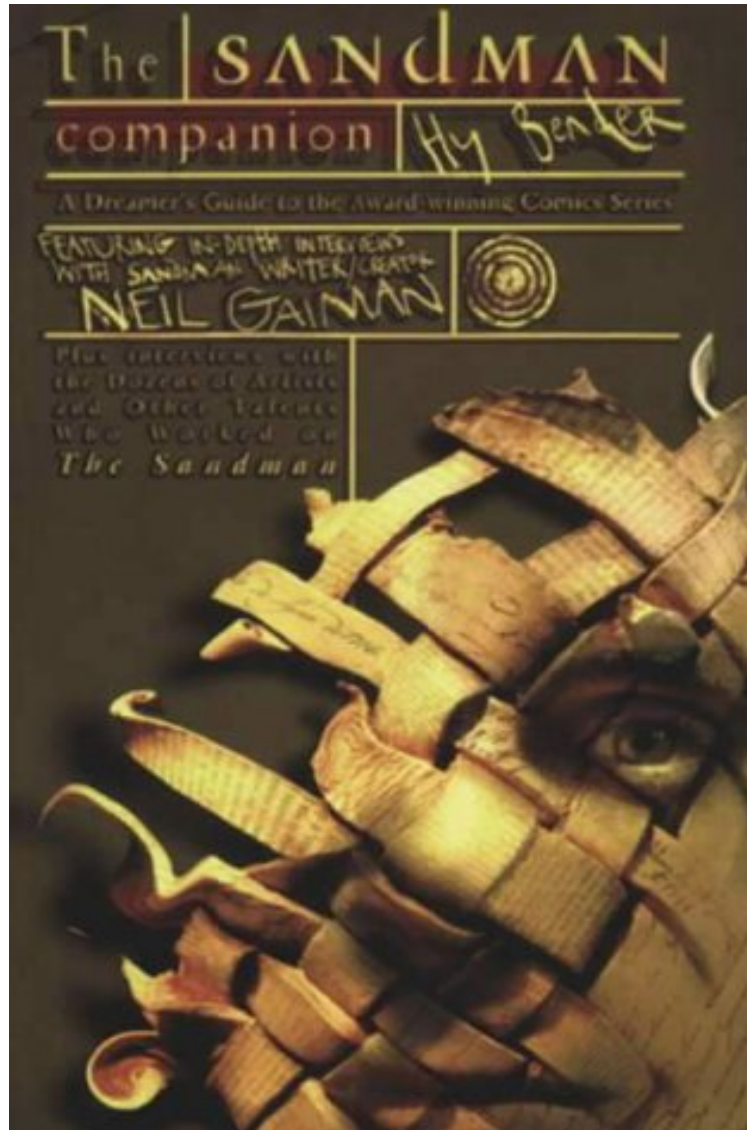


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Sandman Companion (Sandman)

Hy Bender

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Hy Bender : Sandman Companion (Sandman) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sandman Companion (Sandman):

23 of 25 people found the following review helpful. A peek behind the curtain and into the world of the SandmanBy Jeffrey A. VeyeraWhen Neil Gaiman set down his pen and brought the saga of the Sandman to an end several years ago, it left a huge void in the comics market. Since the 80s, the trend in comics has been to diminish the role of the writer and bring the artist to the fore (check out Todd McFarlane's track record if you don't believe this to be the case.)

Thus most of the comics on the rack will have gorgeous artwork and incoherent plots, a la The X-Men. Neil Gaiman fought this inexorable tide almost single-handedly throughout his run on the Sandman with thought-provoking, intricately layered tales which simply could not be confined by genre or medium. The Sandman Companion gives even casual readers a sense of how deep and how complex Gaiman's stories were and provides a fascinating window on the comic business and the creative process to boot. Author Hy Bender opens with background on how Gaiman got his start and how the Sandman came about, none of which will be very new to those fans who've followed Gaiman's interviews in fanzines. Then we hit the meat of the book. Bender takes us through every Sandman story, providing a detailed synopsis of the plot, then deconstructing the story with the aid of insightful interviews with Gaiman and others. Even those of us familiar with The Annotated Sandman on the Web will find this fascinating. The collection wraps up with 3 interviews/essays and a detailed list of credits for the original Sandman comics. Some have criticized DC for trading on the Sandman allure to make a buck. (Given the puerile garbage they put out for comics today, who could blame them?) The Sandman Companion is no marketing ploy, however. It is a solid addition to the Gaiman canon and will be a welcome gift for fans of the author or his immortal creation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must have if you are going to tackle all the books... By King David I wish I had this while I was pouring through the - now I learn - 2,000 pages of the Sandman story. The Sandman story is full of imagery, symbolism and philosophy that will be all the more realized and valuable to you if you have this book to read after each collection of comics (ewww... there's that word!) It gives book by book summary of each collection worthy of Cliff's Notes and an interview with Gaiman on each collection. Color reproductions of all of the Sandman covers would have been something I would have paid up for as the artists behind this series are as meaningful to me as Gaiman. There is a section of color plates that indicate some of the great art behind the series. It is simply written - thank you - and doesn't try to be more than it is... a companion to an outstanding series. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book For Sandman Fans! By Will This is a great addition to anyone's 'Sandman' Library. If you're like me, then you have all 10 of the graphic novels, plus a few other books. This companion really goes deep into the Sandman Universe. It offers interviews with Neil Gaiman, plus all the artists who worked on the book on it's 75 issue run. The Sandman is very folklore, and mythos heavy, and this book really helps to explain them. After reading this companion, I re-read all my Sandman graphic novels with new insight, and found a deeper appreciation for them, also. I highly recommend this book for longtime fans, and for the casual reader of Sandman.