



## The Backstagers, Vol. 1

*James Tynion IV, Rian Sygh (Illustrations)*

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**All the world's a stage . . . but what happens behind the curtain is pure magic literally!**

When Jory transfers to an all-boys private high school, he's taken in by the only ones who don't treat him like a new kid, the lowly stage crew known as the Backstagers. Not only does he gain great, lifetime friends, Jory is also introduced to an entire magical world that lives beyond the curtain. With the unpredictable twists and turns of the underground world, the Backstagers venture into the unknown, determined to put together the best play their high school has ever seen.

James Tynion IV (*Detective Comics, The Woods*) teams up with artist Rian Sygh (*Munchkin, Stolen Forest*) for an incredibly earnest story that explores what it means to find a place to fit in when you're kinda an outcast.

Collects the first four issues.

## **The Backstagers, Vol. 1 Details**

Date : Published July 25th 2017 by BOOM! Box

ISBN : 9781608869930

Author : James Tynion IV , Rian Sygh (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 112 pages

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## From Reader Review The Backstagers, Vol. 1 for online ebook

### Alison says

OH MY GOODNESS I LOVED THIS SO MUCH!!!

I love the atmosphere of this book (magical unknown doors filled with wonders BACKSTAGE!) and the characters are awesome and there is someone for everyone to connect with. I think this story is going to be full of awesome friendships and adventures and I can't wait for more!

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### Grace says

The art is AMAZING!

The concept is so cool. I'm still getting the hang of comic books which are not action heavy or have a distinct focus on sci-fi/superheroes, so something like this is out of my comfort zone. For me this is more like a breakaway read, and I liked it.

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### David Schaafsma says

How is I am the last in the house to read this first volume of a series?! Because there are three middle schoolers who have this fall been involved in a musical--two in the chorus, one backstage! The kids liked it a lot. It's the story of an all-boys school theater production, with the vain actors seen against the more grounded backstage nerds. You get to see the lights guy, the sets folks, the stage crew, all of it. And there's this magical portal fantasy element I wasn't all that into. What I was expecting/hoping for was something like Drama by Raina Telgemeier, but it has this magic dimension. Also has gay/trans characters. Very cartoony wild art and action, very manic. Kind of in the Lumberjanes direction, but not as good (I thought, but the kids in the house don't make that distinction; they like both)

And yes, I was an actor in high school and a actor/backstager in college, and directed plays when I was high school teacher, so I related to some of this, and as I am seeing productions now through my kids' experiences, too.

Thanks to his teacher Scott Snyder, Tynion has largely been a Batman guy, but here he goes younger and sillier, and it works for him.

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### Maria (Big City Bookworm) says

*\*Note: The first issue of The Backstagers by James Tynion IV was provided to me via NetGalley through the publisher Boom! Box. This does not effect my opinion in any way.*

Well wasn't that just fun and adorable. I don't remember the last time I read something so happy and colourful. I know, I have no soul apparently. Anyways, this was just a refreshing and unique read compared to what I'm used to and I absolutely loved reading it! I read it as individual issues and it was so hard to be patient and wait a month for each new issue! I'm not sure if this story is continuing or if it was a stand alone graphic novel, but I'm already itching for more!

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## **What I Liked**

**The story.** It was fun and refreshing and terribly cute. I love the idea of a story about the stage crew rather than the actual actors/drama group on stage. I mean, we all know the crew has more fun right?

**The adventure.** Not only was it super cute and refreshing, but it was jam packed full of adventure. Not just your regular everyday adventure either. Oh no, this was magical and eccentric and all kinds of amazing.

**The diversity.** There is just so much representation throughout this entire series. It's one big giant LGBTQIA+ love fest and I loved every minute of it.

**The colours.** This is probably one of the most colourful and vibrant comics I have ever read! Totally not anything like the dark and dreary stuff I usually read. It was a nice change for me to read something so bright!

**The characters.** I loved each and every single one of them. Each member of the stage crew is unique and I loved them all for very different reasons.

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## **What I Didn't Like**

**A little juvenile.** As mentioned, I usually read comics that are a little more dark and depressing, so I'm not sure if it was because this story was so happy and cute, but it did feel a little too juvenile at times for my tastes.

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Overall, this was everything that I needed in a comic at the moment. It was completely out of my norm in terms of comics that I tend to drift toward and I'm so glad that I decided to take the chance and try something new! This was cute, fun and all kind of adorable.

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## **Sylwia (Wish Fulfillment) says**

### **Why I Recommend Bumping This UP On Your TBR:**

I LOVED THIS SO MUCH! This contains: a hot guy being fat and most likely attracted to men, at least two protagonists of color, and men being allowed to experience all sorts of emotions. I love all of the protagonists, by the way! This also highlights healthy communication and conflict resolution between friends. Aside from all, it's an exciting fantasy setting for fans of *Gravity Falls* and any other supernatural-

stuff-hidden-in-the-real-world types of stories. Even though the issues each have a different conflict, the stories don't follow any formula and are each resolved differently and follow a main plot and there are even subplots! I'm looking forward to the second volume very much to see what happens next and to get to enjoy these characters and this setting more!

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### **Calista says**

I love this so MUCH! I am a musical theatre geek. I rarely think of the backstage crew and this story is all about the quirky people who help run the show. To top it all off, there is a door under the stage that leads to a place of magical theatre and you can get lost there. I love the characters, the art, the musical actors and how they are made fun of. This is perfect for me. LOVE! The only thing missing is the Lesbian Backstager.

I had so much fun with this exciting read. Anyone who did high school theatre should get a kick out of this novel. It makes so many great references.

I can't wait for the next one.

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### **Skye Kilaen says**

Diverse, deeply caring series about a group of boys in a private high school who work backstage in the theater. It so happens that said backstage isn't exactly normal. New kid Jory finds a world of magic there, but more importantly, a world of friendship. This series allows its boys and young men to be full people with a full range of emotions, and that is such a powerful thing in a culture of toxic masculinity. Hat off to all the creators for making this gentle, safe space for all these characters and any readers who desperately need that as well.

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### **Shan(Littleirishbookcat) says**

This was super cute and really unique. RTC

I'm off to the next volume. ??

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### **Rincey says**

A cute comic that reminded me of how much I loved doing crew.

Watch me discuss this comic in my July wrap up: <https://youtu.be/uug2ch7Sggc>

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### **Jasmine says**

Very good, very gay, very like Lumberjanes. With boys. After school. With more crying.

Also the McQueens are trash and need to be put in a very small box.

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### **Alice-Elizabeth (marriedtobooks) says**

Even though I loved the concept (new boy at a private school, joining a drama club, making friends), the storyline just moved far too slow for me. Most of the illustrations were bright, colourful and eye-catching. Didn't capture my full interest unfortunately.

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### **Andrew says**

<https://andyswonderlandblog.wordpress...>

check out my review here

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### **Vitor Martins says**

Comecei uma nova quest na minha jornada como leitor e agora quero conhecer mais quadrinhos LGBT e em uma busca rápida encontrei *The Backstagers*.

Logo de cara me apaixonei pelo traço do Rian Sygh (que é um ilustrador trans, YAAAS!!!) e cada um dos 8 issues reunidos nesse encadernado terminava com uma BOMBA. Não dá vontade de parar de ler.

Como é de se esperar, a história é cheia de diversidade. Cinco amigos que trabalham como backstagers no teatro da escola enfrentam diariamente vários desafios quando entram pelos corredores do teatro que escondem um universo mágico que conecta backstages do mundo inteiro. A missão deles é manter o mundo são e salvo e esconder essa magia dos seres humanos normais (o que é bem fácil, já que ninguém nunca parece se importar com a equipe que fica atrás dos palcos).

É um quadrinho sobre amizade, cheio de referências à musicais, o casal mais sassy que eu já li e um enredo muito bem construído, com um final emocionante! A narrativa visual é maravilhosa, os personagens são lindos e eu AMEI TUDO. LEIAM!!!!

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### **Diz says**

I wasn't a big fan of the mystical portal part of this story. The reason was that the characters weren't consistent in their interactions with it. In one scene they would talk about how dangerous it was and then a few scenes later they would casually walk in there to get supplies. I did like the parts that focused on the character interactions in the drama club. Perhaps I would have enjoyed this more if the fantasy elements were taken out and it was just about drama club.

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**Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says**

Heckin' adorable honestly. I'm obsessed.

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