



Tales of a Warlock

Ted Naifeh

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Uncover the secret past of Courtney Crumrin's Uncle Aloysius! Though the Witches and Warlocks of Hillsborough keep to themselves under Ravenna's Law, there are outliers who are a danger to others. The Anti-Sorcery Society, headed by mortal Horace Crisp, seeks to destroy these individuals, and Aloysius Crumrin, an eager young man, offers his assistance - keeping his magical ancestry to himself, of course.

But he doesn't count on Alice Crisp, Horace's tenacious daughter, accompanying him on missions, or on trusting her with his secret... or on falling in love. Which proves more dangerous than anything when Horace becomes his enemy...

Tales of a Warlock Details

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Author : Ted Naifeh

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From Reader Review Tales of a Warlock for online ebook

Beth says

I'm assuming I'm missing a lot of backstory, but having only read this one, I found the warlock Aloysius rather repellent. I have not idea why Alice liked him (other than she was young and silly, but she never got better), and I have the uneasy feeling I was supposed to find the ending at least bittersweet, but instead it was more proof of what a nasty character he was and she was well away from him. I'm doubtful whether that was the reaction the author hoped. I was also very distracted by the oddly shaped hands (was this not set on earth?) and of course by my usual face-blindness which occasionally made me confused about who was doing what, but that's a personal issue and not the fault of the art at all. No one else would have been in the least bit unclear.

Nadina says

Mildly interesting.

Andreas says

3.5

Social_Sloth says

Aloysius is so cool, and this comic just adds to that point. He's smart, cunning and knows exactly what to say. It's nice to get his backstory after everything that's happened in the Courtney Crumrin comics, and getting to know more about the Crisp family.

Great art, story and humor all that way through, definetly read this after you finished the other comics.

The_Mad_Swede says

Ted Naifeh ended the *Courtney Crumrin* saga in volume 6, but as I already noted in my review of that one, there is this seventh volume, collecting *Courtney Crumrin Tales: A Portrait of a Warlock as a Young Man* and *Courtney Crumrin Tales: The League of Ordinary Gentlemen* and offering us some of uncle Aloysius' adventures as a young man (and effectively a very nice prequel to the main series).

All in all, Naifeh delivers as per usual while he explores Aloysius' exploits in the early days of his job of making sure that magic users follow Ravenna's Law. In the process of this, he must infiltrate the Anti-Sorcery Society, lead by Horace Crisp, and becomes emotionally entangled with the latter's daughter, Alice Crisp.

Well worth reading if you are a fan of the *Courtney Crumrin* saga, and (I imagine) a good standalone read as well.

Garrett says

No Courtney in this one; all backstory, all the time. Possibly the prettiest volume of the series so far, and far and away the one with the most of depth of story in terms of characterization. Still good, this one.

A. Nixon says

I always find the *Courtney Crumrin* books to be such a satisfying read. The art-style is interesting and the characters are flawed and real. Wonderful. Reading about Aloysius's life (how do I pronounce his name?!) has, of course, made me want to re-read the whole series all over again. As one volume usually does. I love the humour and the magic and... Just everything.

It was interesting to get to see the beginning of everything. I would totally read a whole other series all about Aloysius!

Also, the panelling on pp26-27 blew me away. It's beautiful and definitely deserves a mention!

And, I think this volume might be a good way to introduce the world and get people into the series. It explained a little of the Society for me and the history behind it all, which I'd been a little shaky on from the beginning. Definitely worth a read.

MerryMeerkat says

Courtney Crumrin Vol 7 Tales of a Warlock
I'm back! And here is a short review for you.

2.5 Stars, don't bother

The book is physically beautiful as the first 6 volumes. Unfortunately that's about all I can say that's good about it. This volume had two stories in it. The first one is about Courtney's uncle when he was younger. While interesting, I really missed Courtney being in it and it wasn't as great of a storyline. The second story wasn't any better and made me miss Courtney's character even more. Even if you loved the other volumes in the series, I wouldn't recommend this one. I was very disappointed.

*****Dave Hill says**

Rather than Courtney, this volume focuses on the tales of young Aloysius Crumrin, and delightfully so. Naifeh's art is delightfully quirky, and his story -- of sorcerers good, and bad, and the humans (and magicians) who hunt the latter, is all lovely, intriguing, gripping, and tragic.

Good stuff. Highly recommended.

Stephanie Cover2CoverBlog says

It is safe to say that this series can do no wrong in my eyes. I love everything about it, the world, the characters, the art and the plotlines. This volume is no different.

In this volume we get a background story for Aloysius Crumrin. As a young man he engages with a group of sorcerer hunters in an attempt to find out what they know about his group and along the way he is able to actually help them do away with some of the rogue sorcerers that are out there.

I enjoyed this volume very much, I liked Uncle Al in the Crumrin series and it was nice to learn more about his life before Courtney arrived. If you like the Crumrin series this is a great addition to it.

Andrew “The Weirdling” Glos says

While listed as the seventh Courtney Crumrin book, she does not actually appear in this tale. This is, in fact, a prelude to the other six. It contains a tale which is alluded to once and has bearing on Courtney’s tale.

Long before the time of Courtney, the magic-users who live in Hillsborough are supposed to be following Ravenna’s Law which prevents them from tampering in the world of mortals and using their magic to take advantage of or rule over us. Many, however, do not. They end up creating a world of trouble for the others. Meanwhile, an anti-sorcery society has taken to hunting after these lawless magic-users. Unbeknownst to all, the head of this society has developed a taste for magic and begins to use it to his own advantage while his daughter begins to fall for Aloysius Crumrin, who will one day become grandfather to Courtney.

The plot moves on from their, giving a taste for the world that exists before Courtney’s time, the importance of Ravenna’s Law, Aloysius’ work for the council and why he is later so feared, and the origins of Courtney’s most beloved teacher.

Like a lot of such tales, I am pretty sure anyone who isn’t familiar with the preceding books would be utterly lost if they tried to dive into this. Also, I am not entirely sure that this was a tale that really needed to be told. The preceding books stand alone without it, it reveals little that could not already be guessed at, and adds even less.

That said, it’s a Crumrin book. It’s a return to a world that fans will want to revisit. It also contains a lot of Aloysius, who is a favorite of Crumrin fans. The art is better than in previous books. The tale is compelling in its own right. Any fan of the previous six will be happy to snuggle down with this and give it their time.

Nicola Mansfield says

I was really shocked when I found out a 7th volume was out as I thought 6 was the final volume and it was, sort of. Tales of a Warlock can be looked at as more of a prequel than a continuation. This volume takes us

back to the days when Uncle Aloysius is a young man and even then working against the rogues practicing dark witchcraft. Just as much of a treat as fans of Courtney could expect with a great story and fantastic art. A unique plot that takes fans back to Aloysius' secret past but this would also make a great starting point for new fans as it doesn't even introduce Courtney to the series yet. Fantastic addition to the series!

Sam says

Actual rating: 4.5 stars

Jeremy says

It's funny, I actually enjoyed this one more than the finale proper of the series. I was sad there was no Courtney but I felt like the pacing was much better in this volume.

Naifeh gave the story a little more time to breathe than he did in volume 6, where it kind of started off with a bang and didn't really slow down much. Parts of it felt a little action pulpy kind of like Atomic Robo, which was a bonus to me.

It also maintained the melancholy tone of the entire series, especially the ending.

I'm sad there is no more Courtney Crumrin but I'm glad I got to enjoy the ride. You have gained a fan for like Ted Naifeh!

Emmy says

This was a bit of a disappointing ending to the series. After all the events of the previous couple of books, I was expecting a lot more from this title. But, instead, we are treated to a look into the past, and the sort of man that Aloysius Crumrin was before he became Uncle A. It was a great idea in theory, but I thought the book as a whole was a little confusing, and I didn't find Aloysius to be particularly likable. He was just sort of chaotic neutral, and I wasn't really sure how to feel about him. I did like Goose, though, and while it was hilarious that he was turned into a goose, I still felt rather bad for him.

Not a terrible book, but not quite what I was expecting, especially considering how much I enjoyed the other books in the series.
