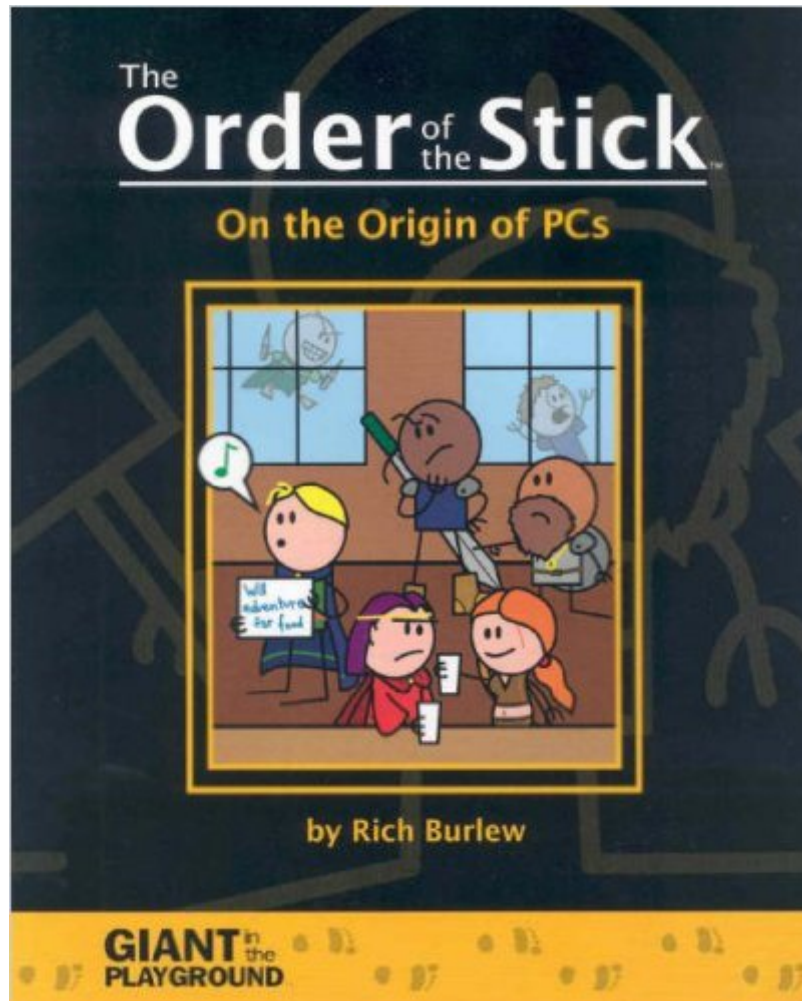


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The Order Of The Stick, Vol. 0: On The Origin Of PCs



Synopsis

Like all great stories in the history of the universe, this one begins in a tavern. The Order of the Stick: On the Origin of PCs reveals the secret character backgrounds of your favorite band of webcomic adventurers, the Order of the Stick. Spinning out of the popular online comic (and subsequent book collections), On the Origin of PCs presents 72 pages of all-new, never-seen-before-or-since OOTS action and comedy that detail what each of the six members of the Order were doing with their lonely and pathetic lives before they joined forces to become a less lonely (but no less pathetic) team. Presented in nostalgic greyscale that we like to call "Past-O-Vision", On the Origin of PCs is a vital part of your Order of the Stick collection. From new DBD publisher Paizo Publishing!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not much of a comic book or manga fan. But the Order of the Stick is different, different, different! I must admit that a reader who has never played D&D might not catch every innuendo, but there are enough laughs for even the most uninitiated. The jokes and twists are hilarious and yet, with each comic, the story moves forward. Origin of the PCs tells how the player characters (PC's) got their start and formed the infamous Order of the Stick. As Burlew's online strip starts with the party already together, it was fun to go back in time and see the characters before they knew each other. After all, how did a psychotic halfling, dwarven cleric, bumbling bard, androgynous mage, and opportunistic rogue all team up with a college-grad fighter on quest to avenge his father's death?

Overall, a very fun read with plenty of chuckles. Now, I'm looking forward to 'Start of Darkness' for a similar look at the 'origin of the NPCs'. How did Xykon become a lich? What is the creature in the darkness? And how long will it take for SOD to reach , so we can order it here?

It felt a little short for what I was expecting, but then again, it is a graphic novel and an \$8 one at that. It was fun to see all the characters and what they were doing before they joined up and why they all decided to go. Overall if you like, OOTS, get this book, it's well worth the price. If you don't, then this book isn't going to change your mind. If you've never heard of OOTS, go here:

<http://www.giantitp.com/Comics.html>

This book is a very interesting journey into the backstory of the protagonists of the Order of the Stick. I do wish it was a bit longer. It was interesting to see OOTS in a more comic book-like format.

On the Origin of PCs is a prequel story featuring the heroes of the Order of the Stick webcomic. It is the first "print-only" OotS book, featuring material not available on the website. As with the other print-only collections, this trade is in black and white due to cost concerns. On the Origin of PCs is 72 pages long, and features a short tale (or two) about each of the members of the OotS, as well as their formation as a team and first mission together. It's a well done, humorous set of stories, but there's nothing here vital to understanding the main story (nor anything all that important or illuminating really). But the background for Roy, Durkon and Haley is interesting, the trade as a whole is enjoyable, and it introduces some characters that would later appear in the "proper" trades (ie the thieves guild). All in all this is a solid, albeit not totally necessary, addition to the OotS library. I wouldn't call it "only for completists," but you could skip it without losing much if you were so inclined. While the volume number 0 is appropriate from a "in-comic" time perspective, it doesn't tell you when you should be reading this volume (although the author somewhat does, in the introduction). I'd recommend reading it between Volumes 3 and 4. This will prevent anything here from spoiling elements of the main story, and will allow you to get to know the characters before learning about their backstories.

Interestingly, I have never played a D&D game in my life. The only sort of game similar to that that I've played is Warhammer 40k--but even then, I've only played a few games. Nevertheless, a friend of mine introduced me to this webcomic, and I became so engrossed in it that I decided to order the first book. The first book was fine, but because I'm an outsider looking in, I had a hard time getting a

lot of the jokes and understanding the subtle jabs at D&D and D&D-related games. But I pressed on. After reading this book, I have to admit that I enjoyed it far more than the first one. Not because it was funnier or anything; it was actually on the same plane of humor and plot. But now that I understood the characters more, I laughed so much more at how they met up. First thinking the prequel was going to be a disaster, I finished it with it having far exceeded my expectations, and impressed with how well Burlew put together volume 0. Burlew noted that it's probably preferable to read this after the third book, but after later explaining the only situation in the third book that you'd need to fully get everything from the prequel, it's best to read it after the first volume.

If you have EVER played an RPG, especially Dungeons and Dragons, this comic series will have you in stitches. Burlew thoroughly skewers everything from game mechanics, to racial stereotypes (androgynous elves, drunken dwarves, kleptomaniacal halflings) to intra-party politics. It's SOUTH PARK for gamers.

I really do like how the PCs are shown. It just fits perfectly and their character, motivation and personalities are shown nicely. I can recommend this comic to everyone who already likes the webcomic.

I **adore** backstory in any shape and form, and this book provides a good look into the backstories of everybody's favorite band of bumbling stick figure heroes, the Order of the Stick. It avoids the mistakes made in many prequel series -- that is to say, it does not reveal too **much** about certain characters. (As Mr. Burlew points out in his intro, do we really **want** to know why Belkar is evil? He wouldn't be funny if he had a tragic backstory to go with it.) At the same time, it answers many questions about the cast's activities before we first see them in the webcomic, making them seem more three dimensional and thus more interesting to the reader. In terms of funny, it's got quite a few laughs, though not as many as the standard comic. That's a-okay with me, as (like I said) I find backstory to be fascinating and that's why I read the book. I did feel that the storyline(s) jumped around a bit too much. It's understandable, given that he had to cover all the character and only had so much room to do it, but it was occasionally jarring to get involved in Character A's storyline and then have it switch to Character B's. Not a perfect edition, but it's still a great read, and well worth the price!

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