



Saucer Country Vol. 1: Run

Paul Cornell, Ryan Kelly (Illustrator)

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Arcadia Alvarado, the leading Democratic candidate for President of the United States, says she was 'abducted by aliens.' As the Mexican-American Governor of New Mexico, she's dealing with immigration, budget cuts and an alcoholic ex. She's about to toss her hat into the ring as a candidate for President in the most volatile political climate ever. But then...a lonely road and a nightmarish encounter have left her with terrible, half-glimpsed memories. And now she has to become President. To expose the truth--and maybe, to save the world. Arcadia's quest is at the heart of this new title from writer Paul Cornell (DEMON KNIGHTS, ACTION COMICS, Doctor Who) and artist Ryan Kelly (NEW YORK FIVE, NORTHLANDERS, Local). With the help of her quirky staff, Arcadia will pursue the truth of her abduction into danger, mystery and awe.

Saucer Country is a dark thriller that blends UFO lore and alien abduction with political intrigue, all set in the hauntingly beautiful Southwest.

Saucer Country Vol. 1: Run Details

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From Reader Review Saucer Country Vol. 1: Run for online ebook

Zedsdead says

Paul Cornell's horrifying witch tale London Falling was simply terrific. His fantasy comic Demon Knights was awful. A Better Way to Die, his short story contribution to GRRM's anthology Rogues, was uneven, a promising effort that fell flat. The guy is just all over the place.

He dekes again by taking what bodes to be a pulpy crapfest of a concept--flying saucers--and somehow crafting from it an intelligent, thoughtful exploration of UFO mythology combined with a fairly shrewd study of an unlikely candidate's run for the presidency.

The main character is a divorced Hispanic woman, the governor of New Mexico, and a very improbable presidential candidate. She's also an alien abductee. She's forced to walk a particularly wobbly tightrope: using the power of her unique position to investigate what happened to her, running the brutal campaign gauntlet, and preventing the public from learning that the potential next chief executive sort-of-maybe believes in little gray men from outer space. Not to mix my metaphors, but Cornell keeps all three balls in the air with wonderful deftness.

Having read this right on the heels of the execrable Demon Knights, my expectations were very low and Saucer Country turned out to be a wonderful surprise. I keep thinking it must be a different Paul Cornell, but I've checked three times and Goodreads keeps insisting it's the same guy.

John Wiswell says

A fun, brief story to read in the middle of my X-Files marathon. *Saucer Country* is the story of a governor and her ex-husband, who believe their "lost time" was an alien abduction. This introductory volume spends half its length setting up all the characters, the politicians who support or undermine her, conspiracy theorists, mad men who might also have been touched by aliens, and one great hulking bodyguard. The governor's core group, of that bodyguard, an elderly strategist who's devoted his life to her ascension, and a Republican up-and-comer here for career goals, are particularly charming in how they keep splitting emotional reactions to the revelations and pursuit of the truth.

Like The X-Files (which the comic quotes at least twice), the truth is plainly out there. It's refreshing to read a comic with some strong personal relationships and where violation (like alien probing) is treated as genuinely damaging to someone's psychology. Given that the governor is a top contender for the presidential nomination, there's an almost fated Manchurian Candidate vibe for her future, and the future of the world that may soon be invaded. It's surprising to read that the series was canceled, and heartening that it may come back without its prior publisher. There's plenty of stories to explore.

Tyler Kroon says

A governor running for president believes she was kidnapped by aliens, and her staff tries to help her piece the clues together while avoiding those trying to ruin her career. Definitely a fun read for those interested in

the UFO narrative.

Shannon Appelcline says

I spent much of this comic trying to decide whether I liked this comic or not. I appreciate the characters, and I think the use of political drama is good as a contrast to the science-fiction. However the alien elements of the comic seemed a bit cliched -- which may be the point. I felt like it had started to shape up by the end, when we were focusing more on Arcadia and on figuring out what's going on, and I thought the last issue, with its look at a possible UFO mythology quite good.

I'll definitely pick up the second volume and see what Cornell does with the rest of "season one".

Charles says

First Reads Review - Saucer Country Vol 1

So I honestly don't know exactly what to make of this. I mean, I like it. The writing and the art are solid, and it's quite weird. But beyond that, I'm not entirely sure what to make of it. I suppose I should explain a bit more than that, though, as DC was nice enough to give me a free copy through First Reads. I guess I signed up for it largely because of Paul Cornell, whom I am a fan of. And in that respect I am not disappointed, only a bit confused because I guess this would be something more of a complete story in its own right, which it is not. As an episode in a larger story, it does perhaps a nice job, but without the rest of the story it is rather difficult to tell.

Which brings me back to it's weird. I mean, there is a lot going on here, and the characters are all interesting, different, powerful in their own ways, and the writer and artist both give us a feel for them, for the reality of their situations but also the surrealism. This is a story where the reader isn't sure what's happening, what's real and what isn't, largely because the characters don't know either. And that's good, that works, but it is a bit unsettling, and when I am unsettled I want there to be a bit of a pay off. And in this volume there simply isn't. It is good, and well done, but it leaves me with something of a confused look and I suppose I feel like there might have been more done to justify collecting these issues together, like they should tell some sort of story, even if only a small one.

Not that it does a bad job introducing everything. People show up and are entertaining, are different and funny and real enough. I like that. But I don't get the feeling that everything is even set up yet, that we're still being kept waiting for something more, for the real story to get rolling. And while most things are set up, I guess I just wanted more. Which might be unfair, but there it is. I felt that, at the end of the day, the confusion and weirdness that is set up here is not justified by what is in this volume. And I know, I have to read further, but that doesn't change the fact that for now I feel that it is a little lacking, and so for now I have to give it three stars out of five.

47Time says

This is a weird subject, but the execution is pretty good. The dialogue is intelligent and flows nicely, even if

the story has a twist that I'm not a fan of: alien abductions are real. Anal probes included.

Governor Arcadia Alvarado is running for president of the United States, but her nightmares are haunting her. She and her ex-husband, Michael, think they were abducted by aliens. This needs to be kept secret during the campaign, so Arcadia's staff hires professor Kidd who also believes aliens exist, but bases his belief on mythology.

(view spoiler)

David says

The premise has a better storyline than our current political climate.

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

I wasn't sure what to think of this at first, but by the fourth of six, I was hooked. Alien abduction, Latina presidential candidate, and things are not what they seem.... I'd definitely jump to vol. 2 to find out what happens next.

Guilherme Smee says

Quando você está escrevendo um livro, um conto, um quadrinho sobre um determinado assunto, você pesquisa sobre ele. Essa pesquisa também pode envolver coisas parecidas que já foram escritas sobre o tema. Fazia um tempo que eu queria ler Saucer Country e estava a espera de sua publicação no Brasil para lê-lo. Mas isso, desde 2012, quando a série foi criada, ainda não aconteceu no Brasil. resolvi recorrer para a versão importada. Apenas para ter uma revelação chocante - rumfesm os tambores, toquem as trombetas - eu estou a serviço de alienígenas! Falando sério, tudo o que Saucer Country revela é que, como toda mitologia, a dos alienígenas vem se transformando durante os anos, através das representações do desconhecido que os homens vêm fazendo. Como escrevo um história sobre eles, também estou colaborando nessa visão. O escritor Paul Cornell e os desenhistas dessa série, ao mesmo tempo, também estão fazendo isso, ao contar a história de uma candidata latina, filha de imigrantes ilegais - daí a ótima analogia - que teve um encontro imediato e foi abduzida por alienígenas. Estariam eles manipulando a corrida presidencial dos Estados Unidos para, enfim, dominarem o mundo? Só lendo o segundo e último volume dessa série para saber. Algo que pretendo fazer em breve.

William Thomas says

Paul Cornell went too clever by half here with *Saucer Country*, whose premise sounds like the most promising new title Vertigo has to offer. However, Cornell's execution leaves everything to be desired and what we are left with after having been grabbed by the synopsis is little more than wacky antics and hallucinatory diatribes.

Writing: D

Art: C

Paul says

A mix of sci-fi and politics that starts strong but peters out a bit towards the end.

Aracadia Alvarado, governor of New Mexico, is destined to be a groundbreaking candidate for president. She's running at time when America's ready to consider a divorced, Latino, pro-immigration woman for president. Except for the fact that she thinks that aliens have abducted her on the eve of the announcement of her candidacy. And thinks that the aliens are the threat to national security.

Paul Cornell and Ryan Kelly do a great job introducing this high concept in the initial few chapters, bringing in characters like Professor Kidd, ostracized from Harvard for his belief in UFOs and secretly brought on to the Alvarado campaign to provide some insight, all while revealing to no one his visions of the Pioneer 10 couple, two tiny naked figures giving him sound advice at every turn. But as the book concludes, Cornell is still setting things up and introducing even more characters from the margins of society. The momentum also flags in the book's final chapter, where Professor Kidd literally lectures the cast about the deep theory of alien visitation theory in America. Cornell's research is admirable, and where the story interacts with the decades-old myth of aliens is fascinating, but it's still an exposition dump, and it serves to slow the narrative at a moment where the reader desperately needs plot movement.

Cornell plays the long game with the book, and that may have proven to be its fatal flaw. The book was cancelled early, and Cornell had to finish up his story in volume 2. Hopefully he pulls it off, as this is a really promising, but slightly uneven, start.

Michael says

Paul Cornell legt hier hier eine Graphic Novel vor, die sich mit einem der großen amerikanischen Mythen des 20. Jahrhunderts beschäftigt: Die Entführung durch Außerirdische.

Die mexikanisch-stämmige Gouverneurin Arcadia Alvarado will als Präsidentschaftskandidatin kandidieren. Die Chancen für eine Wahl sind ohnehin nicht rosig für sie: eine weibliche, nicht in Amerika geborene Präsidentin mit einem Ex-Mann, der sie misshandelt hat? Aber dann kommt etwas hinzu, dass eine Wahl vollends unwahrscheinlich macht, wenn die Öffentlichkeit davon erfährt: Arcadia ist von Außerirdischen entführt worden. Oder?

Im Kern beschäftigt sich Cornell eben mit der Frage, wie sich der UFO-Mythos entwickelt hat und wie wir inzwischen alle - weltweit - unsere Vorstellungen haben, wie die kleinen grünen (oder grauen?) Männchen und ihre Fluggeräte aussehen und auch, was sie mit den Menschen machen, wenn diese entführt werden; den X-Files sei Dank. Und so stellt Cornell die Frage, welche Aussagen von Zeugen, die Aliens begegnet sein wollen, glaubhaft sein könnten und welche Indikatoren es dafür gibt.

Da es sich erst um den 1. Band einer Serie handelt, fällt eine Beurteilung hinsichtlich des Aufbaus der Handlung schwer, aber die ca. 140 Seiten des ersten Bandes haben mich überzeugt. Der Aufbau ist komplex und spannend, die Artwork (Ryan Kelly, Jimmy Braxton und Goran Sudzuka) schwankt ein wenig, ist aber auf jeden Fall passabel.

Eine Empfehlung für alle, die Spaß an UFO-Theorien und Mythen und an den X-Files haben.

Matt says

Collects Saucer Country issues #1-6

In this graphic novel, a woman with a political background gets abducted by aliens. Believing that, with the right political power, she can fight against the aliens and learn the truth about what happened to her, she decides to run for president.

Danie says

Won this via First Reads.

The Democrat Governor of New Mexico, Arcadia Alvarado, who is also running for President of the United States, has a very trippy experience while driving home from a party. Did she and her ex-husband, who was also in the car, get abducted by aliens? Or maybe it was all in their head, all a dream? Or perhaps the truth is somewhere in between the two ideas?

Then there's also a former Harvard professor who has two miniature people, a man and a woman who are very naked and human looking, who talk to him at semi-inconvenient times. And that's one of the things that makes this an Adult Graphic Novel more than one that a kid could read, there are quite a few naked people depicted in this story (not judging, just stating a fact).

According to the PR about the book it's supposed to be a cross of the X-Files and The West Wing. Except that I thought it wasn't so much an even split at all, but more of a 90/10 split. Much more of the aliens than the politics appear and I do wish that there had been more of the politics in it.

I also was surprised how much I liked the character of Chloe the Republican on the Democrat's campaign. It could have been done badly, but instead her character got some of the best lines in the entire book.

All in all I liked it and I hope that there's more TPBs in the pipeline so that maybe I can understand this TPB and what was happening in it a bit better.

Myriad says

I received this book as a Goodreads Giveaway.

THE GOOD:

Awesome Latina protagonist!

Artwork is realistic. Characters have distinct facial features, heights, etc, which is helpful given that the majority of the cast are middle-aged white men.

Proper anatomy! Huzzah!

No excessive sexualization of characters. Nudity/skin shown is logical (character is in shower, nightgown, whatever) and poses are natural, rather than contorted into a pin-up pose. Arcadia dresses like a politician, with a minimum of cleavage.

X-files references!

THE NOT-SO-GOOD:

It's short! I'm intrigued, but I feel like I don't even entirely have a grasp on the premise. Hopefully future issues will solve this problem.

The colors are sort of murky. I understand the desire for 'gritty realism', but sometimes it feels like everything is brownish-greyish-greenish.

I'd really like to see more female characters; of the named characters, as far as I can tell, 3/11 are women. Also 3/11 are PoC.

It gets a bit squicky in places for my taste, but that's a personal thing.

OVERALL:

The good far outweighs the bad. I want to find out how the authors balance Arcadia's political campaign with the extraterrestrial stuff. I'm cautiously optimistic.
