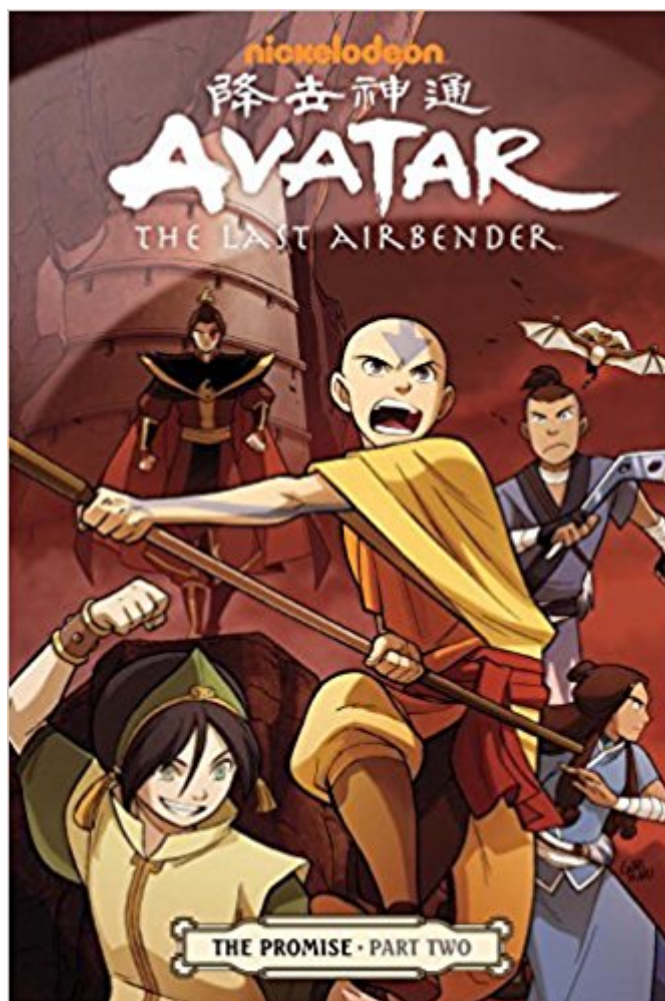


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Avatar: The Last Airbender: The Promise, Part 2



Synopsis

Aang and Katara are working tirelessly for peace when an impasse between Fire Lord Zuko and Earth King Kuei over Fire Nation colonies within the borders of the Earth Nation threatens to plunge the world back into war! Meanwhile, Sokka must help Toph prepare her hapless first class of metalbending students to defend their school against a rival class of firebenders! * Written by Eisner winner and National Book Award nominee Gene Luen Yang (American Born Chinese).

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

Toph struggles with her metalbending students (and a possible hostile takeover), and Sokka pitches in to help them out. Meanwhile, Aang and Katara go to see the Earth King to talk about the uneasy alliance between the Earth Kingdom and the Fire Nation, hoping to come to a resolution. And, of course, Zuko struggles with the increased pressures of being the Fire Lord, continuing to consult his imprisoned father for advice on how to cope. First, I of course love Toph--how she sometimes seems like such a stubborn jerk but has all these layers underneath, and how she has a real calling for teaching (and yelling at people), and how she comes to realize she may be trying to groom her metalbending students into something they really aren't . . . just like her parents did to her. And I liked that she asked Sokka to evaluate her ability to roll her eyes properly so she could roll her eyes at him. And her students were kind of hilarious, even though they were each pretty one-dimensional--the fearful doomsayer, the shoe-obsessed spoiled brat, and the goth-type kid who

hates everything because someone gave him a terrible name. It was cool that they wanted to be more, but they . . . kind of weren't, at least not in the story. Katara and Aang make a very cute couple, and I liked that Katara got so jealous of the Avatar fangirls. (I didn't love how they were stereotyped, though--as vacuous, predatory girls who threaten Katara's relationship.) I did like that Aang was pretty oblivious to the whole thing, enamored instead with the feeling that someone tried to recreate his home by modeling the fanclub headquarters after the Air Temple he'd grown up in. And the complexity of Zuko continues to impress me. His father insists that a Fire Lord doesn't choose what's right; he **MAKES** things become right **THROUGH** the act of his choosing. (Wow, we've got some theory of knowledge philosophy lessons going on here! They were talking about that back in Ancient Greece!) Zuko rejects this idea of goodness being defined by **HIS** choices; he believes that good is bigger than everyone, and that Aang can help him find it. But the Earth King--determined to force peace, even if it means war--is about to ruin the tentatively forged balance that the Avatar worked so hard to establish.

I got these for my grandson who loves Avatar: The last airbender. He was especially pleased to find out these books took up where the DVDs left off. They answered some of his questions.

As if it wasn't enough that the TV series was awesome - the books are also fantastic. This one picks up where the previous one (The Promise: Part 1) left off: Toph is with Aang, Katara, and Sokka in the Earth kingdom to resolve the issue of Yu-Dao and the Harmony Restoration Movement, while Zuko is seeking help from his father, Ozai about the pressures of being the Fire Lord. There is a subplot with Toph trying to teach Metalbending to her students, and Sokka helping her with it - Sokka's wit is something being greatly missed in Korra, but the book has it spot on. There is an Avatar: The Last Airbender, The Promise: Part 3 that will release in September/October that will conclude this story arc (possibly leading to Republic City!) - I'm eagerly waiting for it.

The volume is in very good condition, although it's a little small for my tastes. The pages are beautiful colored and the art, like in book 1, is amazing. Firstly, Legend of Korra fans, don't get overexcited - the only real reference to Korra's time that we have in this story thus far is that there is precedent for a family like Mako and Bolin (mixed element families), which there honestly **SHOULD** be, all things considered... And that we're building up to when they start breaking ground for the creation of Republic City. Is volume 2 worth buying? If you're an "Avatar: The Last Airbender" and/or "Avatar: The Legend of Korra" fan, then you should at least get volume 2. The whole series is at

least worth checking out at your local library. If you're not a fan, I don't think this series is the best place to get an introduction into the franchise, but it certainly features a number of narrative elements of the series, so if you like it, by all means, read on! And then go watch the two TV shows! For fans, there are a number of interesting developments in these volumes for you to read about, considering the business of being Fire Lord, what Avatar Aang is supposed to do now that the world is, well, "saved", what Sokka is getting up to, how Toph got on with metalbending, and so on.

My daughter and I watched the show for a few seasons and then it was gone. When I found these books I knew that they would fill in some of the missing pieces. We have bought some of them and are catching up, the only thing is, I read them fast and am then left with nothing. I have to buy the next one. Not sure how many were written but I will be looking around for sure.

There are no plot-giveaways in this review. While I honestly enjoyed reading this graphic novel, I must admit that it covers my least favorite part of the Promise Series. It almost feels like an attempt by the author (Gene Yang) to elongate the story. It seems this way because most of this book was about the subplots that revolved around the main story. Considering that this series is already a subplot and is a supplement to the TV show, I thought this was a waste of time. This novel focuses on Aang and Katara's relationship and Toph's metal bending academy. It rarely illustrates any confrontation between Zuko and Ozai. Thus, the cliff-hangers that were released at the end of The Promise: Part I will go unanswered. The story in it self was good but it was not meant for this book. As I said before, I think the series was elongated, that too, for financial reasons. Nevertheless, if you feel like collecting all the Avatar books, this is a good buy.

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