



## Sanity & Tallulah (Oct 2018)

**Author:** Brooks, Molly (Molly Grayson)

**Ages** 9-12 **Fiction**

**Series:** [Sanity & Tallulah, 1](#)

**Description:** "Sanity and Tallulah live in a space station at the end of the galaxy. When Sanity's illegally created three-headed kitten escapes, the girls have to turn their home upside down to find her in this graphic novel"--.

**Book Appeal Terms:** [Definition of Appeal Terms](#)

**Genre:** Comics and Graphic novels; Debut title; Science fiction; Science fiction comics

**Themes:** Weird science

**Character:** Culturally diverse

**Tone:** Suspenseful

**Writing Style:** Witty

**Min/Max Grade level:** 3 - 6

**Lexile:** 530 **Accelerated Reader:** [IL: MG, BL: 3.9, AR Pts: 2](#)

### Booklist:

Grades 4-7 *Sanity and Tallulah* are two girls growing up on a racially integrated but very out-of-the-way space station. Sanity, a girl of color, is the brainy, science-minded friend who engineers a three-headed cat as a pet. Tallulah, half-white and half-latina, is the more impulsive but highly supportive friend. When the experimental cat escapes, things start to go wrong on the station. Facing trouble from the station director, who happens to be Sanity's dad, the girls investigate and learn that there's something much more serious—and space station threatening—going on. Relying on the methodical but suspenseful investigation of the mystery, this is dense with dialogue and limited in furious action, and is consequently a recommendation that readers, thankfully, won't toss off in one quick sitting. This more thoughtful pace proves a welcome homage to intelligent problem-solving, perseverance, and loyalty. It's all invitingly envisioned with

button-eyed characters in distinctive hairstyles and fashions inhabiting a convincingly down-to-earth space station and colored in a limited, muted palette that grounds this future and makes even more accessible. -- Jesse Karp (Reviewed 9/15/2018) (Booklist, vol 115, number 2, p47)

**School Library Journal:**

Gr 3–6—Tweens Sanity Jones and Tallulah Vega are best friends who live on the space station Wilnik and spend their time causing mischief. When Sanity, a gifted scientist, creates a three-headed kitten named Princess Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds without permission and Tallulah helps cover it up, their parents are none too happy. Even worse, the kitten escapes and their space station begins to break down, possibly as a result of their furry friend wreaking havoc on the ship's already run-down interior. Sanity and Tallulah are relatable and well rounded, with an equally strong supporting cast filled with diverse characters. The plot moves quickly, and the high jinks will grab readers' attention. The muted palette of blues and reds works well for the outer space setting, and the artwork is clean, engaging, and easy to follow. Happily, the ending promises more shenanigans with the duo. VERDICT Fans of fast-paced sci-fi graphic novels such as Zita the Spacegirl, as well as readers interested in humor, will be drawn to the plucky pair.—Ellen Conlin, Naperville Public Library, IL --Ellen Conlin (Reviewed 09/01/2018) (School Library Journal, vol 64, issue 9, p112)

**Publishers Weekly:**

*/\* Starred Review \*/* Two brilliant girls, a whole lot of science, and a failing space station feature in a series opener with a good balance of wit and action. Sanity and Tallulah's inquisitiveness may be the literal ruin of their families and their entire space station: Sanity uses unstable, obsolete technology to engineer and feed a white three-headed cat, Princess Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds (a name dedicated to each of her heads), and Tallulah has aided and abetted. The feline escapes soon after, just as people report strange occurrences—a murdered animal, power outages, and chewed wires—throughout the station. Racing to find their cat while avoiding parents and crew members, they stumble upon a much bigger problem that could jeopardize everyone on the ship. But who will believe that it's not their missing pet? Within a trichromatic color

scheme in shades of purple and pink with white, line work renders characters and situations close up against the massive station, offering the adventure an intimate feel. Debut author Brooks's inclusive vision of strong and diverse women engaged in science, variously abled bodies navigating the challenges of space, and positive family relationships is both enjoyable and commendable. Ages 8–12. Agent: Heather Alexander, Pippin Properties. (Oct.) --Staff (Reviewed 09/17/2018) (Publishers Weekly, vol 265, issue 28, p)