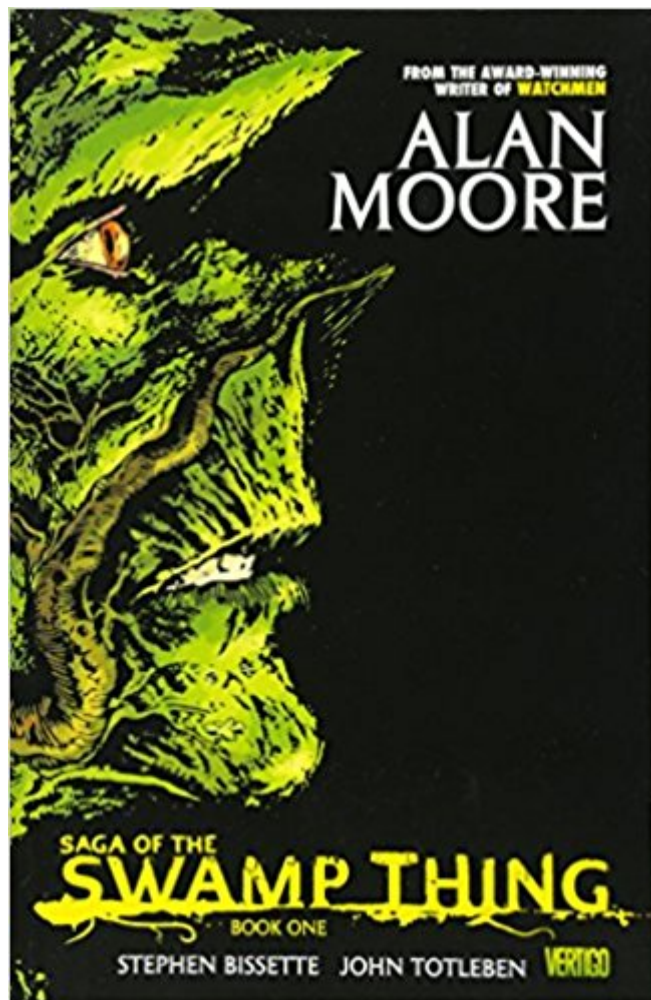


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Saga Of The Swamp Thing, Book 1



Synopsis

Before WATCHMEN, Alan Moore made his debut in the U.S. comic book industry with the revitalization of the horror comic book THE SWAMP THING. His deconstruction of the classic monster stretched the creative boundaries of the medium and became one of the most spectacular series in comic book history. With modern-day issues explored against a backdrop of horror, SWAMP THING's stories became commentaries on environmental, political and social issues, unflinching in their relevance. SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING Book One collects issues #20-27 of this seminal series including the never-before-reprinted SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING #20, where Moore takes over as writer and concludes the previous storyline. Book One begins with the story "The Anatomy Lesson," a haunting origin story that reshapes SWAMP THING mythology with terrifying revelations that begin a journey of discovery and adventure that will take him across the stars and beyond.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An influential fantasy author for almost a quarter century." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Alan Moore is perhaps the most acclaimed writer in the graphic story medium, having garnered countless awards for works such as WATCHMEN, V FOR VENDETTA, SWAMP THING and MIRACLEMAN. He is also the mastermind behind the America's Best Comics line, through which he

has created (along with many talented illustrators) THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN, PROMETHEA, TOM STRONG, TOMORROW STORIES and TOP TEN. As one of the medium's most important innovators since the early 1980s, Moore has influenced an entire generation of comics creators, and his work continues to inspire an ever-growing audience. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

After six large volumes comprising over 40 comic issues, Alan Moore's time as writer of Swamp Thing comes to a close. This series has reached epic heights, run into some occasional rough patches, and now finally ends as well as any long running issue can be expected to. Swamp Thing's journey across space brings him into contact with a number of familiar faces in the DC universe, including the Thanagarians and the green lantern corps. While one issue in this volume didn't quite work (and that was more of an issue of weird-even-by-Moore-standards rather than actually being badly written) it's amazing to see how easily Swamp Thing slips into all these chunks of the DCU. One of the most impressive things about this volume is how well it sets itself up for future conflict and yet still manages to feel complete. DC could have ended this series here and no one would have blinked. If you haven't already bought the rest of the volumes in this series, please do so. Then you can read this conclusion.

This comic is amazing. It deserves seven stars. That said, this Kindle version leaves...well, the same thing other Kindle versions leave to be desired. Reading comics on the Kindle can be frustrating. The two biggest problems are the poor zoom-in feature and the inability to change the orientation. As a result, two-page spreads are impossible to read. You can double-tap to go panel by panel, but then you lose the impact of the art. You can look at the pretty art, but then you lose the text. Sometimes, both lose impact. Here's the good news: I now have an excuse to buy this in paperback as well. But I wouldn't buy this edition. Why not? Well, for the same reason another reviewer was disappointed. The last four words of the first story arc are missing. The story loses its impact when the final sentence is cut in half. Should you buy the Kindle version? Absolutely. And if you already own it on Kindle, you should buy it in paperback too. And be sure to buy the earlier version, from 1998. Note: That edition does not include #20 "Loose Ends," which technically the start of this run. Should you wait for a future reprinting which will hopefully contain all the first issues, along with the complete text? No. Buy this right now. Then buy it again later. Great art should be rewarded.

Where to begin? I had first experienced the story of Alan (aka: Swamp Thing) in the 1982 film

adaptation starring the well endowed woman of most notably 70's sitcom "Maude" and of films "Creepshow" and John Carpenter's "Escape from New York" Adrian Barbeau. Now because the film introduced me first on the character of DC's ST, it did not inject interest in checking out the books since I felt Marvel's "Man-Thing" was the original "muck of yuck." But it was always in the back of my mind of probably taking a stab at it someday. Well, after the success of the tv show version it still did not hit me to view the book history, BUT now I'm a full fledged fan and DAMN PROUD OF IT TOO. From the beautiful illustrations to the creepy, yet piercing narrative and/or the cast of multi-layered characters of goth-ridden and psychological paradoxes is a work of art, in more detail and abstract imagination to enter into this world as a participant then a reader only. The utilization and integration of guest stars were well chosen and executed as support but never to overshadow ST, such as: The Justice League, The Demon/Jason Blood and even Arcane. I was really taken by the explanation of what ST is and how its origin is reinterpreted with more empathy and compassion then just as another human casualty. I'm looking forward to reading the rest of Alan Moore's take on this life of plants and vegetation for a long time!

This takes the Swamp Thing story in a direction I didn't see coming. Originally released when I was quite young, my first attempt to read it was around the age of 9 in the form of a graphic novel picked up by one of my parents at a garage sale. Needless to say I was too young to understand what Mr. Moore was conveying to his audience. But that didn't stop me from enjoying somewhat the Swamp Time movie and loving the Swamp Thing television show that aired around that same time. Reading this today gives me a better appreciation for comic book writing. I mean, I knew that writing was important, but seeing it really shine in this way is just something truly masterful. I hear there are five more volumes by Moore. I'm not sure when, but I'll be reading those.

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