



House of Mystery, Volume 5: Under New Management

Matthew Sturges (Writer) , Luca Rossi (Illustrator) , José Marzán Jr. (Illustrator) , Bill Willingham , Sergio Aragonés , Dave Justus , Paul Levitz , Alisa Kwitney , more... John Bolton (Illustrator) , Farel Dalrymple (Illustrator) , Sam Kieth (Illustrator) ...less

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A new era for the House of Mystery begins as Fig reopens the bar to the public, with Cain herself as her new partner. Trouble arises, though, when a young man arrives claiming to have a very special relationship with Fig. The problem: Fig has no idea who he is. And she doesn't much like him, either.

Collecting: *House of Mystery* 21-25

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From Reader Review House of Mystery, Volume 5: Under New Management for online ebook

zxvasdf says

The House of Mystery is a tall tale for the 21st century. Within its pages are the syntheses of entirely new Grimm Bros slash Aesop's Fables tales.

Grim and macabre moral stories pepper the main plot. (My favorite for this book is the meet cute).

Speaking of the main plot, the book rides quite nicely to the last page the minds of several different authors. I don't know if Sturges commissioned this himself, or it was Vertigo who did, but it's a brilliant idea. Each author brings their talent to the table.

An obvious off shoot of Sandman, I hope the House of Mystery has an equally impressive run.

Amanda [Novel Addiction] says

I think I continue to read this series because of the brief glimpses we get of characters seen in the Sandman series. The story itself is interesting enough, and I'll certainly keep reading it, but this is definitely not the best thing Vertigo has put out.

However, I did find a quote in this volume that amused me quite a bit. "You people with your quests annoy the pants off me." - Cain

Allie says

This was weird, but I liked it. I didn't realise it was the 5th volume; I haven't read any of the others, but based on this: I would.

Petra says

This volume actually was the best one if you ask me, it's fast, interesting and in total really entertaining.

Anna says

Either the story got much better or I don't want to study because I wish I had the next book. The wait is killing me. Goddamn the public library system.

Don't you wish when reading a series or even watching a TV series things went back the way they were. Like the plot didn't progress because it makes you depressed. We don't see the characters interact the same

way they used to. The atmosphere just isn't the same. Sometimes it's good, but I am more of the type of person who doesn't really like change that much. Whether it be for better or worse I get nostalgic.

The characters developed a lot through these short five volumes. They have their shares of charm in their personalities. Nothing was thrown randomly at you in this series, everything has a reason. My biggest worry was not recognizing the characters or caring for them because there is so much. However my fears were settled as the story progressed. I am the type of reader who is more into the characters than story. So if you have shit characters, then there's no way I can be into the story.

colleen the convivial curmudgeon says

4.5

I loved, loved, *loved* this entry of the series. After the last volume's sort of lackluster everything, this was a burst of much needed awesomeness.

I should say, though, that I can see why others might be a bit less enthused. Once again, the main story is sort of parsed out in drips and drabs throughout the book. Things and people are coming together in interesting ways, but I also found myself confused at much of what was going on because, frankly, I'd forgotten most of what happened in the last book (since lackluster = boring = forgettable).

But what really makes this installment are the stories within the story - which is, really, what sold me on this series in the first place, as I also loved them in the first volume as well, though I feel they've mostly suffered between then and now.

But, once again, I found myself captivated by those other stories, sometimes funny, sometimes disturbing.

The other thing I loved is something that I think you might have to be a Sandman fan to truly appreciate - crossover!

Cain has been a part of the story from the beginning, but now he's more involved in the day-to-dayness of it. And, with Cain is Abel. And Goldie! And then in comes Lucien, with a pen-sword, and Eve. It was like a reunion from beyond the Gates of Horn and Ivory. (For any authors reading, the Corinthian would be a most interesting cameo for the denizens of the House. *grins*)

Anyway - really enjoyed this entry, even if it did only move the overall arc of the story ahead ever so slightly (though some of the narration was poignant and gripping - which was another thing I liked from the beginning which I felt was a bit lacking of late).

I suppose we'll see what comes in the future. Whenever I get myself psyched up for a series the next installment almost always disappoints - so I'll try not to expect too much.

S.M.M. Lindström says

I still enjoy the side-stories very much, but I've begun to lose interest in the main storyline. The addition of yet more (quite unlikable) characters and yet more plotlines and sub-plots took a way from the already established characters which I was already invested in. It's not a bad story or a boring story, but it felt a bit

like it was a *new* story, slowly taking over from the one that had been set up - at least when it came to the characters.

Lara says

For whatever reason I liked this one much more than I did the last volume, even though yeah, the story doesn't really move ahead by much. I think that's the thing though--I don't even really care all that much about the main plot line when the side stories entertain me, and I found there was a lot of interest in this particular collection, and I was reminded of why I liked this series so much when I first started reading it. I'm definitely looking forward to reading the final two volumes.

Jaimie says

The House's occupants have just started to settle in when Fig's long lost (and completely forgotten) brother shows up and starts rattling cages. It turns out that everything he's spouting is the truth, but he's a pretty twisted person so I'm happy to see him get murdered (ostensibly by Abel). Unfortunately, he'll be back before too long because the last scenes of the book show him meeting up with Fig's dad and grandfather (now a ghost) in the Land Inbetween. Between the three of them I highly doubt that Fig and co. will be allowed much time to rest before the war that's brewing with the Conception comes to fruition. Fig's bargain with the Conception in the previous volume may just pit her against her own family when the war is finally fought, but she might be more willing to do so because her family seems like a pretty large bunch of jerks thus far...

Felix says

Having followed this series for 26 issues, I think I'll give up on it. I just don't seem to care what happens to the characters or how the background story develops. I guess the build-up is just too slow for me and I get impatient. After over two years worth of monthly issues I still don't know what the powers-that-be (i.e. The Conception) want nor what their actual powers are, nor where their alliances lie, nor who they actually are! There seems to be some underlying big-scale conflict between Fig's family and the Conception but it eludes me what they are struggling about and why... I'm sorry, but after over 600 pages that's just not enough to keep me interested...

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I think I just need to hang up the towel and admit this series is not for me. It's gruesome and dark in a way that doesn't appeal to me. The characters are either sadistic or they fall prey to other sadistic characters. I wouldn't say I'm too squeamish to enjoy any horror, but this kind of horror I don't like. I was drawn in by the story within a story format and the idea of a house between dimensions. But those things don't overshadow the unappealing aspects for me. I feel the series really jumped the shark with one event. I was like, seriously! I did kind of like the cameo though. I guess I'm going to have to say that this is the last volume I will read.

My sister is tough and I'll ask her to hold me accountable not to pick any of these up. It's a shame. I want to know how things end. I suppose I'll have to do what I did with the Under the Dome show. I had my sister keep me honest! I stepped away and haven't looked back, other than drooling over pictures of Mike Vogel. I don't think that there's a hot actor in this series to tempt me to reading more of this series.

Three stars because it's not really bad quality or poorly written. It's just not my taste.

Astrid Terese says

House of Mystery er en tegneserie i 8 deler som handler om Fig (en jente). Hun er fanget i House of Mystery sammen med en gruppe andre både rare og flotte karakterer. Utover i serien inkluderer de andre hennes oldefar, far og halvbror. Det er en bar i første etasje og hvis du forteller en god historie får du drikke gratis hele kvelden. Slik at denne tegneserien er delt mellom hovedhistorien og de historiene folk forteller. Noen klarer å gå ut og inn av huset slik at det er nye gjester innimellom. Men hvorfor og hvordan vil ta alt for lang tid å forklare!

Hele min omtale finner du på bloggen min [Betraktninger](#)

Etain says

I like the stories, the artwork. I like it, but I don't. Perhaps it's because at this point, I just want to say "Get on with it!" I'm mainly reading because I just want to know, why....why is Fig so important, who is she really, what is so important about her. Even Fig, the main character, is as confused and wanting "the" answers as much as the readers. I felt the series was a bit of a drag or slow, I like it but I can't help but feel like they're sucking my money for nothing and I'd be sorely disappointed in the end when everything is finally answered or ends. This volume and the last one has been hinting of something big happening, or "soon to come" (in a dark, low, dramatic, epic voice), but come on! It's been 5 volumes already and three more left and still nothing. Five volumes of hints and false messages and teasing from that plot who just won't give you any, not even an good flash of excitement to grab hold of you so that the wait will suffice. I'm so close to want to call it quit but I'm hoping, just maybe it would be epic when the story finally have an awesome story arc that can satisfy my thirst and need. Damn it, I want you to give it up for me already!

Stewart Tame says

This volume actually stands alone to a reasonable extent. As the title suggests, Cain and Fig have come to an agreement regarding the House. Sturges has a good handle on Cain's character and he often steals the scene without even trying. The back humor, which has always been present in the writing, comes more to the fore in this volume. Lots of fun stories. I particularly enjoyed the Sergio Aragones illustrated short. Good stuff!

Bradley says

Grand Re-opening!

As always, I'm enjoying the shorts. It's not always about the episodes, but it usually is. I can't quite decide

whether I'm supposed to focus on the characters or the tales they tell, but one thing is certain.

Cain is always a kick.
