



Rat Queens, Vol. 2: The Far Reaching Tentacles of N'rygoth

Kurtis J. Wiebe , Roc Upchurch (Artist) , Stjepan Šeji? (Artist)

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This booze-soaked second volume of RAT QUEENS reveals a growing menace within the very walls of Palisade. And while Dee may have run from her past, the bloated, blood-feasting sky god N'rygoth never really lets his children stray too far.

Collects RAT QUEENS #6-10

Rat Queens, Vol. 2: The Far Reaching Tentacles of N'rygoth Details

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Author : Kurtis J. Wiebe , Roc Upchurch (Artist) , Stjepan Šeji? (Artist)

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From Reader Review Rat Queens, Vol. 2: The Far Reaching Tentacles of N'rygoth for online ebook

Sarah Churchill says

There's seriously nothing I don't love about this series. The characters, the sass, the storylines and the world... all of it! In volume 1 I fell in love with the characters, this time around we got an interesting development to the story along with the backstory of two of them. These girls are all so different and packed full of personality, set in a high fantasy world, but are still seriously REAL and teach me a thing or two about swearing. And I'm Welsh, believe me I'm not new.

How will I survive the wait until Volume 3?! *WAIL*

Norah Una Sumner says

I want to marry these girls. The story is so,so,so good and I enjoyed every minute of it. Loved the action scenes and loved that we got to see more of Rat Queens' childhood. And it's amazing that we got to see a bit of Hannah's body insecurity. She's an awesome lady and she deserves to be fucking respected. Also...

LOOK AT MY BABIES! Asdfghjkl. Love these two!

HFK says

At first the *Rat Queens* was such a fresh and very much needed breeze with its strong female characters, the extraordinary wit, the boozing, the drugging, the sexy times, the attitude and the positive feminism that surrounded its core. Sadly, the second volume did show me this was just a momentary relief for me personally, something that has lost its appeal.

I really adored the characters from the start but felt that within the second volume their stamina was gone, they were one-dimensional albeit under development, less witty, less drugging, less drinking and way less sexy. They were quite boring though the toughness was very much still in presence.

But, I am not into this kind of fantasy much at all, which is why to keep my interest, the story and the characters need to be the fuel to my fire. Unfortunately, I have never been into the stories within this series, less so in this volume.

There is nothing for me to see anymore but will naturally grab the next volume as it is always easier to go through a less-interesting graphic series than it is to go through a less-interesting textbook series.

Sam Quixote says

Bilford Bogin, it's been a while since Rat Queens Volume 1!

The Queens are back and thank gods they haven't changed. The book opens the morning after a heavy night out. They've got hangovers, some are embarrassed over who they hooked up with, and one of the statue's in Palisade is missing its stone penis! Things are about to get more fun though as Lovecraftian monsters begin appearing in the sky as a damaged man attempts to wipe Palisade off the map - Rat Queens to the rescue!

I mention the length of time since the first volume because you might want to re-read it, or at least skim it, in order to get the most out of Volume 2. Remember Gerrig Lake from the first book? Me neither but he's the Big Bad of this story. That's the only failing of this book: it assumes the reader is a megafan who knows everything about the series and I'm definitely more of a casual fan.

A character called Bernadette plays a minor role at the start and I had to stop and pick up Volume 1 to remind myself who she was before going back to the book. This won't be a problem to anyone reading these books back to back sometime in the future but for those of us reading them as they come out, there's loooong stretches of time in between them so it's tricky to keep everything straight.

But there is a sad reason for this delay. Roc Upchurch, the artist of the series, was arrested for domestic abuse in November 2014. Writer Kurtis Wiebe made the choice to fire Upchurch - the only one he could make really, given that RQ is a feminist comic and having a wifebeater onboard as principal artist is contradictory to that spirit, not to mention being repellant in itself - so the series went on hiatus for several months while Wiebe looked for a replacement: Stjepan Sejic, who took over from RQ #9.

Getting back to the book: the story is as fun as ever. Wiebe flawlessly switches from adult humour to fantastical action to straight drama from one scene to the next. Handily the Lovecraft monsters feed on displaced reality so the Queens have flashbacks, giving us more of their backgrounds.

The Violet issue was the best in the book. Tradition excluded her from taking part in tournaments despite being a better fighter than her brother while her dad insisted she model his armour for his leering customers. She takes a stand and changes her life in keeping with the tone and theme of progressive societal attitudes.

The female empowerment continues as Hannah's on again/off again boyfriend Sawyer is kidnapped and she has to save him - the man is the damsel in distress for a change. Hannah's origins are more truncated but we find out why she's got that Amy Winehouse beehive do and (of course - she's the daughter of necromancers) we see her teen goth phase in magic high school!

Credit where its due and Upchurch's art is as wonderful as ever. Lola's fight scene (had to look up who she was too!) is amazingly rendered and the characters' facial expressions are still incredibly evocative - basically all of his pages and covers look awesome. Shame he turned out to be such a horrible person.

Sejic is no slouch either and though his art is different, the quality is no less brilliant. The Queens going up against Gerrig's forces, Betty in action, Hannah, Tizzie and a whole mess of magic users throwing out colourful spells and that cool splash page of Vi and Dave snogging before battle - all of it is really, really good!

The story is a bit of a hodgepodge plot-wise jumping from one thing to another and Gerrig seems like a very one-dimensional baddie who you never really believe is going to accomplish his plans - he's very obviously there for the Queens to defeat. Also the non-superfans are going to find this a little confusing regarding the characters because Wiebe takes it as read that you instantly remember who everyone is, and I also feel Lovecraftian monsters are so overplayed these days.

Otherwise, I'd say this is an excellent second volume in the series. Rat Queens continues to entertain whether you're a fan of fantasy stories or not - the humour and delightful characters transcend the genre and makes the series unique and contemporary all at once, and the art is a real treat throughout. Here's hoping Volume 3 doesn't take over a year to materialise!

Rebecca says

Read this review and more on my blog

In a nutshell: Another fun volume in this awesome graphic novel series!

I love Rat Queens and it's one of my favourite graphic novels of 2015, along with Ms. Marvel. I read the first issue of this volume when it came out digitally, but it's definitely best to read in the combined volume format. I don't know how I'd have coped waiting for each installment. I would have loved to have read the first two volumes back-to-back for maximum awesomeness. (I definitely need to work on doing that soon.)

I go into my love of the badass Rat Queens in my review of volume 1, which I read earlier in the year. What I especially appreciated in this next volume was how it built upon the things that I liked initially and gave me more backstory, which was my main criticism about the series' introduction. I loved it and I loved the girls, but I wanted to know more about them. I *still* want to know more, but The Far Reaching Tentacles of N'rygoth definitely expands on the characters and gives them more depth. Plus it's just as fun and sassy as the last volume, and there's enough action and weirdness going on to keep things entertaining.

If you enjoyed the first volume of Rat Queens, be sure to read on. It keeps up the standard set in Sass & Sorcery with the diverse set of badass ladies. Dee is easily my favourite but they're so great as individuals and a group. I'm excited to read more!

Source: NetGalley

I received this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Karlyflower *The Vampire Ninja, Luminescent Monster & Wendigo Nerd Goddess of Canada (according to The Hulk)* says

Character History.... Character histories E'rywhere!

Rat Queens, Volume 2 jumps around between present day and history quite a bit.

When a ghost from Dee's past shows up on our band of misfits front door this issue launches into the histories of how these ladies got to be the adventure seeking creatures they are today.

I have to admit that I am NOT the graphic novel girl, I'm not, so when I say that these histories seemingly came out of left field I mean it from a novel-reader's point of view. I have NO IDEA how histories or flashbacks are normally integrated into a story of this style. I simply found it a bit disjuncting jumping from mid-real time battle to the past off and on this whole volume.

(Now, I know that this is a part of every character's creation – and I have SEVERAL written character histories for different roleplay characters I've enacted over the last couple of years, I am simply curious as to if it generally feels as out of nowhere as it does here?)

That being said, I LOVED the insight into these characters I've come to know and love! From the bearded days of our resident dwarf, Violet, to the challenges that our mixed breed Mage, Hannah, has come across over the years; I really did love getting to know these characters better! I just don't really get WHY these stories fit into the overall story going on in this volume, as entertaining and moving as they were.

Of course the art is still GORGEOUS and the wit and sarcasm are still spot on! **RAT QUEENS!!!**

Carmen says

Read my review of Rat Queens, Vol. 1: Sass & Sorcery if you want a run-down on the plot.

Long story short: four kickass females (a smidgen, a dwarf, an elf, and a Cthulu priestess) form an adventuring group. Crazy stuff happens.

It's SUPER-AWESOME.

And Orc Dave is in this! I have such a crush on him. And he kisses Violet in here! Full-page kissing! KISSING! With Orc Dave!!!! <3 *Carmen draws little hearts in her notebook*

READ IT. I mean, read Volume One first, but this series is amazing. Highest recommendation.

Not available in Spanish.

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

? My reaction after reading Rat Queens, vol 1:

? My reaction after reading Rat Queens, vol. 2:

? **I'm in mourning right now.** I loved volume 1. LOVED it. I fangirled over it like a damn 15-year-old. The release date for volume 2 kept being pushed back and I couldn't wait to get my hands on it. I waited anxiously. And waited. And waited. I waited all this time... for this?! **Seriously?!**

? **What the hell happened?! ?**

Gone is the spark, gone is the humour, gone is the excitement. The story is flat, confusing, disjointed. The first part of this volume isn't that bad. But the second half? Ugh. The already dull plot is further weakened by constant, uninspired flashbacks. And a 1-second resolution. **And a freaking cliffhanger.**

? **What the hell happened?! ?**

I used to LOVE these girls. They were snarky, they were crazy, they were fun, they were hilariously offensive, they were nothing short of amazing. Now they're just a bunch of uninteresting, **clichéd characters** with mushy personalities. And frankly, **I don't give a damn about them anymore.** If the Rat Queens from volume 1 saw the way they were portrayed here, I'm pretty sure they'd find it all **pathetically ridiculous.**

? **What the hell happened?! ?**

The graphics. Damn. Roc Upchurch stopped illustrating the series after issue 8 and Stjepan Šeji? took over. And it shows. A lot. **And I don't like it. At all.** Which is why I didn't even bother to include some of the art in this review.

?? **In my review** for volume 1 I said that the characters were so cool I didn't even care if there wasn't much of a plot. Well now the characters are **everything but cool.** And the plot is fairly non-existent. And totally lackluster. **So what happens now?** I'll tell you what's *not* going to happen: me reading volume 3. Unless I get the old Rat Queens back. Which seems highly unlikely at this point. **Bloody hell, who would have thought?**

① Rat Queens, Vol. 1: Sass & Sorcery ★★★★★

Sean Gibson says

I think it's fair to actually call this 4.5 Stars.

Oh, Rat Queens...what can I say about you?

Betty--It's like Calvin of Calvin and Hobbes fame has become a lady, aged but not grown, and transformed into a drug-crazed sexual omnivore. But a sweet one.

Hannah--Well, I know she likes well-endowed men. I also know she's pretty messed up and kind of a badass. And she's got some secrets (one of which is not her love for well-endowed men).

Violet--Am I the only one who thinks Violet's kinda hot (watch your back, Dave)? Maybe I just have a thing for formerly bearded ladies. Keep me away from the circus retirement home, I guess.

Dee--I just read a 5-issue arc in which Dee played a central role and we found out about her husband...why do I still feel like she's something of a tabula rasa? Maybe it's just that she's being crowded out by the bigger personalities around her. I'm still waiting for her to emerge as a stronger character.

This series is delightful good fun--fast-paced, funny, full of action, and surprisingly heartfelt at times. Looking forward to more.

Jokoloyo says

[I was genuinely surprised with Hannah's revelation about her hair. That was a 5-star moment. (hide spoiler)]

Melanie says

Vol. 1: Sass & Sorcery ★★★★★

Bilford Bogin! It's with a heavy heart that I must inform you that *Rat Queens, Vol. 2* did not live up to Vol. 1. The magical D&D vibe was missing. There wasn't nearly enough Betty for my liking. Two of the chapters felt so much like fillers, that they hardly had anything to do with the main story of this collection.

I'm sad, I'm hurt, but I'm mostly just let down. Since finishing Sass & Sorcery last night, in one sitting, I rushed out today to make sure I got my greedy little hands on this volume. I was filled with so much glee, while getting comfy on my bed, to start this graphic-novel that I was so sure would be a masterpiece. After I finished it, and while writing this review currently, I can't help but feel disappointed.

As for the two chapters that I felt were more filler, we did get a lot of back-story, which I absolutely appreciate, but it just felt so weird with their city falling around them. Yet, at the same time, I didn't really enjoy this "boss" as much as I thought I would, so part of me wishes that all three chapters were just more back-story on these kick ass heroines that I love.

I didn't like the art as much either. I did notice another name as an illustrator for this volume, but I guess I just like Roc Upchurch's solo style more. Apparently, Roc Upchurch stopped illustrating this series after issue 8 and Stjepan Šejić took over, so that explains why I was being so negative about the final pieces. This actually really scares me for Vol. 3: Demons.

I also want to also emphasize, again, that is **not** a PG book by any means! Go into this knowing that there will be lots of blood, swearing, drinking, drug use, and sex, lots of sex.

I'm now going to break down each chapter in this bind up. There will be **SPOILERS**, so please use caution in continuing if you have *not* read this graphic-novel or its predecessor Vol. 1: Sass & Sorcery!

CHAPTER SIX:

We get introduced to Sawyer's second in command, Lola. They find a letter that leads them right to Bernadette, and Sawyer discovers who is really behind everything that happened in Vol. 1: Sass & Sorcery. We also are introduced to Dee's husband, yes I said husband, Mezikiah.

We have our **third** cameo from the beloved Gary, which was probably my favorite scene/panel from this entire bind up.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

The Haruspex Requiem has been stolen, which is a high priest mask that can summon creatures from the abyss, and that is why Mezikiah is in Palisade. Gerrig Lake has absorbed the mask's power and has unleashed three demons to destroy all of Palisade while Sawyer is captured and forced to watch.

CHAPTER EIGHT:

This chapter was all about Violet's past. We learn about her influential figure that is the reason for the name "Rat Queens", and we also learn that her mother was a pretty strong female as well. Oh, and we get lots of scenes with Violet's magnificent beard. This chapter had a wonderful message about being who you want to be, and fuck what others think about it.

CHAPTER NINE:

Then, this chapter is the one mostly all about Hannah and her past! Hannah has become my favorite Rat Queen. From her amazing aesthetic, to her past that we are able to learn about in this chapter, Hannah has forced her way into my little black heart. After Hannah's blast from the past, we realize that these three demons are messing with everyone's memories so they will be unable to fight. The Rat Queens, Four Daves, Lola, and Braga arrive to defend what is left of Palisade.

CHAPTER TEN:

Oh, I'm also in love with Tizzie. It's completely normal for me to want to date a comic book character, right? This chapter shows Tizzie and Hannah's past together, and how friendships can be very unexpected. Then we find out why Hannah's hair is always perfect, and it will just make you like her even more. Dee does what she thinks is right, and maybe learns a secret about her God, N'rygoth. Oh, and she banishes the demons back home and completely saves Palisade, even though it is in ruins without many survivors. This compilation ends on a cliffhanger that has to do with Hannah's father.

Overall, it was a good story, I just wasn't blown away like in Vol. 1: Sass & Sorcery. I will still auto buy Vol. 3: Demons when it comes out next month. And I still have to recommend this series to any fantasy lover, because it's really worth it, especially if you're just starting out with graphic-novels. Also, this installment was still focused on strong, diverse, females and their even stronger friendships. That alone makes me able to look past the not as great art, and not as developed story, because I need much more girl-power in my reading life.

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Patrick says

If anything, I liked the second volume of Rat Queens even more than the first. (Something that is rarely the case.)

It focuses more on the backstories of the characters without sacrificing the fun and action of the first book, and features art from one of my favorite artists: Stjepan Šeji?. (Who writes and illustrates Sunstone, among other things.)

Is the series worth your time? Yes.

You're extra likely to enjoy it if you're into: tabletop RPG (like D&D) strong female characters, humor/satire, and qua-cthulian baddies.

Kat O'Keeffe says

More like 4.5 stars. Really enjoying this series! It just keeps getting better and better!

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

This volume opens after a party. Major party. Lots of smexy times happening.

Once they get up and get over being pissed about who they hooked up with they begin our story. This one could be a tad confusing if it's been awhile, and it had for me, since you've read the first book. There are several characters I didn't really remember from the first volume so it took me a few minutes to get adjusted.

There is more backstory on the wonderful Rat Queens in this edition. Such as: Vi's being used as a lower female by her father until she says fuck tradition!

Dee's secret from the past comes to light.

We even get some of Hannah's backstory.

You have to read it to figure out what! I can't tell you spoilers. DUH!

Then you have Sawyer needing rescuing. No damsel in distress in this series!

Plus you get to see some graphic novel peen!! Don't let the kiddies get this one when you stash it under your mattress.

Nat says

I really appreciated that this volume gave me more backstory, which was my main criticism about volume 1. But I didn't love this one quite as much as the first. I can't point to what exactly I didn't like—maybe Dee didn't show up enough times for me?

I just found myself confused a lot of the time, but there were parts that I still liked. Particularly the family bonds. I really appreciated Violet's story with her mother.

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