



# King City, Volume 1

*Brandon Graham*

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Joe is a young man with no home, no purpose, and almost no friends...though he does have a very special cat. With a simple injection, Joe's cat can be anything: a weapon, a tool, or even a cuddly companion. But what--if anything--can transform Joe? Whatever it is, it can probably be found in King City, an outrageous semi-futuristic city full of spy gangs, alien porn, and reasonably priced diners.

## King City, Volume 1 Details

Date : Published April 1st 2007 by TOKYOPOP (first published 2007)

ISBN : 9781598169829

Author : Brandon Graham

Format : Paperback 192 pages

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## From Reader Review King City, Volume 1 for online ebook

### Gaelen says

About a spy with a cat with super powers for a sidekick. I look forward to the second half.

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### D says

This was such a delightful surprise of a book. Brandon Graham has rapidly become one of my top 10 favorite writer/illustrators, and with King City it's not hard to see why. The book is quirky and the art extremely intricate. The story is so off-the-wall, but told so nonchalantly and so well that it is fully believable.

If you aren't familiar with his work, pick this book up. It's a great introduction to his style and a gateway to some of his crazier work (Prophet).

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### Damon says

Best thing I've read in a while. I don't know that mentioning any aspect (or combination of aspects) of this book will capture what made the whole of it so good. The art was great, graffiti-inspired but not sloppy, and clear but with a ton of detail which rewards multiple reads. Story-wise, it's all over the board in a really great way: oddly-themed street gangs, drug-addicted zombie war veterans, martial arts master thieves, sasquatch spies, an amazing super-powered cat, weird demonic godfathers, abducted alien women...

Yeah, I just can't say enough great stuff about this. The only negative is that the second volume apparently got canned and won't be published (at least not any time soon).

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### Nick says

#### Overall Rating: A

*Synopsis: King City, by Brandon Graham, follows Joe, a man with little going for him aside from his cat. Fortunately for Joe, his cat is a super cat. With an injection of cat juice, he can be anything from a weapon, to a tool, to a snuggly companion. Joe carries the cat everywhere in a bucket. He's a sweetie like that.*

I kept picking *King City* up in Chapel Hill Comics, but wasn't sure whether to buy it or not. It had an interesting concept, the art looked awesome, and it seemed like a fun read, but I would end up putting it down for the next volume of one of the series I read regularly. Then, I saw Brandon Graham at Comic Con and heard him talk about the book. I immediately went out and bought a copy.

What originally seemed like a joke that would get old fast (A cat that can do anything with an injection of cat juice? Really?) was actually just one aspect of the story, and I quickly fell in love with *King City*. There is an insidious drug called Chalk, that turns users into the drug, so they have a steady supply until they're dead. There's zombies, gangs, and spies. It kicks ass.

*Side note:* I wanted to take a second to give a shout out to Chapel Hill Comics, my not so local comic book store. The store is about a 30 minute drive, and there are closer comic shops to me, but Chapel Hill Comics is easily the best comic store in the area. They are woman-friendly, have a great selection of indy and mainstream comics and manga, and are genuinely cool people. If you're in the area, be sure to stop by.

For more manga and anime reviews, please check out Hobotaku.

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### **Feña says**

Cada detalle un lujo, creatividad e ingenio!

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### **Sonja says**

Two stars for magical cat weapon. everything else was terrible.

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### **Jordynb says**

An excellent tale about a lovely (and terrible) futuristic city and the relationships intermingling within it!  
One of my all time favorites.

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### **Thomas Yount says**

I loved this book.

I feel its necessary to create a new word or invent a phrase to describe the elements of coolness involved with a secret agent who wields his cat (master) whom he keeps in his bucket...

Having worked with Brandon on a comic I was making before just adds to it as well.

Excited for the next volume to come out!

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### **Aharon says**

Cat power! Crazyly inventive.

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### **Melissa Dominic says**

one of the best graphic novels to come in most recent times. interesting characters, amazing setting and an strangely engrossing plot weaved together with a unique stroke of artistic talent, you're doing yourself a disservice if you're not reading and enjoying this one.

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## Ryan says

Fun stuff - Seattle made "manga" set in some sort of humorous mercenary future where cats (and other animals) can be weaponized via pharmaceutical injections, zombie wars rage across Korea, a sasquatch cosmonauts operate spy motels under freeway overpasses.

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## Samara Steele says

A unique indy-comic-style sci-fi adventure where injections can turn cats into parachutes and zombie-war veterans get high off their own dead flesh. The strange spontaneity of the artist's style makes this comic a pleasure to read, and I look forward to the next edition!

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## Lori says

This is the beginning, so I'll need to read the rest! But i love the story, the cat is cool, need more cat. I also love all the whimsical things in the background like "Vandal Sassoon" familiar words and ads all twisted up in an example of the constant advertising visuals forced on us everywhere in daily life, but more in the King City universe. Good read, will need more.

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## Erik Herz says

There is a marvelous, dirty, magical, extremely dangerous city in fiction and it lives in the mind of Brandon Graham. King City in not just a comic book, it is a conglomeration of genre, story, theme and art nicely bound up and selling at the low price of \$19.99. In case you could not tell, I really enjoyed this book.

At it's heart King City is a story about Joe, the Catmaster and his friends, Pete and Anna. Joe has recently returned to King City after journeys 'down south' and now needs to figure out where he fits into the place he had spent his youth. In the process he gets involved in a gang of human/owl hybrids, fights an avatar of the elder gods, laments over his ex, ogles every nice ass that passes in front of his eyes and adventures with his fellow 'catmasters.' There is an arc of fighting the ultimate evil and battling addiction of a drug that literal consumes ones body, but these aren't really important. The book really about the characters, letting you glimpse at three unique lives and their interrelationship.

At the heart of the book there are the beautiful lines of Mr. Graham. He has a style that while reminiscent of manga stays uniquely his own. His characters express a wide range of emotion, every page is packed with detailed backgrounds and for the careful reader there is sometimes more text in the background than in the world bubbles. He forces the reader to study each page ensuring you are maximizing your experience. Each panel that Mr. Graham draws is a story unto itself.

You find yourself wanting to know as much as you can about the crazy buildings and lumbering background characters. There are just glimpses of Echhhh Zu: Baby Eater of Shadowtown with its lair of white gold baby souls or corn cult looking to rule the world. Lines like, "The cat doesn't believe the the dark art of Popsicle,"

or " ... mudd astral projected himself through the back of a camel," make you want to detour out of the story you are locked into and dive down a different rabbit hole. Even after all this you still get to enjoy the hand drawn board game and the connect-the-dots puzzle.

There is so much packed into this book that it would be impossible to capture in a short review. King City is a unique and fresh story. If you want to see what the comic medium is capable of, or you just want to read 500 pages of imagination gone wild, you need to read this book.

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### **Kars says**

Give me Graham's imaginative settings, lame-but-fun wordplay and vibrant art over almost all comics out there, any day.

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