



Return to Labyrinth, Vol. 2

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Highlights:

- Lead Tokyopop Title - National print and online advertising campaign featuring 2+ million impressions- will target crossover, film, and core manga sites
- Cross-promoted in the DVD box of Labyrinth/Dark Crystal/MirrorMask
- Based on the hit film directed by Jim Henson and Executive-produced by George Lucas
- Major promotion at New York Comic-Con 2007
- The movie is a classic and has a successful DVD sell-through

Return to Labyrinth, Vol. 2 Details

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Author : Jake T. Forbes , Chris Lie

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From Reader Review Return to Labyrinth, Vol. 2 for online ebook

Donna says

I wouldn't get much by the way of reviews if I split all of these up, plus there's more to comment on when targeted as a whole series instead of individual books so a combined review it is.

I read the first volume of this Labyrinth sequel while I was on vacation and pretty much as soon as I was done, I had to order the rest because I needed to see where these writers took the story and the world and I have to say, as a hardcore Labyrinth fan, I wasn't disappointed.

First a comment on the artwork. The covers are gorgeous. I don't think there's much denying that. The artwork within the pages itself, the one that tells the story, isn't as beautiful (I just don't think there was the room and I think it would have rocketed the cost of the book itself) but it really portrayed the world without being too angular anime-looking. The only characters that looked even remotely close to that angular look that kind of freaks me out was Toby, Jareth and that's pretty much it. The rest of the humans had some slight angles but nothing serious and the rest of the creatures, the goblins and faeries and whatnot, looked like they did in the movie which was all sorts of awesome. I liked how the artist didn't stray from that look too far.

As far as the story goes, considering the interest Jareth took in Toby and Sarah in the movie, I felt that it was an almost natural progression to go where it ultimately went. I could have lived without the Ice Queen spurned by the Goblin King but what fantasy story would be anything without some good romantic conflict? Actually, it wasn't all that great. It was okay and it served its purpose in the plot but really, I could have lived without it. I think the Queen consigned a little too easily at the end there, relinquishing her hold that she held so steadfastly to for so long. Maybe when she realized that she'll never have him she felt why bother anymore. Hey, at least she realized it. It's more than what a lot of chicks do in that situation.

I loved the tie-in between Moppet and Sarah. I don't want to spoil it because I was pretty shocked to find out just what Jareth did (I'll give you a hint, it's along the lines of Spike's Buffy-bot, but not quite) but it suits his persona and the world as a whole. Yeah, as the Goblin King who totally doesn't like getting pwned by a 15 year old girl, I could see him holding a grudge and taking it out on her like he did. I wish Sarah was a stronger character within the series, though. I kind of get why she wasn't up until the end, but the correlation between the why there and her personality originally, they don't match up. She was such a strong character that barely even considered taking the King's offerings in the movie (she barely paused a second when he offered her his balls . . . er . . .). But in the story, she damn near concedes. I found that out of character for her even outside of her character transformation.

As I said above, I could have lived without the Queen being there, especially her two daughters, although I liked what they ended up being. And associated to that, how they were their own individuals despite the circumstances (read the books, you'll know what I'm talking about, I'm trying not to spoil). The chubby one was just obnoxious and I was kind of glad when she was taken out of the picture. The emo one, I kind of like the 180 she did but ultimately, I didn't feel her being there all that important to the story as a whole except functioning more as a guide. And there are plenty of other creatures in the Labyrinth that could have done that. I did like how the story branched out beyond the Labyrinth and created other kingdoms but I think it could have been melded together differently.

At the end of the day, Toby's story was the one I kept pushing to the side because I wanted to know more about Sarah and Moppet. All of the teasers that centered around them were just too juicy to resist. I mean, it's not that I didn't like Toby's tale, but it's a pretty standard one. A hint of Chosen One Syndrome with a bit of coming of age mixed in. His surroundings were kind of cool but other than that, I wasn't too interested. Let's face it: I wanted more Jareth and Sarah. So I kept reading for that.

While I think I would have liked to have seen actual novelizations over manga, I still liked the visuals and I was able to follow along with the story just fine. These books are a definite keeper if you're a Labyrinth fan. And you'd better hurry up. Pretty soon they'll be nothing but a dream (or a costly keepsake) soon enough. No, really. BN doesn't list them at all and Borders only has the last two in the series. So snag them while they're cheap. You'll be kicking yourself if you wait and end up paying \$200 a pop like the movie novelization is.

Jenn says

This will be a four volume series. Holy cliffhanger Batman!

Allie says

It's The Labyrinth, guys! MORE of THE Labyrinth.

It was fun seeing cameos from the movie, as well as reading lines from the movie. Just fun. Kinda wish it was in color, but that's forgivable because color comics are harder to read. (Or is that just me??)

Roger Royer says

As good if not better than the first book in the series. I love the idea that they are using Sarah as the antagonist in a way for the story.

Sarah Crawford says

Jareth finds out that the peasants are revolting. There's a queen he goes to see. We learn that the goblin king can't leave the labyrinth unless he is summoned. So he has to figure out a way to do that. Easy. Quite being king, turn it over to Toby and he can go where he wants to and you can guess where that is.

We also find out the origin of Moppet who is the slave, basically, to the major. She becomes a target for murder. Toby calls her 'Sarah.'

The story is moving along quite well. We learn something new about the labyrinth, something new Jareth and a lot about Moppet. A good second volume in this four-volume series.

Julie Akeman says

Things are getting very interesting in the storyline now.

Bunny says

See my review of Volume 1. Library had volumes 1 and 2, and despite not liking the first one, I figured since I had it and was at work, I'd read it.

Still a no.

Crysta Coburn says

I was really all set to give up on this series, but then the last page made me curious, so I guess I'll check out volume 3.

Marsha says

At the end of the previous book, Jareth made Toby his heir to the Labyrinth, thus slipping away from the Lady Mizumi and saddling Toby with the burden of keeping this insane world thriving and spinning without him. Toby is being sucked into the world of protocol that baffles him (and the reader) more than it enlightens.

Jareth's attentions about Sarah grow ever more distressing. Apparently, he is in love with her (in his own twisted way). But he resents the hell out of her and isn't above holding her brother captive with the snares of illusory power.

Also, there's the little problem of a bet laid with the Lady Mizumi, a woman with her own bittersweet connection to the former Goblin King. What does she really want with Jareth? Why does she seem to help Toby? Why does Toby keep going to her for advice when he really doesn't trust her? What the hell is an ablation?

While there are moments of humor—the goblins are often nothing more than comic relief—they're not enough to liven this story, which seems determined to have more idle plotlines stuck in it than it can resolve.

This graphic novel includes pictures that dwell on the Labyrinth creation by other illustrators, many of them quite estimable. It's too bad some of the better ones weren't on tap for this series.

Katy says

The second installment of this series gets a bit better, with fewer obvious movie references and an actual developing plot. Toby gets some more characterization. Have noticed that a lot of reviews for this series complain about the artwork. It certainly seems "rough," but I don't think it would bother someone very much who doesn't read a lot of manga.

Megan says

4 ½ stars. This is just as wonderful, if not more so than Volume I.

Toby gets tutored on how to be a Goblin King, Mayor Spittledrum oversees he has the proper tutors. One is actually Sir Didymous who teaches him chivalry and how to fight. Queen Mizumi and her two daughters (Moulin, Drumlin) are staying at the Goblin Castle as guests of Toby while Mizumi teaches Toby how to use magic. We learn that Mizumi and Jareth used to be in love before Jareth made the Labyrinth and shut himself away in his castle to isolate himself (we do not learn why). We learn that the Pathmaker is the one who controls the Labyrinth, and that the Pathmaker is only ruled by the Goblin King. Queen Mizumi does not have all good intentions- she wants to rule the goblins. The day before Toby's coronation Mizumi takes Toby to the Ministry of Prophecies so he can get a prophesize about his forthcoming rein. The goblin there finds one to suite Toby: "When King of old forsakes his hall, and chaos comes to goblin town, a human boy shall heed the call, the long-lost heir shall don the crown. A promise of yore, born of blood will open path to Labyrinth's heart, and usher forth a wondrous flood— a new era then shall start." Mizumi leads Toby away before the goblin can finish the prophesy: " When friends are far, and family lost and prince rest into dark abyss. The Labyrinth and rightful heir shall be restored by true love's kiss" (some of those words might be wrong as the rest of the prophesy isn't spoken, but written down in the goblin's book and hard to make out).

Meanwhile— Moppet is helping Hana search for hear wings. They come across a fancy door, they enter. Inside is a beautifully decorated bedroom. In the closet are fine clothes and Moppet finds a very familiar looking music box. Drumlin destroys the room by pulling the wood out from under them, and she advances on Toby's friends. They fall from a height and Toby is there at just the right moment to save them with his magic. As Moppet stands her mask comes off- to reveal a girl who looks like Sarah (although her hair is blond and her face more tanned). That scene is cut to the real Sarah in the human world- she hears a knock at her door- she answers it- Jareth is standing there! "Hello Sarah," he says. So ends Volume II.

Valerie says

Read the first 1/3 or so, then skipped to the very end to read the small bit with Jareth.

Julie Zantopoulos says

I was getting a slight romantic vibe between Moppet and Toby and now I'm a bit confused. I guess we will see how volume 3 plays out but now I'm upset I don't have the fourth!

Still not a ton of plot progression but again I'm digging some Jareth romantic backstory and the art.

Erin Cataldi says

Another wonderful installment in the Return to Labyrinth series! I love that we get to know more about goblin culture and what it takes to be king. Toby is having a hard time governing the Labyrinth now that Jareth has up and left him to rule in his stead, but thankfully Toby quickly makes some friends (and enemies). I can't wait to find out more about the mayor's servant (a human girl! how did she get there?!?) and the end of this manga made my heart race a little (you go Jareth!). All in good fun this is a must read for Labyrinth fans. I can't wait to finish the rest in this series!

Juli says

Return to Labyrinth is a 4-part American style manga series from Tokyo Pop. Several years ago I was given the first 3 books in the series, but never had the final book. As part of a personal goal this year to read more books that I really want to read and from my own shelves, I have ordered a copy of the 4th book. I will finally get to read the end of this revisit to Labyrinth! Well, that's assuming my order ships and I receive the book. (lol) With a sense of optimism, I have begun reading the first three volumes in the series again. I want to be ready to tear right into the package and start reading when book 4 arrives!

This series is set more than 10 years after the movie. Toby is a teenager and has been lured into the labyrinth by Jareth, The Goblin King. Jareth announces his intention to make Toby his heir. There is an evil queen and several other baddies who are not in favor of this choice. Soon after announcing his heir, Jareth disappears, leaving Toby as the new king. In flashbacks, it is discovered that Jareth entered into a wager with Queen Mizumi. He has 13 years to fulfill his part of the bet, or his kingdom and everything in it reverts to the control of the queen. There's only a week left...and Jareth is missing. Will he complete his task in time, or lose everything? And what will happen to Toby who now finds himself the new Goblin King? Volume 2 reveals the bet, Toby's decision to learn to be Goblin King, and a strange revelation about Moppet, a servant of the Mayor of Goblin City.

I like this series. The artwork is a wonderful mix of familiar characters from the movie and manga style artwork. The cover art, by Kouyu Shurei, is awesome! The storyline is interesting and adds in some new characters like Moppet, Mizumi and her daughters Drumlin and Moulin, and Skub. I'm glad that I will finally be able to read how the story ends, once I have book 4!
