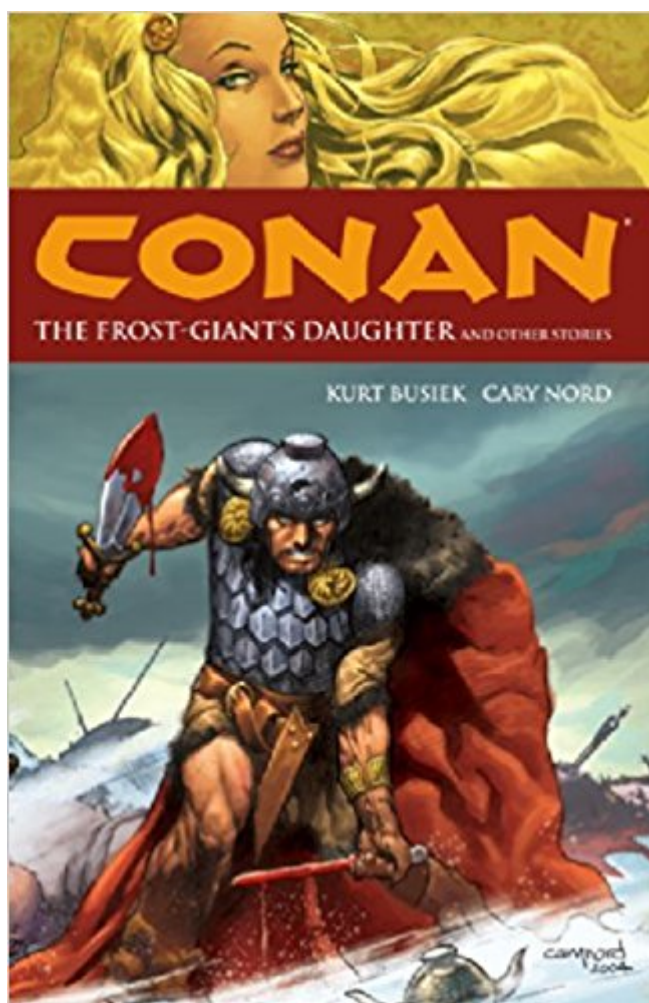


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# Conan Volume 1: The Frost Giant's Daughter And Other Stories (Conan (Dark Horse))



## Synopsis

When the internationally famous barbarian hero returned to comics, with an all-new fresh start by award-winning writer Kurt Busiek (JLA/Avengers, Astro City) and dynamic artists Cary Nord, Thomas Yeates, and Dave Stewart, the result was instant sell-outs and multiple printings to keep up with the demand. Now Conan's earliest adventures are collected in a handsome 192-page collection. Catch all the action and savagery as he wars with the murderous Vanir, meets the Frost Giant's Daughter, and is taken as a slave by the ancient sorcerers of Hyperborea! This top-selling new series faithfully expands on original author Robert E. Howard's literary creation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The popular barbarian is back in full-color painted adaptations of the original pulp novels by Robert E. Howard. Conan, the dark-haired Cimmerian warrior, leaves his homeland, inspired by his grandfather's tales of Hyperborea, a paradise in the far north. He befriends an Aesir chieftain by showing his skill in battle and joins a raiding party. After a particularly bloody battle, Conan, the last man standing, is visited by the Frost-Giant's daughter, a nymph made of ice. He eventually finds his way to the fabled lands of Hyperborea, where the countryside's beauty comes at a terrible price. These tales, like the originals, are long on swordplay and short on character development. Even so, Conan has an endearing earnestness that harkens back to the golden age of pulp fiction: what Conan lacks in intelligence he makes up for in brute strength. The illustrations are lush, adding a

new vibrancy to this fantasy world. Rounding out this collection of the first six and a half issues is a biography of Howard and Nord's highly amusing audition piece for the job as Conan penciler. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

If you are an avid Conan fan and have read the original Howard stories, you'll know there are many gaps and ambiguity surrounding some of Conan's idiosyncrasies and distinct lack of partiality he has for certain groups in the Hyborian world. The author here does a wonderful job of filling that gap and adding to that dynamic. While incredibly captivating, "The Frost Giants' Daughter" is a rather terse entry out of the original writings but the author here really expounded on the tale and used the opportunity to enrich and uncover the timeline of Conan's life. He did a marvelous job of filling in some of those aforementioned gaps. The second half was really the "and other stories" but supplemented the original entry while leaving it intact. The extended story was so congruent with a tale Howard would have woven it is difficult to differentiate. My only critique is the portrayal of Conan's appearance. While his thews are still stylized as being iron and defined he could've been drawn a bit larger. I understand much of the appeal of the character is that he is not exactly a superhero, he takes damage and his limitations add suspense to the tales but clearly he is not average. I just think they could have gotten away with making him drawn as a bit larger. His stature is comparable with the other figures and I found it to be slightly off as Howard frequently describes him as a "giant" and in one book uses the phrase "whale bones" to assist in conceiving the character. There are other characters described as larger or taller through the saga but he is bigger than most and it contributes to his prowess. Here his dimensions are seemingly in line with the other warriors. It was still fantastic and I enjoyed it all the way through.

As I've been giving reviews of books lately here on , I have said a couple times that I'd be brief and to the point. Yet I would end up writing way more than I anticipated. So for this one, I will REALLY try to be as concise as I can. Here goes. Busiek's writing: A+. He totally captures the essence of Conan. It feels like you're being treated to a fantastical historical account of a man (who would become a legend) from a time before recorded history. A time of wonder and magic, action and adventure, mystery and horror, and above all- barbarism (of which REH said, "Barbarism is the natural state of mankind. Civilization is unnatural. It is a whim of circumstance. And barbarism must ultimately triumph."). Both the narration and dialogue are executed brilliantly. Everything rings true to Conan and the world around him. Nord's pencils: A+. I talk a lot in my reviews about how important the mood of an artist's work is to me and how it can really draw me into a story more than

really any other aspect of the art. Well this is no exception. Nord's style is wonderfully engaging. The mood he sets just screams "CONAN"! It really accents all of the above characteristics I said that Busiek relayed in his writing, such as wonder and magic, etc. I really felt like I was carried away to another land and time. His pencils are raw and refined at the same time. His style is, as others have pointed out, somewhat reminiscent of Frank Frazetta's stuff. But I see his style as all his own. And it's gorgeous to say the least. Stewart's colors: A+. He's the best in the biz. His idea to color this book without inking it was genius! It works on so many levels. It gives it this painted look that makes me drool at the site of it. He has no equal. Period. Starkings and Comicraft's letters: A+. The old typewriter font for the narration and the unique word balloons for Conan and his enemies that border Cimmeria to the north are an excellent touch. This is particularly noticeable when Conan's word balloons are compared to those of the Hyperboreans and Turanians. Well done! Howard's world of Hyboria is vast in both scope and scale (as stated in the 'afterward' by Mark Finn) that it boggles the mind as to how someone could paint such a vividly detailed portrait of a world that existed solely within his mind. In this sense, his only company includes J.R.R. Tolkien (who created, amazingly, an even more richly detailed world = Middle-Earth) and Brian J.L. Glass and Michael Avon Oeming's world of the Dark Lands. One could also throw in Brian Jacques' world of "Redwall". Dark Horse has once again (they are my favorite company) put together a fantastic team of writer, penciller, colorist and letterer in the form of Busiek, Nord, Stewart and Starkings/Comicraft. This is a magnificent venture into the world of Conan. I have already read v.0: "Born on the Battlefield" and that was one of my favorite graphic novels of all-time! Now that I've read v.1, it may not be quite as good as v.0, but it is still 5 stars all the way! This series looks to be headed in the right direction. I look forward to reading future volumes, as I already own v.2 and v.3. GET THIS BOOK! And if you haven't gotten v.0, GET THAT BOOK and read it first! Looks like I failed again when it came to being concise. Hey, what can I say? This book deserves the praise!

I've read maybe a handful of comics/graphic novels, and most leave me bored, but I know that there's gems out there so once in a while I give it a chance, and I'm glad I did here. I've always liked the idea of Conan, even though I've not read much of the original literature or any comic interpretations. Recently I was in the mood for a comic. Maybe it's the season, but the holidays really go well with colorful, light-hearted adventure. This comic is damn fun, visually stunning, and surprisingly well-written. It's no Ulysses, but the character development and dialog is sharp, mature, and engaging. It's the perfect fun-time read on a cold winter day. I read it on my new retina iPad Mini, and I'll be damned if it wasn't nicer than paper. Never thought I would say that. First time I've

ever read a comic in ebook form, and I felt odd spending money on an electronic comic, but the frame-by-frame feature in the Kindle Reader was awesome and the retina display gave the images a sharpness and saturation that rivaled most paper comics I've read. These writers/artists deserve my money, and I hope they produce more work. Only thing is, I now kinda would like the hard copies, just to have or loan out to friends.

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