



Fables

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The final battle between the free Fables of the mundane world and the Empire occupying their former Homelands is here! The creatures of myth and fairytale lore have assembled together to finally face the Adversary and his hordes. But victory will not come without a price—who will live and who will die for the fate of the Homelands?

Bill Willingham's Eisner Award-winning, *New York Times* best-selling series comes to the deluxe hardcover format here in *Fables*: The Deluxe Edition, Book Nine in one of the most epic storylines in the series' long history.

Collecting: *Fables* 70-82

Fables Details

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Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Fantasy, Urban Fantasy

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From Reader Review Fables for online ebook

EvabutcallmeAva says

It took me ages to finish this volume! Maybe because I was not really invested in the first half. The war finally came and I didn't find it particularly interesting. Could be because I didn't particularly like Boy Blue character so since he was told from his POV I found it quite boring. But I did like the last half of this volume (the Dark Ages and so on) and I actually found Boy Blue struggle with his injury more captivating than any other story about him so far (together with his amorous adventures with the supposedly red riding hood- Many volumes ago!).

I'm curious to see what Darkness will bring.

Fox says

This volume of Fables wraps up the first story arc with the invasion of the Homelands. We get war stories and spy stories, heroic sacrifices and attempts at redemption. The story is nothing short of epic, and heartrending as we lose some we've certainly come to love... and we get a bit of insight into why the Emperor chose to do what he did.

Before you even have time to catch your breath "The Dark Ages" begins and ushers in the second Fables arc. Right back from the heels of a massive war more trouble emerges, a foe a good bit more frightening than the Emperor had been. One has to wonder where this is heading, though I will say it really doesn't look good for the Fables about now.

Wonderful writing, and great artwork - though I wasn't crazy about the guest artists this time around.

Eric says

4 stars

Chad says

The culmination of what the series has been leading up to at this point, war with the Empire. I was a little surprised at how the war was handled, the story was much shorter than I expected. I did like the inventive ways that Fables mixed magic and modern weaponry. Mark Buckingham outdoes himself on the art with how he arms the animal Fables.

Then it turns out there are some unintended consequences to defeating a centuries old empire in The Dark Ages. Parts of this are just gutwrenching. (view spoiler) Mister Dark is creepy as hell and epitomizes the boogeyman brought to life. Plus, Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser.

Sean says

Simply put, Fables is amazing. This deluxe edition collects two volumes of this great series and its epic. First, the great war with the Homelands plays out here and its fantastic and heartbreaking. The battles unfold naturally and all make sense for the world we're in. The second part of the book was truly shocking and takes the title in a super new and interesting direction. The book moved me and was a joy. The art, mostly by Mark Buckingham is still the gold standard for matching a book's tone. I only want him to pencil these characters. Overall, near perfection. I loved it.

Arielle Walker says

It's been so long since I read any Fables that I completely forgot where I was up to - and inadvertently ended up re-reading one of the saddest storylines in the entire series.

Still, I have no regrets - at least I've found my place again!

Lauren says

This one did a solid enough job. I liked the first half. The second half got a little grimdark (no pun intended) for my taste, but I suppose it was in compensation for the Adversary being defeated. They had to establish that there are still really serious problems. I just kinda wish they didn't all have to be thrown in at once. It was gutsy of them to kill off Blue (and to a lesser extent Prince Charming), since he was easily one of the most likable characters. They maintained the pathos well, while still allowing themselves an out later should they want to bring him back. Good entry. Would definitely read the first half again.

Brittany says

Another book that it took me an unfortunate amount of time to read and then was totally sped through. This was a particularly amazing volume in this series, if I do say so myself. It was pretty much chock full of drama from beginning to end. A lot of tragedy has befallen these characters, and I'm so curious to see how they deal with everything that's happened.

Relstuart says

I did not expect the war against the Enemy/Adversary to be wrapped up so early in the saga or the way that it was. I also didn't expect some of the deaths (at least not the way they happened). There were some moving events (Boy Blue's conversation with Red where he talks to her about how she rebounds with people in her life was actually pretty deep and not the type of thing you see expressed that often). There is a big change in the status quo and I am curious to see how this shakes out.

Aildiin says

This is a critical book for any Fables fan. It concludes what could be called the first Fables cycle (the war with the Enemy) and starts the second cycle (the new enemy being Mister Dark). The conclusion to the war with the Enemy is pretty anti-climatic and not really a surprise seeing what happened in the previous book with the creation of Haven.

The introduction of Mister Dark and the consequences of the end of the War (narrated in the Dark Ages 5 issues story) are however a mix of great writing and drawing that comes highly recommended. Mixed in with this are few stories with guest artists where the art is really poor in my view and one story involving Cinderella which is decent but doesn't contribute much to the overall story. It should be noted that as usual the cover art for the collected issues is included and these are some of the finest covers James Jean ever drew for Fables.

In term of content, at 367 pages it is the biggest deluxe volume yet and is priced like the previous ones so this is nice too.

All in all this deserves a solid 4 stars (the Dark Ages story deserves 5 stars).

Vicenç Sanz says

No tengo demasiado claro cómo seguirá la obra desde éste punto, porque hasta la llegada de éste tomo ésto iba de unas fábulas que se habían visto obligadas a dejar sus mundos natales y que ahora empezaban a plantearse un contraataque.

Pues bien, en éste tomo tenemos la guerra y su final, las estrategias contra el adversario y lo que acaba por parecer una victoria (no diré para quién) definitiva. Pero el comic no termina, sigue adelante con los estragos de la guerra, sus primeras consecuencias... lo que podría ser un epílogo a la historia y terminar así.

El caso es que todo evoluciona, gira, cambia y nos presenta una nueva trama que parece tener cuerda para rato: poderes encerrados por el adversario para contenerlos y aprobecharlos que son liberados. Mundos que vivían en paz que pasan a la anarquía. Y las fábulas que conocemos obligadas a exiliarse de nuevo.

Es un muy tomo, que toca temas duros (como la muerte o el desamor) y lo hace de frente, sin dejarse nada. Es también épico, con una guerra que llega a hacerse incluso corta. Y acaba por ser malrollero, pensando en lo que está por venir.

Eso sí, el tomo anterior, el de Papamoscas no creo que llegue a ser superado en ningún momento durante la obra, me parece una obra maestra en sí misma de obligada lectura. Aun así, a un nivel altísimo que deja la incógnita sobre si podrá mantenerse en el futuro. Yo sigo disfrutando, y mucho más que al principio.

Arctialuna says

With this volume, the war for the homeland ends and, with it, this first big arch of 9 deluxe volumes.

I've decided to stop buying this comic. I really don't enjoy them *that* much and they are expensive. Moreover, it seems that the following arch is not as good as this first one. Since I nearly enjoyed what I read for now (I feel indifferent to most of the characters, *** SPOILER ALERT*** although Blue's death was painful ***END OF SPOILER*** I can live with this end)

Maybe I will search for the story on the library or online, but Fables was a disappointment to me. I would like to buy more comics, but I learned with Fables that I can't judge a story by its cover (do I learn that now, really? No. But I can't help to buy books with a beautiful cover sorry).

I haven't read that much comic, really. So if you want to recommend me something, go ahead!

Leticia says

This series is an entertaining page-turner and I've read my way now through nine collections of stories in a one week marathon. Yay me! I now desperately need water and a protein bar or I'll faint. ;-)

Shannon Appelcline says

The War and its Aftermath. One of those situations where combining a few of the old trades results in a more satisfying story.

Kingdom Come (70). This is a very nice, tense prelude to War & Pieces. I was also mostly pleased to see a focus on the relationship between Blue and Red, even if it did descend into stereotypical friend-zone inanity [8/10].

Skullduggery (71-72). Another nice prelude to War & Pieces. Cindy is always a great character, and she's used well here ... and Willingham does a good job of continuing to suggest tension for the upcoming arc ... as we learn the invasion has already started [7/10]

War & Pieces (73-75). This is a good enough conclusion to the major arc of *Fables* ... but it's hard not to be disappointed nonetheless. We get two issues of things going swimmingly, and so we're missing tension. Even when things take a turn for the worst, this all seems too easy. After the rather magnificent *Good Prince* arc, it was hard for what came next not to be a letdown ... but sadly this doesn't even seem to try. There are some magnificent visuals, and things clash together nicely, but it's not the epic that was needed [6+/10].

Around the Town (76). I suppose it was important to show the Adversary settling into Fabletown, but there's little surprising to this tale [5+/10].

The Dark Ages (77-82). An excellent followup to the war that had some of the hard consequences that its predecessor lacked. It's also lovely to see some of those consequences be of the unintended sort, where the Fables just didn't know what they're unleashing.

Issue #81 may be the most heartbreakingly sad issue of *Fables*, particularly Blue's conversation with Rose. (I think Willingham had a hard time always selling Rose's selfishness and immaturity, but when you reread this, you better understand where the end of the series came from.)

Meanwhile, the introduction of Mr. Dark makes him feel like a strong and scary new arch-villain. Finally: Fafhrd & The Gray Mouser! All around a strong and enjoyable story [8+/10].

Return to the Jungle Book (77-81). This is a nice focus on Mowgli, and a nice follow-up to the War, but otherwise a shallow story [6/10].

Doreen says

Binge-reading. Series review to follow.

That said, Cindy kicks all the ass.
