

Saga Volume 1

By Author, Brian K. Vaughan

Reviewed by: Jake 17

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Far away, in another universe, two planets are fighting a vicious war. Landfall is the largest planet in its galaxy and is fighting with its satellite moon, Wreath. Due to their proximity, the war has been outsourced to other planets. The citizens of each planet have obvious physical differences like wings and horns, and magic is practiced by the people of Wreath. In the middle of this conflict, Alana (from Landfall) and Marko (from Wreath) marry and have a child they call Hazel. Upon hearing this, both governments want to eliminate this new family. Wreath hires a few assassins to get rid of the parents but leave the child unharmed, whereas Landfall sends its own royal commander to eliminate all traces of the family. As they attempt to escape, the ragtag family befriends a ghostly girl who will help them escape the planet, and they start heading towards another planet until they're attacked by intruders.

This graphic novel is meant for a more mature audience, ideally teens who are eighteen or older. And would make a great present for fantasy or space aficionados. The plot focuses on war, assassination, and mentions (underage) forced sex work. At the same time, sprinkled in between its darker moments are heartwarming or comedic moments, which makes reading it easier. Saga's focus on the villains of the story makes them compelling characters and is a fast paced story that makes us empathize with the people involved. Ultimately, this graphic novel is best for an older audience interested in fantasy set in space and unafraid of darker themes.

Recommended Titles:

Saga Volume 2 by Brian K. Vaughan

Saga Volume 3 by Brian K. Vaughan

Monstress series by Marjorie Liu

Sandman series by Neil Gaiman