



Delilah Dirk and the Pillars of Hercules

Tony Cliff

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Having survived a close shave in England, where she was falsely accused of spying for the French, Delilah has set out with her companion Selim for more agreeable adventures in central Asia. But when she stumbles on an artifact that may be a clue about the location of the legendary third pillar of Hercules, Delilah and Selim are drawn back to Europe on an Indiana-Jones-style archeological caper that pits her against a ruthless enemy . . . and forces her to team up with the most unlikely partner of all time: her sworn enemy, Jason Merrick, the man who framed her for espionage!

From vast forgotten underground cities to an elaborate and shocking double-cross, *Delilah Dirk and the Pillars of Hercules* brings all the drama and excitement that fans of the series crave.

Delilah Dirk and the Pillars of Hercules Details

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Author : Tony Cliff

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From Reader Review Delilah Dirk and the Pillars of Hercules for online ebook

Kayla says

This is one of those books that sort of fell into my lap. Way back when I was first dipping my toes into book reviewing through Goodreads.com, I was lucky enough to win the first book (Delilah Dirk and the Turkish Lieutenant). Honestly I had no idea what I was getting myself into. What I knew was that I loved reading Graphic Novels, the story sounded fun, the artwork looked was amazing, and the story sounded promising.

Now it's a handful of years later and I've been no to patiently waiting for the next books to come out. So excited in fact that I went back and re-read the other two books, and set my work schedule up to be able to pick my copy the day it came out.

After reading Delilah Dirk and the Pillars of Hercules for the third time, I love it!

The story itself is completely thought out and solid. It throws back into the world of Delilah and Selim not long after we left them in the last volume. Already Delilah has found a new way to get herself into trouble.

It's everything I loved about the last two, but so much more. Selim and Delilah are a team. They've grown over three books and you it shows in the way the talk to each other, the Selim just knows to expect foolishness from Delilah.

It was also good to see the return of some of my favorite characters from the last book. Especially Merrick!! I'm so glad he came back. Really was hoping we hadn't seen the last of him in the King's Shilling.

No one makes a fool of himself quite like Merrick!!

Of course I have to mention the artwork. I adore the way Tony Cliff does the art for his books. The panels aren't just done my computers. Each panel is hand sketched at some point. A process Tony Cliff shares with his fans as the book is begining created, and the outcome is amazing. The attention to detail and the vibrant colors are amazing. Every single panel is eye catching and full of detail.

Everything just comes together in an amazing package. Plus there are little nods to pop culture throughout the book. Some I caught first go round, some on the next pass, but some others had pointed out.

It's a fresh look on stories some of us grew up on. With a strong female lead with a sidekick that is so much more than that. Selim is smart, quick footed, and always tries to keep Delilah from being foolish.

It's a series I've been willing to wait years between each new installment because I knew it'd be worth the wait. Pillars of Hercules didn't disappoint. It was everything I wanted it to be and more.

I can't wait to see what Volume Four will look like!

Buy, Borrow, or Skip: Buy them all! Read them on his blog. Snag them from the library. Do what ever you need to do to pick up these books. They will not disappoint!

This review and others can be found at my blog, Bookish Whispers!

Diego says

The Delilah Dirk series is in a league of its own. It is hands down my favorite graphic novel series (and I've read hundreds), and I get so excited when I hear a new one is out. I am extremely happy to share that this third installment will not disappoint!

On reading this novel, I could not put it down. I NEEDED to know what happened next, and it felt like I was watching an Indiana Jones-like movie as I was reading. The pacing was on point! Tony Cliff is a master on setting the scene, building tension, and drawing you into his world. I found myself holding my breath many times throughout the book, and that itself is a testament to Tony Cliff's amazing storytelling.

One of the things that set Delilah Dirk apart from other graphic novels, aside from the magnificent writing, the consistently gorgeous art, or how such a small book can hold such a detailed and amazing story, is how the author keeps experimenting with the page layout in every spread. I absolutely LOVE it. In one panel you see multiple Delilah Dirk's climbing down a stairwell, tricking you into seeing her climbing down in sequence, slowing you down, and not wasting any space. In another, you see a long desert with a trail of speech bubbles followed by a small panel of the Dutchman talking to himself, and you as the reader know that the Dutchman has been muttering to himself for an extremely long time. You were there, your eyes followed him as he was doing it. When Tony Cliff wants you to feel in awe of a moment, he makes it a beautifully detailed spread. But makes sure not to waste any space elsewhere. His versatility helps his pacing and explains how he's able to cram such a detailed story in such a small novel and explains why I end up reading it like a well-designed movie.

Also, this book offers, unlike the others, a short how-to on how he wrote this book, and it clearly shows how much thought and process goes into creating a book like this, and it made me love it all the more!

This book is thrilling, adventurous, at points funny, and overall amazing! I cannot recommend this book enough, get it!

Rachel Strole says

love these

Britt says

Done right, these could be AMAZING movies. Disney has the rights. Don't mess it up, Disney.

This is one of my favorite series because Dirk is such a cool protagonist - unapologetically flawed, but willing to change, and still a total badass. Her friendship with Selim is so well drawn, both figuratively and literally. The last few scenes in this one were brilliant. This is probably my favorite ongoing graphic novel series, and while I'm sure I'll be waiting 2 years or so for the next one, I don't mind because it'll give me an excuse to reread the first few. 5 stars.

Nicole Marie says

I put a request on this at the library *months* ago and I am very happy to say that I am the first person who requested it.

Tealin says

Tony Cliff's "Delilah Dirk" series are exactly the kind of comic books whose absence made me think I didn't like comics. Cinematic, intelligent, gripping, full of personality and humour, intelligible to the layperson, but gifted with very clever artistic tricks for the appreciation of the experienced comics reader. On top of all this they are absolutely stupendously drawn, and the colouring only adds to the drawing, rather than overdoing it as many artists do. Top-notch stuff. I only wish there were more like it.

Luckily Mr Cliff has been working on filling that gap, and while all the description above I could have written after reading the first volume (*The Turkish Lieutenant*), it only becomes more emphatically true with each subsequent installment. *The Pillars of Hercules* continues the trend, bringing together the swashbuckling of the first volume with the depth of character in the second, making a story that is brilliantly engaging both in mind and action. PLUS, there are ALPHABETS to play with – I haven't been this happy since that summer I spent translating all of *Dinotopia*.

It is perfectly possible to jump into the series with this book – any necessary backstory is succinctly reiterated and not at all burdensome – but I'd highly recommend reading the others, too, if only so you're not missing out. I look forward to revisiting them all while I wait for the next to come out.

Martin says

This is a fun series, but nothing terribly special. Sort of a weird mix of lots of text on a page and then pages of action sequences with hardly more than an "ooof". The art is pretty great. (I almost wrote "fantastic", but then I realized that it's not that at all. I mean, it's fiction, but there are no real fantastic elements. There's even an afterward about historical accuracy.)

Cindy Hudson says

Delilah Dirk and the Pillars of Hercules by Tony Cliff finds the graphic-novel heroine on an adventure to find a rumored sunken city. The tale begins in Turkey, where Dirk outsmarts a despot in control of a coastal fortress to allow a ship safe harbor. In the process, she meets a Dutchman who accompanies her and her friend Selim into the desert where they discover treasure. They also find inscriptions telling of a city built long ago called the Third Pillar of Hercules.

The trio, hounded by one of Dirk's old enemies, set off to find the city. Their adventure takes them from Turkey to Algiers and back again before leading them to Spain, where they end their quest and discover

hidden agendas.

Fans of the Delilah Dirk series will find more of what they love in this installment: swashbuckling action, a mystery to be solved, and Dirk's defense of the good against nefarious characters. It's all beautifully drawn and richly colored to lead young readers on their own great adventure. I recommend it for age 12 and up.

The publisher provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Diana says

Another fantastic adventure with Delilah Dirk. I seriously love this series. The artwork is wonderful (both lines and coloring) and there are so many great subtle things like the looks Delilah and Selim give one another. A major point that I love in this series is that Delilah isn't perfect. She's brave and confident and majorly skilled but she's also reckless and impatient and occasionally slips up. But she rolls with it. Also, the fact that Delilah is Never written or drawn in a sexual way. She is not sexualized. And her relationship with Selim is so enjoyable. :) They're so comfortable with each other.

As a side note: If you or someone else is looking for an ace or aro-friendly series this is a great fit.

Also, I love that Delilah has sun-sneezes. I do too!

Rob Alexander says

By far the strongest in the series. This entry felt like a cohesive story from beginning to end that offered not necessarily twists, but unexpected directions of the narrative and story. Selim is more prominent and active in this round, taking the role of the narrator and participant in uncovering the mystery of the pillar. I also appreciated newcomer Van Hassel (sp?) as a character with his own motivations and desires which leads to inevitable conflict and complicated relationships. Merrick returns as a villainous party and he has some interesting beats as well, making him slightly more than a one dimensional character.

Also, the art as usual is fantastic.

My only qualm with this entry is a segment regarding cultural sexism that is toned down to almost a comical extent. I understand not wanting to get into complex issues in a fun and adventurous tale but then why include it in the first place? Beyond that, one of the sexist characters is portrayed as a good guy and has a change of heart. In the end, I'm not sure what message or feeling I'm supposed to take away from this small blip in the story, but it bothered me to gloss over something like blatant sexism in a series with such a strong female protagonist.

Still, I highly recommend. Best of Delilah Dirk so far!

Barbara says

Barely escaping a disastrous fate when she's accused of being a spy, Delilah Dirk and her loyal companion, Selim head to Asia, but then end up back in Europe after meeting up with an adventurer and writer, Van

Hassel, who pens various accounts of Delilah's adventures for the newspapers back home. He's convinced that some of the treasures they've picked up point to a lost city and the Pillars of Hercules. The treasure hunting is exciting, but how far can this man be trusted? Delilah and Selim risk their lives and come close to death several times as old friends and enemies show up to have a look at what they've found. The panels are filled with gorgeous artwork and colors, and enough action to leave readers breathless and clamoring for another installment of Delilah's story. I've said it before as I read the previous three titles in this graphic novel series: This woman epitomizes the term "kick-ass." While I'm not quite sure how she manages to move around so adroitly in her dress and over-the-knee boots, she is clearly a wonder.

Laura says

I enjoy these books. A rakish, unapologetic, impetuous, talented woman goes on adventures drawn amazingly.

Rebecca says

Swashbuckling Regency-era adventurer Delilah Dirk and her long-suffering companion Selim are in Turkey, once again doing something that will likely get them killed but fortunately does not. While nearly getting killed, they encounter a Dutch journalist who has heard rumors of a great fortune, so naturally Delilah goes off to investigate. While they do find some fortune, they also find clues to something even greater, which is the journalist's real aim--something called the Third Pillar of Hercules. Ancient clues lead them here and there around the Mediterranean, often pursued by villains after Delilah's blood (there are always some of those), but in the end they do find something that seems to be worth the hype...maybe. But should Delilah really trust Van Hassel, the journalist? Especially since he's been secretly writing up their exploits for his paper, which could be read by someone who knows Delilah from her other life...

I love this series, and how swashbuckling and fearless Delilah is, and how she doesn't always (often) make good choices. Poor Selim, the voice of reason, often gets ignored, but he always knows what he's in for so it's his own choice to stay with her! The drawings are beautifully detailed and the color is saturated and layered, and the artist often uses unusual methods to indicate long journeys and action sequences. I will admit I was often confused during the action scenes as to exactly what was happening, especially since a lot of it took place in caves and so forth, so was dark. I think my eyes are just getting old! When I did figure out what was going on, it was a great plot idea--very Indiana Jones, which is appropriate for Delilah. I can see lots of kids loving this!

Joseph R. says

Delilah Dirk is a swashbuckling adventurer clearly patterned after Indiana Jones. She has swords rather than a bullwhip, but otherwise she has chases and fights and follows clues in search of fabulous historical artifacts and locations. She even has a jealous French adversary. And her inter-country travels are shown on a yellowed map with a dotted red line, just like Indy.

In this story, she and her faithful companion Selim run into Laurens Van Hassel, a Belgian journalist who winds up chronicling her adventure. They search for the Third Pillar of Hercules, a legendary city built and

lost in times immemorial. The adventure takes them from Turkey to Algeria back to Turkey and Gibraltar, with plenty of action (that Van Hassel exaggerates in his letters back to the paper, though the adventures don't really need it).

I enjoyed the story a lot. The visual style is fun and Delilah is an intelligent and dedicated person. There's no romance and hardly any blood, so the book is kid-friendly, too. This volume is the third book in the series. I will definitely seek out the first two.

Highly recommended.

John says

Another thrilling adventure, replete with narrow escapes and treacherous men (some of them hunky). Once again the art is wonderful, particularly the figures--but once again I had to deduct a star because Cliff just can't depict falling rocks and other sudden action with any visual coherence.
