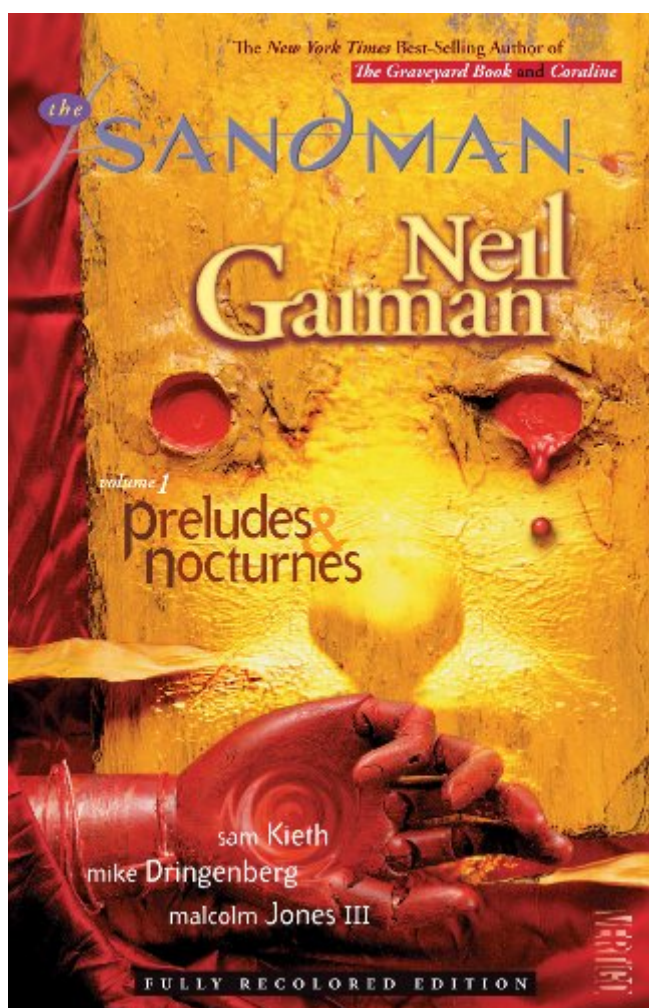


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# The Sandman Vol. 1: Preludes & Nocturnes (New Edition) (The Sandman Series)



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author Neil Gaiman's transcendent series SANDMAN is often hailed as the definitive Vertigo title and one of the finest achievements in graphic storytelling. Gaiman created an unforgettable tale of the forces that exist beyond life and death by weaving ancient mythology, folklore and fairy tales with his own distinct narrative vision. In PRELUDES & NOCTURNES, an occultist attempting to capture Death to bargain for eternal life traps her younger brother Dream instead. After his seventy-year imprisonment and eventual escape, Dream, also known as Morpheus, goes on a quest for his lost objects of power. On his arduous journey Morpheus encounters Lucifer, John Constantine, and an all-powerful madman. This book also includes the story "The Sound of Her Wings," which introduces us to the pragmatic and perky goth girl Death. Collecting issues #1-8, this new edition of PRELUDES & NOCTURNES features the improved production values and coloring from the Absolute Edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I only recently got into comic books and have been pretty picky about what I like. In researching new series for me to read, I kept coming across The Sandman. The story sounded interesting but I was

put off by the art style so held off on starting it. However, it kept coming up on blogs and forums. "XYZ Comic could be the next Sandman!" they said. So I gave in and bought the first two volumes. I read the first volume and was pretty sure it wasn't for me. It starts slow and appears to throw a lot of random information at you, almost all of it is irrelevant for the first issues featured in this volume. But I decided to read the second volume since I had already purchased it. I'm glad I did because that is where it really starts to come alive! The random information and characters aren't so random anymore. They have their own stories and developments that all tie back to the aspect of Dream. The writing is fantastic, the character development is believable, and the art brings it all to life. I've come to not only appreciate the series in its entirety but have also become a big fan of the author Neil Gaiman. If you're like me with an initial hesitance, give it a chance. I'm really glad I did!

First up, all of the 10 volumes of The Sandman novels deserve 5 stars. They are a phenomenal achievement in not only graphic novels but in storytelling itself. The story is complex and cerebral and the characters so well developed that Sandman is one of my favorite stories period. The novels are intensely violent and often disturbing but everything that happens serves a purpose, and nothing happens by chance or just for the sake of things happening. Something that happens in one volume may become vitally important 3 or 4 volumes later. By the end of the 10th volume everything has come full circle with an appropriate and satisfying end. With regards to Volume 1, many consider it to be a weak link in the series but I do not. Granted it is primarily focused on introducing characters and setting up the plot for the entire story, but it's done well. The plot concerns a cult attempting to capture and control Death. Instead they get her brother Dream, who is then held prisoner for decades. This is not without some disturbing consequences as people fall prey to a "sleeping sickness" and Dream's kingdom falls into utter disarray. Upon escaping Dream must regain control of his kingdom but in order to do so he must retrieve the sources of his power which he placed into objects. Subsequently these objects have been scattered during his imprisonment. As far as the volume's content on the Kindle Fire - I was hesitant to abandon the volumes in print worried that the Kindle Fire might provide a more difficult viewing experience. That hasn't turned out to be the case. The novel is easy to read, you can scan in to specific boxes, and the colors are vibrant.

I loved these stories in the trade paperback form, and I really looked forward to them on the Kindle Fire. The new Kindle Fire Comics with the pop-out panels are a surprisingly nice way to read comics; and I thought Watchmen in this format was a masterpiece. But I also knew Watchmen had a significant advantage in this regard: the entire series was drawn with an extremely regular panel

grid, with only rare deviations. So pop-up rectangular panels suited it well. I expected the format to be more challenging for something with more panel variety -- especially something as downright experimental as Sandman. So I expected some of the pop-out choices to be difficult. I was ready to tolerate some unusual choices. And for the most part, they handled it well. They did a nice job with challenging panels like wide or tall panels with dialog balloons in many places. But in a few places, they just plain got it wrong. In some places they got the dialog order wrong, so an response pops out before the statement that prompted it. And in a few cases, they missed a dialog balloon entirely; and the only way I could read it was to switch to page mode. And worst of all, there were a couple of pages where the pop-outs didn't correspond to anything recognizable on the page: not to panels, not to dialog, not to revealing visual details, nothing. Do we really need a pop-out of Morpheus's elbow? So I knocked off a star for the imperfections. I hope DC takes the time to fix these after the mad rush of releasing 100 Kindle Fire Comics at once.

This was a very interesting beginning to what is sure to be a very interesting series. I began The Sandman not knowing what to expect. I have only read one other book by Gaiman, and that was his collaboration piece with Terry Pratchett, so I wasn't all too familiar with his voice as a writer, let alone in this medium. It started off a little slow for me, and a little strange as well (there were some shining moments like Dream's visit to Hell). Around issues 6 and 7 though, I think Neil found his groove and I really got into the story. Dream is an awesome character. At once horrifying and compassionate. A man out for vengeance, but also wishing for peace. I am excited to see where the series goes from here.

If anyone you know still thinks that comic books are just for kids give them a copy of this. I read the entire series many years ago well it was still coming out and decided to reread it. Instead of digging through old long boxes I'm buying the trades. Neil Gaiman is an author this is literature.

My local book store about 10 years ago must have been clearing out all their unsold comic books so they had this giant bin filled with old comics that they were selling dirt cheap. I found a few Sandman comics in that bin, not knowing what the book was about who even Neil Gaiman was I bought a few books and when I read them I absolutely loved them. I went back to my store and bought all the Sandman books I could find but there were lots of issues missing. So it's nice to finally start collecting all the graphic novel volumes so that I can finally read the whole story from beginning to end. I must confess that I am a Sandman fanboy so I am unlikely to give any Sandman book anything less than

four stars.

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