



# Mezolith

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Mezolith is a graphic novel for older children and adults, written by a leading oral storyteller, with extraordinarily immersive illustrations by one of Britain's top film concept artists. It imagines a year in the life of Poika - a Mesolithic boy on the cusp of adulthood. Set in what is now North East Yorkshire, 10,000 years ago before Britain became an island, stories of a small tribe's daily struggle for survival are interwoven with some of humankind's most ancient myths, fairytales and legends. Grounded in detailed archaeological research, this is a book of action and adventure, horror and romance, magic and beauty.

MeZolith was one of The Times's Graphic Novels of the Year in 2010.

## Mezolith Details

Date : Published March 1st 2010 by David Fickling Books

ISBN : 9780385618267

Author : Ben Haggarty (story) , Adam Brockbank (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 90 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Fantasy, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Prehistoric

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# From Reader Review Mezolith for online ebook

Yiannis Vasalakis says

Readathon 2017 #4: ?να κ?μικς

Κ?ποτε ?μασταν ?λοι μ?α φυλ?

Δ?ο βρετανο? παραμυθ?δες μ?ς ταξιδε?ουν στην απανυ? της ανθρωπ?τητας, μας αφηγο?νται ιστορ?ες με πρωταγωνιστ?ς τη φ?ση, τη μαγε?α και τον τρ?μο και μας αφ?νουν με κομμ?νη την αν?σα

Την Εποχ? του Λ?θου, πριν απ? 10.000 χρ?νια, η φυλ? των Κ?νσα ζει στις ανατολικ?ς ακτ?ς της Βρεταν?ας. Ο κ?νδυνος δεν βρ?σκεται ποτ? μακρι? τους: κ?θε εποχ? φ?ρνει ν?ες περιπ?τειες, κ?θε κυν?γι ?χει το ρ?σκο του και κ?θε συν?ντηση με τους απειλητικο?ς γε?τονες ε?ναι επ?φοβη. Ο νεαρ?ς Π?ικα βι?ζεται να μεγαλ?σει· για να βρει ?μως τη θ?ση του στη φυλ?, πρ?πει να μ?θει να εμπιστε?εται τη σοφ?α των μεγαλ?τερ?ν του καθ?ς μυε?ται στην ?δια τη ζω?. Οι ιστορ?ες της καθημεριν?ς π?λης των Κ?νσα για επιβ?ωση ε?ναι απ?λυτα συνυφασμ?νες με μερικο?ς απ? τους πιο αρχα?ους μ?θους και θρ?λους της ανθρωπ?τητας. Απ? τις σελ?δες παρελα?νουν μωρ? - τ?ρατα, νερα?δ?νιοι κ?κνοι και τρομακτικ?ς μ?γισσες. Ξ?ρκια, ?νειρα και εφι?λτες του φανταστικο? κ?σμου χρησιμοποιο?νται για να εξηγ?σουν τα μυστ?ρια της φ?σης, σε μια περ?οδο που οι ?νθρωποι ?ταν ακ?μη κυνηγο? και συλλ?κτες, προτο? η ζω? τους αλλ?ξει με τη γεωργ?α.

Το «Mezolith» ?ταν μια απ? τις πιο ευχ?ριστες εκπλ?ξεις στο AthensCon, το συν?δριο κ?μικ που πραγματοποιη?κε στις αρχ?ς Δεκεμβρ?ου στο Τ?ε Κβον Ντο του Φάλ?ρου, ?που κυκλοφ?ρησε για πρ?τη φορ? στο ελληνικ? κοιν?. Βραβευμ?νο στο εξωτερικ?, δεν ε?ναι ?να κ?μικ για μικρ? παιδι?, μα ?να graphic novel για εφ?βους και ενηλ?κους. Το σεν?ρι? του ε?ναι γραμμ?νο απ? τον κορυφα?ο στο ε?δος του βρεταν? αφηγητ? μ?θων Μπεν Χ?γκαρτι, που εδ? και περισσ?τερα απ? τρι?ντα χρ?νια δ?νει παραστ?σεις αφ?γησης παραμυθι?ν και επ?ν για ενηλ?κους και παιδι?. Π?σω απ? το σκ?τσο βρ?σκεται ο Ανταμ Μπρ?κμπανκ, concept artist πολλ?ν χολιγουντιαν?ν ταινι?ν (μεταξ? των οπο?ων και τα «Χ?ρι Π?τερ»), στην πρ?τη του αμιγ?ς κομ?στική και ιδια?τερα επιτυχημ?νη προσπ?θεια.

Οι δυο τους ?γιναν ?να δυναμικ? δ?δυμο. Εκαναν λεπτομερ? ?ρευνα, αρχαιολογικ?, εθνογραφικ?, ανθρωπολογικ?, γεωλογικ?. Ενσωμ?τωσαν πραγματικ?ς επιστημονικ?ς ανακαλ?ψεις στην αφ?γησ? τους. «Τραγο?δησαν» ιστορ?ες που επιβι?νουν μ?χρι σ?μερα σε ?λο τον πλαν?τη, τις ?βαψαν με χρ?ματα σκοτειν? αλλ? γ?ναι και χρησιμοπο?ησαν τον ?φηβο Π?ικα για να εξερευν?σουν τις σκι?ς στα ?ρια του πραγματικο? και του φανταστικο? κ?σμου. Και μας υπενθυμ?ζουν ?τι, παρ? τις μεγ?λες διαφορ?ς μας σ?μερα, κ?ποτε ?μασταν ?λοι μ?λη μιας φυλ?ς.

Η λιτ? αφ?γηση του Χ?γκαρτι ε?ναι απ? μ?νη της εξαιρετικ?. Ομως το σχ?διο του Μπρ?κμπανκ ε?ναι εκε?νο που απογει?νει πραγματικ? το βιβλ?ο. Ιδια?τερα προσεγμ?νη η ελληνικ? ?κδοση απ? την Jemma Press, με μια απ? τις καλ?τερες εκτυπ?σεις που ?χω δει σε ελληνικ? κ?μικ: κ?θε καρ?

ε?ναι και ?νας μικρ?ς π?νακας ζωγραφικ?ς που ζωντανε?ει μπροστ? σου. Θα ?θελα μ?νο να συνοδε?εται απ? ?να πιο «επιστημονικ?» παρ?ρτημα με τις «πραγματικ?τητες» που εν?πνευσαν τους μ?θους. Οι εκδ?τες ανακοιν?νουν σ?ντομα και το σ?κουελ. Ας ελπ?σουμε ?τι θα το σκεφτο?ν σε κε?νο.

Δημοσιε?τηκε στο «Βιβλιοδρ?μιο» της εφημερ?δας ΤΑ ΝΕΑ στις 24.02.2017

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### **Sarah T. says**

Wow. This is a GORGEOUS graphic novel, and a super-fast read. I can't wait to dig into Book 2!

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### **L.H. Johnson says**

It's hard sometimes to review something which wholly and completely leaves you breathless. Mezolith is that something.

Part of the increasingly impressive DFC imprint, it's a collection of several short stories delivered by the dynamic team of Ben Haggarty and Adam Brockbank. It's a match made in heaven; Haggarty's short, elegant and terse stories play against the rich restraint of Brockbank's artwork to stunning effect.

Mezolith is scary, and it's genuinely so. There's an awareness of the form they're working in, an adept handling of comic structures and pacing. The use of frames, splash pages, and pageturns is something quite superb in this book. It's not one to be read late at night! There's a tension in nearly ever frame, a sort of balancing on the edge of this world and the next that's quite something. Stories, back at the dawn of mankind, were stories that were borne from truth and it was a truth more immediate than anything we could maybe imagine nowadays. Things like Red Riding Hood, the old woman being a witch, or the wicked stepmother, they all have their basis in fact and the society of the time. This is something that Mezolith handles very, very well. It balances on the edge of stories, using young warrior Poika to explore the shadows that form the barrier of our world and the beginning of the next.

I can't get over how impressive this is and it's something quite unique. It's bold, dark, and painted in shadowy, scary, earthen shades. I'd recommend giving it a read yourself beforehand as the impact of this book is substantial and, for the more imaginative soul, could prove quite genuinely scary. Just don't let any of that put you off. This is stunning, stunning work and it's a book that deserves a whole world of attention.

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### **Laura says**

I am being generous and giving this graphic novel two stars.

I didn't like this, and it felt like absolutely NOTHING happened. I will read book two as I hate leaving a series finished.

~~I think I just have high standards for graphic novels tbh.~~

:)

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## Heather says

Beautiful illustrations. It has a dignity to it that's hard to explain, but I did feel the pacing was uneven.

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## Alex says

Συμπαθητικ? κ?μικ, συλλογ? ιστορι?ν με πολ? καλ? χρωματισμ? και σχ?διο, χωρ?ς ?μως να ?χει να πει κ?τι ιδια?τερο με το σεν?ριο - β?βαια η χρονικ? περ?οδος που διαπραγματε?εται (προ?στορικ? εποχ?, πρ?μα στ?δια του ανθρ?πινου πολιτισμο?) δεν ε?ναι και το φ?ρτε μου. Παρ?λα αυτ? αξ?ζουν συγχαρητ?ρια στην Τζ?μα για την τ?σο γρ?γορη ?κδοση του συγκεκριμ?νου με παχ? χαρτ? και καλ? εκτ?πωση.

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## Kat Nicholson says

I picked up Mezolith by Ben Haggarty, (art by Adam Brockbank) years ago, and it's been sitting on my shelf tempting me to read it since then... today was finally the long-awaited day and I devoured it in one-sitting! I loved every story and character! The art was great and the stories gripping, I really recommend it for anyone who loves a good yarn, or a beautiful comic, as this is both! :)

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## Soobie's scared says

Mi son letta ben due fumetti ambientati nella preistoria nel giro di un paio di giorni. Due opere completamente diverse per pubblico e intenzione. Se la prima era una visione un po' comica della preistoria (cfr. *Preistory*, Vol. 1; no, non è un errore di battitura) questa è una preistoria reale.

La ricostruzione degli ambienti e delle leggende è molto accurata, come spiegano i due autori alla fine del volume. Pensavo fosse una storia lunga, ma invece sono degli episodi legati insieme da un filo rosso. All'inizio ero rimasta un po' delusa, anche perché i diversi episodi sono piuttosto corti. Continuando a leggere, però, la storia si ampliava e cose menzionate precedentemente hanno cominciato ad avere un significato diverso.

Gli autori riprendono alcuni miti delle storie popolari e li rielaborano all'interno del mondo preistorico. Ad esempio, in questo fumetto ritroviamo la leggenda delle donne cigno, quelle cui si ruba le piume per renderle schiave. La storia è tristissima, però.

C'è un secondo volume, ~~solo in inglese~~ *presumo*. *Scratch that*, il secondo dovrebbe uscire in italiano il 3 maggio. Non vedo l'ora di metterci le zampine sopra.

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## **Simon Chadwick says**

Sorry to say that I missed the original David Fickling Books printing of this one, but fortunately spotted this American printing available from Page 45 in Nottingham. It's the story of a boyhood from 10,000 years ago, set amongst a small tribe in Ancient Britain. The boy, Poika, is teetering before manhood, but youthful exuberance is no match for experience and patience, and so his innocent foolhardiness almost end his life in the opening pages. The tribe rally round, but it is the knowledge of an estranged medicine woman that ultimately gives Poika a second chance.

The creators have chosen to set their tale in an early Britain of understandable hardship but at a time of humanity's flowering where people were mastering tools, wildlife and the landscape in a manner not seen before, but for any people making sense of the natural world about them there is much they can't hope to explain, so it births myths and legends to explain things they cannot begin to fathom. What Haggerty and Brockbank have done is treated those early beliefs as the tribe's reality, so the stories segue into magic and horror, but without compromising the integrity or flow of the tale.

But the crowning glory of the book is Adam Brockbank's art. His background is as conceptual and storyboard artist for the movies, including Star Wars - Rogue One and all eight Harry Potter films, so he understands visual storytelling, dramatic tension and scene setting. Haggerty's scripts would have been remarkable in themselves, but in Brockbank's hands they give life to a fascinating yet distant part of our ancestry. The result is an incredibly beautiful book that impresses from cover to cover.

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## **Stephen says**

Graphic novel of stories/mythology of early man seeking to making sense of their world. Picked this because of the artwork which is excellent. The stories are interesting and beautifully well paced. They feel true to stories I imagine these people would have shared around a campfire. Well done.

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## **Anubhav says**

Terrific stories, luscious artwork. A near flawless book.

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## **Martin says**

A nice storyline with reference to some archaeological findings from the period and a touch of magic.

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## **Jan Philipzig says**

This one really grew on me. *Mezolith* by Ben Haggarty and Adam Brockbank realistically depicts tribal life as it existed 10,000 years ago, exploring one tribe's inner workings and struggles for survival, and then seamlessly combining the realism of these explorations with the characters' mythical worldviews. The result

is some fascinating stone-age magical realism that steers clear of the hyper-masculine exploitation you might expect from the premise. It's a book that deserves a wider audience, so do yourself a favor and check it out!

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### **Matt Reid says**

Fairytales and myths set in Stone Age Britain. Fantastic art with amazing storytelling. Feels oddly familiar yet absolutely fresh at the same time. Excellent.

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### **Col says**

A wonderful series of episodes in the life a young stone-age boy. Some are events in his life, others are fanciful stories and myths. The art is full colour and wonderfully textured, seeming almost three dimensional at times. I'm glad we're getting more stories that acknowledge the truth of our pre-agricultural ancestors: they were not idiots, but people much like us living with limited tools and resources. To knap a hand-axe requires every bit as much skill and dedication as any manual art practiced today.

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