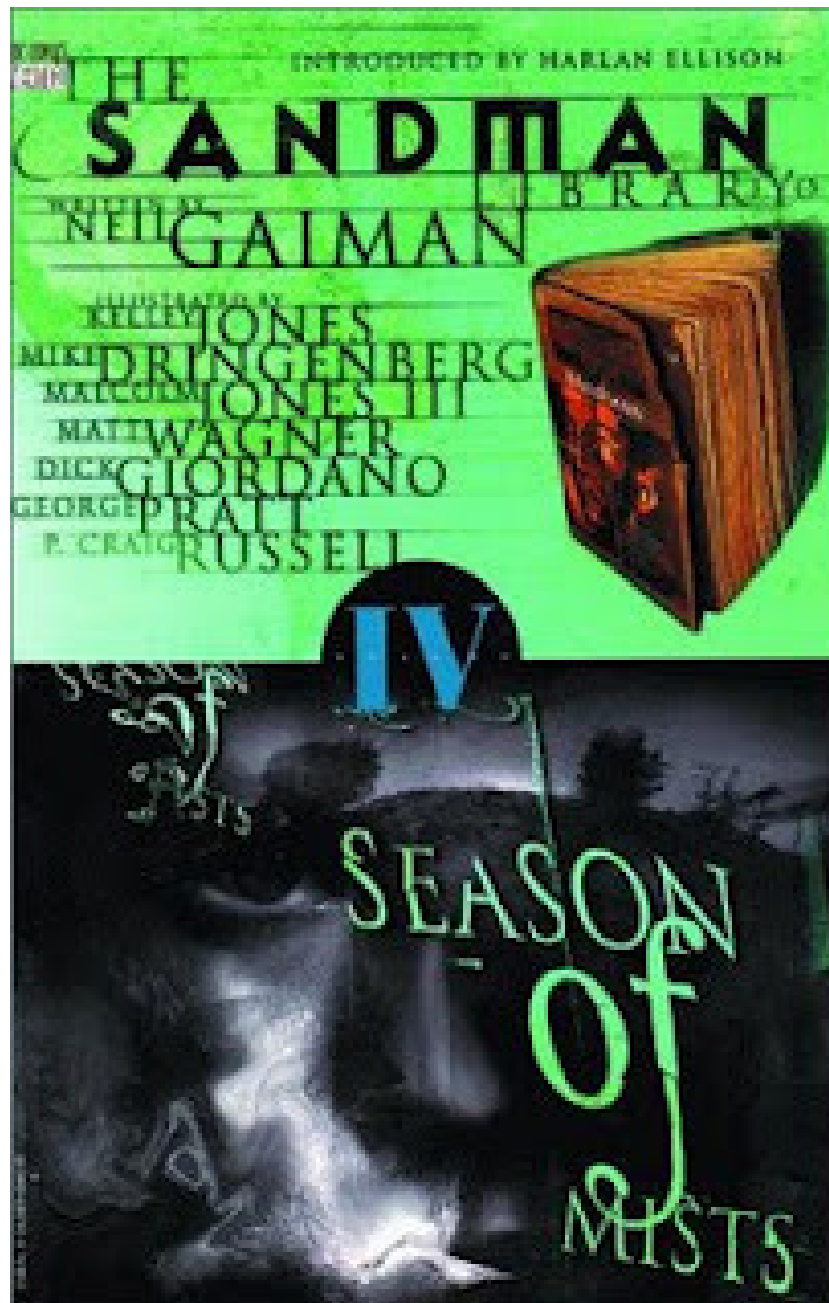


The Sandman, Vol. 4: Season of Mists Book PDF Download



By:
Neil Gaiman

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What people Say:

Alejandro

Writer: Neil Gaiman

Illustrators: Kelly Jones, Malcolm Jones III, Mike Dringenberg, Matt Wagner, Dick Giordano, George Pratt & P. Craig Russell

Covers: Dave McKean

Letterer: Todd Klein

Yet another impressive introduction to the TPB by Harlan Ellison, denoting again that is something else in the middle of the genre of comic books.

Writer: Neil Gaiman

Illustrators: Kelly Jones, Malcolm Jones III, Mike Dringenberg, Matt Wagner, Dick Giordano, George Pratt & P. Craig Russell

Covers: Dave McKean

Letterer: Todd Klein

Bill Kerwin

Neil Gaiman is at his best when his imagination is peopled with gods and demonsâ€”magnificent, outsize personalities, ranging from the eerily transcendent to the surprisingly humanâ€”and the tale he chooses to tell in â€œSeason of Mistsâ€• gives him ample room to create a godly and superior fantasy.

The plot is simple. Lucifer abdicates Hell, sending the damned back to earth, and turned the keys over to Dream. Dream doesnâ€™t really want the propertyâ€”too vast, too hard to keep upâ€”but a lot if other beings

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he chooses to tell in "Season of Mists" gives him ample room to create a godly and superior fantasy.

The plot is simple. Lucifer abdicates Hell, sending the damned back to earth, and turned the keys over to Dream. Dream doesn't really want the property "too vast, too hard to keep up" but a lot if other beings do, including demons, angels, fairies, and (yes, of course) gods): Odin, Thor, Loki, Anubis, Bes, Bast, the Shinto storm god Susano-o-no-Mikoto, and the personifications of Order (a cardboard box carried by a genie) and Chaos (a little girl dressed like a clown). The delightful center of the tale is a grand banquet in the house of Dream, where these beings offer their bids and bribes for the prize of an empty Hell. One of these offers interests Dream greatly: a chance to rescue his lover Queen Nada from the consequences of his youthful anger.

The central story is handled expertly, and the major digression "about dead schoolboys and masters returning to their boarding school during vacation" is very good too.

Gaiman's inspiration for

was a remark of Jesuit theologian and anthropologist Teilhard de Chardin: "You have told me, O God, to believe in hell. But you have forbidden me to think...of any man as damned." An easily resolved paradox, Gaiman thought to himself, provided you empty Hell. The title is derived from Keats's "Autumn": "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness." Although the association of "mellow fruitfulness" with Hell may seem ironic, I believe its message is straightforward. In

, Dream does become more "mellow" dying to unwelcome burdens and ancient rages, and gaining the fruits "a small portion, at least" of peace, reconciliation and love.

Finally, I would like to share with you my favorite part of

. Isn't it funny how often a minor character can fascinate you so much he almost blots out the rest? For me, that character is Breschau of Livonia. This imaginary Eastern European noble (I know he's imaginary, having looked him up in vain) proudly insists he remain in Hell because of the enormity of his deeds, which he relates in detail, proclaiming "I am Breschau of Livonia." Lucifer dismisses him with these words: "But no one today remembers Breschau. No one. I doubt one living mortal in a hundred thousand could even point to where Livonia used to be, on a map. The world has forgotten you."

Patrick

This is the point in the series where shit gets real.

For one thing, this is the first glimpse you have of how truly mythically all-encompassing this series is. You have Odin, the Lucifer, some Faeries, Demons, a Japanese storm god, Bast and Anubis, two angelic presences, and other assorted powers all hanging out, not just in the same story. But on the same page.

And it makes sense. You're left thinking, oh, yeah. Sure. Why wouldn't Thor be hitting on Bast?

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Even more importantly, this is the point where, when I first read it, I thought. "Wait. What? Do you mean that all those cool little stand-alone stories *weren't* stand alone stories? Are you telling me that all these tiny stories (which I loved, and would have left me completely blissed and satisfied all by themselves) are actually all part of a bigger story?"

My mind was blown. And it still kinda is. I'd never seen this done before, and I've never seen it done as well since.

Brad

Now the good stuff really gets started.

Introducing most of the Eternals, we discover intrigue with Destiny, some deep sadness in Delirium, friendship in Death, capriciousness in Desire, and maybe a bit of reasonableness in Despair. Dream is there, of course, and he's rightly annoyed with his siblings.

He is, after all, the one who had perpetrated a great crime. Who are they to taunt him?

Ah, Nada. Such a tragic figure.

And she's only a plot hook!

Oh Hell... I'm not going to spoil Hell, but Dream goe

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Anthony Chavez

What happens when Lucifer decides to leave hell? Season of Mists, the fourth volume of The Sandman answers that question as Dream heads to Hell once again, this time to release a former lover who has been imprisoned and tortured for thousands of years. Upon arrival, he finds Hell deserted, and Lucifer ushering out the stragglers he has banished from the lands, he then hands dream the key to the kingdom.

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This is the best of the first four volumes in the series, with "A Doll's House" a close second, this should not be missed by fans, nor casual observers.

Gaiman always adds epic storytelling and mythology in the series and this volume is no exception, Season of Mists takes on a lot: sin, redemption, both personal and religious, and the battle between good and evil. To discuss too much of the plot would ruin some of the rich surprises to come, but Gaiman's inventiveness is to the max here, with a gleefully funny and fascinating scene involving intrigue and lobbying by any number of demons, gods, and demigods, this provides an interesting look at the interactions between them (Thor getting ridiculously drunk and hitting on women during the banquet, for example). There is also a great ghost story set in a boys school that's not really like

any haunted house tale you've ever read. But in the midst of his epic scope, Gaiman never neglects the smaller and more intimate touches, and scenes involving nothing more than an unlikely character commenting on a sunset or an unexpected birth revealing unexpected depths and complexities to Gaiman's creations. The character of Lucifer is excellent and intriguing as well, and God's reward to the two angels who oversaw Dreams decision? Well, that's up to the reader to decide. It's become apparent just a little ways into the volume that Gaiman has constructed something akin to a new cosmology and mythology here, and while it's wonderful to get lost in his worlds, it's the surprisingly human characters that keep us enthralled and reading volume after volume.