



Fables, Vol. 9: Sons of Empire

Bill Willingham (Writer) , Mark Buckingham (Illustrator) , Steve Leialoha (Illustrator) , Gene Ha (Illustrator) , Andrew Pepoy (Illustrator) , Joshua Middleton (Illustrator) , Mike Allred (Illustrator) , Iñaki Miranda (Illustrator) , more... M.K. Perker (Illustrator) , Jim Rugg (Illustrator) , Joëlle Jones (Illustrator) , D'Israeli (Illustrator) , Jill Thompson (Illustrator) , David Lapham (Illustrator) , John K. Snyder III (Illustrator) , Eric Shanower (Illustrator) , Barry Kitson (Illustrator) ...less

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Collecting: *Fables* 52-59

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Bill Willingham (Writer) , Mark Buckingham (Illustrator) , Steve Leialoha (Illustrator) , Gene Ha (Illustrator) , Andrew Pepoy (Illustrator) , Joshua Middleton (Illustrator) , Mike Allred (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Fables, Vol. 9: Sons of Empire for online ebook

Punk says

Graphic Novel. The Empire Strikes Back, Or At Least Holds A Meeting To Discuss Doing So. I just don't know about you, *Fables*. You've been been getting more and more fragmented as time goes on. I no longer feel like I'm reading a cohesive story with a bigger purpose. In fact, I think my favorite stories in this volume were all less than four pages and had little to do with the main plot. "Hair" is short and bittersweet, and "A Thorn in Their Side?" has some interesting art by Michael Allred and a promising new character, but the rest of the trade is pretty boring. "Father and Son" is almost completely terrible. Here, Allred's art is ugly and poorly drawn, the color's dark and greasy-looking, and Bigby and Snow aren't their usual surly, spunky selves. They just haven't been the same since Snow had her cubs.

Two stars. I hate to say it, but I think *Fables* has jumped the shark.

Sylvester Kuo says

Sons of Empire focused on Adversary's plan to rule the mundy world and Bigby family celebrating winter. With some unnecessary short stories in between.

Wing Kee says

A story of sons and fathers.

World: The art is always great, sure there are some great artists here but mainly Buckingham and his art is amazing. He's responsible for a lot of the love I have for this world, it's full of character and the creativity is wonderful. The world building is pretty great with the continuing story of the war between Fabletown and the Emperor, it's building towards something bigger and setting the stage for it. Then there is the world building where it's about characters and mainly the wolf family, amazing.

Story: The writing is so good, it's effortless in it's storytelling and world building. The story with the war is done well, the picture it paints is horrendous but also you can't turn away cause it's also magical and mesmerizing, the moving pieces in that story is done well. Both sides and their story and the intrigue is great. The Christmas stuff just warms your heart and brings out all the feels after the doom and gloom of the previous couple of issues, Willingham is so good at putting magic and joy back in the series to balance the dire and gloom. The story of Bigby and the family visit his father is great, not only is it a story about character but it also has huge consequences for the war. The complex relationship is done so well and the art is so beautiful showing the personalities and emotions of all involved.

Characters: There are so many characters that are great in this book from Fly to Ghepetto to Charming to Bigby all are so wonderfully written with great chemistry and dialog on the page. I want to focus on the cubs this time around as we get a large dose of them when we have the Christmas and also the trip issues and it's these kids and their slow and sure development that shows great character work. There are six that we see

and their dialog and the art that is there to separate them is so well done, we get the cubs words through Ambrose and we see the balance Bigby is instilling in them with the wolf and the human form and it's these little moments that create a beautiful family picture that Willingham will use in the future, from Blossom to Winter, Dar to Conner these characters are just wonderfully done.

I like this arc, it's not as action packed as previous arcs and there is a lot of setting up to do, but I love it cause these issues were about character and that is the best thing about *Fables*. Oh and the Fly stuff is AWESOME!!!

Onward to the next book!

Ritinha says

Colin gets a cameo. A creepy cameo.

I miss Colin.

Sigh!

Quentin Wallace says

I'm starting to sound like a broken record, but this was another great volume. The adversary and his minions start the planning of a huge attack on our world. We see Bigby Wolf take the children to meet his father, and his brothers as well. We also get a christmas tale and several questions are answered.

Miss Akacia . says

En realidad le doy 4,5 estrellas a este volumen. Aunque hacía tiempo que había pausado *Fables* y apenas me acordaba de las cosas, me he alegrado un montón al retomarlo y al volverme a encontrar con todos esos personajes que ya parecen unos viejos amigos. La cosa, además, se está poniendo interesante y el capítulo del día de navidad ha sido entrañable. Nunca me cansaré de decir que Lobo es mi personaje favorito, siempre me acaba sacando una sonrisa.

Estoy deseando conocer la historia de Ambrose.

Jonathan Terrington says

I'm going to come right out and say it: *Fables* is one of the most remarkably consistent graphic novel or comic book series that I have ever read. It has intriguing characters (characters to love, characters to hate, characters that sit idly in the background) - and it should since they were drawn from other stories, fairytales and mythology. There I would love a studio to get their hands on these and turn them into a television series or a movie franchise.

This particular volume's story focuses on the idea of launching a war against the Mundane world (our Earth) from Fableland and the pre-emptive strikes necessary. This of course follows on from what Bigby did in a secret mission in the previous volume. The Adversary and his forces therefore make several plans (which I presume will be followed up on in later novels) in regard to how to attack Fabletown and turn our world into their own personal prison world. Speaking of Bigby Wolf, this volume focuses on Bigby's family and particularly his relationship with his father. It's a fascinating analysis of the nature of relationships in a way and I found the way in which Bigby responds to his father incredibly interesting. The fact that Bigby's father is Mr North (view spoiler) has always shown off the unique way in which *Fables* deals with the source material.

All of this goes to show that taking ideas from other sources is not necessarily a bad thing. Not when you create your own incredibly clever spin on them. And that is what *Fables* constantly delivers. A unique twist on old fairytales and classic stories that have become part of our shared Western mythos (and a part of the Eastern Mythology also). *Fables* remains a highly recommended graphic novel series to begin. It has the depth of full classic novels but with the added beauty of picture artwork.

Jess says

Just as I was considering giving up on the *Fables* series, *Volume 9: Sons of Empire* delivered a more entertaining, though still fractured, narrative. The Adversary and his empire hold a conference discussing their plans for Fabletown; Hansel is made the Adversary's special envoy in Fabletown; there are a few short Christmas stories; Snow & Bigby visit Bigby's father the North Wind; and throughout the volume are a number of short character pieces, including some that were inspired by reader questions.

These shorter pieces were probably my favourites, especially any involving Boy Blue, and give a bit of insight into what Fabletown and its inhabitants are like when not directly involved in the plot against their enemy. There are also a number of different artist's work featured within this volume, some I really liked such as Michael Allred's illustration of the Bigby & Snow vacation, others giving a different interpretation of the familiar characters.

Not quite a strong enough volume to garner four stars, as the narrative is still all over the place, but a vast improvement on the last couple of volumes.

Scott says

Still the best graphic novel series ever written and this is no exception.

After Fabletown struck back at the Adversary in the last volume this volume has everyone taking a breath. Plans are hatched, forces put in place, moves made. And there are about 10-12 short stories that give us background on a lot of the "players".

Hansel - what a great bad guy.

Bigby - such a bad ass.

Flycatcher - can't wait till the next volume to see where this goes.

Boy Blue & Rose Red - hmmmm

Highest possible recommendation.

Celise says

The things I've been missing in the past few volumes have returned (in 2007, but I'm here now)! I really loved the Christmas special and the focus on my favourite characters.

The art in issues 57 and 59 made me cringe a little bit. I'm sure Michael Allred is a skilled artist, but I don't know if his style really suits the style of the series. It would have been nice to recognize the characters, but it looks like he made them up all on his own rather than basing them off of what they've been established to look like. I kind of wish those ones had been rendered by Mark Buckingham. Look at me, complaining about something so subjective, in a book published 11 years ago. Eh.

StoryTellerShannon says

THE SERIES

What if fairy tale characters existed in our world? And what if they had ways of not revealing themselves to us per their magic? This popular series focuses on such a concept. It has the usual archetypes and characters taking some liberties but always trying to make things interesting. Note that the focus is typically upon European fairy tales with a smidgen from other regions.

As of 2012 this series has won 14 Eisner Awards, most notably Best Writer, Best Short Story and Best Series.

There was talk of turning this into a TV series but instead ABC decided to go with "Once Upon A Time". Bad move.

Telltale Games announced the making of a video game in February 2011.

Recommended for mature readers.

BOOK NINE

The first half of this graphic novel focuses upon the many lieutenant villains of the Adversary (the big villain versus the Fables). I really enjoyed appearances by Lumi (The Snow Queen), Hansel, The Nome King, Bright Day, Pinocchio, Geppetto and Muddlecock.

What follows are the plans to bring havoc upon Earth and meanwhile the Fables are using their resources as well as those of the Mundies (the humans) to surprise the Adversary's Empire themselves. There are also several flashbacks of what said people were doing, especially Hansel's time with Gretel and then his breaking away from her in their adult years as he not so surprisingly became a witch hunter.

The other half of the tales varied in quality for me. Most of them were 2-4 pages with short stories especially focusing on the various Christmas events. I'd say Wolf and Snow White taking their children to visit Wolf's father was one of the more interesting shorts though this one was more than the usual four pages.

Artwork varied for me. Some was the usual Fables style and others felt like a notch or two down like it was rushed.

This covers issues 52-59 of the trade paperbacks. Written by Bill Willingham and artwork by Mark Buckingham but other contributions by several artists who would fill a page.

ARTWORK PRESENTATION: B; CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: B to B plus; STORY/PLOTTING: B minus to B; FABLE FOCUSES: B; WHEN READ: 2010 (reviewed early October 2012 after a reread); OVERALL GRADE: B.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

Sons of Empire was my last Fables installment before I stated a voluntary hiatus from the series. Fact is, I love this series, and I am not eager to get burned out on it, or to be devastated when it's over. So I am going to take a break and investigate other graphic novel series for a little bit. Truth is, I doubt I'll stay away for long. So let's get to the review.

This was an excellent installment to the series. It was great because we get to see Bigby and Snow and their cubs as a settled, happy family, which gave me lots of joy. Also, they go visit Bigby's estranged father, who is also the beloved grandfather of the cubs. Bigby is hesitant to do so, but Snow asked for this as her Christmas gift. Of course, this turns out to be quite an adventure. In a word, this was a fun set of stories. There was danger for the cubs, but nothing they couldn't handle, with the help of their dad. Snow White went into a mommy rage, for good reasons. I don't think the North Wind will make such a mistake again with the cubs. It was interesting to meet some of Bigby's family. Kind of reminded me of trips to visit my family. I think some other people can understand what I mean if you have some interesting family members like I do. The art was lush and gorgeous as always. I enjoy seeing the cubs and how consistent the artwork is in individualizing them from each other. As anyone knows, I am a huge fan of Bigby and Snow, so just having more of them was a gem. This part alone is worth five stars.

The Sons of Empire arc in which we go to the Fablelands and sit in on a meeting with the Adversary and his top lieutenants wasn't quite as meaningful to me, at least emotionally. It was good to see what plans they had and what havoc they intend to reap. Pinocchio is there to be a voice of reason, a person who knows the inner workings of Fabletown. I haven't decided if he's chosen a side yet. He seems conflicted in his loyalties. I am hoping that some of the actions of his beloved father wake him up to the extent of that person's megalomania. I thought the use of the Snow Queen as a trusted leader in the Adversary's army was pretty interesting. The Snow Queen is in my top five favorite fairy tales. Willingham stays true to her character. I wonder if she will encounter Gerda and Kay later in this series??? Hansel's story arc was really disturbing, to say the least. To use a phrase from Hank Hill from Top of the Hill, "That boy's not right." He gave me the big time creepy crawlies. I can't believe he lasted as long as he did in Fabletown.

Yeah, I don't love the concept of who the Adversary is, so that was not a favorite part of this story for me. However, I think it does build tension for the forthcoming volumes. I hope that Fables will have their ducks

in the row and be prepared when the Adversary makes his move for invading the world of the Mundanes.

Writing this review makes me want to jump back into the series, but I am going to stand strong. I know it will be all the more exciting when I pick up the next volume.

***~Lan Lan~* says**

Things are really picking up in this volume. Hoping to start the next one soon.

James DeSantis says

Fables keeps up the momentum in this title about planning and murdering.

So as we can see the Adversary is building his army. Creating plans to take fabletown and the whole world. Why not, right? he already took the homelands for the most part, what's another world to him and his people? So we see a lot of planning on their side but also some planning on the side of Fabletown, including even Bigsby growing as a father and also a great asset to his people. This is mostly a set up volume, but a damn good one at that.

Good: The art is still very solid and different than anything else. The build up is interesting from both sides. They keep trying to one up each other and we all know some shit is going to go down soon. Watching Bigsby and Snow White together, taking care of their kids, and meeting Bigsby father in his homeland was super fun.

Bad: Some of the little side stories are more distracting than interesting and they kind of hurt the pacing at points.

Overall, loving the feel of this all out war coming. I dunno who's going to die, but some shit is going to go down. A 4 out of 5.

Joy says

"Hold the jar upright, Snow. Don't spill my brothers."

As always, Bigby and Snow are adorable, especially with their kids, but there was just something lacking in this volume. I felt like any organization was pretty nonexistent. None of the plots really flowed well with the others, and I still don't get why this volume is called "Sons of Empire". Honestly, I don't even think the separate stories were very strong on their own. The script and the art weren't as good in comparison to previous volumes. The lines weren't as developed or witty, and I personally want more of just Mark Buckingham and Steve Leialoha's styles of art.

On a side note, I'm low-key upset that Bigby and Snow's seventh son (Ghost) didn't make an appearance. He at least gets a stocking above the fireplace but even then, his name isn't on it! Sadness. His whole situation isn't even mentioned in this volume. It's like he doesn't even exist...

Overall, not a very strong volume of *Fables*.
