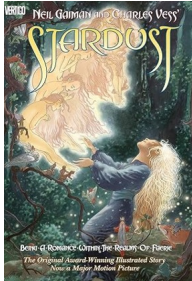




Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



Stardust
By Neil Gaiman and Charles Vess
Discussed November/December 2007

Discussion Questions

1. Did you like the book?
2. The protagonist for the first chapter of Stardust features a member of the supporting cast and treats him as the lead character of the book, before revealing itself to be taking place many years earlier than the rest of the novel. Do you think this style of prologue/introduction worked? Was it necessary?
3. Tristran often seems to stumble through his adventures, gaining assistance and knowledge from people around him. Do you think he actually drove the plot of the book? Does Tristran's lack of effectiveness at times make him less of a hero for you?
4. Everyone is searching for the fallen star for different reasons—to gain an additional life span, to claim an ancestral throne, to woo a pretty girl. Did you feel that any of the seekers of the star deserved success?
5. Towards the end of the book, Tristran and Yvaine's adventures (and the strengthening of their relationship) between leaving the ship Perdita and returning to Wall are summarized for the reader, rather than actually seen. Did this work for you? Why or why not? Did you like the book's general "story-teller" voice?
6. Stardust's subtitle is, "Being a Romance Within the Realms of Faerie." Do you think Stardust was an effective romance? Why or why not?
7. Stardust was initially conceived as a chance for Neil Gaiman to collaborate once more with artist Charles Vess (after their World Fantasy Award-winning issue of Sandman). Do you think Gaiman's story relied on Vess's illustrations? Did you think Vess's illustrations were necessary? Which edition (with or without illustrations) of the book did you read?
8. Did you see the recent movie adaptation? If so, what did you think of it? If not, are you now interested in seeing it?