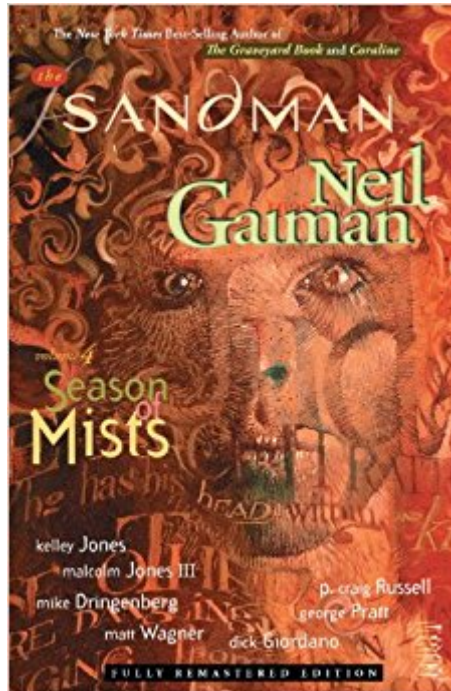


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The Sandman, Vol. 4: Season Of Mists



Synopsis

Volume Four of New York Times best selling author Neil Gaiman's acclaimed creation, with updated coloring and new trade dress. Ten thousand years ago, Morpheus condemned a woman who loved him to Hell. Now the other members of his immortal family, The Endless, have convinced the Dream King that this was an injustice. To make it right, Morpheus must return to Hell to rescue his banished love and Hell's ruler, the fallen angel Lucifer, has already sworn to destroy him.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In these days of everything having to be genre specific, style specific, demographic specific - specify your target audience, specify one linear storyline and ram your writing right down people's throats for 'em, Neil Gaiman is a so refreshing. He's having a little bit of everything with The Sandman series. You're going to see everything from satire to a brilliantly weaved mythology, to social commentary, to fairy tale telling, to suspense, to horror, to romance, to literary critique, form, and analysis - and all it delivered bound and wrapped, with a punch in the nose. And what I like best personally is that out of all the malfeasant behaviors in the world that Gaiman goes after, snobbery is the the most constant and vile. He amps it up so well and I just think you're just going to love The Sandman no matter what kind of stuff you usually read. But definitely do yourself a favor and read these in order. It's a long and amazing journey you don't want to miss.

As someone who came into the Sandman party a few decades late, I must say that this volume is a great return to form for the series as a whole. The previous volume, Dream Country, felt more like set-up for future story lines (one of which pays off in this volume), while this one feels more like the first volume in the sense that it expands upon the lore and provides fantastic character development. I honestly did not think that I would find a sequence of events that would rival the abstract battle between Morpheus and the demon in the first volume, but nearly everything in this volume rivals that scene, from Lucifer's and Morpheus' interactions to Morpheus playing host to the widest array of mythological beings I have seen outside of a Marvel or DC book (and even then, the characters are NOTHING like the aforementioned companies' iterations). Fantastic art and intriguing writing both help to make this volume of the Sandman one to be remembered for a good long while.

My favorite volume yet in Gaiman's 'The Sandman'. Thus far The Sandman has been a series of stories, rather than one cohesive one (although certain events from prior volumes are referenced in this one). I have heard that from this point onward the story does get a bit more cohesive, maybe it does, we will see, but as far as a complete story this was undoubtedly the best one yet. Along with Morpheus were are treated with another appearance by Lucifer in this volume. Not just Lucifer but Odin, Loki, Thor, Anubis, Bast, even Chaos itself graces these pages. Sound interesting? It is. Read it.

Like many young boys I read comics as a child. Spiderman and Silver Surfer were my favorites and I still enjoy dusting off an old Marvel from time to time. When I got to college many of my brothers were passing around the old president's copy of Watchmen and I was floored by how great comics could be. I made my way through many other Alan Moore works finding, with a great deal of surprise, that I rather liked Swamp Thing which brought me to Neil Gaiman. Knew the name but was unfamiliar with his work. Started in on Sandman. The first three volumes were quite good and I could see why Gaiman was mentioned along with Moore as being the gold standard. Then I read volume 4. The layers upon layers of mythology, the masterful building of suspense. this is quite simply the best comic book I have ever read (excepting for Maus, which is in a separate category. I mean, yeah it's a comic, but...if you have read it you know of which I am trying to speak. If you haven't read it do so). The third issue I nearly applauded when I finished it. My biggest fear having just finished this volume is that all other books, comic or otherwise, will be a disappointment. Oh well. The Dark Knight Rises was no Dark Knight but it was still rather well done. Fingers crossed though that Neil could somehow replicate this extraordinary tale in volume 5!

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 4 itself it is one of my personal favorites. The main storyline being that Lucifer abandons hell and leaves the keys to Morpheus. 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've heard for years and years about how great this series was, and that I was seriously depriving myself by not reading them. Well, for the most part the hype so far has held up. You can read the blurb for the story summary. Lots of good surprises, and once again Gaiman finishes up an unfinished story (that of his long-lost love Nada) that he teased several issues back. I'm finding more and more similarities in this series to Starman by James Robinson. Robinson would put out a teaser or foreshadowing in a throwaway line, then pay it off years later in a story that had you going back and saying "Oh, so THAT'S what he was referring to!" Well thought-out characters, extremely intricate plotting, the ability to talk about adult subject matter without being prurient, rewarding the careful reader with Easter Eggs, etc. That's Gaiman. As best as I can tell from the 4 volumes I've read so far, he deserved all the accolades he received. Can't wait to read the rest of the series.

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