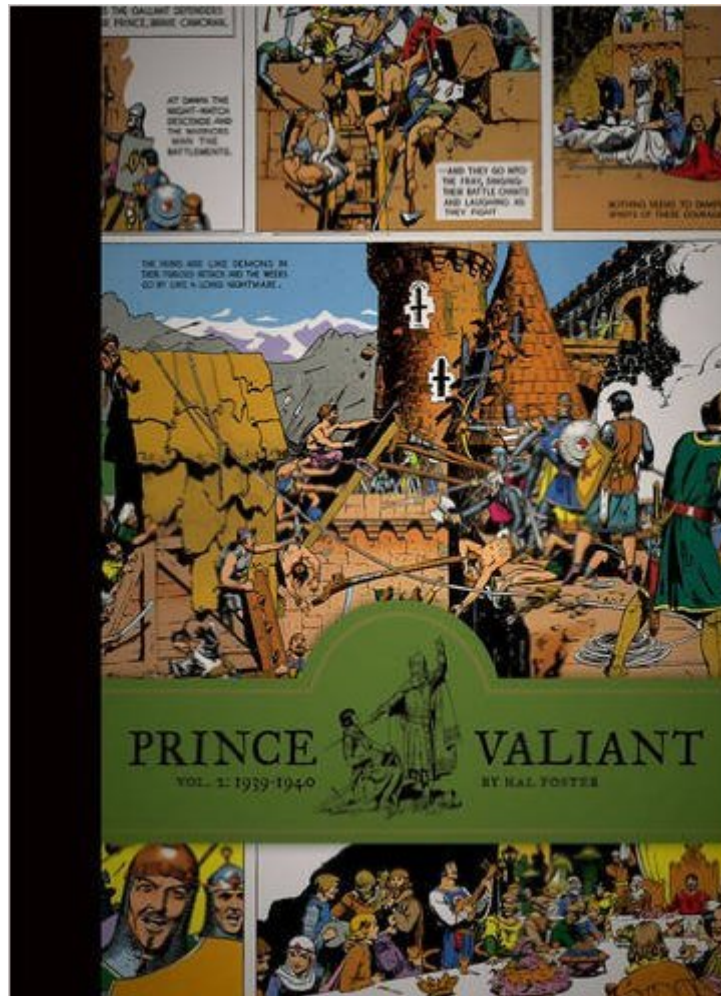


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Prince Valiant, Vol. 2: 1939-1940



Synopsis

Swords and sorcery at their grandest as the classic adventure strip continues in second volume! For 35 years, Hal Foster created epic adventure and romantic fantasy in his legendary Sunday strip, Prince Valiant. Realistic in its visual execution and noble in its subject, depicting a time in which the fabled warriors of history and legends fought together for the greater good, it remains one of the great masterpieces of the medium. In this second volume, Prince Valiant helps his father reclaim his throne in kingdom of Thule, fights alongside King Arthur, and is made a knight of the Round Table in recompense for his bravery and wit. Bored by the peace he helped to create, Val decides to independently pull together the forces to battle the Hunsâ™ descent on Southern Europe. When Valâ™s army breaches the Hunsâ™ stronghold, however, he discovers that corruption reigns still further west in Rome. Thus Val sets off with Sir Gawain and Tristram of Arthurian legend fame, and the familial kinship of the trio sees them through chivalrous escapades, false imprisonment and daring escapes. By the end of this volume, they go their separate ways, and Val boards a ship to Sicilyâyet a storm approaches, throwing him off-course, as adventure follows him everywhere. Fantagraphics is proud to present these strips, which, thanks to the use of original proof sheets and advances in printing technology, are even brighter and crisper than when they were originally published 70 years ago. Fosterâ™s work, painterly and sweeping, is finally treated to the grand depiction it deserves. These illustrative, time-honored comic strips will enthrall old readers and just as easily awe new ones. 112 pages of color comics

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you're an old-time fan of PRINCE VALIANT, or just a young pup discovering that strange, beautiful, buried-in-the-moldering past world of the Sunday funnies, this second volume of Hal Foster newspaper strip reprints is a treasure vault sublime. The years covered are 1938-1940: Val is out and about in the world, discovering its lurking perils and enticing wonders. In the process of his development, we can see Foster's art maturing as each Sunday page rolls off the press. There is brutal reality here, as when Val breaks through Hun lines to participate in the siege of Andelkrag - amazing details of panoramic battle! - and witnesses the fate of its defenders. There is also Dunsanian fantasy, when Val visits the Cave of Time and is soundly (and easily) defeated by Old Man Tempus. The strips' reproduction is faultless; its coloring superb. Easily the best (and most economical) way to finally enjoy PRINCE VALIANT after all these years!

About 40 years ago, my father got two Nostalgia Press books of Prince Valiant. I loved the strip, but the binding was terrible, and they only had about 3-4 years worth of strips. I've been looking for extend the collection every since, but reprints were all terrible and often B&W and abridged. When Fantagraphics reprinted the entire run about a decade ago, I got some, but they were hard to find and were paperback. These new books are literally something I've been looking for for my entire life. These new books have vinyl covers, which are a little cheap, but much more durable than the paperbacks. More importantly, the comics are beautiful. The printing is a little larger than the old Nostalgia books, and the coloring is better. This was obviously a labor of love. Where I have over-laps, I've compared the coloring and printing. The Nostalgia books better reflect the words in the story and often color in scenes that were all blocked in one color in the older book. I bought the first one for \$80 and was immediately ready to shell out that much for each. To find them for only \$14 was an added bonus. If you already love Prince Valiant, buy them without hesitation. If you've read it in the newspaper but weren't impressed, buy it and you'll understand why it is considered such a classic -- the old Hal Foster strips were soooooo much better than the ones today.

I have read the first three volumes of Prince Valiant by Fantagraphics and have been highly impressed. Both the art and the storytelling are magnificent. I can easily recommend any of the three, but I particularly liked Volume 2. We see Prince Valiant knighted and going off seeking adventure. One of my favorite episodes is the story of the castle of Andelkrag, facing a siege by the Huns, and the castle's lord, Camoran, who displays an amazing zest for life even as the situation becomes increasingly hopeless. I was also struck by the humor that occurs from time to time. In the

first episode of Volume 2, a knight at Camelot incurs the wrath of his wife and "Not even the annoyance of a king can halt the flow of really constructive criticism!" I can say that watching the start of Prince Valiant left me awed with Hal Foster's achievement.

This series is outstanding and I recommend it without reservation. I have enjoyed the Prince Valiant comic strip for over 50 years and Fantagraphics has done an excellent job in publishing this oversized, hardcover series. With every page in dazzling color, and with high resolution, crisp reproduction, the books are a joy to read--just the opposite of the softcover set. Two years of Hal Foster's great work for just under \$20 is an amazing bargain and I encourage you to add it to your collection.

Just like all the other books in this line published by Fantagraphics, this Prince Valiant volume is a pleaser. Featuring the beautiful illustrations and intricate storyline by Hal Foster in a collectible version, this book is a must-have for anyone who is a fan of Prince Valiant. So thrilled to be able to collect them!

These beloved comics now can be found in hard bound editions. They appear well bound and should hold up to re-reading. I loved this as a child and look forward to introducing my children and grandchild to these marvelous stories. Hal Foster did a fabulous job with his stories, and even though some of his plots were historically improbable or completely wrong, that hadn't ruined the fun of reading them. I recommend!

These are the stories that will revive the spirit of Adventure and Chivalry in any one at any age. Timeless and Timely stories of old that are so true to this day. If you EVER wanted to be a KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR, NOW is your CHANCE!

I have always loved the historically based high adventure stories of Prince Valiant and these Hard cover Fantagraphics volumes are even better than the original Sunday comic strips! The exquisitely drawn illustrations by Hal Foster bring to life the entire historical era right in your living room! I often find myself lingering over them as they really transport you into another time. Better than watching a movie! Shipping was prompt, always came securely packaged before the anticipated arrival date, and I simply felt like a kid opening a present on Christmas morning!

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