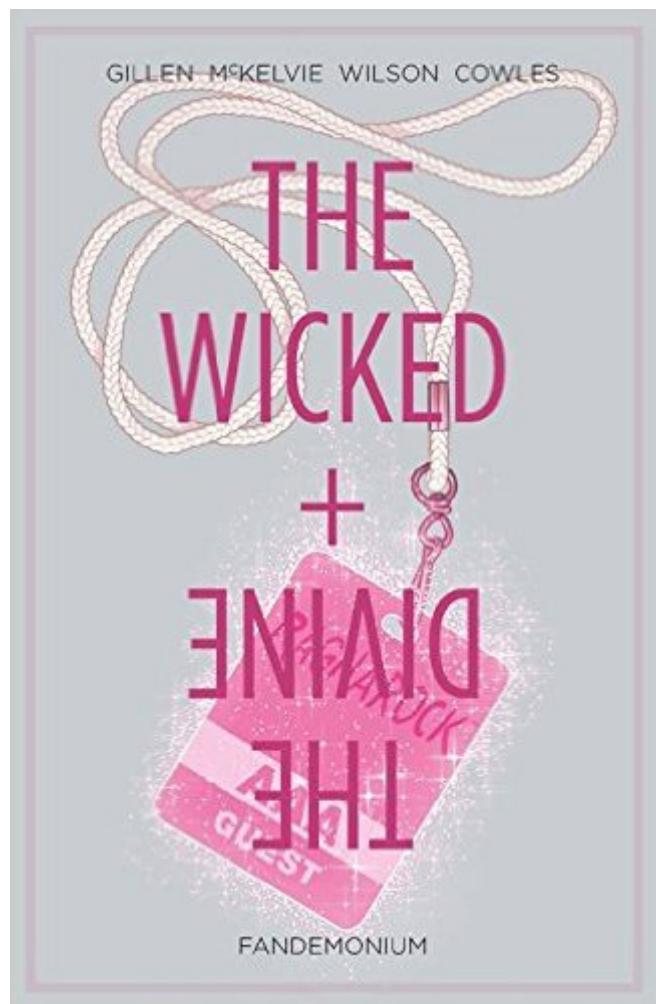


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The Wicked + The Divine, Vol. 2: Fandemonium



Synopsis

The second volume of the award-winning urban fantasy series where gods are the ultimate pop stars and pop stars are the ultimate gods. Following the tragic and unjust death of Lucifer, it takes a revelation from Inanna to draw Laura back into the worlds of Gods and Superstardom to try and discover the truth behind a conspiracy to subvert divinity. Includes issues #6-11 of the series, plus supplementary material.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

McKelvie's art is gorgeous and complex, with a singular style. I've read several comics just for the joy of spending time with his images. Beyond that, "The Wicked + The Divine" is somewhat uneven in plot, and this volume is a bit of a muddle. Characters and gods come and go and are transformed at a rapid pace, and yet it seems like there is little forward movement. We get more characters, and a bit of explanation about how this world came about, but it's not really clear what it's all leading up to. Still, the gods-as-rock-stars theme is clever and fun, and the comment about how worship and celeb fandom have intertwined is not heavy-handed. There are elements of the Gillen-McKelvie collaboration on "Phonogram", where the music was more directly linked to the supernatural. This is a unique series, and though it has its rough patches, it is good enough that I'll read on.

While there were moments where I fell in and out of paying attention, this is still a unique and interesting story. The sequel kept a similar pacing and level of drama as the first, and ended in quite

a cliff hanger that does a fantastic job of leaving me wanting more. I'm still having trouble keeping names straight and I haven't found the characters to be quite likable enough to feel an emotional connection, which would make the experienced far better in my opinion. But the story alone makes for a great ride.

Nice twists, and the mystery deepens. I wish we got to spend a little more time with each character, to flesh them out a bit more. This definitely continues the interesting premise begun in the first volume. It really makes you wonder where they're going to go from here!

The story line is new and fascinating. It can be a little confusing at times, but for the most part its great. I would tell anyone that they need to read the first volume before starting this one if they want to have any chance of knowing what's going on. The stories really do build on each other, and they don't make sense if you haven't read what came first.

The mysteries really pile up in this volume and everything is entertaining. My only minor criticism in the presentation is that the panel layouts don't feel as dynamic as they could be, for example when characters are having back-and-forth conversations it's just panels side by side of character busts instead of having speech bubbles intertwined with various action panels.

Do not buy this unless you have read/bought the first volume. Otherwise, you will be completely lost (I shouldn't have to write that about a volume 2 in any series, but you'd be amazed at how many people think that they should be able to pick up a comic mid-series and expect to be able to dive right in). 12 young people get God-like powers every 90 years. Part of the Faustian bargain is that they all die within 2 years. As a group, they are known as the Pantheon. This series takes place near the beginning of the latest 90 year emergence. Each member has different powers - some of them have the powers/personality traits of Greek Gods, while others are from other myths (like Norse). This Pantheon have revealed themselves to the world and have become celebrities. But what are they famous for? Some of them haven't done anything. You can see the creators' attitude towards modern celebrity culture play out here. More significantly though, it's Kieron Gillen's commentary on life, death and time. I read an interview where he said that he had been wrestling with these themes after his father was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Different members of the Pantheon approach their impending end with different views - some celebrate their life and give to others, while others are miserable and focus obsessively on the end. For those of you that like to

juxtapose other aspects of pop culture or lit theory, you can read this through the lens of Erickson's stages or Neil Young's "Hey Hey My My."

The Wicked + The Divine Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 and Rat Queens: The Deluxe Edition Vol. 1 were my first graphic novels. Regarding The Wicked + The Divine, the first two volumes read in succession are totally better than most movies in the last 10 years. The first volume hooked me. The second volume totally pulled me into the lore with excellent colour and artwork. (The owner of the book needs to get that artist back asap for the subsequent volumes). I wanted to research and read more about the historical gods the pop star characters portrayed. I heard the rights to a television show has been bought or produced. really needs to consider grabbing those rights. That ending in volume two.... I didn't see that coming at all. I screamed & cried. Yes, real tears!

Fandemonium continues The Wicked + The Divine's exploration of religion as fandom and fandom as religion, picking up a month after Lucifer's death with Number One Fan Laura still trying to figure out if the spark of the divine she felt within herself was real or just the product of longing. There's also the little question of who set Lucifer up to die, and most of the action here is precipitated by Laura's investigation. The art of the series continues to amaze: not only is it beautiful, it can be extremely sly in dissecting fan culture, whether it's the layout of a fangirl's bedroom, the organization of a convention hall, or the desperation of a wannabe to belong to the in-crowd. There's also a pretty spectacularly rendered Dionysian rave, seen/remembered only in flashes, as such things so frequently are. The creators end their volume with a bang which may seem like less of a cliffhanger to those with a bit of mythological knowledge, but there's more than enough awesome here to keep this fan coming back for more.

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