

# BARTON LIBRARY

*Dare to Know*

## Fantasy Comics

*Comics in which magic and extraordinary characters are integral to the story.*

A genre in which the elements that are introduced could not occur in the contemporary world as humans know it. Fantasy is the oldest genre of literature with roots in mythology, fables, and folklore that are thousands of years old. The inclusion of evocative art and sequential fiction can bring a freshness to this venerable tradition of storytelling. Fantasy comics were inspired by the popularity of groundbreaking novelists in the 1930s and 1940s, such as J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis, among others. While settings can include other planets or undiscovered dimensions, most often the stories take place in a world that is medieval in tone. Architecture, clothing, language, and technology resemble to some degree the European Middle Ages. Words and artwork may combine to tell epic stories while styles can vary widely from realistic to cartoonish depictions. Allegories and archetypes are conventional features of fantasy literature. Fantasy comics are normally distinguished from **horror comics** and **science fiction comics**, but the themes of the genres do sometimes overlap. Winsor McCay's *Little Nemo in Slumberland* (1905-1927), American Comics Group's *Forbidden Worlds* (1951-1967), and Joe Kubert and Norman Maurer's *Tor* (1953-1954) are early examples.

### Common Elements

Magic or witchcraft Sorcerers, wizards, or witches	Mythical or supernatural creatures Plants and substances with magical properties	Direct and indirect appearances of gods, spirits, and demons Symbolism and allusions
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### Graphic Novel Examples

<i>Achewood: The Great Outdoor Fight</i> (2008) by Chris Onstad	<i>Blackmark</i> (1971) by Gil Kane and Archie Goodwin
<i>Arrowsmith: So Smart in Their Fine Uniforms</i> (2022) by Kurt Busiek and Carlos Pacheco	<i>Bloodstar</i> (1976) by Robert Corben, Robert E. Howard, and John Jakes
<i>Battlepug: The Compendium</i> (2019) by Mike Norton and Allen Passalacqua	<i>By Chance or Providence</i> (2017) by Becky Cloonan
<i>Birthright Volume 1: Homecoming</i> (2015) by Joshua Williamson and Andrei Bressan	<i>Bone</i> (2011) by Jeff Smith and Steve Hamaker
<i>The Black Dragon</i> (2014) by Chris Claremont and John Bolton	<i>Cerebus</i> (1987) by Dave Sim
	<i>The Collected Cheech Wizard</i> (1972) by Vaughn Bodē

<i>The Complete Elfquest Volume 1</i> (2014) by Wendy and Richard Pini et al.	<i>Love and Rockets: Maggie the Mechanic</i> (2007) by Jamie Hernandez, Gilbert Hernandez, and Mario Hernandez
<i>Chronicles of Hate Volume 1</i> (2014) by Adrian Smith	<i>Midwest: The Complete Tale</i> (2021) by Skottie Young and Jorge Corona
<i>Conan the Slayer: Blood in His Wake</i> (2017) by Cullen Bunn and Sergio Dávila	<i>Monstress Volume One: Awakening</i> (2016) by Marjorie Liu and Sana Takeda
<i>The Crusades Volume 1: The Knight</i> (2010) by Steven T. Seagle and Kelley Jones	<i>Nimona</i> (2015) by ND Stevenson
<i>Estranged</i> (2018) by Ethan M. Aldridge	<i>The Sandman Omnibus</i> (2013) by Neil Gaiman, Sam Keith, and Mike Dringenberg
<i>Fables: Legends in Exile</i> (2003) by Bill Willingham, Lan Medina, Steve Leialoha, Craig Hamilton, and James Jean	<i>Seven to Eternity</i> (2022) by Rick Remender, Jerome Opeña, and James Harren
<i>The First Kingdom Volume 1: The Birth of Tundran</i> (2013) by Jack Kratz	<i>Sleepless</i> (2018) by Sara Vaughn and Lella del Duca
<i>God Country</i> (2017) by Donny Cates, Geff Shaw, Jason Wordie, and John J. Hill	<i>String Theory</i> (2015) by Jim Zub and Steve Cummings
<i>The Hobbit: An Illustrated Edition</i> (2001) by J. R. R. Tolkien and David Wenzel	<i>The Wicked + The Divine</i> (2014) by Kieron Gillen and Jamie McKelvie
<i>Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels</i> (2014) by Donald Lemke and Cynthia Martin	<i>The Witch Boy</i> (2017) by Molly Knox Ostertag
<i>Little Girls</i> (2019) by Nicholas Afilleje and Sarah DeLaine	<i>Yragaël and Urm the Mad</i> (2018) by Philippe Druillet and Michel Demuth