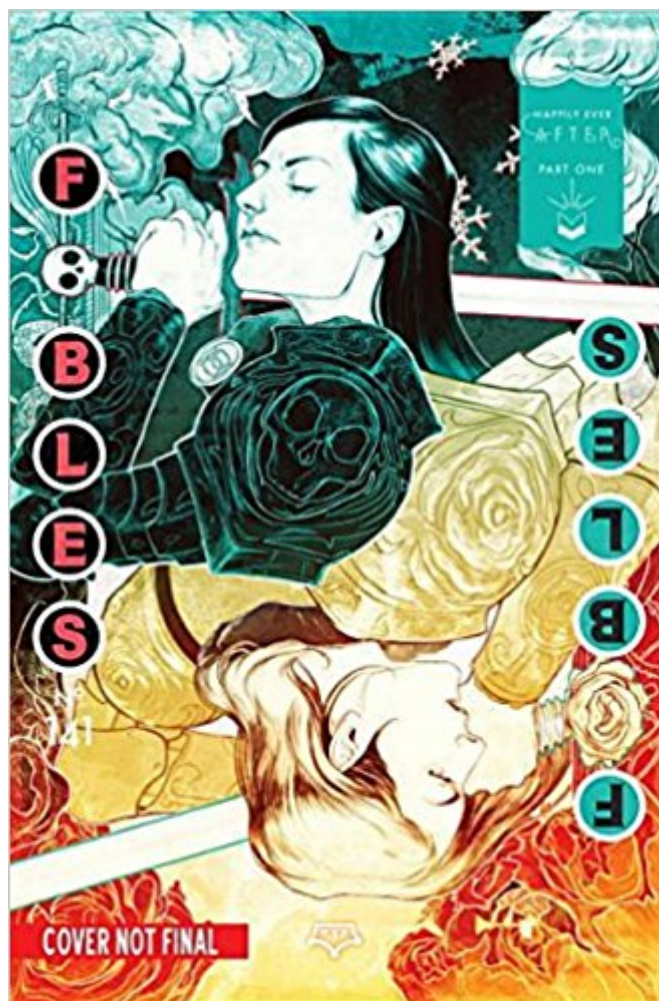


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Fables Vol. 21: Happily Ever After (Fables (Paperback))



Synopsis

In the aftermath of Bigby Wolf's destruction, a shift in the Fables' underlying power structure threatens to split their community into two warring factions - one led by Snow White, the other by her sister Rose Red. Accelerating this process are the machinations of an unsuspected enemy within, who brings Bigby back from the dead with all of his lethal power but with none of his redeeming humanity. After thirteen years and tales beyond counting, the saga of Fabletown is drawing to a close - but it's not going gentle into that good night. With **HAPPILY EVER AFTER**, the creative juggernaut of Bill Willingham, Mark Buckingham, Steve Leialoha and Andrew Pepoy are joined by an armada of special guest talents - including Matthew Sturges, Eric Shanower, Shawn McManus, Jae Lee, Terry Moore, Russ Braun and Chrissie Zullo - for the penultimate chapter in the celebrated **FABLES** chronicles! Collects issues #141-149.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[A] wonderfully twisted concept . . . features fairy tale characters banished to the nourish world of present-day New York." **•WASHINGTON POST** "Spellbinding epic." **•BOOKLIST**
"Clever, enjoyable . . . an excellent series in the tradition of **SANDMAN**, one that rewards careful attention and loyalty." **PUBLISHERS WEEKLY** "One of the best damn series ever written." **•AIN'T IT COOL NEWS**

Bill Willingham has been writing, and sometimes drawing, comics for more than twenty years.

During that time he's had work published by nearly every comics publisher in the business and he's created many critically acclaimed comic book series, including Elementals, Coventry, PROPOSITION PLAYER and of course the seminal Vertigo series FABLES, as well as its spin-off series FAIREST, JACK OF FABLES and THE LITERALS. His work has been nominated for many awards, including the Eisner, Harvey and Ignatz comic industry awards and the International Horror Guild award. He lives somewhere near a good poker room.

Bill Willingham put out a consistently brilliant book for 13 or 14 trades (from 2002 thru 2009). It has been mixed every since, with the occasional return to greatness interspersed with some weaker stories. I happily have read every trade though because Willingham has been so creative and surprising and I grew attached to a number of the characters that he adopted (and adapted). This is the penultimate trade. Willingham is setting up a final battle between Snow White and Rose Red - it feels a bit forced, but I appreciate the tragic nature of it and how neither sister really wants it to happen. In this trade, Willingham kills off a number of long-term characters. I'm sure fans will be offended, but we need to remember that he has been writing these stories for 13 years and doesn't have much left to say and is struggling (like most writers) on how to end it. Thankfully, the art by Mark Buckingham is as reliable as ever.

After 13 years of story, Fables is finally drawing to an end. Unfortunately, the series jumped the shark a while back, with Fables #13. The recent issues have seen a pick up in quality, but I'm afraid not enough to redeem itself completely. This collection covers the return of Bigby (though in a form unrecognizable from who he's been in the past), the failed attempts to stop him and who's behind him. It then quickly morphs into a "doomed conflict" scenario between Rose Red and Snow White, with a reveal involving who their mother is, and why there's inevitable conflict between the two sisters. Along the way, we get many digressions (it seems as though Willingham had to feed each issue with a mini story to keep stringing us along), but those are minor, with only a few pleasant ones. Fables is at its best when the reveals are of the "of course, that's how it would work" variety, but the story is getting so very meta that sometimes it feels like more of a cliché than an epiphany. I'll pick up the last collection, of course, but go read Fables #1-12 instead.

The penultimate volume of Fables is here, and all does not bode well. Here come the beginning of the "final Fables stories" wrapping up the fates of some of our beloved characters. Former allies turn bitter enemies, death and undeath clash, and the fate of Fabletown -- particularly its most relevant

members Bigby, Snow, and Rose -- stands ready to be revealed. If you've read JACK OF FABLES Vol. 9, expect the same level of dread as all the threads of the FABLES tapestry are either cut or raveled together tighter and tighter toward the climax in FABLES Vol. 22!

Great.

great

Collects Fables 141-149 Everything is progressing to a final showdown between Rose Red and Snow White. Bigby has been put back together, but with a piece missing. Winter takes her mother's side. Brandish (the heartless bastard) duels Lancelot to the... er, death. Also...the truth about Rose Red and Snow White's mother! (You didn't know that was even an issue, did you?) Each issue has a brief "The very last so-and-so story". Most of them don't involve death. There are a few deaths in the main story (and they might stay dead this time - even though Fables are hard to kill). Most of the art is by the usual team of Buckingham (pencils), Leialoha and Pepoy (inks), with guest artists on most of the "very last" mini-stories. According to , the final volume 22 (which will also be issue 150, and 160 pages long) will be out July 28, 2015.

Willingham wraps the loose ends, and the conclusion of this fantastic series could not have been any better. It is hard to keep a story interesting for 150 issues, but I never lost interest in the lives of any of the Fables characters, even when some of my favorites met bad ends.

This is hands down the best series I've ever read. The art work is stunning and even characters you thought you knew everything about will reveal deeper levels of themselves as every edition is released. I'll miss you, Fables!

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