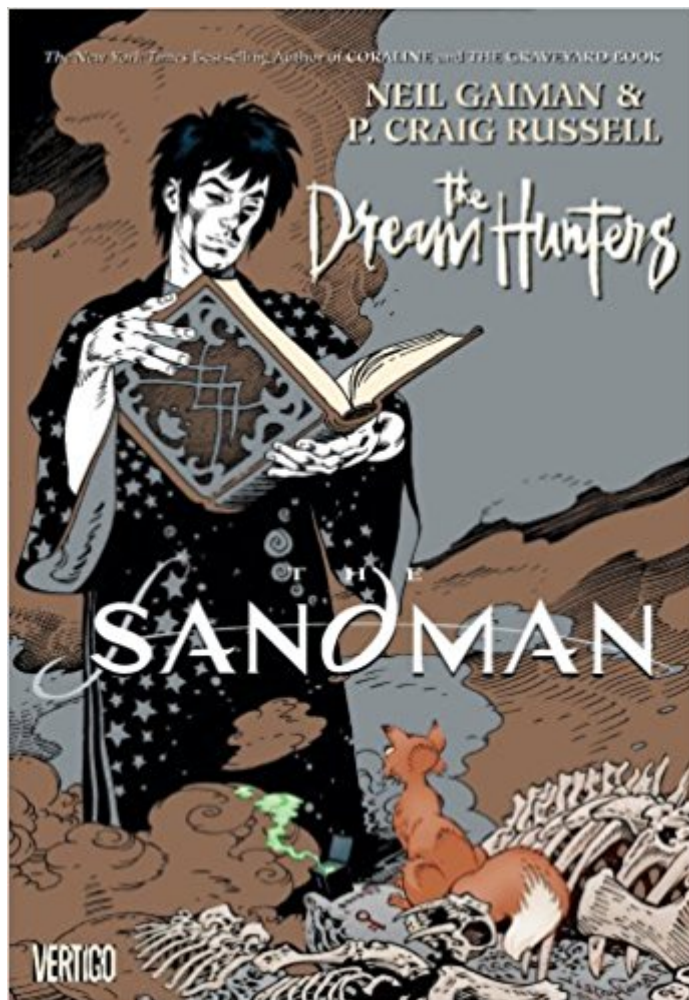


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# The Sandman: Dream Hunters



## Synopsis

THE SANDMAN: THE DREAM HUNTERS is a comics adaptation of Gaiman's original prose novella by the same name illustrated by Yoshitako Amano. This graphic novel was illustrated by the legendary P. Craig Russell. A humble young monk and a magical, shape-changing fox find themselves romantically drawn together. As their love blooms, the fox learns of a devilish plot by a group of demons and a Japanese emperor to steal the monk's life. With the aid of Morpheus, the fox must use all of her cunning and creative thinking to foil this evil scheme and save the man that she loves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gaiman's novella *The Sandman: The Dream Hunters*, previously illustrated by acclaimed Japanese artist Yoshitako Amano, has been reimagined by award-winning artist Russell. This new release celebrates the 20th anniversary of Gaiman's *Sandman* and turns the original prose from 1999 into a graphic novel. The original blended Gaiman's mythology of the Dreaming with traditional Japanese myths and legends to tell the tale of a fox who makes a wager to dislodge a young monk from his home, losing her heart in the end and causing the intervention of the King of All Night's Dreaming. The pairing of Gaiman and Russell's previous collaborations between the two have won four Eisner Awards is as strong as ever; together they develop the tale further, visually expanding upon Amano's original designs. The hardcover is sure to please the legions of Gaiman and *Sandman* admirers and also includes commentary and a cover gallery including variant covers by Russell, Yuko

Shimizu, Mike Mignola, Paul Pope, and Joe Kubert. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 9 Up "A fox and a badger wager to see who can drive a monk from his temple. After they both try and fail, the badger departs in disgrace and the fox falls in love with the monk. When she learns that his life is in danger, she calls upon the King of All Night's Dreaming to help her save his life. If the story sounds familiar, that's because this book retells Gaiman's 1999 award-winning novella as a graphic novel. While the original story was illustrated with breathtaking watercolors by Yoshitaka Amano, this new adaptation looks more like the rest of the original "Sandman" series. It is divided into panels, characters speak in word balloons, and the artwork (especially that of the fox) is more cartoonlike. There are several advantages to this new approach: readers can see the characters and the action in better detail, the graphic-novel format may attract reluctant readers, and readers get to see Dream speak in his white-on-black word balloons again. But the disadvantage of this version is that its presence eclipses the awe-inspiring beauty of Amano's work. The Dream Hunters is equally powerful as straight text or broken up into panels, but hopefully readers will be inspired by this book to seek out the earlier version (which thankfully is still in print) and enjoy another interpretation of the artwork for this story." Andrea Lipinski, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have made it clear in my other reviews of Neil Gaiman's Sandman series that I am not much of a fan of his stories in the series that do not directly involve Morpheus/Dream, with a few exceptions here and there (the World's End anthology, for instance). With that said, I did enjoy this adaptation of the illustrated novel of the same name, though that could be a bit of bias on my part because I truly enjoy reading about Japanese mythology which comprises this story. The characters, all based upon either Japanese folklore or existing characters in the Sandman series, are all well thought-out and dynamic, with a few exceptions. The main antagonist of the book is sadly a bit flat, and while it would be preferable to get a bit more depth to him, we do thankfully see very little of him as a result of this. The same can be said for the badger at the start of the story, but we see even less of him, so it is not that much of an issue. The art is good, but not fantastic; truthfully, I would have liked to have seen something more in line with traditional Japanese art. Like I said, Russell's art is still good, with solid character models that hold true to realistic forms while adding a bit of exaggeration to certain

features (such as the traditional-to-anime over-sized eyes on the Fox Spirit). The dream sequences, a staple of the Sandman series in any medium, are very well-rendered and striking, deftly using negative space to create a setting that feels like a dream. At the end of the day, I enjoyed this addition to the Sandman Mythos, and recommend it to anyone who is a fan of the Sandman series or Japanese folklore.

Gaiman delivers another charming tale, and the artwork by Russell carries the story along with a dreamlike quality. Excellent work by both. A must for fans of Sandman, and a great story for everyone else. A must read.

While a lot of the new Sandman material coming out of Vertigo has been pointless, and even boring, the Dreamhunters is an excellent addition to the story and history of Morpheus. For fans of previous Sandman works, this can be seen as an extended version of the classic 'Ramadan'. For those of you not familiar, this means that the story is made up of a lot of lyrical prose, lyrical dialogue, and absolutely stunning artwork. P. Craig Russell did fabulous work with the original novel.

If you're squirmy when it comes to nudity or violence, give this book a pass. As with all of this great writer's stories, if a character is drawn nude, then they're going to appear nude. And if they're going to die, then you're going to see them die, regardless of how violent or explicit that scene is. If you can get past that, this story is a precious one.

Dream Hunters is a great 4 issue comic storyline that was adapted from a novella of the same title written by Neil Gaiman. The artwork is beautiful and the story is well put together, and cleverly weaves in characters from the Sandman story into a new Japanese folktale. It has a slightly different style from the rest of the Sandman series, but the quality is right up there with the others.

A stand alone story for Neil Gaiman's Sandman series set in feudal Japan. This book is above all a love story as it can only be told in the Japanese tradition.....with lots of demons, sorcery, and betrayal. All of it is brought lovingly and colorfully to life by P. Craig Russel, one of my all time favorite comic artists. If you love Neil Gaiman, the Sandman series, P. Craig Russel's art or just Japanese mythology, this book will bring you much joy.

Incase you haven't noticed, there exist two versions of Gaiman's Dream Hunters. One is illustrated

by Yoshitaka Amano (paperback, originally released in 1999), and the other (the product you're currently viewing) by P. Craig Russell. Russell's version is rendered in comic book fashion, while Amano's plays out like a classic fairy tale book (think picture book). I was not very impressed with Russell's artwork for this book, it doesn't have the detail and style that is featured in the original sandman series or the original version of Dream Hunters. Those works feature a detailed, unique, and ultra stylized type of artwork. The newer version of Dream Hunters feels somewhat flat and bland, it almost has a B grade feel to it. If you are not a hardcore fan of Gaiman's Sandman series, and/or are short on money, I would highly recommend the original over this purchase. The story for Dream Hunters was based on an old Japanese fairy tale, and the original version of this book features one of Japan's finest artists, Yoshitaka Amano. If you want the full experience, buy the original first. And with a flick of her tail, she was gone.

This, the final volume of the Sandman series to date, presents the tale of a monk and his unlikely companionship with a fox. It is a delicate story, full of beauty and sadness, and of bright hope for future things. The art is of course a perfect compliment to the narrative. All in all, the book is a fine and fitting final chapter to a series that will be missed.

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