



Avatar: The Last Airbender: The Lost Scrolls Collection

Michael Teitelbaum , Patrick Spaziante (Illustrator) , Tom Mason , Shane L. Johnson (Illustrator)

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In another age, power is balanced among four great nations: Water, Earth, Fire, and Air. Leaders of each nation are able to bend their native element. Only one bender, the Avatar, whose spirit is reincarnated through the years, can master all four elements and maintain the world order. After disappearing for a hundred years, the Avatar returned as Aang, a twelve-year-old Airbender. It is up to him to save the world from being dominated by the Fire Nation.

The Lost Scrolls Collection shares the sacred tales and rare documents that were once hidden from the world. Each book tells stories about one of the four nations, sharing its legends, culture, and art of bending its element.

This amazing bind-up collection contains all four of the sacred tales of *The Lost Scrolls: Water, Fire, Earth, and Air*.

Avatar: The Last Airbender: The Lost Scrolls Collection Details

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From Reader Review Avatar: The Last Airbender: The Lost Scrolls Collection for online ebook

Eric says

I'm not sure how I feel about rating this. In truth if it was the book alone and the show didn't exist I would've rated it lower. It takes a damn fine story and turns out a bit of mush. It's true something is lost here and I don't really know why. The stories that are retold from the show are the worst part. It's actually the biggest part and so glaringly bad it makes it harder to enjoy the book on a whole. I actually stopped attempting to read them and just remembered what it felt like to watch the episodes for the first time.

It's unfortunate because I know that by the time books like Avatar The Last Airbender: The Lost Adventures come out they've figured out how to present the Avatar universe properly, keep it interesting, fresh, new and exciting all while not treating the audience like idiots. Side note, no, I was not a fan of them redrawing the same models for male and female benders with different clothes during each scroll (book... section?) it was lame and any 12 year old would tell you that too. It's a simple concept, there's no reason you couldn't have made up brand new nameless folks to represent each kingdom. It was really patronizing and I didn't care for it.

What I do like about this is the random factoids and "behind the scenes" moments that are found between each new tale. It actually explained a few things. I had a couple "OMG I had no idea" and showed me how deep the world of bending can really be. Sadly it did end up raising more questions because of events that happen later on in this series and in The Legend of Korra but I'm not going to spoil that for everyone right here. I need to talk to someone about it and this review isn't the right place for that.

Overall the fact sections save this book. It doesn't turn it into a gem. There's way to much rehashed to do that. All the martial arts stuff can be found on ~~the Book One~~ all three books available on DVD. Most of the moments that are broken down are really only there to help with the stories that are presented in the books pages - if you watched the show, you'll be fine without them. I guess I just figured out how I'm rating this book. Sad. It could've been great.

Teresa says

The retellings of various season 1 episodes didn't add much (and, in fact, were often less interesting than the televised version of the story), but the sections that gave more in-depth information about the four societies in the Avatar world were worth reading.

Mike Jozic says

Although aimed at younger readers The Lost Scrolls was still a nice reference book for various aspects of the series.

Jasper says

as the description notes, the Lost Scrolls Collection includes all 4 of the Sacred Tales.

while the "tales" part of the book is rather dull (being that they're just recounted from various episodes in Book 1: Water) the sections pertaining to the world of Avatar and the four nations is quite enjoyable.

if nothing more, fans of the series should pick this up, thumb past the stories and check out the extra information that wasn't all included in the cartoon.

personally i was hoping that they'd release an "Avatar: The Last Airbender and Philosophy" but with Korra up and running, i don't see that happening.

Jetta says

I enjoy this book and like it very much because the book tells me the secrets of each tribe.

Julianna says

This book contains both episode novelizations and little bits of information about each nation and its bending. The novelizations - terrible (for more information, see my review of The Earth Kingdom Chronicles Collection: Tales 1-4). The little bits of information - good. There was much to be praised, but also much conflict of canon between the show and this book. The information given for each nation, although useful, left much to be desired in day-to-day culture and practices.

Overall, I did enjoy this book.

Shannon Fay says

Actual: 3.5 stars.

This book was cool and I liked it. It was cute, and as a companion to the Tv show that I adore, I htought it worked. As a standalone read, not so much. And perhaps I am being too demanding, but I prefer everything I read to be able to hold it's own. Though, as this is a collection of "scrolls" that basically contain information about the four nations, I guess it might be a little unfair of me to want this book to stand by itself, without relying on the show it derives from. Because without some familiarity with the show, it would fall apart, but considering it's supposed to be a companion to the show, I suppose that's alright. (What? That makes no sense. Oh well)

I guess more than that, what I mean is that I didn't want this book to have to use the show (other than the obvious borrowing of characters, and world-building, etc.) I wanted this book to be a fully formulated little compendium of it's own (and many parts of it were), but there were parts where the book relied far too much on the show for my taste and that's where it lost me.

Most of the book is acquired knowledge of the Avatar world, what different nations eat, the cultural practices, how different bending works, etc. And while I think that most of this information is stuff that one

could glean from a careful study of the show, I think it's cute all packaged together, and it makes a great souvenir, and a cute book for fans of the show. Wrap it up in a cute little bow and give it to the fans. cool. The rest though, which was a significant, but not the majority, were stories that we had already seen in the show, from a specific character's perspective, and they were presented along with the other information, as anecdotal accounts of things. Now I understand why these stories were included. In many books about a specific culture or group of people, you not only have information about their practices and lives and whatnot, but you also have first person accounts describing those things from that perspective. So it does make perfect sense that Sokka would tell us a story about the water tribe, or that Toph would relate on concerning the Earth Kingdom. But to me, it just felt like a cheap way to pad a book. Can't think of new material? Rehash the same events from a new perspective. It feels tired, and I quickly grow bored of writers doing this. I think it would have been much more interesting had the writers come up with new little short stories, involving all the same characters that we know and love from the show, and simply wrote them as though they were moments we didn't get to see in the TV show.

Even though I've been a bit harsh about this book though, I have to say, I did enjoy it. It was a quick, easy and light read, and there wasn't anything new that I really learned about the world of Avatar (I've re-watched the show SOOOO many times though), but it was entertaining to visit a beloved world in a different capacity. And I simply ADORE pretty much anything Avatar. I really did like it, just wanted a teeny bit more original content is all. Oh well, still a cute read, and one I'll keep around.

EDIT: I have decided to do the Around the Year in 52 Books Challenge
This book is going to count for challenge #7 - A book about books.

The Lost Scrolls is a collection of 4 smaller "scrolls" that are supposed to be scrolls concerning the four tribes of the Avatar world, and each of these "scrolls" is basically just a compilation of information on each of the nations. However, since this book is essentially a book that is smaller books about the world of Avatar, I am counting for this challenge.

Misha says

3.5 stars

Sheza 'Shez' says

An intriguing and insightful guide on the origins of each element, and of course we got to see some of our favorite characters and stories in the series!

Samantha says

Four sacred and dangerous scrolls have been compiled into this single book, detailing the adventures of Aang and his friends. The Fire Nation has waged war against the rest of the world for one hundred years, unhindered by the peacekeeping Avatar. Then Katara and her brother, Sokka, discover a young Airbender named Aang. Could he be the one the whole world has been looking for? And will he be able to face his destiny?

So, this particular book is actually a collection of four books. This collection of stories covers the first season of the show, and includes almost every episode. The stories are arranged by Scroll/element, and then chronologically. I didn't mind this at first, but towards the end of this book, I was tired of chronologically jumping back and forth whenever I switched which Scroll I was on. I understand why the book was structured this way, but it still was a little frustrating.

Each Scroll has three stories in it, for a total of twelve. The Point of View alternatives, so Katara, Sokka, and Aang each get a chance to narrate, and Zuko even gets a story. I enjoyed being able to be in each of their heads, and it was neat to see their insights. I felt as if the writer had seen the show, and I felt like the writer understood the Gaang. There were even some neat little insights.

These stories follow the episodes pretty closely, and this book is written with much more skill than TokyoPop's Avatar Volumes. The writing is for a younger audience, so be prepared for that, but it still is good. The downside is I know this episode well enough to tell when something was skipped over, and it pulled me out some each time, but I realize that's just me being nitpicky, for the most part. There were also some stupid mistakes that should not have been made, and I'm not sure how they were made, with the writer seeming to know the show so well.

After each story, there was some extra content, which was neat as well.

The Introduction hails back to the opening of the show, but gives a little more depth, and works quite nicely as the opening to this collection of tales.

I'm not going to review each story separately, as my praise for each is nearly the same, and has been stated above. However, there are some nitpicky things I can't help but mention. And there **WILL BE SPOILERS!!!** if you haven't seen the show. If you've seen the show, there's nothing to be spoiled about.

For the first section, on Water:

My first real issue is with the extra content after the first story, with the section on the Water Scroll. Sure, the Water Scroll was valuable, but I don't think it's as big of a deal as this section makes it out to be. The scroll is legend now? Also, I don't think that particular bending move was lost forever with the scroll missing. Katara simply had no formal training, and so would have had no way of knowing the move before finding the scroll.

The extra content after Bato of the Water Tribe is pretty good, though it makes me wonder about the Ice Dodging tradition, and the marks each person receives. I don't feel as if everybody would be given the same marks each time, but these extra content acts as if that is the case. The reason I question this is because of the Mark of the Trusted. This book states the mark is given to outsiders, but how often do the Water Tribes really have outsiders come with them on their rite of passage? I wouldn't think it happens too often, especially in a time of war.

In The Water Bending Master, this story was trying to cover too much, and it felt more like a summary than an actual story. Katara's fight with Pakku and Yue's death were glossed over because we were in Aang's head, and those points of the story shouldn't have been told by him, really. I did enjoy being in Aang's head for the big battle with the Fire Nation, but there was just too much crammed into this story for it to work well, and for me to really enjoy it.

For the section on Earth:

Just a side note on the note for The Great Divide... “One memorable adventure through the Earth Kingdom...” Memorable? Really? The creators of the show even made fun of this episode and how unmemorable it is.

For the extra content about the Great Divide, it is stated the canyon should not be crossed without the Earthbender guide, for only he can “re-create missing sections of the trail”. So, no other earthbender is capable of doing that? Just him?

Also, for that same section, it mentions the Gan Jins’ sacred orb is shrouded in mystery, and there are rumors “that the orb may not have existed at all, or that if it did, it was just a simple toy for children”. Okay... Aang admitted he made up the story about it being just a children’s game. So, it obviously was NOT a child’s toy.

For the section on Fire:

Now for The Fire Temple. How Aang returned from the Spirit World is not what happened in the show... I get cutting out some stuff, as this story combines two episodes, but I feel as if Aang’s return could have been done better.

Also, when it came to the Gaang tricking the Fire Sages to thinking Aang was inside the sanctuary in the Fire Temple... The whole point of Momo being in there was to help convince the other Sages Aang was in there, with his shadow at the doorway. That wasn’t explained at all, but a point is still made to mention Momo is inside when the doors are opened.

Now to The Blue Spirit. When Aang and the Blue Spirit are escaping from Admiral Zhao, and Zhao says, “He [the Avatar] must be captured alive!” things get a little confusing. Zuko uses Aang as a shield and grasps his swords firmly, which shocks and scares Aang. This makes no sense. In the show, Zuko places his two swords at Aang’s neck, which I think is what is supposed to be happening here. However, no matter how I read this part of the story, there is nothing to tell the reader this.

For the last section on Air:

I have a complaint with The Storm. So, Aang rescues Sokka and the fisherman, and then a wave knocks everybody underwater. Then Aang is able to save them all, on his own... Wrong! In the show, he went into the Avatar State.

For the extra content after this story, there is mention of an Air Nomad custom to tell the Avatar who he or she is at the age of sixteen. No. This is a custom practiced all over the world, and not just with Air Benders.

In the extra content after The Northern Air Temple, it states “Air was the most important natural resource to Airbenders. Without air, they were powerless.” Wait, what? Without air, they’re not only powerless, they’re DEAD. That’s just common sense, right there.

So, I have quite a few nitpicks, but that doesn’t mean I didn’t enjoy this book. For the most part, it was well-written, and I loved the way everything was presented, as if it was some big secret. I’m glad I bought this, and reading it has made me want to watch the show over again.

Mloy says

I love Avatar: The Last Airbender and this books reads like the Nickelodeon animated series of the same name; it's so awesome and best of all it has the coolest characters from the franchise (unlike the new series **coughs** Korra). I love Avatar Aang, but Zuko is my hands-down favorite.

Brooke Johnson says

I was really disappointed in this. I was hoping for new avatar tales, not summaries of previously aired episodes in the show. the information about the culture and world of avatar was interesting, but nothing I didn't already know. disappointing when the show and the new series of graphic novels are so rich with detail and engaging stories. this was a fail.
