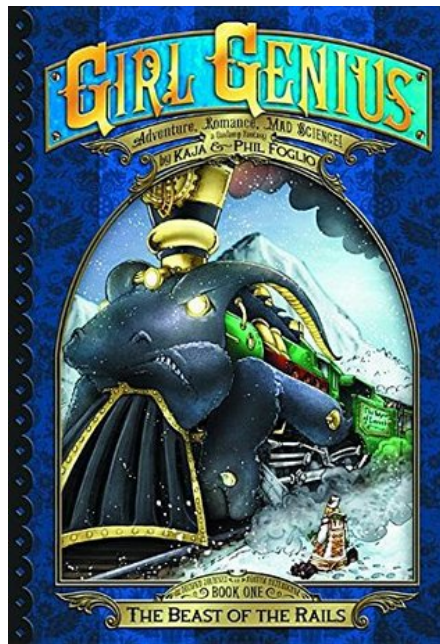




The Beast of the Rails (The Second Journey of Agatha Heterodyne Volume 1)

Phil Foglio , Kaja Foglio

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The Beast of the Rails (The Second Journey of Agatha Heterodyne Volume 1) Phil Foglio , Kaja Foglio Adventure, Romance, Mad Science! Agatha is the last of the Heterodynes, a notorious family of Mad Scientists that everyone had thought safely wiped out. When a rival scientist traps her family castle and the surrounding town in a time-freeze, Agatha must embark on a journey to find a way to reverse the effect and save the people she loves. This volume is a great jumping-on point for readers wanting to discover the award-winning *Girl Genius* series! Available in Softcover and Hardcover editions.

The Beast of the Rails (The Second Journey of Agatha Heterodyne Volume 1) Details

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Author : Phil Foglio , Kaja Foglio

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From Reader Review The Beast of the Rails (The Second Journey of Agatha Heterodyne Volume 1) for online ebook

Erin says

I still have so many questions from earlier in this series that are unresolved, and now a new adventure is beginning?! My head may explode!
Each new volume is a fun romp, even when it creates as many questions as it answers!

Ronald says

I had forgotten how good these stories were. So much humor and smart dialog.
Good Stuff! I should go back and re-read the earlier stuff.

Patrick says

Fair warning: This book is listed as Volume 1, but it's actually the continuation of a long, rather involved story.

That said, you can start here if you like. If you don't want to start at the beginning, this would be the perfect place to start.

That said, why the hell wouldn't you want to start at the beginning? That's how stories are meant to be read. And this one is GOOD from the very beginning, with subtle plotting and good character development. Why wouldn't you want to get all of that? Seriously, what's wrong with you?

But, y'know, do whatever makes you happy, man. It's your life.

Blue says

I appreciated seeing more of the world the authors had created, and the entire rail system was a segment I greatly enjoyed.

Baal Of says

Dense, wordy, funny, imaginative and all delivered with gorgeous colorful artwork. It's difficult to keep track of all the characters, so I appreciate the brief cast descriptions at the beginning. The living train monster is cool, and as usual, the interplay between the various characters is highly entertaining.

Christopher says

I'm counting this as re-read since I'm up-to-date on the webcomic edition.

I find the restarting of the volume numbering very interesting and a nice change. While Mechanicsburg was quite a fun place, I felt like the wrangling with the castle and invading armies was becoming interminable.

The addition of the Corbetite Monks is welcome. They had been teased before in world descriptions, but they appeared as a much more formidable force than I expected. The Monks also bring up the issue of the Church. We've seen this before with the Red Cathedral in Mechanicsburg and some turn-coat nuns. I understand that a church (usually the Catholic Church or a reflection of it) figures prominently in the political maneuvering of psuedo-medieval fantasy settings. However, I have trouble seeing Christianity appearing in this world. So far, the ranks and terms of the Church seem to be lifted from our Catholic Church, we have no explanation of its actual beliefs. I'm not sure that we ever will, which is probably for the best.

Sarah J says

Set in an alternative Europe, "Girl Genius" combines steampunk, dieselpunk, sci-fi pulp, fantasy, alternate history, penny-dreadful schlock, and comedy in a gorgeous comic about one girl and a mad spark. The writing is funny itself, reminiscent of screwball comedy, but the sight gags in the drawings add to the atmosphere, and each time you pick up a volume again, something new is revealed, so its always a new read. The comics are brightly colored, and so richly detailed you have to step back and take in everything. One of the best comics ever created, the Professors Foglios have outdone themselves.

Canavan says

☆☆☆½

Emilou says

I laughed so hard on several parts. This vol is a great one. I like where the story is going. This entire series is amazing.

Maria says

Like all the other Girl Genius comics it is a great read and I highly recommend to read it all from the beginning.

Mad science, romance, humour: what's not to love?

Ron says

A graphic novel. Lots of fun. Amazing that the Foglios turn out three pages a week ... almost forever. (Except when there's a comic con to attend.)

Kari Trenten says

Agatha heads off via the rails to Paris in order to save Mechanicsburg from the time bubble it's frozen in. One would think it would be a speedy journey, since the monks take an almost spiritual pride in making the trains run on time. Agatha has two powerful men hunting for her, whom could cause some unscheduled delays. Plus, there's another passenger with a sinister agenda of her own, which could bring a stop to everything, considering some of secrets ready to rage out of the monks's vaults.

This volume was fun, but not as much fun as previous books. The Corbetite order (who runs the rails) were quite interesting and well fleshed out, as the characters in this series tend to be. I missed Tarvek, though. At least Gil is returning to his old self (somewhat). He explained to Dupree the reason for the change in his personality, which made his recent behavior make more sense. I don't care much for Martellus, who's showing himself to be every bit one of those unpleasant relatives Tarvek warned Gil about in an earlier volume. Other unpleasant relatives appeared as well, although some of them like Tarvek much better than Martellus does (sensible of them). There were a few moments which gave Martellus a more sympathetic side for all my dislike. The Beast of the Rails managed to be scary and hilarious, forcing the book to move at 'Girl Genius's usual madcap, fast-moving pace, without giving the reader a chance to breathe.

For plot, character development, and my overall enjoyment of the story, I give this four stars.

James Bowman says

This seems to be meant as a soft relaunch of the series, but I don't think it quite succeeds (despite some exposition early on). That aside, the train-centric setting for these stories is neat, and there are fun moments! (B+)

Fraser Sherman says

I was disappointed when Agatha's adventures abruptly veered away from Mechanicsburg, but the series has found its footing again. Fleeing the Storm King and hoping to free her city from the Empire's time trap, Agatha boards a train stuffed to the gills with mad scientists, spies, assassins, monks and old friends — in short, a typical Girl Genius adventure. Fun, as always.

Diana says

It's great to see the Girl Genius graphic novels back! Go Krosp!

*****Dave Hill says**

As always, the team of Kaja and Phil Foglio throw around more madcap fantasy steampunk concepts on a single page than most writers manage in an entire novel, and do so in a way that keeps me smiling each step of the way. Here Agatha's off on a grand new adventure, fled from the Castle Heterodyne and trying to figure out a way to rescue it and her people from the time bubble slapped on it, all the while avoiding those who wish to exploit her genius and heritage for their own purposes.

If there's anything to critique here it's simply the overwealth of plot riches. Between a cast of several dozen (half of them introduced for this volume) and storylines both carrying on from the past and brought in brand-new here, there's hardly a moment for Agatha to get a word in edgewise, let alone the rest of her familiar entourage. At times the narrative edifice seems so top-heavy and rococo that it will topple over, and I find myself longing for the relative simplicity of the first several volumes of GG.

While labeled as a "good jumping on point" for new readers, there's simply too much baggage here, and I'd have to recommend (enviously) to a new reader start off (online) from the beginning -- a daunting but highly rewarding task.

Raj says

In the fourteenth (fourteenth!) volume of the Foglio's epic Girl Genius series, our heroine, Agatha Heterodyne, has escaped from the time-locked Mechanicberg and is trying to get to Paris, where she hopes to learn enough to free her city. The logical way to get there is by train, but these aren't just any trains. They're run by a monastic order, who have their own views about the sanctity of the timetable, and have the firepower to back them up.

The introduction to this volume says that it would make a good jumping on point for new readers, but I think that's crazy talk. We're thirteen volumes into an ongoing story with well-established characters and a pretty damn complex plot (besides, the whole thing can be read for free online).

The story is as fun as ever, as we rejoin Agatha, Gil, Martellus and the rest of the cast, each with their own, complex stories, motives and machinations. There's not nearly enough Jägers in it for my taste, but then I've always had a soft spot for the Jägermonsters. Now, roll on the next volume! (You see what I did there...? 'Cos they're on a train...? I'll get me coat...)

Mary Catelli says

Agatha gets on a train! Spoilers ahead for the prior books. Though it does begin with a sharper delineation of before and after than the ones just before it -- on the other hand, the tale clearly continues after.

Amusing contretemps while everyone in her party gathers, starting with the way she has to confess before being allowed on -- tell truly who she is and where she is going and why. The journey does get interrupted by a change in route and a necessary stop. Adventure and comedy along the way. Meanwhile Martellus and

Gil are looking for her -- with Gil doing a sideline in trying to work out how to save those in Mechanicsburg from the effects of his father's time-stopping device. While birds age so rapidly they not only die but turn to dust he does rescue someone.

An intruder begging for protection discovers it does matter whom she asks, bears smelling something make a discovery, a cook organizes a defense, a Spark gloats about how other Sparks invite him into their territory to make the trains run, Wooster explains something to Agatha who thinks it might be rather romantic, Bang gives Gil good advice, an avalanche occurs, Martellus does something that actually makes him look good in the readers' eyes, Violetta holds forth on her family, and much more.

Sally Banfield says

Love these graphics.

Anthony Faber says

More Girl Genius. Takes up shortly after the end of the first series.
