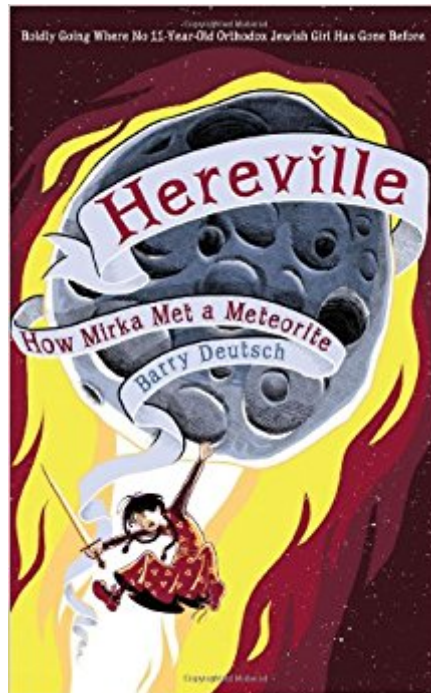


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# Hereville: How Mirka Met A Meteorite



## Synopsis

Welcome to Hereville, home of the first-ever wisecracking, adventure-loving, sword-wielding Orthodox Jewish heroine. A delightful mix of fantasy, adventure, cultural traditions, and preteen commotion, this fun, quirky graphic novel series will captivate middle-school readers with its exciting visuals and entertaining new heroine. Mirka is back, and she's still the only sword-brandishing, monster-fighting Orthodox Jewish girl in town. Or so she thinks. When a misguided troll aims a meteor at the witch's house, the witch grabs hold of the closest thing possible to transform the flying, flaming rock—and that would be Mirka's hair. The meteor is changed, all right: it's now Mirka's identical twin. Doppelganger Mirka, vowing to be a better version of the real girl, sets out to charm all of Hereville, including Mirka's own family. Our heroine challenges the meteor girl to a three-part contest . . . and the loser will be banished from Hereville forever! Praise for Hereville: How Mirka Met a Meteorite: STARRED REVIEWS "Deutsch has created a wonderful world in Mirka's insulated Orthodox village and continues to capture it adroitly... Mirka is unflinchingly likable because she is so tempestuous and inexact, and really, who can't relate to that? This truly clever series is lots of fun." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review "The color illustrations are as crisp and clear as they come. The endlessly creative panel and perspective work adds visual interest and gives experienced graphic-novel readers plenty to savor. A well-crafted addition to a truly distinctive series." —School Library Journal, starred review "She's both a fish out of water (she dreams of being a sword-wielding dragon slayer) and committed to her Orthodox Jewish faith, family, and community. All of this makes her one of the most original and comically endearing heroines to come down the pike in a long time." —Publishers Weekly, starred review "The graphic novel format serves the quirky story well, with strong inks and a subdued palette that emphasize characters' personalities and facial expressions as well as the tale's action. As with Mirka's first adventure, this volume brings diversity and wit to comics for young teens and tweens..." —The Horn Book Magazine "Deutsch is a masterful storyteller with both realistic kid patter and expressive cartoons—not only of Orthodox life but also of assorted trolls and other mostly benign fantasy creatures. A spunky adventure in kid-accessible truths revealed through the employment of fantasy." —Booklist Award 2013 Sydney Taylor Award - Notable Book, Older Readers Texas Library Association Maverick Graphic Novel 2014 list

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 300L (What's this?)

Series: Hereville

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (November 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1419703986

ISBN-13: 978-1419703980

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #356,942 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Action & Adventure #76 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Religion & Spirituality #1479 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Fantasy Graphic Novels

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Deutsch continues his delightful and unique series featuring a modern Orthodox Jewish girl who is often bolder and braver than most 11-year-olds (boy or girl) might be. In this follow-up to *How Mirka Got Her Sword* (2010), she faces a bewitched meteorite-turned-Mirka-doppelgänger, Metty, who makes Mirka's life completely miserable: she co-opts Mirka's place at the dinner table, earns excellent grades, and becomes a basketball star. With the help of Mirka's stepsister Rochel, and a bit of self-reevaluation with the aid of her wise stepmother, Mirka both overcomes Metty's challenges and even provides insight that Metty's motivation for her behavior may stem from longing for her own family. Deutsch is a masterful storyteller with both realistic kid patter and expressive cartoons—not only of Orthodox life but also of assorted trolls and other mostly benign fantasy creatures. A spunky adventure in kid-accessible truths revealed through the employment of fantasy. Grades 4-7. --Francisca Goldsmith

Barry Deutsch won the 2010 Sydney Taylor Award and was nominated for Eisner, Harvey, Ignatz, and Nebula awards that year. He won the national Charles M. Schulz Award for best college cartoonist in 2000 and was nominated for Comic-Con's Russ Manning Award for Promising Newcomer in 2008. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

Our favorite orthodox Jewish girl returns in her second graphic novel. Having been grounded for staying out all night on the adventure chronicled in the first book, Mirka starts out as a typical sullen 11 year old. After her stepmother lets her go out, Mirka heads off to see the local troll who has her sword. They plot revenge on the evil witch, and his spell to flood her house with chocolate pudding goes awry and sends a meteorite streaming to Hereville. Mirka is able to warn the witch in the nick of time. But the witch turned the meteorite into the spitting image of Mirka. And then the fun begins, as Mirka's doppelgänger takes advantage of Mirka's good will. This drives Mirka to her wits end. She enlists 2 of her siblings to help her, and challenges the meteorite to a contest. One of the unique aspects of this series is that it is set in the context of an orthodox Jewish community. Author Barry Deutsch also includes a sprinkling of Yiddish, which he translates in footnotes. This story teaches a number of lessons including showing how selfish behavior hurts other people. This is a fun graphic novel for children.

I \*LOVE\* the Hereville books. The detail in the illustrations, the style of illustration, is very appealing. The dialogue is great, the stories cover the spectrum of all emotions, from boredom, frustration, even horror, to joy, relief, and love. I read a lot of "religious approved" books, and I've never seen anything like this, it is at the same time such a blend of fun and exciting fantasy, together with real Observant Jewish life.

How many ways are there to say Fun Funny Funky? This is the second installment in the graphic novel series, and although I liked the first book more, I enjoyed Deutsch's imagination and humor just as much with No.#2. His Mirka is gutsy, (unlike me) and a pip. Setting the story in a shtetl gives it the funky aspect- like combining lox with chocolate. Who'd have thunk? Barry Deutsch did. I'll await #3.

Mirka has no magic power, or super strength, but with the help of her siblings, she meets a powerful meteorite and bests it in battle. Barry Deutsch's delightful sequel to "Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword" continues to be one of the best mix of old-world and new-world fairytale that I have read.

Thank-you!

nice

As I was reading this I was reminded of Sydney Taylor's classic "All-of-a-Kind Family". Published in 1951, that is a gentle and engaging tale of a Jewish family in upper East Side New York City in the 1900's. While mostly a story about the lives and adventures of the five mischievous girls in the family, it is also a warm and instructive guide to the holidays and traditions of this Jewish family. For readers in 1951, this might very well have been their only contact with Judaism in any form. I was reminded of the book because "Hereville" carries on the honorable tradition of telling an exciting story, involving rich, varied and interesting characters, in the context of an Orthodox Jewish community. But note that the primary emphasis here is the story and especially the characters. Now, the story is unapologetically fantastical, with witches, trolls, a magical artifact or two and a shape-shifting space visitor. That's O.K., because it is all presented so matter-of-factly that the storyline feels almost realistic. What really elevates this book is the quality, variety and authenticity of the characters. Mirka is an identifiable and extremely likable teen girl. Unusual for this age-group book, her siblings are portrayed as loyal and supportive. Mirka's step-mother is patient and wise, but also realistically flawed and human. Other family members are also carefully and individually drawn. The villain isn't really very bad and is reasoned with, not defeated in combat. The witch has a small but central role, and is a perfectly competent witch. The troll is very funny, with a dry wit and a certain haplessness. In short, the entire complement of characters works well, and advances the story quite nicely. Orthodox Jewish traditions are woven into the story, not in some sort of instructional way but as a natural part of the ordered functioning of the community and of Mirka's family. And, there are some very funny and sly tossed off bits of humor. All of this is well served by the drawing. The lines are simple and uncluttered, with a bit of exaggeration for effect in the action scenes and the fantasy sequences. The artist has done a remarkable job with the character's expressions and with creating clear and convincing attitudes and emotions of the characters. So, all in all a happy choice, and an entertaining and rewarding read. Nicely done. Please note that I received a free electronic copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a frank review.

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