



## Saga, Vol. 8

*Brian K. Vaughan , Fiona Staples (Illustrator)*

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After the traumatic events of the War for Phang, Hazel, her parents, and their surviving companions embark on a life-changing adventure at the westernmost edge of the universe.

**Collecting:** *Saga* 43-48.

## **Saga, Vol. 8 Details**

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## From Reader Review Saga, Vol. 8 for online ebook

### **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

Yes ♥? Fanfreakingtastic!

I decided to add some pictures in no certain order. 1. Because I'm lazy 2. Because I'm tired.

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Mel ♥

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### **Paul E. Morph says**

My second-most-difficult read of 2017. Heart-rendingly brilliant.

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### **Anne says**

#### **Warning: Spoilers for the previous volume!**

*But I'm going to try my hardest not to spoil anything from this one, ok?*

Ok, if you read the last volume, you know that Alana's baby didn't make it.

So, once the shock wears off, what exactly happens next?

Now, I know this is touchy territory for a lot of people, but Vaughn went there anyway.

Late-term abortion. If nothing else, you probably heard the sound bites about during the last US election.

*Good times, good times...*

Personally, I am 100% for late-term abortions.

And for those of you out there that actually believe that means doctors pull 9 month old healthy babies from wombs and put them into a wood chipper, then I doubt anything I or anyone else could say will make a difference.

But.

For the rest of you?

Here's why someone who has had **4 unwanted pregnancies**, but didn't get abortions for any of them (\*waves to kids\*), would support another woman's right to choose to end her pregnancy late in the game.

Because I couldn't imagine how horrible and hard it would be to keep carrying my dying baby inside of me for months. *Months!* And you know your child won't survive. But you can't help them, and you know that your child's suffering hasn't even begun yet. Won't begin, until you give birth to them.

Life is cruel like that sometimes.

Children die. And parents grieve...for the rest of their lives.

I personally believe that if you are ever in that situation and want to carry the baby to term, then that's your *choice*. But I also believe that a woman should have the *option* to begin the grieving and healing sooner.

At any rate, I thought Vaughn dealt with this subject in a respectful way.

The stuff with The Will was short but still made an impact on the story. You get a peek at his *origin story*, while also adding another potentially explosive new personality into the mix!

I love Petrichor. Even if she is a *tad* grumpy.

But she gets to shine like a badass during **Vol. 8**, and there are some interesting developments that...well, **spoilers**. Sorry.

Due to the nature of Alan's pregnancy, there's a rather huge, and spoilery, shock in store for everyone.

Again...sorry.

Oh, and you know how I wasn't quite as moved at the end of the last volume, while all the rest of you were crying so hard you had snot bubbles coming out of your nose?

**Well. The panel below got me.**

I read that scene and I made this choking noise out loud.

**huup-huup-errk-gaak-uuuuh**

Goddammit, Saga! You're ruining my tough-girl image!

**Another excellent volume and (as always) highly recommended.**

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### **David Schaafsma says**

“One day, a boy decided to break the rules. And that boy would become my brother”--Hazel

Saga is clearly one of the great comics series of all time, sustaining an impressive critical and popular reception over years. And Volume 7 was powerful, an event of the year in comics, with a sad loss I won’t be specific about, exactly. So volume 8, with a western theme, is a little lighter, thank goodness, though it does have to deal with the aftermath of the volume 7’s loss in this volume. So along the way, Vaughn and Staples are at turns profane, hilarious, and heartbreakingly, as they deal with hot-button political issues, including miscarriage, uterine death, and abortion, all of which are of course sensitive personal and political issues today. How can they speak to these issues in a fresh and useful way? Well, they do, heart-rendingly, with originality and a sense of closure.

We get a certain portion of (humorous) shock and the profane:

\*“Dung people”(animated feces?).

\*A funny scene with cunnilingus (Apple had censored a gay oral sex scene in 2013, so why not try again?)?

\*De-nose-ification?

\*Petrichor praying earnestly for. . . sex?

There are some really cool ideas in this one:

\* “Forecasting” as a special ability, that allows us to experience Hazel’s “brother.”

\*An endwife (instead of a midwife).

\*The Petrichor and Robot. . . uh, interaction?! Both of these characters improve their status in the series in this volume.

There’s cameos of some characters you have missed lately: Lying cat! And Ghus, of course!

Maybe this is kind of an interlude issue, not the best of all volumes in the series, but it is still the terrific Vaughn and Staples, with a clear focus on the adorable Markus and Alana and Hazel. It has great surprises in it, and the ending is terrific. Read it now!

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### **Nat says**

After the traumatic events of the War for Phang, Hazel, her parents, and their surviving companions embark on a life-changing adventure at the westernmost edge of the universe.

Trying to gather together my scattered thoughts regarding this newest volume in the **Saga** series is turning out to be rather hard, so I opted for making this bullet point list below:

(Spoilers from here.)

- The start of the journey took us to Abortion Town, after the unfortunate events of the last volume, where solid commentary was present in the precarious situation.

- This lullaby tribute to our most iconic babysitter, Izabel:

- The emotional bond between Hazel and "make-believe" Kurti. This is what this volume was truly about: focusing on fleshing out character-based storylines, which is incidentally how I like my stories best.

This moment of impact... She's maturing at a rapid pace.

This girl has known too much loss in her young life.

- Which then leads me back to Alana having to suffer through her miscarriage; it was utterly hard-hitting. Ultimately, she's one the most formidable and fearsome protagonists I've encountered in my reading of graphic novels.

Hazel's narration throughout was particularly grounding.

- And last but not least, I have to mention that the completion of this volume was spectacular. I love how everything came together and connected seamlessly. Plus, the gorgeous artwork by Fiona Staples that brings the world and characters within to life.

*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **Saga, Vol 8**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!*

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## HFK says

It has been a few days since I finished the eight volume of *Saga*, and I did not really feel huge desire to come and review it because I have been quite busy with myself, but there is never a right time, so here we go.

In the summer months we had this political shift that is perhaps now one of the biggest changes and happenings inside Finnish politics. Nationalists won a leading position in The Finns Party (when the members voted for a new leader for the party), which is often referred as a coup, because naturally if people vote in a democratic elections that has unpleasant outcome it has to have a naughty nasty name.

Due to this, half of the party members walked out to form a new party with the ex-leader, and there was all kinds of fishy things going on. The walk out had been well planned beforehand as the nationalists win was predicted albeit very unwanted by the elite. And because the party's ex-leader was a populist in all its finesses, he was not busy to sell all his promises.

It was all dramatic, the government was collapsing, our Prime Minister was flying his private plane to our President so he could sign the breakdown and new nation wide elections would be under their way. In the last minute, The Finns Party had this surprise walk-out mentioned above (many party members walked out and formed a new party to work with the ruling government) so he was able to do a dramatic U-turn and fly back to burn the resignation form.

A close call. Sure, whoever wants to believe in such a nonsense. Well, it was nice to win and it was actually quite nice to play along for a little while and fantasize of being part of collapsing our shitty, anti-nationalist government. But reality check.

So, the nationalists (me and my buddies) were out of the government, nicely forced back to opposition. They all said that this was not planned even many knew it was, and it was kind of accepted that it happened. In most countries this would end with new elections, but not here in a land of healthy democracy.

Today it emerged that there had been a secret meeting with our Prime Minister and State Secretary, the right hand of our Foreign Minister who also happened to be the leader of The Finns Party before the elections that ended up to the win of nationalists. To cover up this meeting, which everyone by now know was about what to do if nationalists win, they actually smuggled our State Secretary inside a car's trunk.

Yes, inside a car's trunk.

As much as I actually laugh at this part U.S. (the dramatic plane trip) and part Russian (the trunk smuggling) action movie script, I have to say it is not so much fun when your government is full of these so-called masterminds and to know that your vote has very little value. If there was some confusion that it would have when the game gets tough.

So, why I am telling this story?

I can't talk about this volume without spoilers so I need ramble enough words out of me so I do not need to use those ugly spoiler tags, and people have enough time to back off if they are reading this series. What is in this review will ruin and spoil. A fact.

And because *Saga* is very much a political comic.

Maybe political is not the right word for *Saga*, propaganda is. Specifically - liberal propaganda.

Now, before you get all upset, I am a classic liberal, which means I am in favor of the messages that are found in most *Saga* volumes, but it would be extremely intellectually dishonest to dismiss it only because I support the views presented between the covers. More so, when the eighth volume is maybe the most heaviest and visible with this propaganda whereas it used to be more subtle, and perhaps easy to miss due to that.

I do not think *Saga* has ever been preachy, it has nicely walked the thin line of being opinionated and being on top of the current events. Here, however, *Saga* is less subtle and more firm with its overall stand.

The seventh volume ended dramatically, and the eighth volume brings the harsh reality of miscarriage, uterine death and abortion to the surface. But the great thing is that this is tackled through hope, compassion and positive vibes. There is no surrounding darkness but the peaceful acceptance of loss.

I absolutely loved that this was not just about a mother experiencing a loss, but also about the experiences of a father and a big sister. This subject is often handled through how a woman experiences a loss of an unborn child, but the effects and grief are felt in the whole family.

The best was how a big sister was taken into the story, there being an opportunity for her to experience how it would be with her little brother who was now gone. This struck me strongly as my own daughter has always been super protective of her little brother, was that from the moment she knew she is getting a brother even when that brother was still inside my belly.

The instant connection and caring acts of hers.

I continue enjoy *Saga*, there is not much to dislike. It is trendy, fresh, funny and a political narration of our current times in a form of a fantasy comic series.

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### **Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says**

Possibly my favorite volume yet???????? I love this series so fucking much oh my god

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### **Elise (TheBookishActress) says**

I love *Saga* so much !! someone please send a defibrillator !!

alright, short review because I have no energy. While this graphic novel felt especially fast and the plot has begun to meander a bit, my investment in the characters - and pure enjoyment of the story - truly brought this one forward for me.

I also unfortunately feel that several of my favorite classes are getting less page time. Gwen, Sophie, and Lying Cat are still my favorites, and they had *no* pagetime here. Our current squad - Marco, Alana, Hazel, Petrichor, King Robot, his son, and Gus - just does not compel me the same way they do. **More Gwen and Sophie and Lying Cat, please.**

But overall, I found this volume entertaining - I mean, what can I say, they take twenty minutes to read each - and am looking forward to continue this series next year.

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// oh my god there are so many

Saga vol. 1 - ★★★★

Saga vol. 2 - ★★★★★

Saga vol. 3 - ★★★★★

Saga vol. 4 - ★★★

Saga vol. 5 - ★★★★★

Saga vol. 6 - ★★★★★

Saga vol. 7 - ★★★★

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### **Adina says**

My favorite from the series so far and the 1st that got 5\*. Now the wait for the next collections begins.

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### **Raeleen Lemay says**

YES YES YES. THIS is what I signed up for, and what I feel this series has been lacking for the past few volumes. This volume really brought back the ~weird~ and I'm here for it. Also the characters are pulling on my heartstrings again and here I am left wondering how they all feel so real...

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### **Michael Finocchiaro says**

Hell yes! God I LOVE LOVE LOVE Saga! The artwork, the storyline, the characters and monsters, the absurdity and yet the wonderful social commentary under the surface all works marvelously. In Vol 8, things are just as interesting and quirky and sexy and violent as in the seven preceding volumes but this one is particularly satisfying in how it brings everyone together near the end. I hope this series never ends because it is truly one of the greatest comic series going today. I have read loads of other ones in the sci-fi, superhero, and fantasy realms, but Saga just takes everything a notch higher and faster and never panders or condescends. Between the consistency in the storyline, the creativity of the characters, the engaging personalities...there is just so much depth and wonder here that you have to read it yourself to appreciate it. Still the best.

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### **Bradley says**

Re-Read 5/16/18:

There's nothing much else I can say I didn't already say. :) I'm hooked forever.

Original Review:

There's no way in hell I can call this series anything other than MY FAVORITE COMIC EVER.

It truly has everything. Love, heartbreak, cute, strange, brilliance, funny, mind-blowing, edifying, and JUST PLAIN AWESOME.

Did I mention that it's rather cool?

After the heartache of the last volume, I've been anxious and anxious to avoid this one because of the things it might do to me.

It did all those things I was worried about, but it had that right level of oddball humor to make it all OKAY.

I'm thinking mostly about the sight of a blood-drenched werewolf abortionist. You know. Details.

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### **Sarah says**

I loved this volume and everything that came with it! WHEW, it's got me hyped! This is one of the best comics, like no doubt about it. Art = amazing. Story = amazing. If you're not reading this comic, you need to drop what you're reading and start now. You won't regret it!

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### **karen says**

*When did you first know that you'd give up your life for someone? Okay, maybe you've never felt that way, but parents usually say that about their offspring, right? Personally, I think it's almost always a dumb idea to sacrifice your own existence for others. Or worse, for some "cause." If we were all a little more selfish instead of being in such a hurry to defend everything to the death, the universe would be a much less scary place.*

there is so much in this one, it makes my head spin. and for the first time, i'm deeply glad i didn't read these as individual comic book issues. #43-#46 are excellent and i would only have been frustrated by how short they were and how cliffhanger-y their ends, but #47 and #48 would have felt like total letdowns on their own, just because of who's there, who's *not* there, and as a contrast to how very strong the first four segments of this collection were. and yes, i gave the entire volume five stars despite the last two being less shiny, but i'm terrible at math and -oh no! are those *dung people*?

basically, the inclusion of dung people rounds any book up to an automatic five stars.

but there are plenty of other things here helping earn that five stars.

this, obviously

also, there are so many wonderful moments of underplayed reactions throughout this series, but there are some particularly funny ones this time out

and hazel's fumbling attempts at cussin' are endearing enough

but not as endearing as the contrast between what her parents identify as the teaching moment

also

all of the abortion town/badlands parts were handled so well - providing a variety of cultural perspectives on the abortion issue that are consistent with other things we know about the values of these different realms, plus some insight into the individuals involved, and a perfect balance of heartbreakin stuff and ... less heartbreakin stuff

obviously, hazel is great here, she always is, but she's also wrestling with some pretty big questions that no one *really* has the answers for.

petrichor is outstanding in this one; she gets to be maternal and brave and fierce and vulnerable and horny and so many other things, including deeply relieved

and she does give good advice

*...you are unlike anyone who has ever existed, and that makes you **exactly** like everyone who has ever existed.*

she's closer than anyone else to being able to understand hazel's state of mind, and if we had to lose that other hazel-helper, i'm glad petrichor is there to pick up the slack.

and let the record show i am furious at this bitch's...interior design choices and if she goes ANYWHERE near lying cat, i will draw myself into a little cartoon and breach the panel's boundaries to cut her into little pieces.

just try me.

\*\*\*\*\*

OH GOD SO GOOD!

real review coming but if this series ever ends, i might lose my mind. never stop, please.

come to my blog!

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### **Sean Gibson says**

If you're interested in reading *Saga*, you're about as likely to jump in at Vol. 8 as I am to wax my bikini line (now THERE'S a visual no one anywhere ever in the history of the world ever anywhere ever never ever needed), so, really, you'd be primarily interested in my take on this most recent volume if you've read *Saga* previously. So, I'll say this: Vol. 8 is *Saga* at its *Saga*-est, which means it's by turns irreverent, disgusting, offensive, pulse-pounding, heartwarming, weird, addictive, and occasionally annoying.

If you made it through the prior seven volumes, you'll want to keep going. If you stopped somewhere after two or three, stick with it—the series has its flaws, but it's one of the more interesting and engaging things bopping around on the (sort of) mainstream comic circuit these days.

Also, on the plus side, no massive and veiny robot schlongs this time around.

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