

Rat Queens, Vol. 5: The Colossal Magic Nothing

Kurtis J. Wiebe , Owen Gieni (Contributor)

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Palisade has a new resident: a strange wizard who wants to end the suffering of others. As the Queens disappear one by one, Betty uncovers a terrifying truth that finally reveals the events following Hannah's imprisonment in a magical void. Collects RAT QUEENS, VOL. 2 #6-10 and RAT QUEENS: ORC DAVE SPECIAL #1

Rat Queens, Vol. 5: The Colossal Magic Nothing Details

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From Reader Review Rat Queens, Vol. 5: The Colossal Magic Nothing for online ebook

Lindsay says

I wish this series could go back to being as strong as the first two TPs. I liked it well enough when I understood what was going on (the trippy sequences towards the beginning were fabulous!), but it got twisty enough that I lost interest. Gotta say...I'm losing my interest in the Queens, which makes me very, very sad.

Zedsdead says

What a wreck.

Something is erasing characters from existence, Dee uses her Cthulhu deity to go back in time, and the newly freed Cthulhu deity is wreaking havoc across the multiverse. So the reader is left with multiple alternate realities and chronologies that are indistinguishable from one another or partially superimposed on one another, or maybe they were just tossed together in a wok and served randomly into the pages of volume 5. It's as unnecessarily confusing as the 17th season of LOST.

Meanwhile, the Queens are all given multiple opportunities to expound on how much they love each other and would never give up on one another and how just super-loyal they all are.

This title used to be non-stop rambunctious fun.

Devann says

I hate to give this such a low rating but this is honestly a mess. I feel like the series just hasn't been as good since the hiatus and at this point I don't even really know what's supposed to be going on. There's a super complicated plot with what I would kind of call time-travel but is mostly different potential timelines I guess. It seems like every scene is getting re-written immediately after it happens and that is honestly my least favorite kind of story. Also there's some weird one page reference to the unfinished issue 16 that didn't actually help clarify anything. I hope they can just simplify things again in the future and get back to the fun of the first couple volumes.

Greyson Josten [Use Your Words] says

Rat Queens Series Ratings:

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

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

Rat Queens, Vol. 3: Demons: ★★★★★

Rat Queens, Vol. 4: High Fantasies: ★★★★★

Rat Queens Vol. 5: The Colossal Magic Nothing: **TBR**

I love the Rat Queens! **Give me more!!!**

—
?Blog?Instagram?Twitter?Tumblr?

Shannon says

Individual issue reviews: #6 | #7 | #8 | #9 | #10 | Orc Dave Special #1

Current review score: **x**

Dimitris says

Yeah.. I do need more of this.

And the sad thing is, I DO need the artwork to be the RAT QUEENS artwork. I can't get used to any other artwork than the one that the series started with and that sucks.

Melissa says

I'm still having a hard time with these newer incarnations as they try to reconcile the old storyline with new one. It still feels a bit disjointed to me, but even really contorted storyline Rat Queens is still Rat Queens.

Bonnie McDaniel says

Oh, how the mighty have fallen.

I really enjoyed Rat Queens Volumes 1 & 2. With volume 3, "Demons," the series unfortunately took a hard and fast turn for the worse. The Mage University storyline ended on a cliffhanger, with Hannah in a "void prison" and the Queens broken up. Volume 4 disregarded all of this in favor of a soft reboot that restarted the storyline and characters. Yet Kurtis J. Wiebe kept insisting the events in "Demons" were still canon, and promised to address them.

Now he has, and I fervently wish he had left well enough alone.

To put it bluntly, "The Colossal Magic Nothing" is a hot, frustrating mess. The opener, the "Orc Dave Special," is pretty interesting, and better, art- and story-wise, than the rest of the volume put together. "Chapter Six" starts out promisingly, with typical Queens rapid-fire banter, but midway through the art style shifts to some weird Betty Boop-style crap (to show the entrance to another world, I guess) and things start going downhill from there. The further along I read, the more dissatisfied I became, and the less I understood. As near as I can figure out, the fracturing of the Queens in volume 3 led to a splintering of the

entire timeline. Hannah eventually escaped from the void prison, but her fury at her supposed abandonment led her to traveling back and forth in time, taking revenge on those who used to be her friends.

This is not only stupid, it is completely unnecessary. Look, Hannah Vizari is a fascinating, complex character. She is the damaged, powerful, cynical, morally ambiguous yin to Betty's upbeat, positive, loving and loyal yang. (Needless to say, those two are my favorite Queens, with Braga a close third.) Exploring Hannah's backstory is entirely legitimate, and I'm not saying to make her a guilty mage searching for redemption, either. Although that could be an excellent story as well, a sort of Queens version of *Xena: Warrior Princess*.

However, the horrid, misbegotten Mage University storyline was NOT the way to do it. Wiebe really let his audience down, and in my opinion, he has been flailing about aimlessly ever since.

Thus, we get this convoluted, mixed-up, time-twisting revenge idiocy that purports to be an "explanation." Our beloved characters are not acting remotely like themselves, and I can hardly make sense of anything that's going on. Just as a side complaint, I don't like the way Violet is drawn this time around at ALL. She's way too girly and pouty-lipped, even with her sideburns. And wearing a *dress*? Come on, people.

Also, what the hell happened to Braga? In chapters nine and ten, she vanishes, with no explanation. This is just poor storytelling, and shows great disrespect for one's readers.

Bah. I am very disappointed. I would rather Wiebe had resorted to the cliched retcon of "it was all a [bad] dream" than this. If this is what the series is going to be going forward, just shut it down entirely, please. At least I would have the first two good volumes to go back to.

Theresa says

The first two stories weren't bad (I love Orc Dave and Betty), but the last storyline that finished the volume with Hannah in banishment bounced around a lot and had very inconsistent artwork. It was too trippy, I'd prefer a smoother storyline. However, the cliffhanger ending will make me pick up the next volume...

Holly (Holly Hearts Books) says

Personal rating: 2.75

I really enjoyed the first half but the second half was a clusterfuck.. the story tried to reconnect and salvage what happened in volume 3 but I found it to be unsuccessful. Not only did this force the plot to have to jump into weird time paradoxes but the art also kept changing. It'd go from normal, to trippy cartoon, to 80's He-Man. It made me feel very detached.

The only way that I feel this graphic novel series can be successful is if it just went back to the good ol' days of volume 1. I don't even care for it to have a follow up storyline. I just want to read about these characters going on quests, killing monsters and getting plastered.

Joshua says

I figured at first this was going to be just a few independent stories rather than an actual arc, and by the end I was, not completely aware of what was actually taking place, but satisfied with the story. This world and universe is always a delight to read and I will never NOT buy this book as soon as it hits the shelves. Fans of the series and the characters are sure to enjoy this arc, even if it can be difficult and loopy (in the sense of loops rather than lunacy) in it's approach. What doesn't change is the feeling of the world and the honesty of these wonderful characters.

LONG LIVE THE QUEENS!

Adam M says

This series has gotten progressively worse as a title for me personally. It looks like there are some folks out there still enjoying it, but not as many as those who also share my opinion. Just look at the progression of the cover art for these volumes and you can see the slid into obscurity happen.

These are the frustrated ramblings of someone who wholly bought in with volumes 1 and 2 and couldn't wait to see what was going to happen with this awesome, offbeat cast of characters. Then, *"After artist Roc Upchurch was arrested on charges of domestic violence in November 2014, Wiebe announced that Upchurch would no longer be illustrating the series."* Stjepan Šeji? and Tess Fowler would both do their level best to keep the series looking good, but the formula was already different. By the time Owen Gieni was on-board full time, it was already too late. The story telling was all over the map. The earliest plot lines were no longer really being held together and most of the promise for where this might go was just gone.

I read this one hoping for some of that old razzle-dazzle that made the first two so great (and vol 3 to a lesser extent), but outside of the Orc Dave story in the very beginning, this was a mess. I have no idea what was supposed to be happening by the end and I'm mostly sad for the comic I used to know. I'm the Weezer fan wishing this was still Pinkerton.

Sean Gibson says

Has anyone ever asked you to calculate the square root of 743 in your head? If so, then the look on your face at that moment is an accurate reflection of the look on mine when I read this (though to be fair, I get the same look when someone asks me what I had for breakfast this morning or what my name is...my brain really doesn't work these days).

While the Queens themselves are as fun as ever and Gieni's art is beautiful, I was utterly perplexed by the storyline in this collection (both in terms of where it's going and what exactly happened), and even the Orc Dave one-shot felt a bit like a trying-too-hard effort to manipulate emotions (so, it was four-color This Is Us, basically).

I very much enjoy these characters, so I'm in for future adventures, but this volume wasn't my favorite.

Now, if someone could please kindly remind me what the hell my name is, I'd be grateful.

Pop Bop says

Are the Queens Coming Back?

I really enjoyed the very first Rat Queen issues, and the entire Volume One of their collected adventures. Funny, smart, snarky, sassy and witty stuff. But then the Queens, at least to my mind, got awfully soapy and angsty, and the drawing got muddy and inconsistent. Not only didn't you know what the ladies would look like from issue to issue, sometimes they were hard to recognize from panel to panel. We then had a lot of controversy when cliffhangers were left hanging and volumes weren't in sync and artists kept getting shuffled around, so I guess this Volume 5 is supposed to be the book that pulls everything back together. Well, good luck with that.

We start with the Orc Dave single issue. It is funny, dry and deadpan, and features an appealing and solid Orc Dave. He and his father kvetch and needle each other as they walk the Green Wilds, and it's not until the end of the issue that you realize something important is afoot. The drawing and coloring remind me of the original Rat Queens, although they still don't have the style, character and presence on the page that I miss from the early days. Still, though, a nice, amusing, and rather touching start.

The rest of the volume is set up as a single arc broken up into separate tales for each of the Queens. Someone, a weird mystery wizard, is evaporating people, and as he interacts in a different way with each Queen we get a different story. All of that is sort of up and down. Sometimes it's just old-school adventure and sass. Then we're back to angst and intense monologuing. There's some time travel and what may be alt and parallel universes, but your guess is as good as anyone's what exactly is happening. And speeches about love and friendship don't substitute for clear plotting.

So, for some of the contained set pieces, (the mushroom guy, Hannah starting her banishment, and so on), it was all a hoot. Some of the other arcs, though, left me in the dust. It didn't help that the artwork is all over the place, with some flashbacks done in cartoon or quasi-manga styles, and some high drama scenes done all dark and inky.

So, I'm still in, but maybe not totally. (Please note that I had a chance to read a free ecopy of this book without a review requirement, or any influence regarding review content should I choose to post a review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

Sam Quixote says

Some evil mage is erasing people from existence for some reason. Also: how orcs procreate!

Hmm. So it's been a couple years (or a billion quadrillion years in internet time!%^8!) since I last read Rat Queens and unfortunately it's not improved. The subtitle is quite apt - this book is one big.... magic! I mean nothing! I do mean nothing, don't I... (harps)...

Huh? Oh yeah. This thing. Sigh... the Orc Dave Special was really tedious especially if you don't give a crap about the character like me. Get fucked, Orc Dave. And the main story wasn't much better either. It takes a long, long time to get anywhere and it's not really worth it. The whole thing gets wrapped up much too easily and the execution was lacking.

Writer Kurtis Wiebe tried to do something clever but it came off as just confusing: characters disappear, then they're back, then we're jumping around in time - a-nononoooo. And the humour is so played out. Same dull

jokes - oh the girls are bitchy, har har... snore.

And so I find myself saying the same thing I seem to say about most comics being published these days (burp): the art is good, the writing is not! Owen Gieni's art is skilful, pretty and expressive, and he shows some range with the hallucinatory scene. Good stuff, sir.

But of course most of us read comics for the words as much as the pitchers and Rat Queens, Volume 5: The Colossal Magic Nothing is immensely boring - don't bother. Image really has become the home of bad fantasy/sci-fi comics, hasn't it?
