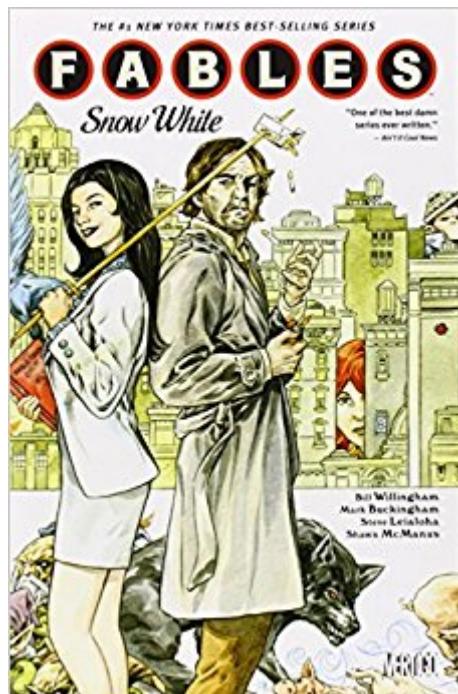


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# Fables, Vol. 19: Snow White



## **Synopsis**

A #1 New York Times Bestseller! With Castle Dark now back in the hands of the Fables, mysteries both young and old begin to challenge the residents of Fabletown.Â  Bigsby and Stinky set off from Fabletown in Rose Red's blood-fueled sports car to track down the two abducted cubs.Â  Unfortunately for Snow White, besides suffering the trauma of having two of her cubs go missing, a long forgotten secret uncovered in Castle Dark threatens to sabotage her and Bigsby's marriage. This volume also collects the backup adventures of Bufkin and Lily from issues #114-121, as well as their full length adventures found in issue #124. Collected here are Fables issues #114-123 (back-up stories only) and issues #124-129.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Bill Willingham has been writing, and sometimes drawing, comics for more than twenty years. During that time he's had work published by nearly every comics publisher in the business and he's created many critically acclaimed comic book series, including Elementals, Coventry, PROPOSITION PLAYER and FABLES. Along with FABLES and JACK OF FABLES, Willingham wrote the miniseries DAY OF VENGEANCE and currently writes SALVATION RUN. His work has been nominated for many awards, including the Eisner, Harvey and Ignatz comic industry awards and the International Horror Guild award. He lives somewhere near a good poker room.

This is the 19th volume of FABLES to be published by DC/Vertigo. Written by Bill Willingham and drawn by artist-supreme Mark Buckingham, FABLES has been one of the, if not the, best comic

book being published in America. The basic assumption for the series is that all the old fables, fairy tales and folk tales were true. There really was a Big Bad Wolf, a Beauty and a Beast, a Pinnochio and all the rest. Unfortunately for the fable folk, their homelands were overrun by the Adversary and the ones who survived did so by escaping to the Mundy, to our world. The Adversary is gone, but that doesn't mean the danger has stopped. For more than a decade, Willingham and Buckingham have shown us the ups and downs of the Fable community as it has been torn asunder by internal strife, outside danger and just about everything in between. Over the course of these many issues, we've watched Snow White grow to love and eventually marry and have children by Bigby Wolfe, the formerly Big, Bad Wolf. They have become, to me, almost like real people. It's been a while since Snow White has taken center stage for an entire arc, but she stands ready. The action here kicks off when Prince Brandish, a prince to whom Snow White was promised long long ago, resurfaces and decides that the promise means he and Snow are to be married. So she will have to cut loose her children and never see them or Bigby again. Snow White, as you might expect from any previous exposure to her, does not take this well. The problem is that Brandish has become enchanted so that any injury done to him is reflected onto the attacker. Stab him in the heart and it's you who will drop dead with a hole in yours. There is so, so much more happening in this compilation, but I feel like I can't really get into it much more without spoiling some of the genuine pathos and involvement Willingham and Buckingham engender. It's really quite amazing how good these two have become. Even if you've never read a FABLES book before, I still urge you to buy this one. Then, before you read it, go out and get FABLES 1-18. You'll be hooked and once you reach the end of that purchase, you'll have this one that you've already purchased to look forward to reading.

ARC provided by NetGalley In this collection, which collects issues ##124-129 plus its normal little extras like the covers for the series, focuses on Snow White. At the beginning of the collection we get the backup stories to previous issues, which show us what happens to Bufkin and his friends in the vast land of Oz. Back in the mortal world Castle Dark is now back in the hands of the Fables, but mysteries and secrets come to life, which threaten everything that they know. First Bigsby heads off to find the two missing cubs that have been lost to who knows where. Second, a long forgotten secret threatens Snow White and her marriage. A secret that will have dire consequences for all of the Fables, no matter what happens. And when things come to a head...heroes maybe lost. And new ones maybe needed to rise up from the ashes. Fables, in my opinion, is the most unique continuing series on the market right now. Bill Willingham has taken familiar characters, like Snow White and the Big Bad Wolf, and given them new life and new purpose. This series constantly leave

me speechless, in a good way, at the twists and turns that you never see coming. And this collection is no exception. While I haven't been the biggest fan lately of following Bufkin and his crew in Oz (its gotten a bit too...whimsical for my tastes) I enjoyed seeing how they wrapped up his adventure. But the star of this volume, as always, is Snow White. Bill has created a character in Snow that makes me wish she was real, for her strength, her fortitude, her love of those around her, and the strength that imbues her neighbors with. It's one of the best things about this series. The artwork for this series is as usual, fantastic. The characters live and breathe on the page and there is such depth to the world around them that I always have to go back through and relook at the issue just to see what I might have missed. And I always love seeing what clues and details are hidden in the borders of the pages. In this volume my favorite pieces of art are of course with Snow White and Rose Red. I love seeing the two sisters interact with each other and show that they're made of stuff sterner than anyone else in this series is. And the artwork lets you see all of that at a glance. And when Bigsby comes back...you know what he brings as soon as he appears on the page. Strength and power and love for those around him. It's a joy to see art in this series. I highly, highly recommend this collection. Bill Willingham has created a fantastic universe and continues to surprise me with the direction he's able to take the series. I have no doubt that my many questions will be answered in future volumes and I look forward to seeing where he goes with the story. I give the book 5 out of 5 stars and can't wait to see what happens next.

The Fables have long been one of my favorite comic book series, and it's run for hundreds of issues by now. The problem with comic books is that they're very fast reading for me, which means that it's not worth it even to buy every collected book as they come out, but rather, to batch a few of them together and buy and read them all at once. That way, you don't lose too much context between story arcs. Snow White, volume #19 starts off with a very weak series involving one of the minor characters of the series. It builds, however, to an assault on Snow White and Bigby Wolf, with a seeming end to one of the most beloved characters of the series. (This being fairy tale, we know not to take deaths as being final) What's interesting to me is that Willingham appears to be reviving one of the oldest enemies of the fables as it stands, which I hope he does not do, as it would be a weak retread. Camelot, volume #20 is about Rose Red, Snow White's sibling and as the title suggests, an attempt to recreate the knights of the round-table. The story goes a bit meta, and doesn't end here, but has some very creative possibilities that leaves me hanging. The series has been through a bit of a slump recently, but with these two volumes the action is picking up and I'll be looking forward to the next few volumes with relish. Recommended.

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