

# MONSTRESS VOLUME 1: AWAKENING BY MARJORIE LIU



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**Monstress Volume 1: Awakening By Marjorie Liu.** Allow's review! We will certainly usually learn this sentence almost everywhere. When still being a youngster, mother made use of to get us to consistently read, so did the teacher. Some e-books Monstress Volume 1: Awakening By Marjorie Liu are completely checked out in a week as well as we require the commitment to sustain reading Monstress Volume 1: Awakening By Marjorie Liu Exactly what about now? Do you still enjoy reading? Is reviewing only for you who have obligation? Absolutely not! We here provide you a new publication entitled Monstress Volume 1: Awakening By Marjorie Liu to check out.

From School Library Journal

Gr 10 Up—In the aftermath of a terrible war, tension still exists between the humans and the animal-hybrids, Arcanics. Surviving Arcanics are sold as slaves by the Federation of Man and even experimented on by the Cumaea, powerful human witch-nuns who mine the precious life-giving Liliium produced from the bodies of captured Arcanics. Maika Halfwolf, a 17-year-old Arcanic, survived the war but at a devastating cost. Looking for revenge, she allows herself to be sold as a slave to infiltrate the Cumaeon stronghold in Zamora. Once there, she uses her newly developed, terrible power to escape, free the captured Arcanics, and brutally attack the witch-nuns. She also steals a fragment of an ancient and powerful mask and murders a Cumaeon elder who knows secrets from Maika's past. On the run from the Cumaea, the humans, and her own people, Maika must rely on herself and very few allies if she is to discover the secret of why her mother was murdered and, more important, who she is and what awful power she possesses. Collecting the first five issues of the popular comic, this is a beautifully written and complex book. Intricate and detailed, with a definite manga influence, Takeda's artwork creates a lush and dangerous world for Liu's equally dangerous characters. The work is infused with feminist themes; almost all of the characters are strong—and deadly—women. VERDICT Intended for mature audiences owing to the violence and nudity and filled with rage and barely contained fury, this is a book that will be wildly embraced by all fans of graphic literature.—Erik Knapp, Davis Library, Plano, TX

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"Marjorie Liu and Sana Takeda take eastern and western comics storytelling traditions and styles, and create something wholly their own and remarkable: a beautifully told story of magic and fear, inhumanity and exploitation, of what it means to be human and the monsters we all carry inside us. Also, some of the best cats in comics. A delight." -Neil Gaiman

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## PDF

Set in an alternate matriarchal 1900's Asia, in a richly imagined world of art deco-inflected steam punk, MONSTRESS tells the story of a teenage girl who is struggling to survive the trauma of war, and who shares a mysterious psychic link with a monster of tremendous power, a connection that will transform them both and make them the target of both human and otherworldly powers.

About the Creators:

New York Times bestselling and award-winning writer Marjorie Liu is best known for her fiction and comic books. She teaches comic book writing at MIT, and leads a class on Popular Fiction at the Voices of Our Nation (VONA) workshop. Ms. Liu's extensive work includes the bestselling "Astonishing X-Men" for Marvel Comics, which featured the gay wedding of X-Man Northstar and was subsequently nominated for a GLAAD Media Award for outstanding media images of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Prior to writing full-time, Liu was a lawyer. She currently resides in Boston.

Sana Takeda is an illustrator and comic book artist who was born in Niigata, and now resides in Tokyo, Japan. At age 20 she started out as a 3D CGI designer for SEGA, a Japanese video game company, and became a freelance artist when she was 25. She is still an artist, and has worked on titles such as "X-23" and "Ms. Marvel" for Marvel Comics, and is an illustrator for trading card games in Japan.

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- 192 pages

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I'm writing this for the sheer beauty of this novel.

By Helena A.

Let me start this by saying I have never written a review on this site I actually cared to write, only out of respect for the vendors themselves. I'm writing this for the sheer beauty of this novel. My mother had lived in Japan and raised me with a lot of eastern principles and background, but in America. I love both western and eastern graphic novels. Ive never found something that so fully meshed what I love about both. The plot is lavish and fantastical, but is lacking a lot of the eastern slant towards fetishized sexuality and brash comedy (think manga's common x'd eyes and oversized heads, etc.). What is there is there purposefully. This story is beautiful, developed, intelligent, new, and just honestly unexpected. The book itself is higher quality than anything ive purchased in years. As an avid reader and writer, the book itself is important to me. The joy of feeling the pulp of the page disappeared as publishers stopped paying the money for the good paper. This book is three times the length of the average single volume western graphic novel and the pages are thick and strong, you can't help but give attention to it. It was the first thing I noticed. Where i had lost hope for the fantasy/scifi/steampunk genres in recent years as artists/authors got lazy and drew/wrote what we already knew, this is beautifully original and intricate. And it's 8 dollars. What. I dont even have words for that.

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

The pictures are absolutely beautiful, the first thing that grabbed my attention is ...

By Amazon Customer

The pictures are absolutely beautiful, the first thing that grabbed my attention is that it would be a shame if i just read it for the story, and skimmed through the pictures just to see the action happening. So I decided to buy it in paperback format, after having read the digital version. The detail in almost all of the pictures is astonishing, even the second time reading it, it still shocks me.

The story so far is more world-building and personal background revealing than a grand epic, but I can feel it rapidly moving in that direction. The characters are complex, I can't deny that. The antagonists get as much attention as the protagonist and crew, and I really appreciate it. You also can't blame the book for token female characters, because they kick ass, and they do not share the worst common aspect of action books and movies, which would be a manly character in a female body.

All in all, the story does not feel like a fantasy cliché even with all the familiar motifs in it, and none of it feels forced\*, and I haven't noticed any glaring plot holes either. So far I favor this comic even over the famous traditional superhero ones.

\*An interesting article revealed that the writer intentionally makes a point of having a majority female cast, because most media only includes a few, sometimes poorly written, female token characters. This time around, girls take the lead. Contrary to the impression this article gave me, it entirely feels natural to have a female protagonist (there was a solid 50% chance of that), and a female covenant as antagonists (there was way more than 50% chance of that in a matriarchal society), and the male characters are not exactly bumbling idiots either; they really pull their own weight.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

A deeply complex dark fantasy tale where the artwork is luxuriant and the story is a slow delicate build of gradual revelations

By Whitt Patrick Pond

Written by Marjorie Liu (X-23, Black Widow) and illustrated by Sana Takeda (X-23, Ms. Marvel), Monstress stands distinctly apart from the usual sword & sorcery dark fantasy comic, starting with the fact that most of the main characters are female as are most of the powers that be. But this is no simplistic or

heavy-handed feminist take on the genre - it's done very subtly and naturally so that we simply accept that this is the way this world is, nothing more, nothing less. The artwork is vivid and detailed and gives the world of Monstress a very different look and feel, as well as an unrelenting atmosphere of foreboding and danger. And the story progresses slowly and carefully, building the world little by little as we see and experience it through the characters, leaving the reader with a number of questions and mysteries that are only gradually revealed.

It helps to know that the world of Monstress is inhabited by five known races:

- (1) Humans, who cannot perform magic, though some women are born with mental powers that seem like magic. Among humans there is a religious order called the Cumaea who seek out such children and compel them to join their order. Refusal is not an option.
- (2) The Ancients, immortal beings who resemble humans but have the heads and tails of animals and who can perform powerful magics. The Ancients are divided into two rival courts: the Dusk Court and the Dawn Court. Think a number of Egyptians gods and you get the picture.
- (3) The Cats, magical beings distinguished from ordinary cats by their ability to speak, to perform magic and by their multiple tails. More tails reflect more power, status and age.
- (4) The Old Gods, an ancient race of evil, powerful and destructive beings, not remotely human in appearance, supposedly gone from the world but fear of them still lingers.
- (5) The Arcanic Halfbreeds, a hybrid race originally resulting from matings of Ancients and humans, inheriting varying traits and powers from both. Some can pass for human, their animal-like traits either not visible or suppressed, but most are marked by one or more animal traits: eyes, ears, tails, even wings.

The central character of Monstress is a seventeen-year-old girl named Maika Halfwolf, an Arcanic who can fully pass for human, in spite of the fact that her left fore-arm is missing. And the strange eye-like tattoo on her chest. The book begins with her being put up for bids at a slave auction. This is her story.

Highly recommended for anyone who enjoys a deeply complex dark fantasy graphic novel where the artwork is luxuriant and the story is a slow delicate build of gradual revelations.

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“Something entirely different” -Hypable

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