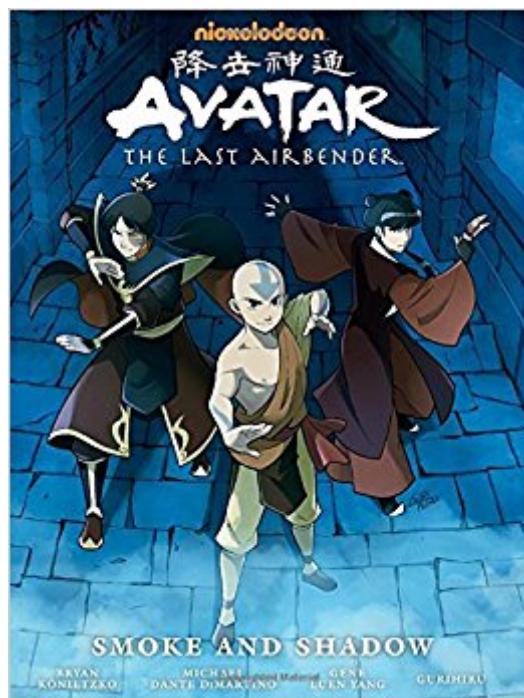


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Avatar: The Last Airbender--Smoke And Shadow Library Edition



Synopsis

The Fire Nation is threatened by a prophecy told by the Kemurikage--mysterious figures thought only to exist in legend: "remove Zuko from the throne or the country will perish!" Unrest is brewing as the New Ozai Society prepares to make its move against the crown, and children begin to go missing from their homes under mysterious circumstances! Avatar Aang and his friends are doing everything in their power to save them--but will it be enough?!This special, oversized edition of Smoke and Shadow features volumes 1-3 with annotations by writer Gene Luen Yang and artists Gurihiru, as well as a sketchbook section with new, behind-the-scenes material! Collects Avatar: The Last Airbender - Smoke and Shadow Volumes 1-3.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 340 (What's this?)

Series: Avatar: the Last Airbender

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Dark Horse Books; Library ed. edition (October 4, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1506700136

ISBN-13: 978-1506700137

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.9 x 12.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 896 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #36,474 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Animation #34 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Media Tie-In #46 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Dark Horse

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

Gene Luen Yang began making comic books in the fifth grade. He has since written and drawn a number of titles. His 2006 book, *American Born Chinese*, was the first graphic novel to be nominated for a National Book Award and the first to win the American Library Association's Michael L. Printz Award. It also won an Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album - New. His 2013 two-volume graphic novel, *Boxers & Saints*, was nominated for both the National Book Award and the LA Times Book Award. Gene currently writes the graphic novel continuation of the popular Nickelodeon

cartoon, Avatar: The Last Airbender. The Shadow Hero, his comic book series with Sonny Liew, revived the Green Turtle, an obscure 1940s character who is arguably the first Asian American superhero. The Shadow Hero is now available as individual digital issues via Kindle.

The library editions are the way to go for these Avatar additions! These books are hard cover with a mix of matte and glossy finish. They're all larger books (think the size of a game guide.) The art inside is top notch (as expected) and includes some thoughts from the creators on the side panels. The back includes step by step process art for characters and cover art. *Smoke and Shadow*, specifically, focuses on Zuko after he has become emperor and the rising tensions between the fire nation proper and long conquered fire nation territories that identify with being Earth nation. A new threat has popped up throughout the Fire Nation where children are being snatched from their homes. Zuko and Aang must find and cut off this threat before the people of the Fire Nation depose Zuko. Of the 4 library editions, this compilation has been my least favorite, but that in no way means that I thought the story was anything less than excellent. I encourage all Avatar fans to read these if they want to continue journeying with Aang and see how the world of Korra is created.

This is the first issue of a great series! Off to a slow start, the drawings get better as the story goes, as well as the dialogue. As a matter of fact the second issue features many moments that seem like they come straight out of the show. If you love the series, I highly recommend these comics. The comic series is broken up to 3 issues per storyline. I found this first storyline to be kind of like the author just getting their feet wet in the Avatar universe. The second story, *The Search*, is where it really starts to get good. But I still recommend the *Promise* just so you can be treated to Toph's Metal Bending school. It's perfect! There are also some other story elements that you might be sorry you missed if you skip ahead. And, I know it's noted elsewhere, but the creators of the show work closely with the creation of this series as well.

Beautifully drawn, a great plot and character development consistent with the show. 'The Rift' is the best of the Avatar comics so far, in my opinion; Gene Luen Yang gets more and more comfortable with writing these characters with each new installment. If you are a fan of Toph especially and want to see more of how her life develops after the show, you should check out this comic. But the best surprise in here is a fantastic and fascinating back story featuring an avatar who has previously been something of an enigma: Avatar Yangchen. Yangchen's story alone (and the absolutely beautiful artwork that goes with it) makes this comic worth checking out. The hard cover edition is

really beautiful, with large pages to show off the artwork to its full advantage. Admittedly, anyone who's not already familiar with the show and its lore probably won't be able to jump in here without being pretty confused, and most of the best parts of the plot rely on knowing back story and characterization from the show, so I wouldn't recommend it to anyone just starting to get in to the universe or only familiar with it from "Legend of Korra." But for big dedicated Avatar nerds, I would highly recommend it.

I was immediately interested when I saw they had created a comic book that continued where the show stopped but I was hesitant too. What if it wasn't the same and I hated it? Well, there was no need to worry there! It is a different experience reading about the characters but it's still great. You can actually hear the characters voices when you read. The bending scenes are still good although I do miss watching them. The only truly sad part about the comic book is that there isn't a soundtrack and the music was such an integral part of the show. Still, I have no regrets in buying this book. The story is engaging and they captured Aang perfectly! The plot deals with some real character issues that completely attach to things we sort of saw in the TV series. The point behind this is, YES, get it. If you're seriously contemplating this book because you love the show and want to know what's happening with your favorite characters then it's more than worth it. I can't wait to buy *The Search!*

As a huge fan of this series, though admittedly not until after the series had nearly ended on TV, I want to love every bit of ancillary *Avatar: The Last Airbender* fiction. I got so hyped for the live action movie, and was so let down. I wanted more *Avatar*, more GOOD *Avatar*, and eventually went searching for news from the creators of the cartoon. That's when I stumbled on the existence of the comics, and I knew I had to buy them. So I gathered up old gift cards to alleviate the strain on my wallet, and bought *The Promise* and the first two parts of *The Search* (part three was not published yet) all at once, and I am so glad that I did. The art is beautiful, and the story so immediately captures the tone and pace of the cartoon that before long it was like watching the show again, which was in turn like revisiting an old friend. As for this particular installment, it is a fantastic beginning to a story that, as an *Avatar* fan, I felt genuinely NEEDED to be told. The decision to include the antagonistic Azula in the party for this adventure was a stroke of genius (she's my favorite character) as this is the closest that the protagonists and she have ever come to having common goals. All in all, I could not be happier that I own this, and re-read it as regularly as I re-watch episodes of the show.

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