



Top Ten: The Forty-Niners (Top 10)

By Alan Moore, Gene Ha

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Written by Alan Moore Art and cover by Gene Ha The Eisner Award-winning TOP 10 team of writer Alan Moore and artist Gene Ha reunites for a softcover edition of the original graphic novel that delves into the past, revealing the origins of Neopolis and the first officers of Top Ten! Meet the original Top 10 officers who blazed the trail and made Neopolis the city it is today!

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Retro-futuristic art meets postwar expansionism and superhero psychology in this tour-de-force graphic novel. It's a prequel to the often hilarious *Top 10* series, which followed the cases of the police force in Neopolis, a city populated entirely by people with superpowers who are as petty, selfish and drunk and disorderly as normal humans. In *The Forty-Niners*, we see the Neopolis Police Department's early days attempting to bring order to a new city created just to contain the "science heroes" on both sides of WWII. Among the problems: German skull-masked ne'er-do-wells who have some secret plan afoot, and a gang of vampires who have taken over as the mob, running the prostitution franchise and shaking down bar owners. Moore (*Watchmen; From Hell*) has sketched the entire pecking order of this fantastic world and the wistful nature of the superhero diaspora. "You're gonna have a lot of feelings you ain't had before," warns the mayor of the super city. "Feelin' ordinary. Feelin' useless. Feelin' like you're in the world's biggest freak show." Moore's boundless imagination dazzles as it reinvents the archetypes of religion, mythology and comic books. Ha's subtle, fluid watercolor-like art is equally rich in background sight gags, making this a book to savor. (Aug.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Top Ten was a 12-issue series often described as "*Hill Street Blues* with superheroes." Set in futuristic Neopolis, where the residents all have superpowers and a colorful, costumed constabulary maintains order, *The Forty-Niners* is the prequel to the series set in 1949, when extrapowered humans from both sides of World War II relocated to a city new-built for them. Among them are 16-year-old ace pilot Steve Traynor, who flew under the name of Jetlad, and his former enemy Leni Muller, the Skywitch. Steve (who is to become Neopolis' police captain) casts his lot with the city air force, while Leni joins the fledgling police department. Obstructing the effort to found a city are vampire gangsters and former Nazi scientists. The concept is shrewd and imaginative, and Moore's deft plotting, artful characterization, and dead-on dialogue make this flashback more impressive than the series that spawned it, though it wouldn't be half as convincing without Ha's intricate, realistic artwork. *Gordon Flagg*

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Review

SFX Magazine December 2005: "Action, comedy, fantastic art, a master's imagination and an emotional core (***4 Stars)."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roy Christy:

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