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Fables: Legends In Exile, Vol. 1



Synopsis

When a savage creature known only as the Adversary conquered the fabled lands of legends and fairy tales, all of the infamous inhabitants of folklore were forced into exile. Disguised among the "mundys," their name for normal citizens of modern-day New York, these magical characters created their own secret society that they call Fabletown. From their exclusive luxury apartment buildings on Manhattan's Upper West Side, these creatures of legend must fight for their survival in the new world. Fables is the winner of 14 Eisner Awards and is one of the most enduring Vertigo titles ever. Here, in this new, 10th anniversary edition, is a newly colored 8-page story from the Fables prose work *Peter & Max: A Fables Novel*, as well as a beautiful new cover from series artist Mark Buckingham.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This elaborate fantasy series begins as a whodunit, but quickly unfurls into a much larger story about Fabletown, a place where fairy tale legends live alongside regular New Yorkers. Years ago, fables and fairy tales like Jack and the Beanstalk and Cinderella "were a thousand separate kingdoms spread over a hundred magic worlds," until they were invaded and driven into hiding and, eventually, into modern-day Gotham. And so, on the city streets we find Beauty and the Beast in trouble with the law and Prince Charming reduced to a broke cad auctioning off his royal title, while his ex-wife, Snow White, rules over the de facto kingdom the fables created. When Snow White's sister, Rose Red, disappears from a blood-soaked apartment, the Wolf, reformed and now the kingdom's house detective, is assigned to the case. Willingham uses the Wolf's investigation to

introduce readers to Fabletown's dissolute, hard-luck inhabitants, and he is at his best here, relishing one-liners and spinning funky background information of a world where fairy tale characters spend their time fretting about money and thinking up get-rich schemes. The mystery seems mostly an excuse to delineate Willingham's world, as the caper is easily resolved-in true fairy tale fashion-during a massive ballroom celebration. Willingham's dialogue is humorous, his characterizations are sharp and his plot encompasses a tremendous amount of information with no strain at all. The art, mostly by Medina and Leialoha, is well drawn and serviceable, if somewhat unremarkable, with occasional flares of decorative invention. But it's Willingham's script that carries the tale. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Once upon a time--recently--Jack, not that much older looking than when he climbed the beanstalk, rushes breathlessly into the office of Woodland Luxury Apartments security chief Bigby Wolf to report that his girlfriend Red Rose's Village pad is awash with blood and she is missing. That gives Wolf a case to investigate--a rare occurrence during the centuries that he and other refugees from Fableland have lived in their Manhattan colony since being harried from their world. Of course, Wolf has to put up with his boss, Snow White, long divorced from Prince Charming, dogging his heels because, after all, Rose is her sister. The mystery is solved in a classic Agatha Christie-ish parlor-room confab, displaced to King Cole's penthouse, but not before milking gallons of good entertainment from the conceit of fairy-tale characters as fully human and full of human weaknesses, prominently including lust. Willingham caps the dashing drawn mainstream-comics-style graphic novel with a prose-only story that accounts for how Wolf got his job. Great fun. Ray OlsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It's a nice introduction to a very original world that I wouldn't mind exploring. However, The first volume doesn't really leave you with a good first impression. It's sort of slow, Very basic in terms of the actual plot, and can be rather cheesy at times. Especially with the ending where Bigby wraps up the case by explaining who done it and why at a huge public gathering. I'm sure it will get better as time goes on but at this point, I think a 3 star rating is fair. It's a good set up to a large world that can be explored in great detail. I just think they need to come back with a better story.

Volume one of the Fables' graphic comic series is fun. It is a detective mystery, using characters

from fairy tales who have been forced to immigrate to New York City through a witch's magic portal to our universe. Their own lands were invaded by a being they call 'The Adversary'. The author has written a straightforward mystery, but there is irony in the roles the fairytale characters play. The Big Bad Wolf is the private detective hired to solve the murder of Rose Red, party girl and sister to Snow White, assistant to the mayor. Suspects for the murder are Bluebeard and Jack the Giant Killer, Rose Red's boyfriends. Meanwhile, harassing Snow White for money, Prince Charming is hanging about, flitting from bed to bed while pleading for a loan to tide him over until the time the fairy tale folks decide to fight The Adversary and get their lands back. Snow White regrets that she ever loved the loser, but she arranges for a lottery to be held, the winner of which gets the Prince's title and lands if and when they are able to return to Fableland. Very cute, and I did not guess who did it!

There are a few series that have continued to be excellent throughout their entire run and I expect to be excellent well into the future. Fables is always interesting, full of twists and turns and excitement. Though the great Fables war was easily the best, this focuses on the children of Snow White and Bigby, the wolf. This is the kind of thing that Disney could never do. They would never be so brutal with their characters. They want happy endings, but the original fables, handed down through history, do not always have happy endings. Fables understands that. There are times when I get to the end of a plot and realize that it feels like an old story. Fables can be sweet and painful all in one moment, and this latest volume does both.

I love Bill Willingham's writing style and the work of the illustrator. I became interested in this series because I grew up watching Disney movies, listening and reading these fable stories, and did role-playing with the characters as a child. Also because these fables are a part of American childhood culture and I was enthusiastic that the author created a series for adult taste that I can enjoy during this age of my life. I also appreciate art as well. Some fable characters that are in this book are Snow White, Cinderella, the Beauty and the Beast, Jack from the beanstalk fairy tale, the wolf and the three little pigs, and more. All of the fable characters live in a town called Fabletown in New York. It is reclusive to only its fable members. They have been in exile due to a powerful god or woodland sprite called the adversary. The wolf is the detective and he has to find out what happened to Rose Red which is Snow White's sister. He suspects that she is the victim of violence or possibly homicide or suicide. Snow White works for the government as director of operations. She assists the wolf during most of the investigation. It is very suspenseful and the writing style and

illustrations help keep the reader interested. This comic book shows that in reality fairy tales may not happen or as often as we want them to but if we stay diligent and work hard we may be able to reap some rewards in life. I expect for more stories to unfold in the following volumes. You have to read it for yourself and the ending will literally blow your mind. I also like how the illustrator draws flashbacks during some scenes when a person is talking. The story is presented like a movie which is what I love the most. There are also lots of surprises in this book that will have you thinking, "I didn't expect that to happen". I also like that there is a lot of text in this book. It takes me longer to read this book than it does with another type of comic book that is the same amount of pages. The only thing that could have been better is if the characters had been more interesting, unique and developed. But it's still a 5-star graphic novel to me due to the suspense, humor, plot, writing style, illustrations, and being a feel good comic book!

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