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Rat Queens Volume 3: Demons



Synopsis

Having survived the end of the world, the Queens follow Hannah back to where it all began: Mage University. A long perilous journey awaits the Rat Queens as they attempt to find out what happened to Hannah's father while battling their own demons. Collects RAT QUEENS #11-15

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The best I can say for this is "meh" and that makes me very sad. I LOVED Rat Queens 1 & 2. Couldn't wait for #3 to come out. Sat down & read it as soon as it came in the mail and now, I'm actually angry at how mediocre it was. The first two volumes were fairly tight stories with character growth and depth. The main story line here, such that it was, was just a big prelude to the next book ... which would have been fine if they hadn't spent 50% of the pages on little side stories that neither progressed the plot nor helped you understand the characters more. Not to mention all the time building up a character, making him important to the Queens, then killing him off screen. The entire thing just felt like the authors were adding filler because they didn't know what to do with the story at this point. Also not helping is the switch in artists. The new art isn't bad but it really doesn't match the style of the story. Gone are the hard angles, detailed backgrounds and focus on the character's expressions. In its place are big eyes, big boobs and blurry smears. The artist is obviously skilled but that overly rounded, almost cell-shaded art is not what I expected under a Rat Queen's title. In this case you should judge the book by its cover, cause that's exactly what you get with this book and it's a shame.

My husband and I have differing opinions on this one. We both loved the original art so much, and feel that the characters all have a bit more generic, "eye candy" look to them in this volume, which was disappointing. My husband really enjoyed the story, but I feel that it was a bit too spread out. I would have much preferred each aspect of the story be delved into a little deeper before moving on to follow another aspect of the plot. I still enjoyed it, but between the plot hitting points and moving on so quickly and the new way that the characters are drawn, it just wasn't as incredible as the first two volumes, for me, anyway. We both really enjoyed the story about Braga; she's one of our favorites so we were glad to be able to read more about her.

As a comic book fan, I hate to criticize, especially new, promising series. I truly loved the first 2 editions but this third...The art is not nearly as good as in the past 2 and the story is "meh" at best. Predictable to the point of comic book cliche. Very disappointed.

Loved Vols. 1 and 2. Thought the story had progressed in a way that made sense with humor and great character development. Then volume 3 happens. Shift in art looks like a web comic instead of a class A publication. Story meanders without making the reader want more. Characters go from dirty fighting, witty heroines who knuckle up in the face of adversity to cranky children. The series is fantastic if you stop with the first two volumes though.

TLDR: the story feels preachy about social issues and the art is becoming more generic. Still, buy it. Bias: The first two volumes are possibly my favorite comics of all time. Unfortunately, Vol. 3 loses speed. The art comes across as frankly lazy (ie backgrounds frequently are just gradient colors). Characters who previously had such a wonderful variety of facial characteristics, body shapes, and quirky details drawn into them are slowly transforming into more generic forms (ie all the same doe eyes, pouty lips, hourglass waists, and button noses). Worse, the story seems frequently jumbled and ambling, like too many ideas are trying to be forced on the characters. Still, it's Rat Queens. Throw your money at them and be thankful.

This one's a bit different than its predecessors. As you may have gathered if you read my other RQ blurbs--I love this series. They're the first series to hook me on comics, in all honesty. In all cases, as soon as they fell into my fingers, I devoured the lot of them. Anti-heroes, genuine female characters, an engagingly action-packed story and rich art sealed a package that was simply

unbeatable. This third chapter, however, is lacking in some of the things I loved most in its predecessors: character growth, as well as short story level action mingling with a contrary devotion to depth despite the short binding. In Demons, however, the whole overarching story seems to have stumbled into "middle book" syndrome, feeling like the whole thing is a build to something else. Despite a quick-paced intro that sets the ground for huge events to come, the story at large never really stands on its own two feet. It felt like filler, honestly, and even big moments were undercut by a swiftness that felt almost like...needless rush. Nothing was resolved, and certain events felt like they were happening "just because"--not for a purpose. Unlike many, the artist change didn't particularly trip me up. I noticed the switch in artistic form, of course, but it didn't detract anything from the work. Had it been the form its readers had first been introduced to, I doubt it should have become the explosive issue it has become in some circles. The art is different, but it's fine. The sharp humor is still there. Whatever qualms I have with the direction of story, the language remains wittily on point. I may have tripped a little bit getting through this chapter, but I'm still looking forward to future adventures--I just hope the hiatus isn't too long lasting! I'm chomping at the bit for more of that energy that first captivated me, and I still believe in Wiebe's ability to deliver it.

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