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Rat Queens Volume 1: Sass & Sorcery



Synopsis

Who are the Rat Queens? A pack of booze-guzzling, death-dealing battle maidens-for-hire, and they're in the business of killing all god's creatures for profit. It's also a darkly comedic sass-and-sorcery series starring Hannah the Rockabilly Elven Mage, Violet the Hipster Dwarven Fighter, Dee the Atheist Human Cleric and Betty the Hippy Smidgen Thief. This modern spin on an old school genre is a violent monster-killing epic that is like Buffy meets Tank Girl in a Lord of the Rings world on crack! Collecting the first five issues of the sold-out hit series at the special introductory price of \$9.99!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Rat Queens are a tough, insouciant gang of ne'er-do-well girls (they're certainly not ladies) who love a good bar brawl. When they are assigned a mission as punishment for their latest recklessness by the mayor of Palisade and it turns out to be a trap, Hannah, Violet, Dee, and Betty come back to the town to figure out who has it in for them and the other local fighting gangs. And if they have to beat up a few people and monsters to do it, then that's just fine by them. Wiebe and Upchurch offer readers three-dimensional female characters with varying body types, races, sexual orientations, and backstories, while also including all the intriguing side characters, crude language, drug use, magic, violence, and sarcasm that a humorous, adult action-fantasy volume should have. Upchurch's art has beautiful depth, and his panels glow with life. Offer this to readers tired of the same old comics featuring cheesecake depictions of female characters or to readers who like

intelligent plots with a side of smart aleck. --Snow Wildsmith

If you're looking for an M-rated series that is full of swordplay, sorcery, and sass, and you don't mind a bit of gore thrown in for good measure, you'll love this. Betty, Dee, Hannah, and Violet are mercenaries for hire who can drink a troll under the table, use language that would make an orc blush, and mercilessly eviscerate baddies. Off on a minor "quest" in order to make up for their drunken brawling, this kick-ass quartet soon realizes that someone or something wants them very dead. Making them dead, however, is far easier said than done. It's not just the fantastic pacing of Wiebe's (Peter Panzerfaust, Debris) text or former video game designer Upchurch's blood-sprayed action sequences, but also the characters themselves that drive the story relentlessly forward. Possessed of very different body types, personalities, and idiosyncrasies, and not afraid to share exactly what they're feeling, the Rat Queens are refreshing characters whose story will leave readers thirsty for more. (June) -PublisherWeekly.com "Offer this to readers tired of the same old comics featuring cheesecake depictions of female characters or to readers who like intelligent plots with a side of smart aleck." -Booklist

Where has Rat Queens been all my life? Seriously, this was spectacular, especially for someone who has played D&D campaigns that have lasted years! I was instantly attached to all four of these women, and they became my little babies and I wanted no harm to come to them!! I will say that is not a PG book by any means! Go into this knowing that there will be swearing, drinking, drug use, and sex, lots of sex. So who are the Rat Queens? We have Betty, the cutest little drug dealin', candy addicted, rogue Smidgen you've ever seen. Because of her size, she plays such a big role in being very sneaky for the other members of the group, but also does some insane damage. Then we have Hannah, our Elvish sorceress who is rocking a pinup aesthetic that is to die for. She can also tap into some pretty dark magic; that I'm sure will come out more in future installments. Next, and maybe my favorite, is Dee who is a human necromancer with a healing proficiency. If I had to guess, and if we were actually playing D&D, I'd actually say Dee is a cleric and N'Rygoth used to be her deity. Finally, our last member of this adventuring guild is a dwarf warrior named Violet. She seems to be running from her past, but slowly becoming the woman she wants to be. She can also grow a beard, and is pretty proud of it. How awesome is that? Besides the characters being excellent, the content is suburb as well. This graphic-novel is five single issue comics, that are packed full of adventure, humor and action! Yet, one of the biggest shining lights is the sex and body positivity in this. And all of these wonderful concepts are surrounding these amazing female friendships that

involve girls who are actually diverse! I mean, talk about a hidden gem! It was such a whimsical but refreshing read. I need to get my greedy little hands on Volume Two as soon as possible! And the art! Holy moly, the art is so aesthetically pleasing to me. The colors, the lines, the dramatic points, all so perfectly executed. Each new chapter had a new drool-worthy full size picture that I was in utter awe of. I think I need to go buy some of Roc Upchruch's art now.***I'm now going to break down each chapter in this five volume bind up. There will be SPOILERS, so please use caution in continuing if you have not read this graphic-novel!***CHAPTER ONE: Five groups of mercenaries are sent on five different missions. If a group fails their mission they will be banned from the city, Palisade. The four groups are: Peaches, Four Daves, Brother Ponies, Obsidian Darkness, and, of course, Rat Queens. Once the Rat Queens venture off on their quest, they find an assassin instead of their objective. This is not only the first installment, but also the first glance at how heavily influenced this comic is by D&D. The "Surprise! -4 penalty to initiative" made me seriously school girl squeal. CHAPTER TWO: Someone has hired assassin to kill the mercenaries. The girls are suspecting Mayor Kane. They find Brage and Tizzie, the last remaining members of Peaches, after they have finished off their own personal ambush. Then, all four members of Four Daves show up, and the group realizes they are the last of the adventuring parties left in Palisade. CHAPTER THREE: Sawyer, Captain of the guard, tells Hannah that the Merchant's Guild gave the Mayor the quests, therefore, the mayor is innocent. We also start to see subtle hints that Sawyer and Hannah totally are diggin' each other. After Hannah gives the girls the news about the Merchant's Guild, Betty and Dee pay them a visit, and we find out about Mr. Lake, his business, and just how sneaky Betty's hands really are. Upon another sneak arrival to Mr. Lake's office, we find out the big bad guy lady is! CHAPTER FOUR: A whole army is at Palisade's gates, and they want the Rat Queens! Braga leads the charge, and the girls show how powerful they really are. Then, The Daves come in and help clean up all the intruders. I don't know who the hell Gary is, but I was literally laughing out loud at his cameos in this chapter. CHAPTER FIVE: With the invaders defeated, the girls throw a party to celebrate. All the girls, except Dee, are having a distracting time, but Dee is looking over some of the scrolls that Betty stole from Mr. Lake's office. Dee soon realizes that the God she used to worship with her family, N'Rygoth, soon will play a much bigger role in this story. This graphic-novel was so immersive and addicting! I would recommend this to fantasy lovers, feminists, anyone who has ever played D&D, or even WoW, or any RPG for that matter! Hell, I just recommend this because it's freakin' brilliant, heartwarming, and all-encompassing! I don't read a ton of graphic-novels, but Rat Queens is, hands down, my favorite.

Four mercenary girls - Betty, Dee, Hannah, and Violet are sent to clean out the goblins of a surrounding town, but end up running into much more. Right out of the gate things get going. Their whole group survives the battle, but a few other groups aren't quite as lucky. It seems that there are so many things happening and I felt a little confused as the girls try to figure out who's picking mercenaries off and how they will retaliate! It's time for them to team up with other groups to battle a group of trolls out for revenge by the loss of one of their own from the opening scene. I'm curious to see what happens next because there was a lot was left hanging. It does have graphic language and imagery, but it's got my attention and had me laughing often. Especially Betty! She's my current favorite queen!!

I'm going to keep this short and sweet: RAT QUEENS: VOLUME 1 is vulgar, insane, and entirely enjoyable. I've been meaning to read this series since the series was optioned for an animated TV series "that was back in summer of 2014. I finally got around to checking the first volume out when I stumbled across it on NetGalley, and now I'm kicking myself for waiting so long. I love female centric comics. I love diversity in comics. I enjoy crude humor. I adore complex characters. And I absolutely love well written/illustrated battle scenes. RAT QUEENS has all of that. This first volume was pure fun. I don't know any other way to describe it other than by saying RAT QUEENS is an absolute joy.

Get this book! Highly original, basically a really funny D&D game in comic form featuring very different but lovable characters. Just the right amount of 3rd wall breaking and lots of jokes, this book kept me laughing and I will certainly be keeping up with the series. Makes a great gift for any fantasy nerds in your life! I have sent copies to a lot of my friends and everyone loves it. NOTE: this is a M rated book (sexual references, language, and violence).

This review is about this collection, not the series. The series itself for me is one of the gems of the century, ten out of five stars. Since I had been late for the single issues I read the series in trade paperback. And since the Braga special has not been included in the reprints I decided to buy this hardcover too. What can I say? When you buy a hardcover of material you own already by a high percentage you have some expectations. The first disappointment for me was that the collection does not contain all of the stories from the available-only-virtually preview. Especially one of my favorite short stories, where what seems to be a fierce battle is just a big Rat Queens hangover, is missed sorely. The second point I have is that the structure of the stories is not well presented. The

editors decided to reprint each 5 issue story line without chapters with the covers at the end and no signs where a single issue ends and the next one begins. This does not work for me. A cliffhanger is an important stylistic device in comics and when the story just continues this takes rhythm out of the tale. I would have reprinted the original covers between the chapters and only the alternates at the end. My third issue is that there is no introduction or preliminary remarks to the book. You learn nothing why the co-creator Upchurch had to leave the series. Especially with a series that has caused so much web discussions about diversity and women in comics it would have been appropriate to learn some background about the series and its creators. The Braga special does not make me confident that new penciller Tess Fowler will be up to the task to follow the big footsteps of Upchurch and Sejic. All in all: One of the best series of the last decade, but you might prefer to buy the much cheaper trade paperbacks.

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