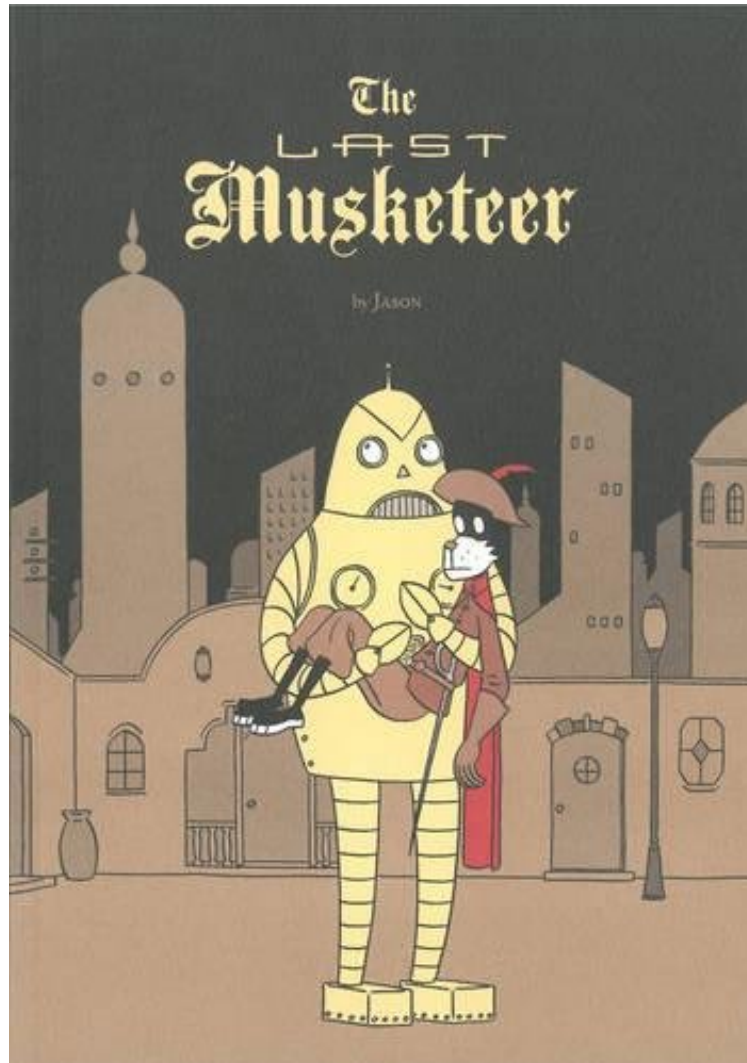


The Last Musketeer

Jason

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#1901398 in Books 2008-01-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.00 x .30 x 7.101, .46 #File Name: 156097889948 pages | File size: 17.Mb

Jason : The Last Musketeer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Musketeer:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Minimalist tales that pack a punch ...By Jay QuintanaI just discovered Jason a few weeks ago. He is very close to being my favorite graphic novelist. His art and stories are droll, understated, inventive, and powerful. The Last Musketeer is about a man who has outlived his times and has become a joke, then Martians attack France and he goes to Mars and becomes a hero. How on earth does Jason make this absurd premise work? Not just work but really affect the reader emotionally. I've purchased everything Jason has in print and beg publishers to reissue his out-of-print works!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gentle, non-stop

zaninessBy Groove25Less grounded in the mundane by a modern, everyman character or relationship, *The Last Musketeer* instead traffics in a kind of gentle, non-stop zaniness, pervaded with sly, unpredictable bits of humanity and humor, delivered through a profusion of side characters and settings. While the main character of Athos, the French musketeer, didn't grab me initially, events unfolded into each other and my interest and enjoyment gradually began to build. The throne room of the Emperor of Mars delivered many of the book's funniest moments. This felt much like *Isle of 100,000 Graves* but without the strong plot structure and big laughs. Put another way, it's kind of an inversion of *Werewolves of Montpellier*, with the balance of the story skewed towards fantasy or fairytale elements instead of towards everyday life. The ending added a nice layer of poignancy and open-endedness, a delightful flourish of unexpected humor and sweetness. Another interesting and enjoyable work by Jason, though not my favorite. Nevertheless, I gave it another read. FOLLOW-UP: Incidentally, the cover to this book, featuring Athos the musketeer being cradled in the arms of a giant robot, is quite odd. No such scene occurs in the story, and its meaning is thoroughly unclear. (Why does the robot look embarrassed? Is Athos supposed to be lazy? Helpless? Dead?) It also greatly exaggerates the importance of the robot as a character. An early preview image for the book had depicted Athos in combat advancing, sword in hand, towards the robot. This strikes me as a more appropriate and suitably dynamic cover image. Maybe I'm wrong; if the goal is to encourage the reader to underestimate Athos, then it works. But I think a more lively cover might support the book's tone and storyline better and possibly enhance my overall impression of this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Musketeer Vs. Martians* By Sam Quixote Modern day France and Athos, the Musketeer from Alexandre Dumas' beloved classic "*The Three Musketeers*", is 400 years old and living on the streets drinking away the days. Then one night France is attacked by lasers from outer space. Commandeering an alien vessel, Athos goes to Mars to stop the attacks and remind everyone of the relevance of the musketeers. Jason marries the polar opposites of 19th century literature with 50s pulpy sci-fi in this fantastic, fun graphic novel. The drawings are his best yet with the spaceships, laser cannons, robots and aliens all mirroring 50s designs of space adventures. The knowingly cheesy dialogue and scenes (there's a lot of guards being knocked out for their uniforms to be worn by the heroes, trap doors, etc) add to the impression of an older, more innocent kind of adventure story. It's also his funniest comic so far. The chivalrous Athos fighting to keep the spirit of the musketeers alive in the face of technology like guns and robots is very funny. He defeats a robot while escaping and then proceeds to dig a grave for it instead of running, thus being captured again. The limited expressions on the animal-faced characters, also adds to the humour, as does the insecure Martian Emperor who quizzes his reluctant guards on their home lives. Jason's famous for using little or no dialogue in his comics but in this book there is a lot of dialogue driving the story while his art is in full colour and looking very clear on the page. The underlying parallels of the story to the Iraq war and the United States formation are also unmistakable. The Martians took the planet from indigenous natives and currently are running out of a precious resource, oxygen, forcing them into a pointless conflict with Earth. It all adds to a strong overall impression of this brisk (it's 48 pages long) and brilliant tale of adventure, one of Jason's best books yet. If you're new to Jason, this is a great place to start.

A unique mash-up of Alex (*Three Musketeers*) Dumas and Alex (*Flash Gordon*) Raymond. After his existential thriller (*Why Are You Doing This?*), his Parisian famous-writers crime caper (*The Left Bank Gang*), and his time-travel story (*I Killed Adolf Hitler*), Jason's fourth full-color album may feature his loopyest premise yet. Set in the present, *The Last Musketeer* stars the by-now centuries old (for no explained reason...and it doesn't matter) musketeer Athos, who has been reduced to a suavely dressed but useless near-panhandler trading on his now almost extinct fame. (Aramis has forsaken his musketeering ways, and Porthos...well, Porthos isn't around any more. Don't ask.) All this changes when one day the Martians attack Earth. Suddenly there is a need for swashes to be buckled, and Athos leaps back into the fray with a vengeance. Robots, evil alien emperors, beautiful alien princesses, rayguns vs. swords, treachery, secret corridors, insanely cool-looking robots...*The Last Musketeer* is vintage sci-fi adventure with a unique twist from an internationally acclaimed cartoonist.

From Publishers Weekly Having already plundered Hitchcockian wrong-man scenarios (*Why Are You Doing This?*), zombie flicks (*The Living and the Dead*) and alternate history paradoxes (*I Killed Adolf Hitler*) for his own sardonic purposes, Jason goes this time for a multigenre mash-up that proves to be one of his most enjoyable books yet. In *The Last Musketeer*, Athos is still alive in modern-day Paris, a drunken has-been unable to let go of past glories. He proves surprisingly handy, though, at defending Earth after overpowering a couple of invading Martians, hitching a ride back to their planet and taking on the alien army singlehandedly. Swordplay, dungeons, a princess, ray guns and daring escapes follow, all drawn with Jason's usual sharp and colorful vibrancy. In the hands of most other comic artists, mixing up this goofy Dumas riff with Edgar Rice Burroughs-style pulp (and caped costumes right out of *Flash Gordon*) would have seemed like desperation, overreaching or mockery. But as done by the supremely confident Jason who has always paired a cool abstraction with a sharp comic streak it comes off as a genuinely appreciative lark, albeit one veined with a rare sense of mortality. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Asweet, quirky, and delicious off-the-wall sci-fi comic....The inherent charm and simple, precise

presentation of *The Last Musketeer* inexorably wins you over. - Eddie Thomas, *Mass Movement* Simplicity, when applied in the right manner, speaks volumes, and Norwegian cartoonist Jason has mastered the art. - Resonance One of the most exciting cartoonists working today. Not afraid to mix genres and utilize fantastic elements to convey his tales, he evinces a humanity utilizing animals as main characters that is sorely lacking in many of the comics being published today. - Chris Beckett, *Warrior* 27 Jason's books are entirely plot-driven, yet delivered with a dry, morose humor that gives the narrative an offbeat tone. Coupled with his ear for snappy dialogue, Jason's plots become surprising romps that mash up divergent adventure clichés.... All told, Jason's books, including *The Last Musketeer*, are pure escapist fun romps.... I'll be looking for more of Jason's comics, and hopefully more readers will also check his stuff out. - Michael C. Lorah, *Newsarama* About the Author Jason hails from Oslo, Norway, but currently resides in Montpellier, France. He's won multiple Eisners, a Harvey, and an Inkpot award.