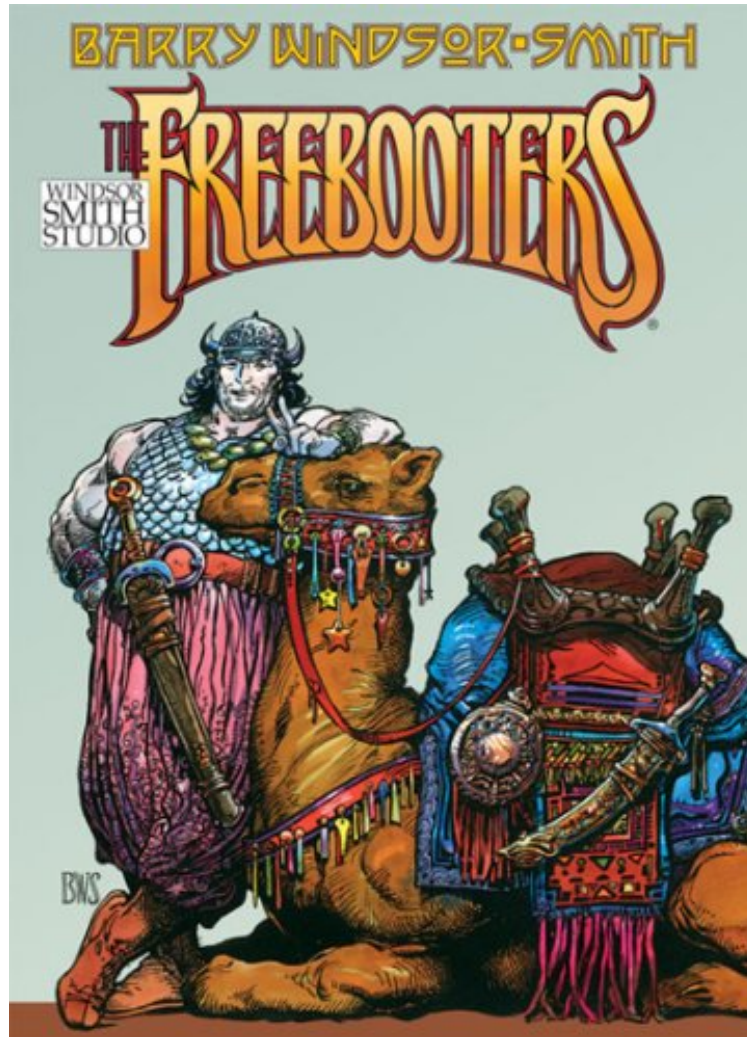


## The Freebooters

Barry Windsor-Smith

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#2014359 in Books Fantagraphics Books 2005-11-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 12.40 x .70 x 9.00l, 2.35 #File Name: 1560976624184 pages | File size: 65.Mb

**Barry Windsor-Smith : The Freebooters** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Freebooters:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Donald A. KornekGreat! Very pleased. Thanks.5 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Incomplete, great art but its a bit of a messBy R. CarreiroI really liked the Freebooters comics (part of the Storyteller series) so this was a book Ive looked forward to. Its a pretty big letdown. Its totally incomplete, I mean it literally cuts off in the middle of a story or chapter and just dies. Barry should have at least left it off on a better note. The artwork is amazing though and what is there is very good. I just can't really sign on off on something that is so half baked.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy GrendelRoseawesome book

A barbarian fantasy from the man who defined Robert E. Howard's Conan in the comics. *The Freebooters* is a lively, character-driven graphic narrative set in a fantastic, ancient milieu that superficially bears resemblance to a world that will be familiar to longtime Windsor-Smith fans who remember his work on another famous warrior. The infamously bizarre city of Shahrizai may seem an unlikely venue from which to save the world from the ruin of ultimate evil, but it is home to Axus the Great, the legendary Freebooter and hero to the known world. Thus it is that young Aran Anakashan, poet and seer, has traveled 100 days, seeking help to avert the apocalyptic future revealed to him in his visions. But though Axus's legend has grown far and wide, Axus himself has grown merely older (and wider), and Aran finds disappointment in the blustering, overweight adventurer, now retired to the sanctuary of his colorful inn and tavern, *The Ram and the Peacock*, and living off his reputation, unwilling to take Aran's prophecies seriously (Axus does hire Aran as his jester, however). Central to Axus' renown is the story of the fire-demon, Ammon-Gra. According to legend, it was Axus who destroyed the creature, thirty years gone, in a fantastic battle that saved Shahrizai and the entire world from annihilation. But the legendary exploits of Axus the Great have been gaudily spun for so long that Shahrizai's history has become sinuated with folklore and myth, and the aging yet emotionally immature ex-warrior exists at odds with his own reputation. When Aran's visions are revealed to foretell of the second-coming of Ammon-Gra, Axus remains blissfully ignorant of the gathering threat of catastrophe, preferring to indulge his mid-life crisis (this is not your father's barbarian) rather than act like a hero. By the end, destinies of hero and villain cross in unexpected ways. While similarities with Robert E. Howard's Conan the Barbarian are obvious given Windsor-Smith's history with the character (he made Conan a household name for Marvel Comics in the early 1970s and his visual style inspired the Arnold Schwarzenegger film as much as Howard's original novels), *The Freebooters* is a riotous, unexpected and postmodern take on the genre. Axus ages into a gluttonous manchild, too busy trying to prove he can still compete with younger prettyboys to face real adversity, a path that rings more true than the heroic king Conan became in later stories. *The Freebooters* is a politically incorrect farce worthy of its hedonistic milieu. This volume collects the entirety of Windsor-Smith's "The Freebooter" stories from the acclaimed BWS: Storyteller comic book series from the early 1990s, including a full-length chapter from the unpublished tenth issue, plus more than 50 pages of new story. *The Freebooters* is amongst the most raucous and literate comics of Windsor-Smith's career, the culmination of a lifetime of experience and knowledge, approaching his comics with a seriousness of purpose while never losing his unmistakable sense of humor. A ripping good yarn! Full-color comics throughout

From Booklist  
In the early 1970s, Windsor-Smith's artwork in Conan the Barbarian made an immediate splash with comics fans and launched a short-lived sword-and-sorcery craze. Some 20 years later, he returned to the genre with *Freebooters*, one of three serialized stories in *Storyteller*, an ambitious, tabloid-size magazine that was abruptly cancelled after nine issues. Its hero suggested what Conan might have become. Once a legendary adventurer, now-flabby Axus the Great runs a tavern and regales its patrons with tales of his exploits. When naive young Aran rides into town with news of the impending resurrection of the fire demon Ammon-Gra, Axus' archfoe, it appeared the washed-up warrior will have to round up his former comrades and do battle. Cut short though it is, *Freebooters* is an amusing romp, especially as collected in this lavish volume. Its primary appeal remains Windsor-Smith's gorgeous, Pre-Raphaelite-influenced art, even more accomplished here than in Conan. It may look overwrought for this amiable but slight tale, yet any opportunity to see comics master Windsor-Smith at work on barbarians is worth taking. Gordon Flagg  
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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.