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## Fables Vol. 15: Rose Red



## Synopsis

The next collection in the New York Times best selling series. Rose Red, sister of Snow White, has finally hit rock bottom. Does she stay there, or is it time to start the long, tortuous climb back up? The Farm is in chaos, as many factions compete to fill the void of her missing leadership. And there's a big magical fight brewing down in the town square, right under her window.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Spoilers Ahead! Fables has reached a new peak with ROSE RED, as major happenings occur in the Fable-verse. In this huge volume, we get lots of treats in a great variety of styles. Political maneuverings within the Fable community, where Geppetto has established a concerning foothold, take center stage for the beginning of the book (transitioning smoothly from Witches). Then we get a nice little back-story from Rose Red and Snow White's childhood, where we learn a great deal about the events that set these two very different sisters down their respective paths. We also learn about the disgusting seven dwarfs from fairy-tale fame. Major events are related in short excerpts throughout this volume, including the birth of Beauty and the Beast's child, the learning of an invisible grandchild by the North Wind, and we get a disturbing glimpse at the true nature of Nurse Spratt. The real meat of the book, however, details an exciting battle between the Dark Man and Frau Totenkinder. Two powerful witches battling for the future of Fable-kind and possibly the future of the Mundy world. Events are moving quickly in the story now, and the book ends with plans in limbo, including a potential evacuation of all Fables to Flycatcher's Haven. Some great bonus material is also included in this volume, including some short, illustrated answers to some questions

from famous Fables fans. There is also a Fables Puppet Theatre included, with cut-outs of many characters and backdrops, a Fables board game with play instructions, and some nice sketch work of Castle Dark. ROSE RED continues and surpasses the quality of writing and art that the series has become so well recognized for, and may even represent a new pinnacle of greatness for the series. That's an impressive feat for a 15th volume of a long-running story. Very highly recommended!

Bill Willingham keeps raking in the Eisner awards and loving adulation for The Fables, perhaps the best running Vertigo title. This month volume 15 of the TPB Graphic Novels was issued, titled Rose Red. I was disheartened by the Jack of Fables Crossover and feared Fables was going over the proverbial shark when I read Volume 13, but a return to excellence followed with graphic novel #14, Witches! I only hoped Rose Red would keep up the same integrity of story and dedication to art as Witches did to be content. But Rose Red did not maintain the quality - it lifted up several notches! Collecting issues 94 through 100, Rose Red returned the series to a place of new discovery that it was when it all began. What a wonderful story to tell. Our fables here in the mundane world were given a great new foe in the otherwise tepid Crossover volume, Mister Dark. Witches really set the tone for this superpower of the darker realms, how he ate the teeth of his victims for his power, how he turned mundane and Fable alike to witherlings, sort of undead enslaved to serve him. And he kicked the fables collective butts, driving them out of their well hidden home in the middle of New York, forced to reside on The Farm, where fables that cannot pass as human must live. How are we gonna get out this mess? Can the old wicked witch, Totenkinder (now on the "good" side, no longer eating children she lured in with candy houses) actually come up with a plan to box up Mister Dark again? Will the political intrigue of her fellow witches, long desiring her station as leader of the fable witches, get in the way? Will Boy Blue return from his horrid death, or is that all just religious PR? Will Rose Red, Snow White's sister and leader of the farm, ever get out of bed again? What calamity lies in store. Rose Red is aptly named because it focuses on the back story for Rose and her sister, Snow, but from Rose's perspective. The build up to issue 100, the marvelous way Willingham keeps complex story-lines intermeshed, and the inevitable battle between the witch and the Dark, makes Rose Red one of the best tales told to date in the Fables setting (perhaps Peter and Max is better, but it was a novel, not a graphic novel). It is also one of the best drawn. Cover art, particularly that of Rose Red herself, is outstanding. Wow - who is the model for Rose? Are we sure Snow White was the fairest in all the land? The attention to detail found in Mister Dark, and the battle he engages Totenkinder in, makes this particular volume a beauty just to look at. This is truly a top tier effort, worthy of anyone's attention. Though it serves followers of the storyline best, it

manages to be the kind of story you can read as a stand-alone book - perhaps an odd way to introduce yourself to the Fables setting, but not a bad way (I still encourage the uninitiated to read - or listen to - Peter and Max, it has the very best stand-alone quality). Vertigo has had great fortune in their story telling company, Gaiman's Sandman and Willingham's Fables keep up a long tradition of quality work. If you have not delved into Fables by now, you should grab Rose Red, and then start saving up for the 14 Graphic Novels that precede it. You'll be hooked.

I was eagerly awaiting this from & trust me, I was almost ready to purchase the individual issues on back order so I could find out what was going on. Big things happen in this volume, after all. This volume not only covers the showdown between Frau Totenkinder & Mr. Dark but also Rose Red's past & re-emergence into the world of the living. There's also a few extras at the end in the form of the game "Escape to Wolf Manor" & other goodies. (My personal favorite was a Q&A with some of the biggest non-major questions of the series.) Of course some of the goodies requires that you desecrate your volume by cutting it up, but they're still cool to look at. Now for the review. This volume was excellent. I was eagerly awaiting Rose Red's eventual return as well as the eventual fight with Mr. Dark. I'll admit that I was surprised by some of the plot points of the book & I'm now insanely curious to know what will happen as well as what the outcome will be of some of the more surprising turns at the end of the volume. I can't elaborate without spoiling it, but the next volume holds the potential to be even more exciting than this one was!

Bill Willingham is a genius. Fables is truly one of the best serials to ever be published. My only issue is that I had the Kindle version, and I'm not completely enamored of reading graphic novels on my Kindle Fire, and I even have the 8.9" version. It takes some getting used to, and ultimately, I don't think it does the medium justice. Maybe comics/graphic novels pop better on a 10" tablet, but it doesn't thrive at this form factor. But, that's my own issue, and there's nothing less than 5 stars worth of story, art and action in any Fables tale.

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