details keep you from diving into the universals. There is much to enchant and engage a wide range of readers here, and a role model for many. Including an old guy far away from his childhood, but still subject to some of the same emotions and questions.

Me want a magic hammer (but I can do without the purse). I don't know that you'd call troubled fifth grader Barbara Thorson endearing. She's certainly eye-catching, but the immediate perception is that, if you're her fellow class mate, I don't know that you'd want to hang out with her. Barbara Thorson is rail thin with mousy hair and glasses and a crap attitude. She wears bunny ears, can't be bothered when she's lost in her own fantasy world, and she carries a heart-shaped purse which holds the mighty Norse war hammer called Coveleski (or so she'd have you think). Barbara Thorson doesn't shy away from telling her class of her true calling. She finds giants. She hunts giants. She kills giants. You can imagine the reaction from the other students. Not that she gives a what about people thinking her a nutty freak. There's something going on with Barbara. She's a social misfit, mean and sarcastic. She often gets into fights. The school psychologist tries to help her, only to get slapped viciously for her trouble. At home, in her bedroom, Barbara is wont to spend her time huddled in a tent made up of blankets. Dysfunctional pretty much covers the Thorson household. There's something lurking upstairs that frightens her terribly. Barbara Thorson eyes the clouds and sees dark omens. She talks to tiny faeries. These faeries seem more real to her than that new girl who tries to be her friend or that concerned school psychologist or the big fat bully or even her own family. As she prepares for the impending invasion of giants, we wonder if there's something to her fertile imagination. The writer doesn't let on until he's ready. (But this story has a clear destination in mind.) And we wonder at what's behind Barbara's disconnect from reality and her perpetual anger and her bottled-up fears. As Barbara herself informs, there are many kinds of giants, some of whom may prove to be too much for even the mystic war hammer Coveleski. I cannot recommend this graphic novel enough. I should put on a big-brimmed feathered fedora and purple striped pants and some bling because I aim to pimp this book to anyone who'll listen. I KILL GIANTS is unexpected and powerful and so very sad and so very good. JM Ken Niimura (I think the "JM" stands for "Just Masterful") turns in black & white, manga-influenced illustrations that are delicate and expressive and, when appropriate, chaotic. And comic book writer Joe Kelly should branch out more. Because when he does, then we get exceptional stuff like this. We get storytelling that is rich in character and emotional and achingly bittersweet. It has stuff to say about coping and dealing, especially when it's a little girl trying so very hard to come to terms with a messed-up situation. And don't forget about the monstrous giants that Barbara battles in her mind. Or is it all in her mind? Not all the time - but

sometimes - it takes people who don't give up on you, for you to find that measure of grace. Barbara Thorson isn't a cute kid. She's frequently unlikable. She's troubled and tragic and, ultimately, a lost little girl who finds that measure of grace. This is a hell of a powerful read. And, seriously, I want me a magic hammer.

I didn't really know what to expect from this book going in, except that a friend had raved about it. It's about a middle-school aged girl who is a bit of a loner and only feels comfortable in her fantasies, particularly those where she battles enormous giants with a magical hammer. She struggles at school and while she makes a new friend, she also pushes that friend away with abrasive behavior. It's clear that some issue at home is bothering her, but it's not revealed what that is until fairly late in the book. The book is largely from her perspective and treats her fantasies as pretty real. A giant does indeed show up and the battle with it is depicted as quiet scary and epic. When it becomes clear why these fantasies are so powerful to the protagonist, it doesn't at all feel like a cheap twist but is very poignant and will likely have you in tears. The art, which is in grayscale (mostly black and white with some shading), is a bit offbeat, and I'm not sure how to describe the style, but I enjoyed it. The sense of design was very good, and the storytelling was clear. Image comics has really made its name with more sci-fi oriented stuff, but this is a great comic book with a fairly simple but deeply compassionate story. I'm glad I own it to re-read and lend to others.

I wasn't sure what I was getting into when I started reading this so I was SO happily surprised over how awesome it is! This comic approaches the mental state of a kid dealing with heavy family stuff in a brilliant way. I don't want to give anything away, but unless you're really insensitive and can't empathy, you will be moved by this. It's also funny and extremely engaging, I couldn't put it down!

So I read somewhere this was an emotional comic worth checking out and I did. It is a good break to take from all that super hero area. Joe Kelly takes the inner emotions of the character and brings them out to life. We all have our battles in life and this books helps you understand that peace is sometimes the best way to conquer them. Great read.

Some comics, you wouldn't recommend as hamster bedding. As the perfect example of pure contrast, this may be the best comic I have ever read. All I want to type are spoilers, but you have to read it for yourself. Torrent the comic. Read the torrent. Then come back here and buy it out of your new-found respect.

One of the finest comics I've ever read.

An absolutely phenomenal book. Fell in love with it from page one. It wasn't what I was expecting and that made it even better. A beautiful story.

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