

Doughnuts and Doom

Balazs Lorinczi

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Two young women develop a friendship and more while navigating work, magic, and love in *Doughnuts and Doom*.

Margot—a witch whose familiar is Stanley, a lovable snake—is forced to sell potions for a living because she can't manage to pass her spell exam and get her casting license. After another failure, she goes to a doughnut shop and meets Elena, who sings in a band. Their initial meeting doesn't go well, and Margot's out-of-control abilities damage the store.

Later, Elena is electrocuted, and Margot determines that, without intending to, she's put a curse on Elena. The Witch Hub, the governing authority for witches, investigates the events, but Elena covers for Margot. As their relationship develops, the girls grow closer and conquer their fears together.

This fun story is set in a world where magic is part of an otherwise routine existence. Human interactions provide its drama and most of its humor. Margot and Elena's romantic relationship is slow to develop, and for much of the book, it seems like it might be nothing more than friendship. But while theirs isn't an instant, torrid affair, it is sweet, organic, and genuine: they realize over time what they have in each other. The black, white, and blue-toned art uses splashes of pink for emphasis; the line art is detailed and fluid, perfect for the story in its clarity and ability to express emotions.

Doughnuts and Doom is a charming, lighthearted romantic comedy with supernatural flair.

PETER DABBENE (September / October 2022)

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