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Flight, Volume One



Synopsis

Originally published by Image Comics in 2004, *Flight, Volume One* launched this graphic novel series with a resounding bang. Since then the *Flight* series has steadily increased in popularity “and now all of the *Flight* backlist will be coming to Villard! *Flight, Volume One* received a great boost when graphic novel hero Scott McCloud praised the quality and artistry of the book in an afterward entitled *THE YEAR COMICS TOOK FLIGHT*. Little could readers know at the time how prophetic McCloud’s words would prove to be. “Regardless of where it’s shelved, this book belongs in every library.” Library Journal on *Flight, Volume One*

Authors included in *Flight, Volume One* are: Bengal, Bill Mudron, Catia Chien, Chris Appelhans, Clio Chiang, Derek Kirk Kim, Dylan Meconis, Enrico Casarosa, Erika Moen, Hope Larson, Jacob Magraw-Mickelson, Jake Parker, Jen Wang, Joel Carroll, Kazu Kibuishi, Khang Le, Neil Babra, Philip Craven, Rad Sechrist, and Vera Brosgol.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Remember 1990 and what a desolate time it was for comics? The major companies weren't doing anything remotely interesting and had started the whole mess of needing to buy 5 titles to get a single story; Image hadn't come along to with creator-owned stuff yet; and Jademan had pulled out of the US market. Sure, there were a few bright spots - The Vertigo line was just starting, but overall, it was pretty bleak. All of a sudden, Heavy Metal got a second wind and started publishing *good* stories again - full of life and vibrance and with plots and art that weren't afraid of nay-saying normalists. Nothing lasts forever, but for a few years, Heavy Metal was the place to go for

interesting stories every month. Reading **Flight** took me back to those days, back to when, as a jaded teen, I opened up *Heavy Metal* and was blown away by the vitality of the art and writing on the page. Kazu Kibuishi's genius was to ask a bunch of his webcomics and artist friends to contribute to an anthology, which was intended for a small press release. Little did they know that Image Comics would see their work and be blown away enough to publish it, thus ensuring that a larger audience would read it. **Flight** is a collection of stories, many of them having to do with flying, but not all. There's an action story involving a zeppelin; a wonderful mixed-media story about discovering people you've known for years; a nearly wordless piece about triumphing over fear (my personal fave, done by Dylan Meconis and Bill Mudron); a post-script by Scott McCloud; and a couple "Copper" pieces by Kazu himself (featured on his website [...]) These are comics, pure and simple. Graphic storytelling at its best by people who don't care about "rules" in art and who didn't wait for "permission" to make their own book. There's nothing trendy or throw-away in this book - no manga, no steroid-superheroes, no grim lines to be muttered in a badass mofo manner. Little tales - some cute, some dark, some deeply personal, some poetic. All of 'em wonderful. Pick it up. Pick it up and read it. And then give it to a friend. And then tell someone else about it. Because work like this deserves to be seen.

Having not read the description before reading this book, I wasn't aware that it was an anthology. This is no one's fault but my own, but, since I thought I was getting an original work of Kibuishi's, I found myself disappointed. That said, I didn't give up on reading it. Each entry is a short story that has something to do with flight (save for a few). Most took on an artistic expression, as if to show off the author's style. As such, some of the stories are a bit out there. I liked a few, but didn't care for them all, which is why I'm giving this book a 3-star rating. Something about this reminds me of the *Robot Carnival* anime, which is a collection of different animation styles. Each story has something to do with robots, like this does with flight, but otherwise they were all very different . . . that is the case with *Flight* too. In order to enjoy this story, it's best to put on your creativity cap and look at it as more of an art form than a collection of well written stories. James D. Maxon
Author of *Traphis: A Wizard's Tale*

Kazu Kibuishi (ed.), *Flight*, vol. 1 (Image, 2004) Interesting collection of graphic shorts, varying in quality (of course) but most relatively strong. Interestingly, I liked Kibuishi's the best (usually I find editors who include their own work in anthologies use second-rate stuff they couldn't get published elsewhere); appealing characters, strong storyline, manga-style artwork without being overly cute or

cloying. But Kibuishi's two stories are by no means the only reason to pick this up; there are a number of solid artists represented here. Open to a random page and you're likely to like what you see. *** Æ Æ

As a teacher, I try to purchase books that my students will find interesting. They LOVE Kazu Kibuishi's books, so I assumed that these were meant for the same age-group. Not so. I flipped through them, but didn't read them prior to giving them to the kids. Well, much to my surprise there are artistically rendered naked females in these books. Not great for third and fourth graders! So, if any teachers read this, you have been warned!

If I'm disappointed is my own fault for not informing myself before buying the book! I thought this book was going to be about one character "the one on the cover" traveling around the world, but it isn't; more over because of the beautiful cover I was expecting it to be a mixture between Howl's Moving Castle and Secrets of Kells or something similar. Flight is a collection of short stories not related one to another, you may find more than one chapter of some stories within on volume. There are lots of different drawing styles and all of them are good, plus the stories are awesome my favorite was "The Bowl". If you wanna check out some previews you can go to this link <http://www.flightcomics.com/preview.htm> I'm not going to take stars away because the book was excellent and because I should have looked up reviews for the book before buying it.

I ordered this collection on the strength of a few authors I had read before but never really fell in love with the work as a whole. There are a few charming pieces, a few gems, and a few pieces that struggle with their narrative and never quite get off the ground. "Flight" as a theme may be a bit too airy and loaded with cliché to build a cohesive set of stories, but these authors -- many of them not yet well known -- try their best.

Flying is something we've all probably thought about once in our lives. The freedom, the adventure. This book collects a number of short graphic stories playing on the common theme of flight. Some stories were good, others bad; some art was very good, some not so good, some avant-garde. Nothing groundbreaking, but an interesting collection examining a few different angles of a theme. Overall, an enjoyable, if quick, read. I'll probably pick up others in this collection.

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