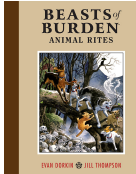


Magic

Beasts of Burden



Making yourself read outside your comfort zone can end up with some total misses

and some excellent surprises. In all likelihood I would have missed *Beasts of Burden: Animal Rites*, a graphic novel about a talking pack of animals that solve supernatural mysteries in their seemingly sweet suburban neighborhood of Burden Hill. That description wouldn't peak my interest, but also doesn't do the graphic novel justice either.

The storytelling is episodic, in that there are chapters that are a complete story into itself which makes for a fast read. There is a pack of animal friends, all dogs and one orphan cat who start uncovering supernatural cases in their neighborhood. They eventually become apprentices in the Wise Dog Society to further their training in fighting these evil forces. The supernatural stories cover a wide range from an evil coven of cats, a rain of mutant frogs, werewolves, magical earthen golems, ghosts, and more. **[Read more »](#)**

[For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Animal rites Animals Beasts of burden. \[Vol. 1\] Graphic Novels Graphic Novels & Manga Magic Monsters Witches](#)
Posted by Sarah B. on Mar 15, 2013 [Sarah B.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



What's an Alex Award?



Warning! Don't look for these books in the Young Adult section! These are "Adult Books," written for adults. Teens beware!

Ok, now that I've got your attention, let me also say that these books are just great for teens. So great, in fact, that the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) made an award just for them, and named them after a famous Baltimore librarian - sort of. Her name was Margaret A. Edwards, but her friends called her Alex, and that's where we get the Alex Awards. The [2012 Alex Awards](#) feature ten books written for adults, but with special appeal to teens. **[Read more »](#)**
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Posted by Chris H. on Aug 7, 2012 [Chris H.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



Night Circus Readalikes



Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus* tells the story of two competing magicians trying to outdo each other in the creation of an enchanted circus. Whether you've read it and want more of the gothic atmosphere, period charm, and dazzling detail, are on the holds list for it, or just enjoy a bit of whimsy and dark Victorianism, these books should be of interest.

Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell, a tale of the resurgence of English magic in the early 19th century, is just as dense and immersive as the equally thick *Night Circus*, and like that novel features a period writing style and a fully realized magical world-within-a-world.

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