



Agatha Heterodyne and the Sleeping City

Phil Foglio (Illustrator) , Kaja Foglio

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Adventure, Romance, Mad Science! Agatha and her friends try to save her town from the vast armies of the Wulfenbach Empire.

Agatha Heterodyne and the Sleeping City Details

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From Reader Review Agatha Heterodyne and the Sleeping City for online ebook

Mary Catelli says

Action! Adventure! Romance! Mad Science!

Another year, another books, and once again, the plot rushes on with no concern for boundaries of covers. Well, almost none. It does take up after the cliff-hanger, and end on one humdinger of a cliff-hanger. So -- spoilers ahead for the earlier volumes!

It opens with the Castle being recharged with lightning strikes, and so moving against the Wulfenbach forces. Gil tries to save Agatha by kidnapping her before his father kills her. Franz stops him and takes him off, without hurting hm because Agatha tells Franz she's somewhat in love with him. Some tender moments between Zeetha and Higgs -- she's afraid he will be angry she's up and about after her injuries -- and a charge out of the city. Agatha undergoes Dark Rites at the cathedral because some are integral to protecting the world. The Baron decides to deal with a problem himself. And Tarvek's cousin Marcellus kidnaps Agatha because he needs her to pull off his Storm King stunt; difficult, but he does it, and drags her to a portal. Unfortunately, going through that -- interacts with the Baron's decision.

The rest involves a very vain reindeer clank, a surprising bundle of joy, a new jaeger general (no, not one of the ones we know of but haven't met), a weasel being very necessary for Agatha, a guard slime that is very confused by Agatha telling it she doesn't want it to obey, pig clanks with wings, loyal hounds, and much more.

Esme says

I love this series, but these later volumes are a bit too action-packed. Sometimes we need a pause to let the readers and characters breathe, like the fourth act of a play where we get some funny banter or the characters have a cup of tea and regroup before the shit hits the fan in the climax. Volumes 9-13 are all climax, and it's exhausting. Still love the series, though.

Marsha says

The complications never cease with this story. Having gotten the Castle fully operational, Agatha is informed that it will take *three years* for it to come up to full power.

This series is also available online for free to interested viewers (which is how this reader got hooked on it and determined to get hard copies in her hot little hands). So it has been running for years now. But the information that it will take three years for the Castle to be fully functional meant that it would take several years of online reading to reach that point. Even a devoted reader such as myself quailed at the thought.

However, the Foglios have neatly circumvented that set-up with a device that is too good for me to spoil here but was hinted at in the very first volume. Suffice it to say that Agatha has already gone through 2½ years of

that time so the reader is spared any tedium of waiting.

Agatha proves once again that she's no dumb blonde. Finding herself captured and drugged, she ably outwits and escapes her captor, displaying the spunky sparkiness that has made her such an endearing heroine to loyal followers of her adventures.

Will she be able to free a frozen Mechanicsburg, rescue a poisoned Tarvek, outwit the Baron and help a (possibly) wasped Gil? Tune in for the next thrilling installment of—GIRL GENIUS!

Blue says

The time skip and all just seemed jarring in a reading binge. I hope as we learn more it gets explained better.

Emilou says

I love Girl Genius, but this volume didn't have my interest as much as the others. The big plot twist where Agatha is taken through the portal was just too much. Not only was it too unexpected (no foreshadowing), but it made it so Agatha's problems are compounded, and I at least like to see some problems resolved before new ones arise, otherwise I feel stretched in trying to keep track of all the sideplots and details. This volume felt as if the writers are stretching out the storyline, trying to make it longer. I hope this is not the case, and that there is a good reason for the plot twist.

I am looking forward to the next book. Girl Genius is my favorite comic, and I love the characters, especially the Jagers. I can't wait to read the next one, although it took me years to realize that the creators aren't writing a vol 14, but are starting a sequel series.

Karissa says

This is the 13th trade paperback in the Girl Genius series. This book was better than book 12 and ties up the Siege of Mechanicsburg story arc while starting a new one.

Castle Heterodyne is finally awakened and running at full capacity. Tarvek's Cousin, Marcellus, tries to kidnap Agatha for his own nefarious purposes but the end results are very unexpected.

I really enjoyed watching Castle Heterodyne in its full awakened glory. I loved all the hilarity, the awesome traps, and the general chaos it caused. Agatha's weasel dependence was also pretty darn hilarious.

We get to see a lot more of Agatha in this book and there are a lot more twists and turns in the story. I still have some trouble keeping track of who is who (especially with all of the Jagers) and would love a little chart of character pictures and descriptions.

I am still enjoying the brightly colored illustrations, crazy steampunk contraptions, and general mad science going on here. I don't have a ton more to say about the book than that.

Overall this has been a great graphic novel series full of humor and steampunky goodness. I really enjoy the world, the characters, and the crazy plot. I would recommend to fans of steampunk or graphic novels with humor. This series has been a fun blend of science fiction, steampunk, fantasy, and humor elements.

Raj says

Goodness me, I think this may be the best Girl Genius volume to date! Agatha has jump-started the castle and as it returns to full power, the full might and power of the fully armed and operational Mechanicsburg is unleashed upon the Wulfenbach hordes. In the middle of all this, the Storm King pretender, Martellus, kidnaps Agatha and teleports her to his refuge, far away. As you'd expect, it all goes horribly wrong.

What with a fully operational (and as twisted as ever) castle, *and* a full complement of Jagers, this book does not lack for action. The humour knob has also dialled up to 11 and there are many laugh out loud and 'punch the air' moments. The story is racing along and getting ever more complex, making these paper collections all the more important for those of us who struggle to remember what happened three hours ago, never mind the days between pages online. That doesn't stop me from reading them online, but you definitely get more out of it when you can read a whole volume.

The art, as always, is beautiful and the double page spreads definitely make an impact (more so on paper than online). At the time of writing, this is the last available Girl Genius collected volume. No more binging, I'm going to have to start waiting a year or so between them which is nearly as frustrating as reading the story a page at a time. Ah well, I'm off to go and relieve the frustration by starting again from the start.

Canavan says

☆☆☆½

Kari Trenten says

Agatha Heterodyne takes back her ancestral city with a bang and the tide turns. Just when she thinks she's ready to settle in and start rebuilding Mechanicsburg, the Baron steps into her city and Agatha finds herself stepping out. In fact, she's dragged out by Martellus, one of Tarvek's troublesome relatives through a device that takes them to a Sturmhalten stronghold. Only whatever trap the Baron sprung at the same moment messed with time as well as space.

Agatha finds herself two years in the future in a strange place filled with enemies and no allies other than Krosp the Talking Cat and Violetta, former Smoke Knight turned Heterodyne minion. Fortunately, this is familiar turf for Violetta. Besides Agatha is very good, if not downright dangerous once you let her loose in a room full of mechanical heirlooms.

She's going to need to be dangerous. Isolated from her home, unsure what's happened to Tarvek of Sturmhalten, certain something has happened to Gilgamesh Wulfenbach, Agatha will need all of her sparky brilliance to protect her own.

I didn't enjoy this book nearly as much as I did the previous one. I have mixed feelings about the time skips. This volume did focus a lot of Agatha, bringing the full force of the plot back to our main character. Violetta got a chance to develop considerably as well.

The scene where Agatha tells Tarvek about Gil is one of the sweetest, most touching moments in the entire series. I wanted to hug both Tarvek and Agatha at that point.

Later, I found myself putting down the book, intrigued and disturbed by the state Gil is in, all the while worried sick about Tarvek.

For plot, artwork, character development, and my overall enjoyment, I give this four stars.

Stars aside, I'm seriously hooked on this series now.

Steph says

I can't say it enough. I love this graphic novel series!

James Bowman says

The Mechanicsburg arc finally comes to end, with an ending that's kind of awesome but kind of unsatisfying. But it does set up some interesting questions for the next arc! (B+)

Megan says

Nice to read another issue. I must admit, there is so much going on, its hard to keep it all straight. The tension is high and keeps you sucked in.

Christine Fisher says

The pace of this book was crazy, but with so much happening it really needed to move fast. So far one of my favorites, especially since it wasn't so heavily drenched in all the science speak and other stuff some of the earlier books had. Very enjoyable, excited to start reading the Second Journey!

Norman Cook says

I read this story because it was nominated for the Hugo Award. I like Phil Foglio's artwork; it's dynamic and cute, with a nice steampunk feel. But the story leaves something to be desired; it's frenetic and characters pop in and out of the story almost at random. There's a lot of running around and fighting, and then some new

threat pops up for no apparent reason. I'm sure fans of Agatha Heterodyne, and there seem to be many since they nominate it year after year, enjoy seeing all their favorite characters. For me, though, there were too many characters, and it was difficult to keep track of which side a lot of them were on. It didn't help that this is a slice of a much longer story that has been going for many years. And then, like most serialized graphic novels, it just sort of stops with a cliffhanger and no particular resolution.

Mark Schlatter says

I am a big fan of practically everything Phil Foglio and Kaja Foglio do, and I have been following this series from the beginning. Lots of appeal factors for me: engaging characters, a lot of cliffhanger moments, interesting science aspects, and tons, tons, tons of humor.

However, the last few volumes seemed like they were bogging down. We were spending lots of time in Mechanicsburg and the Heterodyne castle, and the resolutions to the motivating questions ("Will Agatha fix the castle?" and "Will she save the city?") seemed to go on forever. In addition, I am just not as enamored of the romance triangle as I believe the creators are.

This volume is a definite change of pace from the last few. Without getting too spoilery, there are at least two large plot changes in the latter half of the graphic novel. If you have been waiting for something to happen, this is the volume to read. I'm glad to see a new direction in the plot lines and am looking forward eagerly to the next volume.

Will says

"You know, there's more to being an evil despot than getting cake whenever you want it."
"If that's what you think, then you're DOING IT WRONG!"

One moment Agatha has at last triumphed as the Heterodyne and tyrant of Mechanicsburg. The next, it is too and a half years later, she is trapped in a fortress in an unknown location, and everyone there wants to kill here. But she is getting used to that....

With this latest Girl Genius collection, I am able to spot the critical details I missed online, and get some idea of what is actually going on. (Adventure! Romance! MAD SCIENCE!)

And in the midst of the chaos, Agatha and her faithful, if somewhat baffled, companions are setting out to see more of this world. We can expect great revelations in the next collection. ("Agatha Heterodyne and the Master of Paris"?)

Elena Gaillard says

Constant Reader keeps up with this series on its website, reading each of the three weekly installments the moment they are posted, but I'm one of those old-fashioned girls who just finds reading elaborate drawn pages like these MUCH easier in print. So I seized Vol. 13 the moment it was available -- as I have the rest of the series since it began.

This volume collects a particularly frenetic segment of story -- the Siege of Mechanicsburg is underway by the Wulfenbach forces, while the Storm King clan makes their boldest moves and \BIG SPOILER THINGY\ happens to maybe-kind-of-sort-of save the day for our heroine...

I'm only giving it 4 stars, though, I'm not quite sure that all the plot elements are making sense at this point...

That is one thing that is essential in this series, alas: constant re-reading of earlier volumes...

Lorelei says

A delightful romp. Looking forward to the next one.

Sarah J says

Set in an alternative Europe, "Girl Genius" combines steampunk, dieselpunk, sci-fi pulp, fantasy, alternate history, penny-dreadful schlock, and comedy in a gorgeous comic about one girl and a mad spark. The writing is funny itself, reminiscent of screwball comedy, but the sight gags in the drawings add to the atmosphere, and each time you pick up a volume again, something new is revealed, so its always a new read. The comics are brightly colored, and so richly detailed you have to step back and take in everything. One of the best comics ever created, the Professors Foglios have outdone themselves.

Anthony Faber says

Things took a weird turn and what looked nearly over turns out not to be.
