



Avatar: The Last Airbender: North and South

Gene Luen Yang (Contributor) , Michael Dante DiMartino , Bryan Konietzko , Gurihiru (Illustrations)

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When Katara and Sokka return home to the Southern Water Tribe, they are shocked to find that it has gone from a small village to a bustling city! Malina, a Northerner, is behind the change and plans to unify the two groups, but Gilak, a Southerner, leads a fierce rebellion to stop her. In the face of these two opposing tribes, Katara will have to make peace with her nostalgia and distrust to save the home she loves from being permanently torn apart.

This special, oversized edition of *Avatar: the Last Airbender -- North and South* features volumes 1-3 with annotations by writer Gene Luen Yang and artists Gurihiru, as well as a sketchbook section with new, behind-the-scenes material!

Avatar: The Last Airbender: North and South Details

Date : Published November 7th 2017 by Dark Horse Books

ISBN : 9781506701950

Author : Gene Luen Yang (Contributor) , Michael Dante DiMartino , Bryan Konietzko , Gurihiru (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 240 pages

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

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From Reader Review Avatar: The Last Airbender: North and South for online ebook

Samuel Rodríguez says

El último cómic de *Avatar: La leyenda de Aang* que ha salido hasta la fecha. Y digo "hasta la fecha" porque parece que no va a ser el final.

Éste me ha parecido más flojete que los anteriores, pero aun así tiene aspectos interesantes. Por ejemplo, el choque de culturas que se produce entre los habitantes del Sur (con un modo de vida más tribal) y el resto del mundo, lo que lleva a una serie de problemas debido a la incomprendición por parte de unos y otros. A partir de ahí se desarrollan temas como el impacto del progreso tecnológico en una sociedad más tradicional, la xenofobia, el aferrarse a las tradiciones como si fueran algo sagrado e inmutable...

Es decir, que una vez más un cómic de *Avatar*, a pesar de estar dirigido a toda la familia (y, más en concreto, a los jóvenes), habla de asuntos importantes. Como siempre, lo hace con sencillez pero sin simplificarlo; sin reducirlo a un blanco y negro. Y como en las entregas previas, los personajes evolucionan a raíz de lo que han vivido: en especial Katara, a la que considero la principal protagonista de esta historia.

No quedándome por ahora más cómics de la serie de tv por leer, puedo decir que me han parecido lecturas muy entretenidas e interesantes. Me mantengo a la espera de lo próximo que publiquen en Dark Horse.

Ba Crofts says

Excellent conclusion to the comics, but I still wish there were more!

Chris says

It's with some sadness that I finish this final Avatar book. I've become very attached to these characters over the past few months, so it's with mixed feelings I bid them farewell.

I still have *The Legend of Korra* to go, but it's this Team Avatar I love, so it will be hard to let them go.

This final book gave everyone a chance to shine, all the major characters are part of this story. I'm glad it focused mostly on Katara and Sokka who have felt a bit like secondary characters for many of these books. I love that it ends where it all started for them, back in their (not so little) village.

The overarching themes about expansion and colonialism have featured heavily in these stories, and I'm sure it's a nice bridge between the two animated series. It's nice to see the heroes on different sides of these issues as it goes to show there's no single easy answer.

The artwork throughout was great, it was like the show but with added touches that weren't possible in an animated fashion. Great series, I'm glad I got the library editions.

Talbot Hook says

In terms of illustrations, this volume was the most striking by far; some of the images were truly lovely, and I felt as though the characters looked themselves as they haven't before.

As with all of these comics, the plot was simplistic and rushed (though I realize adults are not the target audience, so this can perhaps be forgiven), though it touched upon many good things, weaving in past characters and granting insight into a few remaining gaps in our knowledge.

The major themes: progress/tradition; ethnocentrism/Others; cultural hegemony/self-governance; change and memory; ideological conflict, as opposed to the existential conflicts portrayed in the show; environmentalism/economic independence and profit; nation-building; international politics; stereotyping; peaceful protest v. violence for political gain; The Politics of Eternity.

Also, Sokka shows wisdom?

And Gran Gran gives sage advice: "Wounds flow from wrong actions. Wrong actions flow from wrong beliefs."

Earl says

It's good to reconnect with Team Avatar in this new trilogy continuing the storylines from the TV series.

I had the read and enjoyed the other four trilogies before watching and loving the series- and even watched the spin-off series The Legend of Korra- so I've become more of a fanatic with official new stories.

Katara and Sokka return home only to find everything's changed. It's a battle between maintaining and preserving the past while trying to move forward. The stakes are high when both sides have valid points and loyalties shift and lives threatened.

I highly recommend reading the each series as a whole when each part comes out or waiting for the omnibus editions and maybe space them out because the plot lines may seem formulaic as each member of Team Avatar practically have to tackle a new world after a devastating war and coming to terms with the old and new ways of life.

Book Roast says

I'm so sad this is the final comic collection in the series! I have so much love for Avatar, which, I have no doubt, influenced the rating of this.

The art is, as always, stunning. STUNNING. However, I always found the water tribe focused stories a bit less interesting to me and thus found the story a bit lacking. It followed the usual path of conflict, however I did love the focus on politics (progress vs tradition) without involving religion. I thought that was brilliant. I

still found the story a bit predictable, didn't really feel intrigued at all.
But seeing all the characters again still made me all nostalgic so I can't help but love this.
Lower end of 4 stars for sure, but come on. It's Avatar.
Can't believe it's actually truly over, I'm tear bending, help.

Spencer Cartledge says

Out of the past the Avatar: The Last Airbender epilogue comics, I appreciate this story's lack of spirits and decide to focus on the cultural and political aspects of the world, with the tension between tradition and modernization of the Southern Water Tribe.

However, the opposing ideology of the villain is pretty watered-down and simplified, and the main conflict of the story revolves around this over-simplification, with characters being quick to action without any real reasoning as to Why it couldn't be handled any other way.

For the themes of Nationalism, Modernization and Colonialism, I can't help but feel that this story is a strong reaction to current real-life societal climates (especially with the oil). It was readily apparent, though not enough to be TOO heavy-handed.

As always, the art is amazing and well-done. The sketchbook in the back is always a great place to see how the art and panels are built up from rough sketches to the actual panels.

The one thing I had trouble with in the book was the snowmobile. I know having motorized vehicles in Avatar fits with the timeline, but it having electric lights seemed a bit too advanced for not being Korra yet.

That's a little ridiculously nitpicky, but whatever.

Ashley says

This comic continues to be a great continuation of the TV show, but I really wish Aang and Katara would stop calling each other "sweetie." It makes all of my insides cringe.

Travis Mueller says

Although I really enjoyed *Avatar: The Last Airbender* I only watched the full series once, and I finished it several years ago. So although the quality has stayed high in this series, I've found myself feeling less attached to it as time goes on. Still, I felt like this was a really a good story and was even a bit moving. I'm sad that this is the last one to be produced by this team, since I think they do such a wonderful job of capturing the feel of the animated series, especially in the art. I remember hearing that another graphic novelist whose work I've read is slated to do more continuations, and I kind of wonder how well that will turn out since their visual style just isn't the same.

Annie says

I finished this in one sitting and feel happy but a little empty. This is the last installment in the ATLA series and it kills me a bit. However, I'm thankful for such a great story that I had the privilege to grow up with. I probably will be watching the show and reading the comics until I am very old.

I really appreciated how the story was setting up for Legend of Korra especially since the rift between the North and the South was a major problem in LOK.

But most of all, I was happy to see team avatar all together again one last time. Every single one of them was accurately portrayed and brought a lot of joy to me while reading this.

So thank you for this ride. This story has honestly and wholeheartedly changed my life for the better. The wisdom laced throughout has brought a lot of peace and perspective for me. I won't ever take it for granted.

TEAM AVATAR FOREVER!

Katie says

4.5 stars! Needs more Zuko! :P At least there was lots of Sokka! But let's be honest here -- the conflict in this book is TOO REAL. This book is a thematic bonanza, as the characters confront colonialism, "civilization," and issues of culture. It's great to see Team Avatar struggle with these issues and look forward to the future with hope, as these problems do still plague today's society. Because of the weighty issues and characters' genuine struggle with these questions, I'm rating this the highest TLA graphic novel since The Search. Also, Katara and Sokka's homecoming to a changed place reminded me strongly of The Scouring of the Shire, the penultimate chapter of the LOTR books, where the heroes come home, but home has changed. Love that Katara and Sokka have such a worldly perspective, having traveled so extensively with Aang and the gang.

Joshua Maher says

Let me start by first saying that this book (and the other four Avatar comics released so far) are terrific. The Last Airbender TV series was so amazing that it is hard not to be concerned with the potential of diminishing returns when the series continued, especially through a different medium. This series proved that these concerns were unfounded. These stories are not just revisiting characters and stories that we already know. They are all unique, original stories that are built in the world that we have grown to love. The story, the characters, the relationships, and the politics of the world continue to evolve from where we left them in the TV series and start to bridge the gap between The Last Airbender and The Legend of Korra.

With that being said, this is my least favorite of the five stories released so far. It is a testament to Gene Luen Yang's writing and Gurihiru's art that my least favorite of the stories is still an extremely enjoyable experience. The story and art are still top notch, but the scope and importance of this story seems quite a bit smaller than the previous ones. It is unfortunate that this will be the last story that this creative team gets to share with us. While I am still excited to see where the series goes from here with a new team, I am very sad

that I will no longer get new stories from this team that has continually exceeded my expectations.

Without going into too much detail and risk spoiling the story, there are quite a few highlights I'd like to mention about this story in particular. I loved how the extended story of the comics has grown and become important enough, that it does not seem out of place when there are call backs to previous comics. These are used extremely effectively multiple times throughout the book. I also really enjoyed how much this story planted the seeds for the drastically different society that we got to see in Korra. Finally, it was thoroughly enjoyable to see the evolution of Sokka and Katara as they both deal with the post-Fire Nation/pre-Republic world and the drastic changes that are happening in their world. Once again, Yang's writing coupled with Gurihiru's art fully capture the essences of the characters, while still allowing them to change and grow.

Katie says

This has been an amazing journey. Avatar has been a huge part of my life since the first episode aired all those years ago. It has always been one of my favorite series, and I can't believe it's finally come to an end. It's possible that in the future, there could be more from Team Avatar (aka the Boomerang Gang, who remembers that episode?), but I get the feeling that the major story arc is finished. I'm crying buckets over here.

This last iteration of these graphic novels was not my favorite of the lot, but it was precious and I loved it. It was a very fitting end to the gang's adventures. It was sweet and gave me all the warm-fuzzies. This book was shorter than all the others, so I think its purpose was more to wrap up the story and to set the stage for the events and overall political scene in Legend of Korra. I definitely appreciate that, as it finishes things nicely, while helping to bridge the gap between the two series.

Would I love to read/watch about every single day between the end of this book and the first episode of Korra? Heck yes. But is that going to happen? No. So while I would definitely like to see some literature on the crew as adults, I'll be content for now.

This world and these characters are so important to me, and I can't believe I'm finally leaving this world. I'll forever revisit, whether just in my mind or through a rewatch/read. I can't say how much this story means to me.

Teresa says

This is the fifth and final installment to the Avatar: The Last Airbender graphic novel line of story arcs. I have not reviewed the other arcs previously, but I have read them, and if you are a fan of the TV show, these continue right where the show left off. The Search involves a search for Zuko's mother, so if you ever wanted to know, it is vastly interesting. There are also a number of instances in which there are set-ups that show the beginnings of the industrialization that we see in The Legend of Korra, such as different benders working and living together, as well as the beginnings of Toph's metalbending academy. I also only get the "Library" editions, which are basically huge hardcover editions that not only have all three volumes of the arc within, but have annotations by the writer's and the artist's, which are always fun to read because they share where they got their ideas, reflections or connections to previous arcs or the show, and lead ups to events and things in The Legend of Korra.

North and South in particular is almost a stand alone arc. There are some characters who have appeared in the previous graphic novels, but they are not a huge part of the plot with what is going on in this arc. There are also occasional references to the previous arcs or the show, and in these cases, the annotations are useful and fun.

North and South begins with Katara and Sokka returning to the Southern Water Tribe, but they find that their home has been drastically altered in a more future-forward way, their father becoming chief of the south and having a huge office building. A palace is being build for him, and Katara finds that all this industrial and progressive infrastructure is not what the Southern Water Tribe is meant to be about.

The Northern Water Tribe has come in and helped design all the progressive buildings and aims to make the Southern Water Tribe more like them, which upsets not only Katara, but many of the natives of the south as well. Those who oppose the north infiltrating the south have banded together to make a rebellious group to bring down the northern leaders who are trying to get oil out of the rich grounds in the south. When Katara's father starts becoming more open to northern ideas and policies, the south also turns against him. This is the beginnings of the tensions that we see between the Northern and Southern Water Tribes in The Legend of Korra.

With the help of the Avatar and their friends, Katara must figure out what it really means to be of the Southern Water Tribe, and how to find it in herself to follow the right path. When her culture and home are being changed from what she once thought and still believes her home to be, she reflects on change and what it means for her people.

Overall, I enjoyed this graphic novel. Some of the other ones were a bit more interesting, but this was a closure to lead up into the future events of Korra. It is a shame the artistic team has disbanded, but perhaps they will have more adventures for the Avatar and his friends in the future.

Katy says

Another great story from this creative team—really exciting to see the seeds sown for both the Northern vs. Southern water tribe hard feelings and nearly for the Equalist movement as well, both of which are extremely highlighted in Legend of Korra seasons 1 and 2. Okay but the second to last scene with Katara and Sokka was a real tear bender. I get why they wanted to have all characters back together, but it seemed like a bit of a stretch to believe that worked out, and it didn't seem like there was enough for each character to do in the climactic scene. Sad to see Gene Luen Yang and Gurihiru's time end in the world of the Avatar comics, but extremely happy to see that another long story has already been scripted, as well as another anthology of short stories!!
