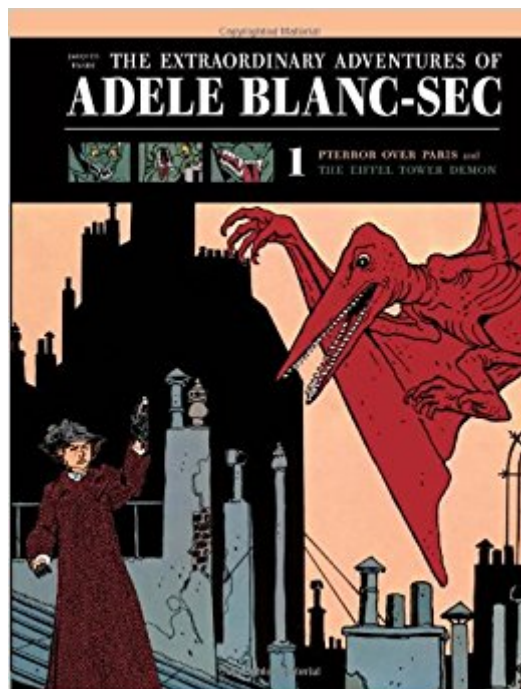


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The Extraordinary Adventures Of Adele Blanc-Sec: Pterror Over Paris And The Eiffel Tower Demon (The Extraordinary Adventures Of AdÃ©le Blanc-Sec)



Synopsis

Classic comedy-thriller by one of France's greatest, released to coincide with the film version! Both a rip-roaring adventure series set in pre-World War I Paris and a parody of same, Adele Blanc-Sec has been enchanting, thrilling, and puzzling readers worldwide through four decades. With various American attempts to publish Adele having dribbled into nothing decades ago, Fantagraphics Books, fresh from its triumphs with Tardi's West Coast Blues and You Are There, launches a spectacular, newly re-translated, hardcover series that intends to collect every one of its nine (soon ten) volumes. In this premiere installment, Adele becomes involved in an interlocking series of mysteries that involve a revived pterodactyl, a frightful on-stage murder, a looming execution by guillotine, and a demon from the depths of hell • plus of course moronic gendarmes, loyal (or perhaps traitorous?) henchmen, and a climax atop the Eiffel Tower. The Adele Blanc-Sec series is currently being adapted into a series of films by the renowned action director Luc Besson (The Professional, The Fifth Element), bringing this quirky, very French series to a new worldwide audience. 96 pages of full-color comics

Book Information

Series: The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec (Book 1)

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Popular in Europe, these historical adventures of a fearless female journalist in belle époque Paris begins a new reprint series with a fresh English translation. In 1911 Paris, a pterodactyl has hatched and is terrorizing the city. We first meet Adele impersonating a woman she has kidnapped, working on engineering a jailbreak to find stolen funds. Somehow, these plot lines

intertwine, along with a gentleman hunter, changing alliances, and various double-crosses. After battling the beast and the events that result, Adele and her circle of adversaries chase a mysterious Assyrian statue of a demon. Tardi's art well deserves the praise that he's a grandmaster of comics. It's detailed, expressive, authentic, and distinctive. His world-building is thorough, the setting established through both background art and scene selection. Frequent recaps keep the reader up to speed, while emphasizing how amusingly convoluted everything quickly becomes. Tardi knows the conventions of this kind of rollicking, complicated adventure, and the story points out how ridiculous they are at the same time it's engaging in them. This oversized volume contains two adventures, with two more due next year. (Dec.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

The prolific French comic artist Tardi has worked in a wide variety of genres, from hard-boiled crime stories to broad humor, but he is best known for his series featuring Adèle Blanc-Sec, a writer whose investigations lead her to run-ins with the occult, mad scientists, and other bizarre phenomena in early-twentieth-century Paris. In these two initial installments, the city is terrorized by a pterodactyl hatched from an egg in the Natural History Museum, and the intrepid Adèle hunts down a statuette of an ancient demon that's also being sought by a sinister cult. The mysteries are compelling enough, but the best is what's found around the edges: elements that spice up the proceedings by parodying disloyal henchmen, inept gendarmes, and talky exposition; the meticulously rendered belle époque settings (the confrontation with the cult leader takes place, naturally, atop the Eiffel Tower); and Adèle herself, who, at least at this early stage, is an intriguing cipher. But the main attraction is Tardi's gorgeous visuals, with their supple line work and elegant compositions. --Gordon Flagg

Recalling Tardi's great work from the American edition of Heavy Metal magazine back in its early years in the late seventies, I had to assume that the storyteller had lost some of his edge over the years. The truth is he's a pleasant surprise with that same sharp wit and cunning storytelling skill, and still a master of the form. He's lost none of the edge that made him a popular import all those years ago. What is striking about this collection of two tales that intertwine with rich complexity and humane brevity is that by the end of the tale Adele remains an enigma full of questions unanswered and a lot hinted at, remaining unresolved. The cynical wit and razor's edge escapes as well as the delightfully off kilter twists and turns makes this a fun, engaging read with promises of a lot more to come. I hope there will be at least several more episodes of this series to read over the coming years. I can't wait to see the film, subtitles and all.

Good

Similar story to the movie.

Lovely print job. And Jaques Tardi is himself. :) Thoroughly complex and confusing stories deserving multiple readings. Silly plots that are pretty entertaining. And wonderfully stocky artwork.

I was given the french original many years ago, and fell in love with the art. I have gradually made up a story to explain what is going on - with the help of my high school french, and the occasional french visitor. Well, nothing comes close to finally reading the real thing in English. The story does not disappoint, and Adele is a complex, interesting character. I can't wait for the next volume to learn more about her. The hardback is well produced, and the price at is excellent. (Also, the trailers for the Besson film look great!)

The story is a little bit muddled, the characterizations are not strong, and the dialogue is not smart or funny. Nevertheless, the artwork is nothing short of stunning and exquisitely detailed. For that reason alone this volume is worth checking out. I can only hope that the series improves in the next volume.

I saw the film on Qatar Airways and searched for the DVD but found this instead - and in English!!! Now this has become one of my most-prized possessions. The story is awesome as well.

My friend gave this to me with this preface: "The woman at the bookstore who sold it to me was going gaga over this book, but after I read it I have to admit I don't really get it. Here, maybe you'll like it." And thus Adele Blanc-Sec made its way into my collection. The plot is hard to follow and I read it in a half-bemused, half-interested state, but I did finish it and I enjoyed it. I loved the art style and the way the period was set and illustrated, and that alone was really enough to carry me through it. But the strangest part was after I read it I kept thinking about it, day dreaming in Jacques Tardi-esque panels. I also picked up volume 2. I would definitely recommend this if you want to read something different and have a little cash to drop. Don't have high expectations, just let it wash over you and enjoy the art on every page. As for the story, well, it's an excuse for the art. Even so, the unusual style and muddled storytelling definitely charmed me.

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