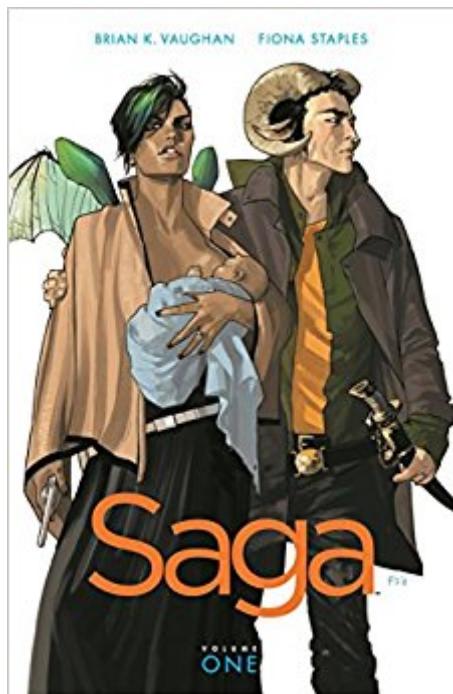


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# Saga, Vol. 1



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2013 Hugo award for Best Graphic Story! When two soldiers from opposite sides of a never-ending galactic war fall in love, they risk everything to bring a fragile new life into a dangerous old universe. From New York Times bestselling writer Brian K. Vaughan (Y: The Last Man, Ex Machina) and critically acclaimed artist Fiona Staples (Mystery Society, North 40), *Saga* is the sweeping tale of one young family fighting to find their place in the worlds. Fantasy and science fiction are wed like never before in this sexy, subversive drama for adults. This specially priced volume collects the first six issues of the smash-hit series The Onion A.V. Club calls "the emotional epic Hollywood wishes it could make." Voted one of the top graphic novels of the year by the NYT, IGN, the Examiner, and SF Weekly. Voted Best Comic of the year by MTV Geek and Best New Series by Paradox Comics. Voted a finalist in the GoodReads Best GN of 2012 contest. Named one of Time Magazine's top 10 graphic novels for 2013

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*Starred Review\* Vaughan, writer of the hugely successful *Y: The Last Man*, isn't one to think small. In this opener to his ambitious new series, bits of sf space opera and classic fantasy mesh in setting a sprawling stage for an intensely personal story of two lovers, cleverly narrated by their newborn daughter. Though recently soldiers from opposite sides of a massive intergalactic war, moth-winged Alana and ram-horned Marko simply want peace and anonymity to raise their daughter (an abomination to the powers that be) away from conflict and hatred. Vaughan's whip-snap

dialogue is as smart, cutting, and well timed as ever, and his characters are both familiar enough to acclimate easily to and deep enough to stay interested in as their relationships bend, break, and mend. While Vaughan will be the star power that attracts readers, do-it-all artist Staples is going to be the one who really wows them. Her character designs dish out some of the best aliens around, the immersive world-crafting is lushly detailed and deeply thought through, and the spacious layouts keep the focus squarely on the personal element, despite the chaotic cosmos they inhabit. Add another winner to Vaughan's stable of consistently epic, fresh, and endearing stories. --lan Chipman

First of all, let me say the edition is exquisite. Oversized, with good paper and truly amazing binding. This is definitely the way to collect *Saga*. On the other hand, let me warn customers. ships this book in its infamous cardboard folders with no protection whatsoever. And it's quite a thick book that barely fits in the aforementioned cardboard folder, so every hit the box takes during the trip to your house is going to be absorbed by the book. Every single corner of the book's cover and back cover, except for one, was dented and even coming apart. A real shame. I repeat, ships this book with no protection whatsoever, so be wary, especially if you do not reside in the US.

While this is not perfect, Brian K. Vaughan does a lot with quirky detail that is believable as well as master of small details contrasted with a world that is as alien and absurd as something Alejandro Jodorowsky would dream up for *Incal*, but with a modern grounded and rooted narrative with far less surface characters. The characters are a bit too witty, and some of the development seems a bit too on the nose, but the charm of the comic and its voice keeps that slight twee tendency to become annoying. The narrative is fast pasted and little character details keep one coming back to the book. Alana and Marko's quest to find a home to raise their baby is instantly relatable but its a tired conceit. However, Vaughn uses that insanity of the world to contrast with conceit and comedy to avoid alright melodrama. The back characters are fairly developed too, and this will be important for giving the series long term readability.

Prior to reading this I only read manga. I kept seeing *Saga* show up in under recommended titles so I finally looked up what this title is about. Based on the overviews I read, I had come to the conclusion that the plot was too trippy and complex to pass this one over so I bought this edition and plan to buy the others as soon as they come out. If I had to describe this title without giving away any of the plot..... it's like *FLCL* only in space and alien worlds that are at war with each other :)

This series is fantastically fluid in its storytelling, mixing genres to create a world that is simultaneously laughably ridiculous and emotionally grounded. It never rests too long in one spot before changing up the dynamics just enough to keep you engaged in the new developments without short changing any story points. The dialogue is casual and current, but the tale itself is timeless and epic in scale. It's not for children (there is adult content) but your inner child will be amply indulged. The art, for me, is the true star of this series and it shines in this hard cover edition! This series has beholding Fiona Staples to me as the new benchmark for comic book artistry. Her artwork is gorgeous but not needlessly showy and is always in service of the story. Her characters are always so alive with movement and the backgrounds beautiful but muted as to not steal the scene (except when intended as the focus, of course). I can't remember the last time I purchased a hard cover of a comic book series, but after reading *Saga* I knew I had to have it. The book itself is sturdy and attractive, with several pages of extras in the back I look forward to checking out (I just pulled it from my mailbox not long ago). From what I saw flipping through there were extras showing casing different stages of Ms. Staples design process and paneling, as well as some straight scripts and possibly some interviews with the creators. If you're a fan of the series or either of its creators (or just of great art, both written and drawn) I would highly recommend this as a purchase.

Okay I bought that and never read *Saga* before, I just figured "I'll probably like it and it's cheaper than if I end up buying all 18 volumes in it." First off, I'm an art student, so I sincerely don't find the occasional exposed breasts and once-in-a-blue-moon sex scene with no genitals shown all that explicit. Second, I'm a huge gore wimp, I can't handle gore. But there's just enough in here that I could do without, but it also won't keep me from LOVING this series!!! GEEZ it's so good!! The artwork is FANTASTIC and I love it to bits, the writing is wonderful and I feel like there's great twists and turns everywhere. It's witty, funny, ridiculous, serious, thrilling, sad, and heartwarming! JUST-read this comic. This comic is so good, I read 12/18 chapters THE DAY I got it and then I had to tear myself away because I didn't want to run out of it! I want to wait for Deluxe Edition 2 to come out, but it'll be awhile... and thankfully, it's hard to see spoilers unless you actively google "*Saga* comic" like I did for inspiration and references.

This is the third comic book series that I've decided to collect books on, and it's the best one in my opinion. What I really find interesting is that the story starts right during the birth of Alana and Marco's daughter. But there are occasional flashbacks to see how they met later in the story. The

plot is really good, and there are many lovable characters along the way. Another interesting thing about the series is that the dialogue can range from casual to formal. Izabel and Prince Robot are great examples of this. This series has a mix of many genres: science fiction, fantasy, and romance. There are also some chapters that I'd say can be labeled under "slice of life." The violence is pretty graphic, showing gore and the severing of limbs. And there's some occasional nudity. At times it's used for comic relief, and at times it's used as a plot device. The art style is amazing. Book 1, in particular, was a blast to read. I enjoyed every page of it. Overall, I can say that this is my favorite comic book series of all time. I'm so glad I have this in a hardcover (which came with library binding)!

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