

Foreword Review FANTASY

## **Third Shift Society: Volume One**

Meredith Moriarty WEBTOON Unscrolled (Mar 5, 2024) Softcover \$19.99 (304pp) 978-1-998854-29-5

A young woman is recruited into a paranormal detective agency in the graphic novel Third Shift Society.

Ellie is late on her rent and jobless when she sees a man with a jack-o-lantern for a head crash out of a high window. The man, Ichabod, is fighting with a monster; Ellie rushes to help, discovering her own magical powers in the process. Ichabod offers to make her a partner in his paranormal investigation business; she accepts, setting her on a course to encounter a haunted house, a cursed museum, a vampire doctor, and a fairy changeling, all while becoming involved in a mysterious rivalry between a demon and a spell-caster.

Collecting the first season of the WEBTOON series, this fun supernatural adventure has an appealing sense of humor on display throughout. Ellie is imperfect in a relatable way—distracted by an application on her phone that turns cars into kitties one moment, but showing bravery and strength in the face of danger the next. Ichabod's permanent smile limits his facial expressions, but the full-color art is clear and dynamic, capturing subtle nuances while also delivering grand spectacles and action. Through standalone stories and hints of future developments, the book satisfies and tantalizes its audience all at once.

## PETER DABBENE (March / April 2024)

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