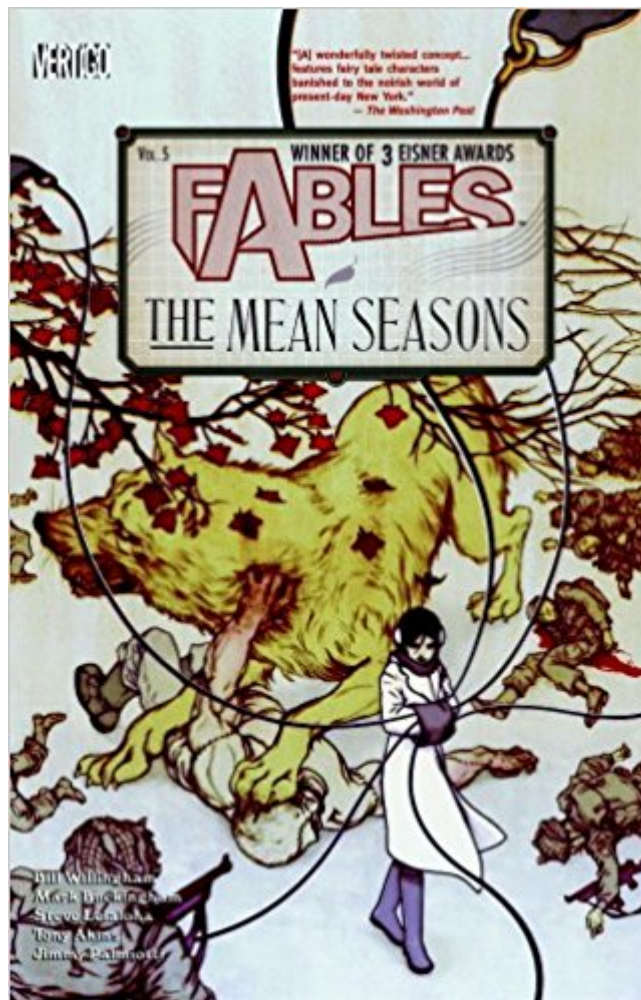


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Fables Vol. 5: The Mean Seasons



Synopsis

Collecting issues 22 and 28-33 of the hit VERTIGO series, this trade paperback features two tales of Bigby's exploits during World War II as well as "The Year After," which follows the aftermath of the Adversary's attempt to conquer Fabletown — including the birth of Snow White and Bigby's children!

Book Information

Series: Fables (Book 5)

Paperback: 168 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 54 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Fables, the comic about fairy-tale characters ("Fables") living in exile in Manhattan and upstate New York, started with a jaunty mystery (Legends in Exile, 2003) full of irony, but it has steadily darkened. Some major figures--Bluebeard, for instance--have been killed, and in March of the Wooden Soldiers (2004), the Manhattan enclave was attacked by forces of the Adversary, which drove them from their home world. The title story here depicts the year after the attack. Summer sees the birth of Deputy Mayor Snow White's sextuplets (the father is Sheriff Bigby Wolf); fall, Prince Charming's election as mayor; winter, bad decisions by the new administration; and spring, plans to counterattack the Adversary. Two shorter pieces show Bigby Wolf on a secret mission during World War II and Cinderella entrapping a Fable who is collaborating with the Adversary. Tony Akins draws the shorter stories with less detail than Mark Buckingham does the big one; both uphold Fables' snappy good looks. Ray Olson

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The title of the fifth collection of the FABLES comics takes its title from the group of comics

comprising the final three quarters of this book. The first quarter is taken up with a couple of standalone stories - a sting operation in which a would be betrayer of Fabletown is got red-handed attempting to aid the Adversary and a history of a WW II operation by the U.S. military that was undertaken by a squad of soldiers and one Bigby Wolf. The first story was OK, but not really deeply connected to the rest of the stories. It does reveal that there are possibilities of treason on the parts of some Fabletown residents and it reveals a bit more about how Bigby Wolf handles things. The second story, the WW II one, also doesn't mesh very deeply with the rest of the stories. He was nonetheless a nice change of pace and gives some nice background to Bigby. It also balances out his relative absence from the last half of the group of stories that make up the bulk of the book. Most of the book is centered around a number of relatively small story arcs. Unlike previous books in the series, there is no overarching story. We see Snow White give birth to a litter of children with very unusual abilities. We see her relocate to the Farm (where she seems to be getting along wonderfully with Aunt Rose Red), which is unfortunately a place where Bigby is forbidden to enter. We see Bigby's father and Snow's children's grandfather make an appearance (Mr. North aka The North Wind). We witness a series of truly unfortunate and tragic murders of fables. The mayoral election is held and Prince Charming takes over, only to find out immediately that the many campaign promises that he had made were impossibilities. But while Prince Charming and Beauty both prove themselves to be inept administrators, Beast unexpectedly turns out to be far better in his job than one might have suspected. Oh, and Blue has taken the Witching Cloak, the Vorpall Sword (which will slice through anything it hits), and the body of Pinocchio presumably to the lands of the Adversary in order to bargain for the freedom of his love Red Riding Hood. So, all in all, the fifth book is more of a pause in the action than a major act. Nevertheless, these issues represent a further deepening of the world of the Fables. More secrets are revealed, such as Gundrun, the goose that lays golden eggs, who is secreted away deep in the hidden dungeons and who willingly helps fund the espionage work of Bigby and Beast with her eggs. Mainly, however, the book sets up future arcs of a more epic nature. It remains one of the best and most vital graphic series in existence.

Another excellent addition to what has become my favorite graphic novel series, **THE MEAN SEASONS** brings dramatic change to the setting and story of Fables in exile. I see a number of other reviewers have criticized this volume for a lack of substance, and I must respectfully disagree. What I have to assume most of them are meaning is that this story doesn't contain a lot of real 'action' such as did **MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS**. Instead, this book focuses on the larger picture of moving the overall story arc forward. Here, we get a number of monumental

changes taking place over a time course far greater than that in MotWS. A regime change in Fabletown is no small matter, and will affect the story for the foreseeable future. The same goes for Snow White giving birth to some new characters that promise great impact for the ongoing story. The rash move of Little Boy Blue has huge implications. These events (and others in this book) lay the groundwork for the rest of the series. So, while you don't get the same amount of intense action and bloody conflict here, the events that take place in these pages are perhaps the most important of the series so far. This is certainly not an issue you'd want to miss. Terms such as "vapid", "boring", and "bland" (from other reviews) do not do this one justice. Highly recommended.

A masterfully crafted tale that rips hours from my life but keeps me blissfully content; Always wanting more..... my only sadness is that i will catch up to date, and then i will have to wait for the next issue..... i suppose there is always the side story iteration, and perspectives, and some with separate lives..... but i do love the main story, and haven't tried the others yet, soo im not qualified outside of the main series up until vol. 8... for now... good read though... Peace, Nate

A bunch of fables, all of them great. Snow has her babies, we learn of Bigbys world war 2 adventures and... but that would be telling! This brilliant series should be read by everyone. Not just comic fans.

My daughter is hooked. She is 12 and loves this series.

Since the Adversary's first attack in the previous volume, it was obvious that the war had come to Fabletown and that this would be an ongoing theme for the rest of the series. However, aside from the first story, which features a treacherous Fable, the war with the Adversary hardly figures at all into this volume. Instead, we mostly get to see what happens as Prince Charming takes over Fabletown, and Snow White tries to deal with her litter of flying babies. There is also another murder mystery with a sad ending, and a flashback story featuring Bigby Wolf behind enemy lines in World War II. A great collection of stories, but a bit slower-paced than previous volumes.

Couldn't put it down! This is the first comic book.....err.....I mean.....Graphic novel, I've read since I was a little kid. I never thought one could be so enthralling!A must-have! I have already read volumes 1 thru 4.      Also awesome!

It was a gift for my future daughter in law and she was very happy with it.

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