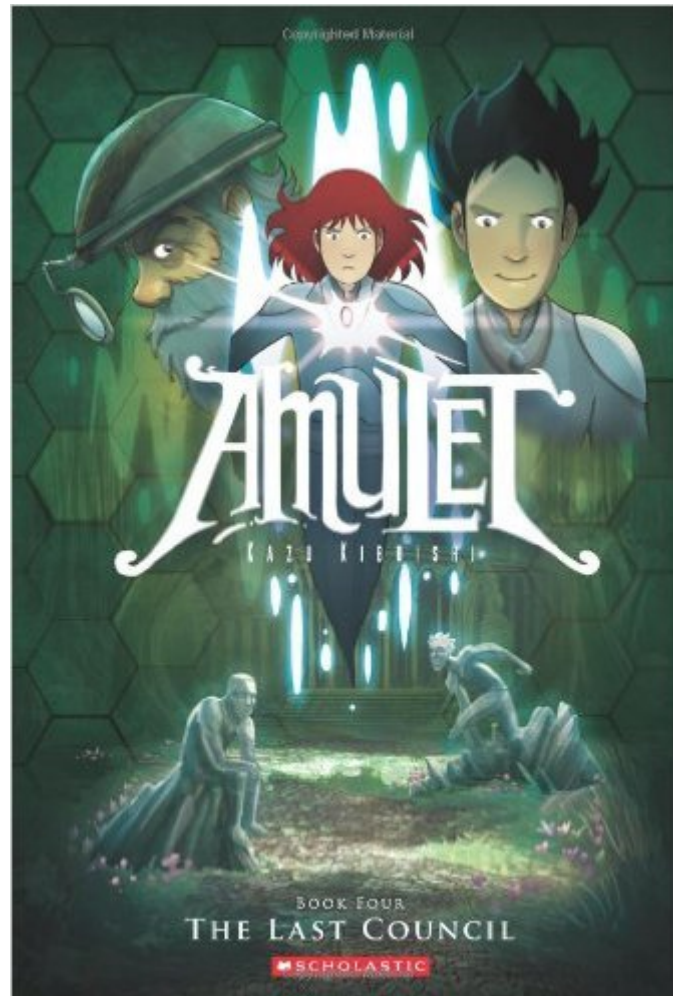


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## The Last Council (Amulet #4)



## Synopsis

Kazu Kibuishi's thrilling, NEW YORK TIMES bestselling series continues! Emily and her friends think they'll find the help they need in Cielis, but something isn't right. Streets that were once busy are deserted, and the townspeople who are left live in crippling fear. Emily is escorted to the Academy where she's expected to compete for a spot on the Guardian Council, the most powerful Stonekeepers. But as the number of competitors gets smaller and smaller, a terrible secret is slowly uncovered--a secret that, if left buried, means certain destruction of everything Emily fights for.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: GN400L (What's this?)

Series: Amulet (Book 4)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: GRAPHIX; Original edition (September 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545208874

ISBN-13: 978-0545208871

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (147 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,319 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Â Books > Children's Books >

Comics & Graphic Novels #162 in Â Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy >

Fantasy & Magic #190 in Â Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I really have no words that can convey how impressed I am with this fine series by Kazu Kibuishi. "The Last Council" is like "The Empire Strikes Back" of the Amulet series in which Emily has to face the darker side of the hero's journey. New characters are introduced as older characters come back into the story. What is impressive about "The Last Council" is that three different stories are presented in one volume and it shows the growth of Kazu and his team that these stories are balanced so well and work together so that when you arrive to the end, it feels organic. A continued enjoyment of the series is Emily's mother who has a really great line while they are in Cielis which is both true in general but wrong in context to the situation. When you read the story, you'll know

exactly what that means. But that line shows just how finely tuned this story has become. The art, especially, is beautiful. And while the characters are round and "cartoon-y", the story itself does not shirk from showing just how risky the adventure has become. I look forward to new volumes of this fantastic series.

I loved this book. As with previous Amulet books, the illustrations are wonderful and the story line continues to develop nicely. There are 3 things going on during this book that are brought together towards the end of the book. I continue to like how characters and the story is evolving. I wrote in a past review that time will tell, but so far I consider this to Bone-like in its breadth, depth, and overall quality. It also seems like the story will take at least 10 books to tell at its current pace. I think the author has suggested this much. My only 'disappointment' is that I waited 1 year for this book (pre-ordered in March) and finished it within an hour. That said, I know it takes a lot of effort to produce these books-- I follow the author's twitter and blog. I guess this is just a new experience for me. In the case of Bone, for example, I found out about them a few years ago so I was able to buy all of the books and read them back to back.

This is the fourth book in the Amulet series by Kibuishi. I love this series and this book added even more to the story. Emily and her friends travel to Cielis to hopefully get help from the Council to fight the Elf King. Things don't go as planned and Emily is thrown into a contest against other Stonekeepers to see who is worthy of a seat on the council. During this the Elf King's son is thrown into jail, and Emily's shipmates are left wandering the strangely empty town of Cielis. This installment didn't progress the story as far as other installments have, mainly because our group of characters gets split up for the majority of the story. We also don't get to spend much time with the characters we know and love (much of the story follows Emily and she is separated from everyone else); but we do meet some interesting new characters. Emily meets a few other Stonekeepers, so it was interesting to see how the other Stonekeepers wield their Stones. Emily also seems to have come to an uneasy balance with her Stone and is starting to trust its advice more than she used to. The plot takes some unexpected twists and turns that kept me guessing and wondering how everything will pan out in the end. Miskit and Cogsley have some interesting adventures of their own and acquire an adorable new little dragon friend. Can't wait to see what their new little dragon friend turns into over time! The illustration is colorful, beautiful and wonderful...as it has been for all of the books in this series. I love the artwork in these books, they are just so wonderful to look at. There is still a little bit of a steampunk element in this book, but not as much as in previous books. Overall another

wonderful installment in this series. Beautiful artwork, great characters, a fascinating world, and a story that keeps getting better and better. The story doesn't progress as much in this installment as it has in previous ones; mainly because the characters are split up for the majority of the story. I still really enjoyed reading this and can't wait to see what happens next.

After having finished the first three novels, I anxiously awaited this next release. Each of the first three books pulled me in with great characters, colorful scenes, and suspenseful storylines. The fourth novel was no different, and well worth the wait.

**Story overview:** Having finally arrived at the mysterious floating island known as Cielis, Emily becomes anything but relaxed. At first, the expected assembly with the Guardian Council was delayed, and then she's told that she must first pass a test. Meanwhile, Miskit and Cogsley are rescued by a mysterious man who has ties to their old master. And back on Cielis, Leon and Enzo investigate the reason for the oddly empty streets. Things go afoot when Emily learns that she must not only pass a test, but compete with other Stonekeepers. What should have been an open invitation turns into a big ordeal. As she works through the trials, that uneasy feeling from before only intensifies.

**My thoughts:** Now I can't wait for the fifth volume to come out. One of the best graphic novel series out there. Be sure to check them out if you haven't already.

**Things to consider:** No sexual situations, harsh language, gore, or extreme cases of violence. There are a few scenes that could be considered scary to younger children, but otherwise the tale is harmless. Good for preteens and older. Equally good for boys and girls.

James D. Maxon  
Author of Traphis: A Wizard's Tale

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