



Snips, Snails, and Dragon Tales

Rich Burlew

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After years of waiting, the Order of the Stick comics that first appeared in Dragon magazine have been collected in one volume! Follow the print adventures of Roy, Elan, Haley, Vaarsvuius, Durkon, and Belkar as they traverse a dangerous subterranean dungeon filled with swarms of puffins, breakfast cereal mascots, and one heavily templated snail. The then-monthly strip was filled with endless roleplaying hijinks (at least until it ended). But now you can enjoy every published strip, along with a whole book's worth of all-new goodies. Check it out:

- * All 22 original The Order of the Stick strips that ran in the print version of Dragon® magazine from issue #338 (December 2005) to the last issue, #359 (September 2007).

- * Author commentary on the experience of creating strips for the legendary gaming publication.

- * 8 additional never-before-seen strips that were planned for future issues, before the magazine was canceled.

- * **Edition Wars: Invaders from the 4th Edition Dimension:** After the events of the magazine comics, our heroes are attacked by their mirror duplicates from a brand new dimension! Can the Order defend their old way of life from these strangely balanced invaders?

- * **Stick Tales:** As the Order sails toward the Western Continent, they tell stories to pass the time, including Elan and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hoodlum, and The Tragedy of Greenhilt, Prince of Denmark. Classic literature, ruined in the way that only The Order of the Stick can!

- * The latest issue of the best-selling The Adventures of Julio Scoundré! comic book, “Julio Scoundré! and the Curse of the Mummy Queen!”

- * Extra mini-stories and other stuff that we haven’t even mentioned yet!

Snips, Snails, and Dragon Tales Details

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Author : Rich Burlew

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From Reader Review Snips, Snails, and Dragon Tales for online ebook

Thomas says

Snips, Snails, and Dragon Tales is more a curiosity than anything else. It collects all of the comics written for Dragon magazine before its demise, and like the previous two collections, nothing in those strips is required to understand the ongoing story in the Webcomic. Since there were only 30 of those strips, he padded out the rest of the book with some one-shot stories, one-page gag strips, and other content that don't really belong in the OotS canon. I liked a good bit of it, but what makes the Webcomic shine is his ongoing story, and the content in this book isn't really a part of it. Like On the Origin of PCs, I feel like this book is really aimed toward folks who can't get enough of the series (though his final strip for Dragon was kind-hearted and poignant).

Larry Kenney says

This is a collection of "other" OOTS stories from several different sources. While I love the other OOTS books, i really struggled to even finish this one. None of these stories fit into the continuity of the regular strip, so it can be skipped. I really only recommend this to die hard fans or collectors.

Nicholas Barone says

Snips, Snails, and Dragon Tales collects together Order of the Stick strips that are not connected to the storyline of the online web comic. It includes the complete run of strips from the back of Dragon magazine as well as a number of new strips - a series of strips detailing the Order's encounters with their 4th edition counterparts and a series of fractured fairy tales with the Order's members as the main characters making up the bulk of the collection. Overall, a very funny collection - the strips from the Dragon and the 3rd vs 4th edition strips in particular had me rolling with laughter. As entertaining as the main storyline of the OOTS is, its clear that humor takes a back seat to the story. In the strips collected here, Rich Burlew is focusing on humor, and doing an excellent job.

Claus Aranha says

A nice OOTS book if you are an OOTS fan. Otherwise, not remarkable.

The book is composed of a lot of independent story, in and out of canon, such as "what if the OOTS met their 4th edition D&D counterparts?".

The stories are nice if you already know the characters and the world. But if you aren't invested in the OOTS, it would probably be better to read the online comic first.

Doc Opp says

If you're not a fan of the OOTS webcomic, you should skip this. If you are, then this has a lot of good stuff. There is a collection of comics from Dragon Magazine that I hadn't seen before, and a few classic stories redone OOTS style, including fairy tales, Hamlet, and James Bond. There were a few laugh out loud funny moments, and I enjoyed reading it, but this isn't as good as some of Burlew's other work and most of the jokes are inside jokes to gamers.

Eugene Mah says

A hilarious collection of the standalone strips that appeared in Dragon Magazine along with other new material to fill out the book.

The "Edition War" story was pretty funny, but I think the best strips are in the Stick Tales section.

Heck, they're all good.

David(LA,CA) says

While jokes about game mechanics have always been a part of The Order of the Stick webcomic, the author has always done a good job of finding a balance in the ongoing series. Jokes are just as likely to be made about the personality traits of the main characters or the ongoing plotline as they are to be made about system mechanics.

This book is not as balanced. Half of the book is based on game mechanics jokes, either as the collected one page one off strips that appeared in Dragon magazine or the "edition war" short story. The Stick Tales section is a little closer to the usual strip, but even then it feels like it's leaning too heavily on game mechanics jokes.

Over all, I liked it well enough, but I like the story collections better.

Jess says

I finally got my hands on this book! Burlew never fails to disappoint; I'm not sure how he manages to keep up such a high jokes-per-page density. I know next to nothing about D&D and still found the section criticizing 4E amusing. StickTales is excellent.

This Is Not The Michael You're Looking For says

Entertaining, but really for diehards and completionists, the strips in this book fall more-or-less completely outside of the main web storyline. Four main parts: (1) an adventure comic book form story, (2) the collected

strips from *Dragon* magazine, (3) an encounter between the 3.5 rules party from the strips and an alternate universe/dimension 4.0 rules party (probably the best part of the book), and (4) a retelling of some classic stories with the characters.

Davis says

A great addition to the Order of the Stick series. If you don't know what that is, don't read this book. This is niche book, and I'm rating it as such. If you do read the Order of the Stick, then it is on par with the rest of Rich Burlew's work, though it is strictly superfluous. As a book of random other things Burlew has worked on while writing his main story, it is very well done and follows interesting tangents. The promises to be all about humor and no main story line, and it delivers spot on. If you've read the other OotS books, read this one. If not, you have a different problem, and that's not reading Order of the Stick.

Shannon Appelcline says

Julio Scoundrel. A nice enough story, and occasionally funny, but not really what I'm reading an Order of the Stick comic for [6/10].

The Dragon Strips. Rich correctly susses out that we've bought this book for the Dragon strips. They remain amusing, and the eight new ones fit right in with the style and "storyline". The last couple of strips, remembering an awesome magazine that WotC decided to gut, are still great [7/10].

4e. The 4e strips were unfortunately not as funny as I'd hoped. It's mostly a long fight with occasional jabs at the game system. The black & white artwork is also quite muddy [5/10].

Fables. I had very low expectations for these, which seemed even more like filler than the Scoundrel and 4e sections ...

Elan and the Beanstalk. ... and then this first one was hilarious, in part because of its funny reflections on the OotS characters, and in part because of the way everyone is constantly interrupting and reshaping the story [8/10].

Red Riding Hood & Golden Eye. More what I expected from the fables. These are kinda "bleh". Sorta funny, but sorta dull -- and sadly no interruptions.

The Tragedy of Greenhilt, Prince of Denmark. But this last one is another hit, a palpable hit. The satire of the play itself is funny, but the references to the characters and to D&D bring it up to the next level. Again, very funny [8/10].

Overall, a worthwhile book, mainly on the strength of the *Dragon* comics, The Beanstalk, and Hamlet.

Mike says

Snips, Snails, and Dragon Tales collects various Order of the Stick Material not related to the main strip /

story. It stands completely alone and doesn't affect events in the rest of the OotS collections. This is the third "print-only" OotS book, featuring material not available on the website.

As with the other print-only collections, this trade is in greyscale due to cost concerns (except for 2) below, which were from a color magazine and have been reproduced that way).

It contains:

- 1) Julio Scoundrel and the Curse of the Mummy Queen: A seven page story featuring Julio Scoundrel, presented as an issue of a comic book, complete with mock-up letters page.
- 2) The Magazine Strips: All strips written for Dragon magazine, including some that were previously unpublished. Reprinting these was the author's original motivating factor behind this collection.
- 3) Edition Wars: Our OotS team (based off of D&D 3.5 ed. rules) faces off with their counterparts derived from D&D 4th ed. rules.
- 4) Stick Tales: Retellings of classic fairy tales, OotS style.

As the descriptions above likely convey, this collection is focused squarely on the comedy. Your enjoyment will stem from the appeal of these ideas. I found it all entertaining, but nothing mind boggling. I expect those more familiar with D&D and the rule variations between editions will enjoy 3) more (although I did like it).

All in all an amusing enough collection and worth a read, but I'd only call it a must buy for completists or die hard D&D players.

Lissibith says

A funny book, and I'm glad I read it, but it just doesn't hold up to the story-driven main series.

A number of short stories in comic form with no real connection fill this book. The Dragon magazine strips stand out for being more heavily about mechanics than the rest of them, but overall, everything is decently well written and funny. The standout for me was Roy's version of Hamlet at the end of the book - probably my favorite part, and definitely a great high note to end on.

Mary Catelli says

This is an *Order of the Stick* book, but not in standard continuity. The heart of it is the 22 strips that he did for *Dragon* magazine, which had little internal continuity, owing to the new reader problem -- except for the last three, which are a lament on the magazine's death. (One appears in the original form for the first time; the Wizards of the Coast disapproved of it.)

So, he added more filler. A Julio Scoundrel tale. Some bonus strips for the Dragon ones -- and a segue into a tale where they meet up with their 4th edition counterparts. (His most requested story line. After all, the first *Order of the Stick* comic was about characters undergoing a transformation to 3.5.) And when they trade stories, they are amusing in both what they choose to fracture beyond recognition and how they do it.

Lots of humor. Plus Burlew's accounts of writing stuff.

Darth says

Liked this one. It's an homage to all these great literary tales and plays. Most of them really fit the characters. Hope there's more of these kinds of tales!
