



Cellies

Joe Flood, Illustrator

Joe Flood

David Seward II

Lion Forge (Jan 15, 2019)

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A decidedly non-superhero “team book,” *Cellies* is the fun and briskly paced story of six employees of a mobile phone retail store. Led by their gung-ho but slightly dim manager, Christian, the Jog Mobile crew attempt to manage their personal lives alongside their work commitments, which include dealing with difficult customers and managing the midnight launch of a new phone.

Cellies collects the first five issues of Lion Forge’s comic book series, whose central characters represent a variety of ethnicities, backgrounds, and personalities, providing fertile ground for story development. In a minor but inspired ongoing feature, the book offers short vignettes inspired by true-life retail experiences. In total, *Cellies* feels like a successful ensemble TV sitcom, and the book ends with a cliffhanger of sorts, as Reyhaab, a teenager from a strict religious family, faces punishment from her parents for lying to them, and Christian suffers from the effects of an overlong tanning session.

Flood’s clean, confident art style and practiced narrative abilities balance propelling the plot and delivering humor, while also choosing appropriate moments to hint at what’s underneath the sometimes shallow exteriors of his characters; one gets the impression that there are plenty of stories left for Flood to tell in *Cellies: Volume Two* and beyond.

PETER DABBENE (January/February 2019)

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