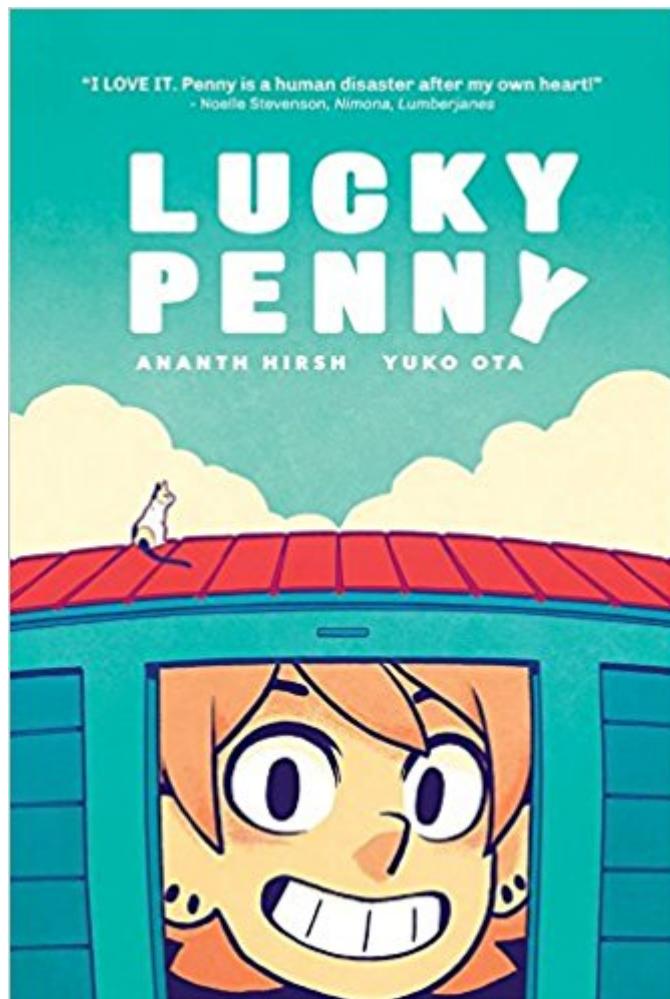


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# Lucky Penny



## Synopsis

If Penny Brighton didn't have bad luck, she'd have no luck at all. She lost her job. And her apartment. In the same day. But it's okay, her friend has a cozy storage unit she can crash in. And there's bound to be career opportunities at the neighborhood laundromat—just look how fast that 12-year-old who runs the place made it to management! Plus, there's this sweet guy at the community center, and maybe Penny can even have a conversation with him without being a total dork. Surely Penny is a capable of becoming an actual responsible adult, and if she can do that her luck's bound to change! Right?

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Oni Press (March 15, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1620102870

ISBN-13: 978-1620102879

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #298,201 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Contemporary Women #243 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Romance #601 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Mystery

## Customer Reviews

BOOKLIST -- Previously published as a webcomic, Hirsh and Ota's *Lucky Penny* follows aimless twenty-something Penny, who's anything but—you guessed it—lucky. Fired on the day she's moving out of the apartment she didn't choose to vacate, Penny isn't going great. Her friend Helen saves the day (and readers can assume this isn't the first time), transferring her storage locker to Penny, who will live in it, and getting Penny a job at her parents' laundromat. Things are starting to look up! She even finds a cat she names Boyfriend, and there's actual boyfriend potential in the cute receptionist who sneaks her into the community center. But Penny's not lucky. How long can this last? The comic's pace occasionally quickens unexpectedly, and wild antics ensue when Penny's newfound safety and job security are threatened. Ota's black-and-white cartoons are stylish and bright, and characters' faces are full of expression. Quirky Penny, like characters in the romance

novels she loves, is all heart, and she'll easily charm readers with her smoking, drinking, train-wreck style.

**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (STARRED)** -- Penny Brighton, 18, is something of a manic pixie, and by the end of this exceptionally entertaining comic, she's on her way to becoming one guy's dream girl, even though disaster follows her everywhere. Part rom-com, part pop-culture parody, the story opens with Penny losing her job, parting ways with her friend/roommate Helen, and moving into Helen's newly empty storage unit. After Penny snags a job at the Laundromat—which is managed by Helen's surly 11-year-old brother—she meets geeky desk clerk Walter, and an awkward romance is born. Penny's story grew out of Hirsh and Ota's *Johnny Wander* webcomic, and they're in perfect sync, delivering drily funny dialogue and outlandish visual comedy that plays with conventions of film, manga, and geek culture (for her part, Penny adores fantasy romance novels with titles like *Dragon Lust* and *Succubus Seduced*, which she organizes —“according to hotness”).

The plot veers into action-thriller territory toward the end, blurring the lines between what's real and imagined, but Penny's idiosyncratic exuberance carries the day, and her hapless attempts to get her life in order should hit home with a broad range of readers.

**FOREWORD** -- Lucky Penny features a young woman who's on her own, but hasn't quite figured life out yet. It seems Penny's luck is all bad, as she loses her job and her apartment, and ends up living in a storage unit and working at the local laundromat. She develops a romantic interest in a young man who works at the gym nearby, and trades barbs with the twelve-year-old who runs the laundromat for his parents. There's also a bit of suspense when Penny's storage unit is broken into, but despite the plot twists, this graphic novel succeeds on the ability of Ananth Hirsh and Yuko Ota to bring Penny and the other characters to life in a simple, quirky, charming way. Ota has worked on a long list of publications, and she shows an expert hand in visual storytelling. She draws Penny's eyes using a myriad of styles: huge and watery, as black dots or narrow slits, with no pupils or extra-wide pupils. In a hysterical three-panel sequence, she uses this range to perfectly express Penny's panicked realization that she's packed her car keys deep within the contents of her apartment. Penny is a poor soul who makes bad decisions, but she's lovable throughout, and memorable even after the last page has been read. The graphic novel universe should consider itself lucky to have her.

**SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL** -- Penny, a young 20-something who describes herself as having a "weird tattoo and a smoking habit," is once again down on her luck. Recently both jobless and homeless, she moves into her best friend's storage unit, where her primary companion is a stray cat. Even though Penny concludes she is bad luck to those around her, she is tenacious about improving her situation—even if it means she must work in a laundromat for a precocious, sarcastic (and, later we learn, vengeful) preteen. More mature teens will especially enjoy this humorous slice-of-life comic done in noir

shades. The artwork is simple, yet the facial expressions are lively. Penny's insecurities navigating a budding romance with the nerdy yet lovable Walter come across as authentic and comical (especially when she imagines scenarios inspired by cliched romance novels). The situations Penny finds herself in are at times fantastical, but readers can relate to her reactions, which are a mixture of awkwardness and sincerity. VERDICT Teens who have followed the misadventures of Penny Brighton online will enthusiastically welcome this print edition, which will surely create new fans.

Lucky Penny is a great graphic novel written and illustrated by the couple behind Johnny Wander, a sort of diary/comic about their daily lives (which is also excellent). Lucky Penny is in the same vein as Scott Pilgrim in that it takes a story about everyday life and adds some zany video game style logic to it. In fact the art style is very reminiscent of Scott Pilgrim as well, though it has a lot more detail to it. The story (without spoiling anything) is about Penny Brighton, a young woman who's very, very unlucky. Despite the fact that Penny is a bit of a slacker, and a little immature, she's a very likable protagonist. In fact most of the characters in this story are likable. I became very invested in these characters and where the story would take them. If you enjoyed the Scott Pilgrim graphic novels, Johnny Wander, or just stories about likable doofuses dealing with real world problems with a dash of comic book flavoring I highly recommend Lucky Penny. It has quickly become one of my favorite comics and I sincerely believe that it deserves more recognition.

I've been reading Yuko and Ananth's webcomic Johnny Wander for years, so I was super excited to have finally bought one of their books! Bought a copy for myself and for my brother for his bday - he loved it and was ecstatic to get the book! Lucky Penny is such a fun read! It leaves you with all them good feels and lots of laughs. Fantastic book with fantastic art!!

At first, I thought this was made by the same group that made Scott Pilgrim vs the World. However, do not be fooled: it is a similar style and a different author for this book. That being said, this is a wonderful comic. Penny is relatable as someone who seems to have bad luck follow her around, and her love interest is just as goofy in his own way. The story gets odd near the end, but it wraps up nicely

A seriously cute, light-hearted and slightly quirky comic with a wonderful art style! Definitely a good read, especially on a rainy day.

Amazing artwork, and such a fun storyline. Lucky Penny reminds me of what it was like to be poor and accident prone and really into romance novels (mine were yaoi comics, but I digress). It's a tantalizing combination of humor, reality, and fiction all slammed together into one sexy package. I highly recommend it if you love comics, fun, and accident prone females!

Lucky Penny is funny, charming, and amazing! If you read all of Bryan Lee O'malley's work and need something just like Scott Pilgrim and and Seconds then you have to read Lucky Penny! I read it in a whole fricking day and I still wanted more!

Kinda like Scott pilgram without the sub video game world theme going on and less angst. Read it in one sitting take a break and read it again. An easy read you can always come back to when your feeling out.

I sat down intending to just read a few pages and could. Not. Stop. I finished reading my friend's copy and immediately ordered my own before driving home. It was so funny, and developed so well I just adored it. I was laughing out loud and rolling in the floor. Absolutely incredible, def read this.

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