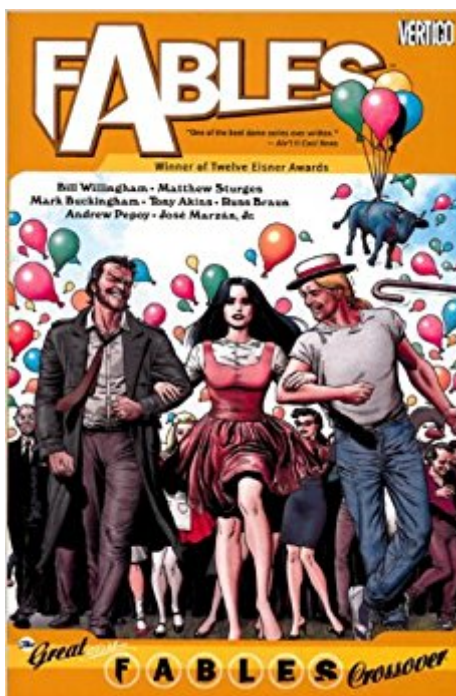


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# Fables Vol. 13: The Great Fables Crossover



## Synopsis

All nine issues of the long awaited crossover between Vertigo's two popular series Fables and Jack of Fables are collected here. The world of Fables is introduced to a whole new set of characters...The Literals. The Literals are characters that embody, literally, different literary genres such as Mystery, Comedy and Romance. One of The Literals goes by the name The Storymaker, one who can vanquish the world of Fables with one stroke of his pen. When Jack discovers the existence of The Literals and their leader Kevin Thorn aka The Storymaker, Jack must leave his own book and crossover to the world of Fables to warn Fabletown about Kevin Thorn. Does the The Storymaker plan to close the book on the Fables universe once and for all? The Great Fables Crossover features appearances from Fables favorites such as Snow White, Bigby Wolf, Rose Red, Jack Frost, Beauty and The Beast.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The appeal of Fables has always been the reimagining of fairy tale characters as if they were as messy and screwed up as real people; the characters are divorcees, drunks, womanizers, and overall flawed beings. In this crossover of all the Fables characters from various spinoff books, Kevin Thorn, the creator of the world and its stories, is angry such liberties were taken with his characters and is determined to destroy the Fablesverse and start over. The regular Fables cast, Snow White, Bigby Wolf, and Jack (the one with the beanstalk) — with a few additions such as gun-toting embodiments of the library sciences and Thorn's son, Mister Revise — try to stop

Thorn before he writes them and the rest of the world out of existence. Unfortunately, most of what could be good ideas becomes burdensome, with zigzagging plot twists that bog down the pace. There are a lot of meanwhiles, and interesting side points and characters, but the overall plot is lacking. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Taking a breather from Fables' main action, Willingham teams with fellow scripter Matthew Sturges for this story that occupied three monthly installments each of Fables, Jack of Fables, and The Literals, which was created for the occasion. It's a frayed, comics-medium in-joke yarn centered on a comics author (one of the Literals) determined to rewrite the Fables' history, deleting characters he dislikes with a pen that makes what he writes real (at least in the world of comics). His straitjacketed twin, Writer's Block, prevents him from whole-hog renovation but not from thwarting the posse after him by recasting its leader, Bigby Wolf, as a chimp, a pink elephant, a donkey, and a little girl. Fortunately, Wolf's personality remains constant and, with the help of the kick-ass librarian Page sisters (from Jack of Fables), prevails. Meanwhile, when Jack drops in on the Fables' Adirondacks farm, he's hailed as the messianic second coming of the martyred Boy Blue; as Daffy Duck, whose Duck Amuck is surely one inspiration for this arc, might say "what a revoltin' development!" --Ray Olson

This book is all over the place and makes absolutely no sense. I guess I didn't understand what it was when I got the book, thinking it was a continuation of the previous fables stories, but turns out it is a cross-over with Jack of Fables which I am unfamiliar with. If you like Jack of Fables maybe this continues along those lines - I am not sure. If you like the regular Fables stories and think you are getting more of that you will probably be greatly disappointed like I was.

I have loved every volume of Fables up to this point. But this volume is one of the worst things I've ever read. Several times, there is a full page "joke" where the "joke" is "hey look, we spent a whole page doing something completely pointless". The blue ox uttering complete gibberish. The diner fables ordering hundreds of food items. How droll. I found Jack amusing before, but here? He tries to get a bunch of preteen kids to drink and smoke. He pretends to be a messiah so that he can order people around. He takes advantage of a near-catatonic, depressed woman. If you're into that kind of stuff, maybe you'll enjoy this volume. I sure didn't. Its only redeeming quality is that it's

more-or-less self-contained. Do yourself a favor and skip this one. I wish I had.

I adore the Fables series and love spending time with these characters, with this writer, and with the talented crew of artists. But...I just barely tolerated this story arc. This is a long-winded and tiresome series of books. The tone isn't wry. It is leaden. Lots of flat jokes. The basic idea is that Jack wanders back into the world of the New York fables as things are turned upside down by the Literals. The Literals are characters -- Writer's Block, Pathetic Fallacy, etc. -- that personify the writing process. (There's a character named Humor who looks like Groucho Marx and who runs around holding a rubber chicken. Because that's how you personify the prose genre of Humor. No kidding.) I'd be fine with the temporary insertion of allegorical characters if that yielded something vital about the nature of the Fables universe. Or if they pushed the stories forward of the Farm Fables or of the ex-Manhattan Fables. Instead, the whole thing struck me as being a hot mess. A very long hot mess. A hot mess with limited character development. A hot mess with a lot of half-baked meta-comics ideas. The art is still great! Now if you love the character of Jack of Fables, you'll probably enjoy this. This is principally a Jack story (with some nice moments for Rose Red and Stinky.) I figure you can skip this thing and move on with the Fables series without losing a whole lot. Do you really need another crossover?

This appears to be a writer's vanity getting out of hand. It serves no purpose whatsoever in the context of the Fable stories except that it allows "Jack" to return. It appears to be forced (as if someone high in the publishing empire wanted it done because nobody was buying the "Jack" spin-off comic they were producing. It didn't work, even in a world where fables are real and magic is all over the place, this felt forced and out of place.

I could have skipped this one and not have missed a thing. It was funnier than I expected though and the color on my kindle looked brilliant.

The Great Fables crossover is a decent story, definitely not as good as the past arcs but decent. My biggest issue with this book is the fact that it tries to force the reader to buy other titles to understand exactly what is going on, that's exactly why I stopped reading Marvel and DC, the constant crossovers and event overkill where you couldn't follow the story unless you shelled out extra cash and bought a bunch of titles you usually wouldn't have. The story definitely suffers because of this, unless you read Jack and fables you don't know what's going on 100% and that

bothered me a bit because I always liked the fact that Vertigo didn't shake down its readers.

I've been a fan of "Fables" since issue #1, but this is a complete waste of time. Go from Volume 12 directly into Volume 14 "Witches". NOTHING in this crossover tale has any impact on the overall Fables storyline, so you won't be missing anything. The "big bad" is a Literal who can erase the universe with a sentence. (Literals are human characterizations of literary terms like "revision", "writer's block", and "deus ex machina" - and yes, its as stupid as it sounds. The Endless they ain't.) With an Adversary so omnipotent, of course you have to make up reasons why he just doesn't destroy everything on the first page - and its all nonsense and explosions from there.

This crossover storyline REALLY works only if you're familiar with both books, and since I hadn't read Jack of Fables, I was seriously confused. A little online research cleared it up, but the storyline felt flat to me as a result. The fourth wall breaking was a distraction from the story and didn't feel consistent with the rest of the book's storytelling format.

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