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Fables Vol. 4: March Of The Wooden Soldiers



Synopsis

Bill Willingham's runaway hit series *FABLES* continues its success in this fourth trade paperback, collecting issues #19-21 and #23-27 (issue #22 will appear in a future collection) and featuring the rise of a new threat to Fabletown. Also included is the Prestige Format Special *Fables: The Last Castle*. When Little Red Riding Hood suddenly walks through the gate between this world and the lost Fable Homelands, she's welcomed as a miraculous survivor by nearly everyone - everyone except her old nemesis, Bigby Wolf, who smells spying and subversion more than survival. But will he be able to prove his case before disaster strikes? And how will it all affect Prince Charming's upstart campaign to become the new mayor of Fabletown?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Willingham's happy idea of bringing the *Fables*--that is, the characters of Europe's best-known fairy tales--to contemporary New York rolls merrily, dangerously along in two stories. The former, "The Last Castle," guest-drawn by P. Craig Russell and Craig Hamilton, flashes back to the *Fables*' last stand in their home world; echoing the Disney and John Wayne *Alamo* flicks and Peter Jackson's *Two Towers*, it winningly introduces the long title story, in which Boy Blue reencounters the love he loses in "The Last Castle"--the grown-up Red Riding Hood. But is this the same Red? Reason for doubt precedes her in goblin sightings near a door between this and the *Fables*' worlds--and goblins can only be harbingers of impending attack by the Adversary, who drove the *Fables* into exile. Meanwhile, what's with these toughies in black suits who look like Pinocchio? Willingham never

sacrifices a joke for the sake of a thrill, or vice versa, and artist Mark Buckingham continues matching Willingham joke for thrill, and vice versa. Ray OlsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This series, is, as previously stated, phenomenal. An incredibly creative concoction, with a much more creative back story than the hit television show, once upon a time. The fact of the matter is, the lingering villain adds a lot to the story- although it poses no immediate, it is always there, as are the many character histories that add up for an intriguing reading experience, something new coming up with every chapter. The incorporation of so many different fairytales come together is also a masterstroke, from the Lilliputians of science fiction to all of the characters of nursery rhymes, such as boy blue and the cow that jumped over the moon (although it's appearance was incredibly brief). All of the tension among separate characters and connections between totally different realms of man's storytelling insures a most intriguing experience.

I've discovered Bill Willingham's FABLES only recently and I've become an instant fan. And what's not to adore? Great premise. Great characters. Great writing. Super drawing. While I've loved all the first four books in the FABLES series (I have already ordered 5-7 from), the third entry, fell just below the best volumes simply because the numbers contained too many arcs. This volume, however, ties all the individual issues together, even the beginning, which focuses on the final battle of the fables against the Adversary. The central story, or the A plot, concerns the near simultaneous arrival of Red Riding Hood and some mysterious fables who have utter disdain for all creatures that they like to refer to as "meat." They turn out to be the title characters of the story. The great battle for Fabletown that culminates the volume is both brilliantly written and drawn. In future I think I will recommend the FABLES series above all others to people who are completely new to the world of adult comics. They are immediately accessible in a way that other masterpieces like the Sandman books are not (I'm not saying that Gaiman is inaccessible, but that they are better appreciated if they are not the first graphic novels one reads). And the blend of drama, comedy, fantasy, and action would appeal to anyone not blinded by an anti-intellectual disdain of "popular" art (the irony being that self-styled intellectuals who disdain graphic art do so by being amazingly close-minded). A great entry to a great series. Can't wait for my next stack of books to arrive!

I started reading Fables not too long ago when I was looking for a long running series to complete. I loved the concept since day one and all of the characters that has appeared throughout the series. I

enjoyed this book just as I have the ones before and I plan to do with the ones after.

This fourth Fables trade paperback collects the double-length one-shot "The Last Castle" and issues #19-21 and #23-27 of the Bill Willingham series. I'll presume anyone reading this is already familiar with the series and direct the unfamiliar to reviews for the excellent Volume 1-3 TPBs. For new fans, the first two pages of Volume 4 feature capsules of the main characters and summaries of the first three story arcs. The one-shot shows the last Homelands stand of the Fables against the overpowering forces of The Adversary. It was penciled by Craig Hamilton and P. Craig Russell. This segues into the present-day, seven-part "March Of The Wooden Soldiers" story arc featuring the return of a Fable once thought lost and a new invader threatening Fabletown. The 177 pages of penciling for this segment was provided by regular Fables artist Mark Buckingham. I agree with other reviewers about this being the strongest Fables TPB thus far. The cover price offers strong value for an eight issue collection, especially considering 's discount.

The most action-packed TPB in the Fables series thus far, MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS gives us what we've all been waiting for: a confrontation between an army of the Adversary and the Fables living in the New World. Violent, bloody, and deadly, this confrontation will satisfy your thirst for action, while providing long-lasting and irrevocable influences on the future of the series. Some characters that are greatly expanded upon here include: Boy Blue, Hobbes, The Beast, Mr. Grumpkin, and the old candy-house witch. Besides the battle and the lead-up to it, this volume chronicles the developing political contest between Old King Cole and the rising star Prince Charming. Some very entertaining and poignant allusions to real world politics included in these parts. I'm not sure if I can say its absolutely the best Fables volume yet, but its certainly up to the same 5-star standard as the others and will not disappoint. Highly recommended.

Loved it. Those wooden soldiers are hilarious. "It is my fondest desire to bust a host of caps into multitudes of fleshy personages." Hahah

Following on from FABLES: LEGENDS IN EXILE, FABLES: ANIMAL FARM, FABLES: STORYBOOK LOVE, here's the 4th volume compiled from the series. In it, another bit of 'history'; a major event in Snow's and Bigby's lives is coming closer; strange creatures from the Adversary's lands come into Fabletown and almost destroy it. This one ramps up the pace, with most of the volume focused around the threat to Fabletown and its inhabitants. Be warned, some nice people

die here; reminding us that Willingham is not above killing off his characters if it suits him for the sake of drama. Nothing wrong with that, of course. Just sounding a warning. As always, top-notch entertainment that kept me reading; and re-reading. Till Noever, owlglass.com, Author: KEAEN, SELDAIENNA, CONTINUITY SLIP

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