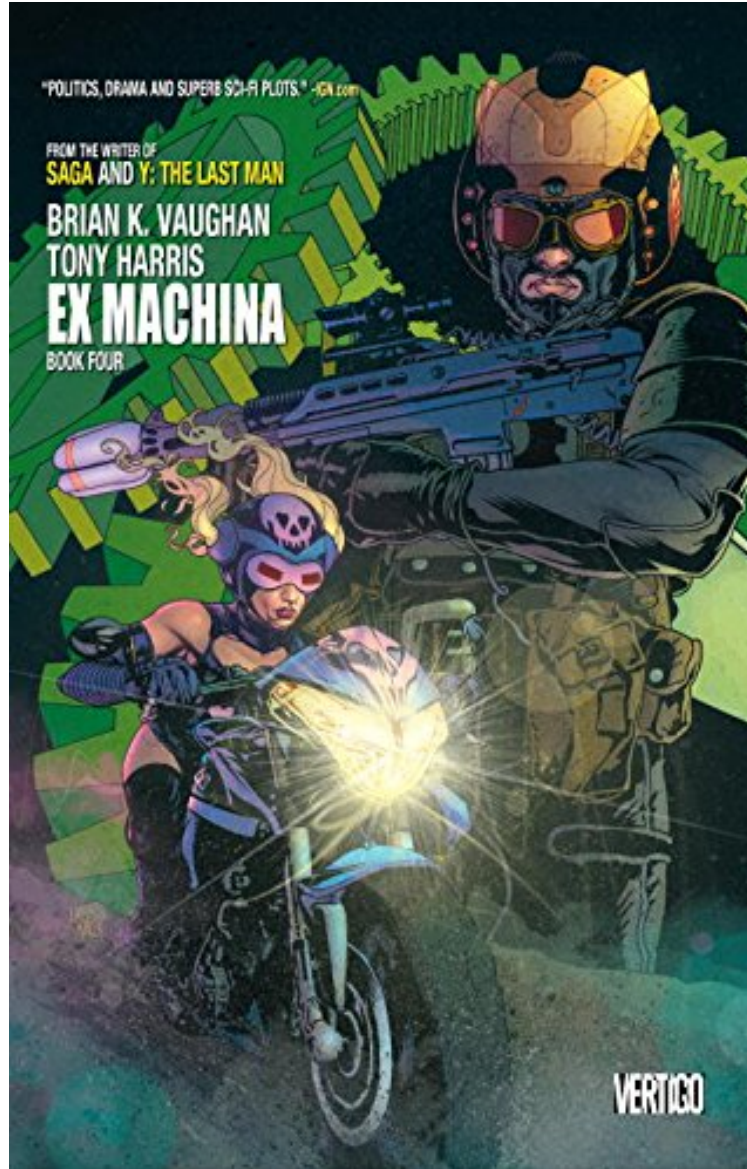


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Ex Machina Book Four

Brian K. Vaughan

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Brian K. Vaughan : Ex Machina Book Four before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ex Machina Book Four:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not the best of Brain K Vaughan's work but the problem with ...By Pradyumn VijNot the best of Brain K Vaughan's work but the problem with that statement is that Vaughan's average work is spectacular, whether it is a single issue or an entire series. Upon rereading this I actually enjoyed it more than

Y: The Last Man.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. CELEBREITIES CAN BE POLITICIANS, SO WHY CAN'T SUPERHEROES?By Dusty Bottoms is Dead GoneEx Machina is Spin City meets Watchmen, and it transcends the comic genre with its realism and relevance, while managing to never take itself too serious. If that's not appealing enough for you, Brian K. Vaughan (Y: The Last Man) is the writer and Tony Harris (Starman) does the pencils.It's a character-driven series that chronicles the life of Mitchell Hundred aka The Great Machine, the world's only superhero, who in the wake of his actions on 9/11 was elected NYC mayor. The story is set during Hundred's term in office with interwoven flashbacks to his past as a crime-fighting vigilante. It explores political situations while the mysteries of Hundred's powers are slowly revealed.The series is politically charged, and the main character doesn't always subscribe to the same logic and beliefs that the reader does. Hundred is an Independent, and part of the luxury of that is being conservative about some issues and liberal about others. But don't worry, there is no preachy or overt attempt to convert anyone to any political party or way of thinking. You don't have to agree with the main character's personal beliefs to enjoy the story.Vaughan uses real-life events as source material, which I think makes the story more poignant and relevant. You might be surprised to know Harris uses actual models for the artwork. The series is as much about realism as it is about politics, superheroes and science fiction. I think fans who criticize the series for using 'headline news' as part of the story, should consider what its premise is.Tony Harris is amazing and easily one of today's best contemporary comic artists. His photo-reference style pushes the graphic novel medium to new heights yet never comes across as experimental or limited. The architecture and facial-expressions are absolutely perfect, and even the surreal looks photographic. Excellent pacing and placement give the panels flow, but the phenomenal inking throughout the series is also worth thanking for this. The use of deceptively simple line-work and moody shadowing adds to Harris's technique, while the mixture of saturated color-pallets transports the reader through different time periods and underscores the tone. It's a collaboration of talent that will dilate your pupils and cause you to salivate.From the beginning, plot revelations and back story have been set on slow-burn, but the series has always kept a dramatic and fast pace. Previous volumes have shed light on The Great Machine, his arch rivals and the path that led him to a more legitimate form of public service; however, Book 4 focuses more on the man Hundred has become, his accomplishments and the path that lies ahead of him. The superhero lifestyle he tried to leave behind constantly returns to haunt him, but things seem to be coming at him from all sides.. now more than ever. Overarching concerns regarding Kremlin's paranoid scheming, the mysteries surrounding the Great Machine's powers, and the skeletons possibly still hiding in Hundred's closet continue to develop, but the biggest twist comes from the new direction the Mayor's career takes. This is the penultimate chapter in a tour de force of comic book greatness.Also, expect a sort of stand-alone issue with Garth Ennis and Jim Lee as guest writer and artist. The fourth wall is broken, when Mayor Hundred meets Brian K. Vaughan and Tony Harris who want make a comic book biography series about him. As awkward as the scenario sounds, it's actually quite rewarding. It doesn't just provide insight to the purpose of the series and the creative process behind it, the issue packs a great deal of emotional resonance, as it explores the patriotic sentiment of NYC residents after 9/11. I don't actually have anything to say about Lee, other than I really couldn't tell the difference between his pencils and Harris's.Volume 4 collects issues 31-40, out of the 50 issue series. Ex-Machina isn't exactly a story you can jump right into, so starting at the beginning is recommended. However, the fact that you don't own this, should be killing you right now. Honestly, this is a must read. The over-sized hardcover editions with thick glossy paper only sweeten the deal. Buy It!!0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerGreat book

Award-winning writer Brian K. Vaughan (PRIDE OF BAGHDAD, Y-THE LAST MAN) deftly combines big city politics and superheroes in this much lauded series.Now, the entire critically acclaimed series written by Brian K. Vaughan, one of the writers of LOST, is collected into a five volume series. In this fourth volume, Mayor Mitchell Hundred is summoned to Rome for an audience with the Pope. But as Hundred makes his travel plans, he is unaware of the assassin who has him in his sights.

"Compelling entertainment with fiery thoughtfulness. One of the ten best fiction books of the year (2005)."ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY"Vaughn intertwines superpowers with nasty backroom dealings and quirky N. Y. political history."WASHINGTON POST"A two-fisted blend of super-hero action and political debate."PLAYBOYAbout the AuthorBrian K. Vaughan is the Eisner and Harvey Award-Winning co-creator of many critically acclaimed comic books, including Y: THE LAST MAN, Saga, EX MACHINA, Runaways and THE PRIDE OF BAGHDAD. A professional comics writer since his days as an undergraduate film student at New York University, Brian has written every major DC and Marvel character from BATMAN to X-Men. He's also written several screenplays, stage plays, and short stories, but mostly, he likes to work on the funny books.