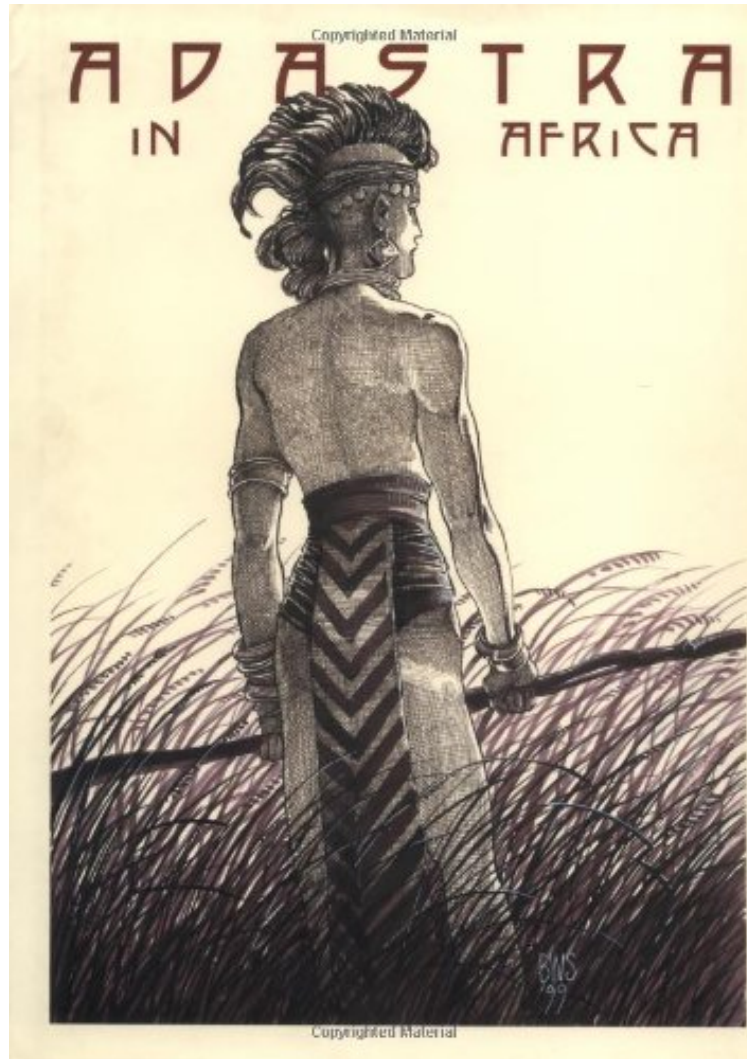


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Adastra in Africa

Barry Windsor-Smith

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Barry Windsor-Smith : Adastra in Africa before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Adastra in Africa:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Ad Astra" means "To the stars" By wiredweird-- but I don't know the Latin for "From the stars," the original home of this alien princess. As with any good art, this story leaves a tumult of feelings behind it. The first, for a reader sensitive to women's beauty, is beauty. Adastra captures all that the cover picture promises: youth, strength, and that strength unique to women's bodies. Given that vital beginning, the story seems to miscarry. Children and adults both suffer, but in different ways, and Our Heroine's attempts at Heroism land with a thud. But, despite herself, Adastra's attempts to save the unsavable evoke something greater - the thing that,

perhaps, she meant to imitate in the first place. Then, under all this, there's a parable for the technological world, about offering only the help that can survive on its own. (Remember the "green revolution" that fizzled for that reason?) Then ... well, a lot more. It's pretty clear why Marvel turned this story down way back when. They had a formula, and wanted only Super Heroes In Tights (S-H-I-nevermind) that fit the formula. Aadastra does not conform to formulas, she creates them. Like her or don't. That's your choice. But, if you wholly like her or wholly don't, you probably missed what mattered.-- wiredweird0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome! By MtMB. W-S did a wonderful job in illustrating this graphic novel. I am SO glad that I purchased this book. The story is very thought provoking and touching. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just... Beautiful By John Nelson It took me a bit to warm up to this story, because how Marvel-Traditional Super hero-esque the art and story telling felt at the beginning. While I do love traditional Super Hero comics, and I understand the origin of this tale being an X-man one off that was axed from Marvel (due to their ignorance about the ending), I have been flocking to Fantagraphics to get away from that style. However, it's a beautiful story, and unlike the reviewer who claims the art is too busy... I love it. It's near the end when it gets post-modern, and Aadastra gets interviewed in a magazine publication style does it remind us that this is indeed underground comix. There's also "bloop panels" near the end which bring us back to the gritty surreal vision of reality that Fantagraphics provides us. Much like these wonderful written stories, I wish they were novel length rather than short story length. But, having illustrated comic books before, I know what a task that would have been.

Originally conceived for X-Men, this story was re-invented by Windsor-Smith and recast with his character Aadastra as a compelling, touching and magnificently drawn fable, with informative and amusing extras! Barry Windsor-Smith originally conceptualized this self-contained adventure as the third "Lifedeath" story for Marvel Comics' Uncanny X-Men. The book was shelved for several years when Marvel claimed that Windsor-Smith's ending condoned and/or promoted suicide, an assertion that Windsor-Smith says is as laughable as it is unfounded. He refused to acquiesce to the editor's demands to change the story and pulled the book from them. He liked it so much, however, that he decided to rework it as an Aadastra story shortly after undertaking the BWS: Storyteller series a few years ago. Now, more than a decade after it was begun, it is finally in print. Aadastra in Africa spotlights the young, exiled goddess traveling to an African village and striving to bring salvation to the famine-stricken area. It's a compelling tale of an outsider attempting to use her own non-traditional methods to help a defiantly proud people regain its vitality, without compromising the tribe's heritage and values. This stand-alone graphic novel features some of the most beautifully intricate and graceful drawing of Windsor-Smith's legendary career. Black-and-white comics throughout

About the Author Barry Windsor-Smith, 2008 Eisner Award Hall of Fame Inductee, has been creating extraordinary comics art and stories since 1967, introducing diverse artistic influences to graphic storytelling, and developing a distinctive, naturalistic narrative style. Conan the Barbarian, X-Men, Weapon X, Archer Armstrong, RUNE, and Barry Windsor-Smith: STORYTELLER are among the many works of his 30+ year career. Windsor-Smith is also an acclaimed painter of Romantic fantasy, co-founder of The STUDIO, and author of BWS:OPUS, a series of art books collecting his paintings and drawings. The text of the series, called Time Rise, is an anecdotal, sometimes humorous, memoir of his paranormal experiences. He lives in Kingston, NY.