



The Golden Mean

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I received your Paris card. I waited but you did not return the 23rd. I waited until the 31st, but you did not return. What happened? Where are you?

--*Sabine*

Sabine's Notebook ended with a disturbing disclosure--Griff and Sabine had somehow eluded each other once again. *The Golden Mean* begins with an even more disturbing development:

I was sure I understood. Yet you were not here when I returned and there was no sign that you ever had been here... Today comes your card saying you were in this house for three days after my return. I am bewildered...

--*Griffin*

It seems that each cannot exist in the presence of the other. Yet neither can continue without the presence of the other. And so, in this final volume of the Griffin & Sabine trilogy, they struggle against the mysterious forces that keep them apart. Time is running out: Sabine's crystalline visions of Griffin's artwork grow cloudy and dim, and a threatening stranger begins to appear everywhere she goes. *The Golden Mean* is the tale of Griffin and Sabine's journey towards one another, sometimes dreamy, sometimes desperate, sometimes nightmarish. The golden mean--the harmony of perfect balance--is what they seek in the haunting conclusion of this extraordinary correspondence.

Told in the compelling style of the first two best-selling volumes of the trilogy, *The Golden Mean* allows readers to open richly decorated envelopes and draw forth intricately illustrated letters, to decipher the quirky handwritten postcards with their macabre and magical artwork, to indulge, in other words, in the wonderfully illicit activity of reading someone else's mail.

The Golden Mean Details

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Author : Nick Bantock

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From Reader Review The Golden Mean for online ebook

Elizabeth A says

This is the final book in the Griffin and Sabine trilogy, and I would highly recommend reading all three of these visual novels back to back. Love how this story unfolds. Am checking my mailbox now to see if I got a postcard from a stranger

Korri says

I read all three books in one go, excited by the tactile experience of snooping through personal correspondence and charmed by the imagery. But at the end of this strange journey I feel like there really wasn't much substance. Sure, there's the mystery of how Sabine & Griffin can exist in different planes or parallel times. Sure, the images on their one-off postcards could probably be scrutinized for deep orientalist fantasies, class distinctions, or whatever. But so many elements--the 'villain' interested in their mental connection, how did a postcard artist get the funds to travel around the world?--were jarring and unexplained. It was an interesting way of giving the epistolary novel new life but I'm glad I borrowed the trilogy from the library.

Mohsin Maqbool says

An enlarged cover of the book.

NICK Bantock's The Golden Mean (Griffin & Sabine trilogy #3) continues where Sabine's Notebook left off. The book is in the form of correspondence between two lovers Sabine and Griffin. It contains 15 beautifully-illustrated postcards and four letters that are tucked inside intricately-designed envelopes.

Griffin's postcard to Sabine, telling her about the storybook he is writing for children.

I had bought the tome towards the beginning of the new millennium and kept it in my library to read it someday. Then I forgot all about it. Then I took it out towards the middle of last year, put it on a table and once again forgot all about it. Finally, on January 8 I rediscovered it while searching for another book to read. I picked it up and started reading it immediately. I am glad that I did as it contains an enchanting story of two lovers who have been separated since quite long.

Sabine's postcard addressed to Dr. Matthew Sedon in Nairobi, Kenya.

The woman is writing from an island in the South Pacific and the man is writing from Devon, England. The distance between the two seems to be growing greater and greater. And all the more so because of the intrusion of a stranger -- Formatti -- into Sabine's life.

Will the two lovers finally get to meet to end their separation into marriage? Or will the intruder, Formatti,

prove to be an iron wedge between the two? He certainly is colder than cold steel!

A butterfly skeleton. Does it signify fluttering to freedom from the throes of danger and, thus, death?

I was most willing to give the book five stars because of the stupendous epistolary between Sabine and Griffin and the amazing artwork. However, I decided to give it only four stars because of the inconclusive ending. I also felt cheated on behalf of its author Nick Bantock who instead of ending the trilogy here extended it to yet another trilogy. I am sure he takes his readers to be suckers.

A goldfish crashes through a champagne glass. It could be an allusion to Sabine escaping from her island fortress and the tentacles of Formatti.

Dougie says

A worthy conclusion to the trilogy, the art is as good as ever and the tale of Griffin and Sabine is brought to a worthy, if mysterious, end.

I'm still not decided if the books should have stopped at one or expanded into the three that we have. The first one had a touch of magic that seemed to be missing from the others. It seemed as the story advanced it sought to explain more than was necessary which wasn't possible in the short length it has. This perhaps got in the way a little and made some of the correspondence more prosaic than it might otherwise have been.

I don't know, I'm waffling a bit, all the books are very good, the artwork is of a consistently high standard and I enjoyed the story, despite a dip in the second and some of the third book.

Josiphine/Tessa says

I think I like this series, though I don't totally love the ending of this one.

Kim says

The mystery concludes, but is not solved. I didn't enjoy this book as much as the first two mostly because the number of unanswered questions was too large. I still think it was really good, just slightly unsatisfying in a way that is actually appropriate to the nature of the book. The only narration comes from the characters who are living their lives oblivious to being observed, when they stop writing letters you stop hearing about their lives. As their relationship changes they maintain it in different ways, they become more familiar with each other and less observable in a way, they just are.

Read these books. They are layered nicely, you can enjoy them superficially, literally, just looking at the art and never reading the letters or you can reread them any number of times before reaching the conclusion to try to solve the mystery. I've thought about these books often since reading them.

Joanna Marie says

While I expected to ask a lot of questions to unveil the whole trilogy's mystery, more specifically the extraordinary telepathy and correspondence, I did not like how it ended. It may have been a happy ending for Griffin and Sabine but I felt I needed more of that suspense from Victor in this finale.

But I still recommend this series especially if you like opening letters, reading postcards, and you are into experimental and abstract art. ;)

Hannah Greendale says

Just when Griffin and Sabine's story is starting to feel a bit stagnant, a postcard appears with unfamiliar handwriting from a character yet unseen in the series. The new character makes an odd request, and the result is an unexpected twist that shifts the tone from surreal to unnerving.

With few words, Nick Bantock stirs the imagination and hints at something from a veiled realm:

Academically bright as he is, [he] never has been able to smell a shadow.

I will take you to the garden and show you the dark trees they call the twelve apostles and tell you about the one night a year when you can see the thirteenth.

The Golden Mean is visually rich. The postcards and letters exhibit the implication of bold textures and diaphanous layers of dusted color. Still others are stunning for their simplicity. All are subtly nuanced; little details like whether or not a card is postmarked or dated remain meaningful.

The ending speaks for itself and, as always, the mystery continues.

Amanda says

So weird and cool! I definitely want to read the other books attached to the series.

Matthew says

If I could sum up my feelings about this particular book and series it would be this:

I wasted my valuable time believing that this series would get better and have the ending resolved but I was wrong. Knowing that now I believe this should have been one long standalone book to hell with it. I love the artwork, the letters, and the whole creative part of this book but I believe this story did not stand up to par

with the creative artwork. I believe in my humble opinion that the first book was the best out of this series.

This book leaves off where Griffin came back home and supposedly learn that Sabine has never been there and Sabine waited forever for him to come home but she had to catch her flight back to the islands. They write letters to each wondering if they will ever meet and I believe which the book gives subtle hints which that they live in parallel worlds. It is impossible for no one to have not witness Sabine in London so that is the only logical reasoning in this magical realism story.

Then out of nowhere this became a thriller when this random man shows up and starts stalking Sabine. He is a supposedly a telepathic reporter looking for cases of telepathy like out of the X-Files and wants her letters. She is worried that something evil will happen and Griffin wants to protect her so they decide to meet half-way to Alexandria where there is a famous portal to another world. And that is it. You do not know whether they finally met, about this evil man, or if they are still together except for a random postcard to a doctor.

I am livid that the author did the same shit again and didn't provide a satisfying ending. There is other books that feature Griffin and Sabine and in the beginning I wanted to read them but now I refuse. Why do I have to invest more time on them if you could have done that with this book? If the ending was quite good I would have no problem delving into these spinoffs but I guarantee you it is going to be the same formula repeated in which they never meet but get close and fail again.

I am very disappointed with this series I was going to rate this lower but because of the artwork I cannot give it lower than a two because then I will not be doing justice. Would I recommend this book? Hell to the No! I suggest reading the first book and making up your own conclusion whether Griffin and Sabine ever met and lived happily ever after. The End.

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

Weak ending but otherwise as good as the first two. Love the artwork and the premise is very clever.

Taylor Dodge says

This series was so fun and magical with beautiful and interesting art to go with it. I strongly recommend all three books!

Staci says

I once went to a Nick Bantock reading where he boasted of his success in the face of his teachers of English literature who had, to put it nicely, not encouraged him. This reading, and I suspect a large part of the book tour, was a proud snub in the face of all that. He was intent upon getting the message out that his teachers had told him that he couldn't write and, boy, had he shown them. Having read the first book of the series, I would have proudly stood to his defense, in full agreement. This book was inventive, innovative, physically beautiful, and wove a lovely tale. The experience of reading this book was about as special as the book itself. But then I read the second book of the series and, sadly, the third. Now, no cliche rings truer to me than the notion that within everyone is ONE great work of art, and ONE work does not make a writer. Skip 2 and 3 -

'nuff said.

Erin Germain says

The final book of the trilogy, and Griffin and Sabine have yet to meet one another, other than through the gorgeous postcards and letters in the book.

This one introduces a third character, who appears to have something to do with their inability to actually meet, but who he is and what his actual intentions are is left somewhat vague.

Griffin is back in England and Sabine in her home. It looks as though they are back to where they began, but they are also determined to meet one another.

Again, there is the slightly guilty thrill of opening an envelope addressed to someone else and reading the letters. Also, the artwork is very much part of the story.

Despite looking like an upscale, adult interactive book, this isn't a simple child's story with "happily ever after". The ending leaves much to the reader's imagination as to what happens to the pair.

Jessica says

The beautiful conclusion of the trilogy. I love these beautifully drawn letters and cards, and piecing together the story through Griffin and Sabine's correspondence!
