



An Interview with Hengchgirl Creator, Kristen Gudsnuk

BY [FABIENNE PAYET](#) · PUBLISHED APRIL 12, 2017 · UPDATED APRIL 12, 2017

Outright Geekery's Fabienne Payet had a chance to interview Kristen Gudsnuk recently. She is the amazing creator of Hengchgirl. Hengchgirl is a wonderful and empowering read where all women can easily identify with the characters. Because who isn't curious what happens when girls fend for themselves in dangerous situations?

Outright Geekery: What or who inspired you to create Hengchgirl?

Kristen Gudsnuk: A mix of day job frustrations and watching a lot of Batman: The Animated Series with my boyfriend inspired me to create Mary Posa. Put those together, and you basically have Hengchgirl.

OG: I love how readers can relate to the characters because they are so easy to identify with. Did you base them off people you know?

KG: A lot of Hengchgirl comes from my life, but refracted into fiction. So there are definitely pieces of friends and family there, but everyone is exaggerated so hopefully no one takes offense when they see things they've said on the page. It's funny, there are a lot of parallels to my real life that I only noticed after the book was already done.

OG: What made you want to explore your own version of superheroes?

KG: I've always been interested in the peripheral characters in an epic superhero world: what do they do when they go home to their apartment? How do they make money? Pass the time? Do they have friends, coworkers? How can these mythic stories coexist with mundane ones? I wanted to shift the perspective of a big superhero

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comic to focus on the smaller and more relatable stories happening just outside the panels.

OG: Henggirl is full of female empowerment and highlights the struggles that many young women face in society. Did you base those struggles off your own experiences?

KG: Sure, definitely. I get irrationally annoyed at most of the tropes surrounding female characters in general and have always enjoyed subverting stereotypes in my writing. I'm not really interested in empowering Mary, but rather showing her to be a complicated, realistic individual with flaws. She screws up constantly, but I think people will identify with her because of that.

OG: Henggirl started out as a web-comic and transitioned to single-issues published by Scout Comics. What was the experience of transitioning from self-publishing to a publishing company like for you?

KG: It was really exciting for Henggirl to take on a life of its own and be distributed all over, and to hear from people all over the world who'd discovered it. Before being published, I would drop off the books at local comic stores or sell them at conventions in person. It was amazing for people that I hadn't actually met in person to be reading Henggirl! It made me feel like a real comic book creator.

OG: The series ending leaves readers wondering what happens next in Crepe City. Will we see more adventures from Mary Posa and the gang again?

KG: Never say never! Although, I'm currently working on other projects!

OG: What are your plans for the future?

KG: In general? Just to keep making comics! Currently, I'm working on a comic book for Graphix and have a couple more projects I'm still developing.

OG: How can people follow you on social media? What's your convention schedule for 2017?

KG: Social Media:

https://twitter.com/henggirl_comic

https://instagram.com/henggirl_comic/

Kghoul.tumblr.com

Cons:

C2E2- Chicago, IL, April 21-23

Phillipsburg Comic Con- Phillipsburg, NJ, May 13

Eternal Con- Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale, NY, July 1-2

Garden State Comic Fest- Morristown, NJ, July 8-9



San Diego Comic Con- San Diego, CA, July 20-23

Terrificon!- Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT, August 18-20

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