



## Starman, Vol. 7: A Starry Knight

*James Robinson, David S. Goyer, Peter Snejbjerg (Illustrator)*

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An encounter with a mysterious Dark Colossus sends Jack Knight, Starman, spiralling through time and space - to share adventures with the Legion of Super-Heroes, to visit the long-dead planet Krypton, and to the planet Rann where he battles alien invaders alongside the legendary Adam Strange.

## Starman, Vol. 7: A Starry Knight Details

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## From Reader Review Starman, Vol. 7: A Starry Knight for online ebook

### BMK says

I can see now why this was the point where I stopped collecting the monthly editions of Starman back in the day. Kinda losing it's way, plus the art is nowhere near as good as it was.

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### Craig Williams says

I started reading Starman way back in Sophomore year of college. This was around the time I had just got back into comics - just after getting my mind blown by the likes of Watchmen by Alan Moore and The Dark Knight Returns by Frank Miller. Before those, I strictly read super hero books. Now I realized comics were capable of so much more.

What I love about the Starman series is that the main character, Jack Knight (aka "Starman"), isn't your typical superhero by a long shot. In fact, at the beginning of the series, he has nothing but scorn and ridicule for super heroes in general. Jack starts out as an antique dealer, whose father had an illustrious superhero career as Starman. The mantle is somewhat forcibly handed to Jack after his younger brother, who had inherited the Starman legacy, is murdered. I always thought it was cool that Jack forsook wearing a silly costume in exchange for wearing something more practical and, really, much cooler looking - wielding goggles and a leather jacket with a kickass zodiac star logo on the back. While Jack is somewhat reticent about being Starman initially, he eventually grows into the role, and realizes it isn't so bad to be a hero, as long as its on his terms.

Anyway, it's been a long while since I've read anything from this series. Other comics came along, money issues prevented me from picking up the rest of the comics, or I just lost interest. So imagine my elation when a couple of Starman trade paperbacks came into work. One thing I'll say is, it's a credit to James Robinson's writing that, even though I haven't read a Starman comic in a couple of years, and even skipped a whole trade paperback, it didn't take much time before I was quickly acquainted with the characters. Jack is just as much a smart ass as ever, but he's also become quite the superhero. This story arc takes Jack, and his gay alien friend (another incarnation of Starman) Mikaal, all the way into space, where Jack is looking for yet ANOTHER hero who had bared the name Starman - Will Payton. Jack is looking for Will on behalf of his girlfriend, and Will's sister, Sadie. Jack and Mikaal travel to every corner of the DC universe, running into the League of Super Heroes in the 31st century, and even time traveling to Krypton before its destruction and meeting Superman's dad, Jor-El. It's a hell of a crazy adventure, and one I'm not used to Jack being a part of. Most of the other Starman stories, ironically enough, took place on Earth. Robinson has always had a knack for telling a contemporary superhero story, but also paying homage to the Golden Age of comics - something that current DC writing wonder boy, Geoff Johns, does with equal skill (as a matter of fact, Johns writes a nice little introduction at the beginning of this trade). It must be mentioned, too, that Tony Harris's art is stellar stuff as well - he does a good job of making everyone look uniquely average. What I mean is, most comic artists have a tendency to use the same template when drawing characters, to the point where they all basically look the same (Steve Dillon and Alex Ross, while both superb at what they do, are notorious for this). Harris's characters are all distinct, but normal - Jack isn't a squarejawed hero. He's a normal guy, with normal features, and somewhat awful, cheesy taste in clothing (which makes his disdain towards superhero costumes all the more ironic).

Anyway, sorry for the long review - I kind of wanted to try to cover the whole series up to now, as well as review this trade. My summary is this: Starman hasn't missed a step. Even though I've certainly read better since my first introduction to series, it still hasn't lost any of its charm. I'm anxious to read the rest of Jack Knight's adventures until he finally quits being Starman and hands the cosmic rod over to Star-Spangled Girl (I'm such a fucking nerd, btw).

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### **Michael says**

Following the big build up in the previous graphic novel, Jack Knight finally sets out into space on his quest to find his girlfriend's brother, former Starman Will Payton. The book collects Starman issues 47-53. Tony Harris is gone. There's still a gallery of his original covers but on the series his art is sorely missed. The depth of expression that so characterized his Starman artwork is now absent. The early issues in this collection look bland by comparison and expressions seem to alternate between gob open and gob shut, Jack himself looking frighteningly like the cartoon Rin Tin Tin. The steady Robinson pen is still there though delivering some great Starman stories. So Jack Knight in space eh - pretty cool. The look and the feel is certainly more Flash Gordon than Star Trek in a Magical Mystery Tour sort of way. Some classic stories from the DC archives are given a succession of nods, notably the Superman origin with a visit to pre destruction Krypton and the classic Swamp Thing 'My Blue Heaven'. It's still a good comic even with the loss of Tony Harris but I can't help missing Opal and its inhabitants.

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### **Stephen Theaker says**

Jack heads into space on his quest for an earlier Starman, taking a fairly roundabout route. The art and writing are top-notch, and as always in this title there are some lovely nods to the past, but I still find Jack himself to be the least interesting part of the book.

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### **Alan says**

Jack Knight finally gets underway in his quest to find Sadie's brother Will out among the stars. Perhaps part of the weakness of this volume is creator James Robinson takes on a co-author in David Goyer (just look at his IMBD credits to see why I don't think he is much of a writer). Lots of stops along the way is why this tale doesn't feel like it moves forward much as they go to the 30th Century, Krypton before it exploded, the Blue Planet and Rann. At least Mikaal showed some improvement as a character in this volume.

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### **Mark says**

Humph. Ride the coattails of Alan Moore's Swamp Thing + add a gay blue alien subplot that has literally no basis in the prior characterization... hope the next book gets better than this or I'm giving up.

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