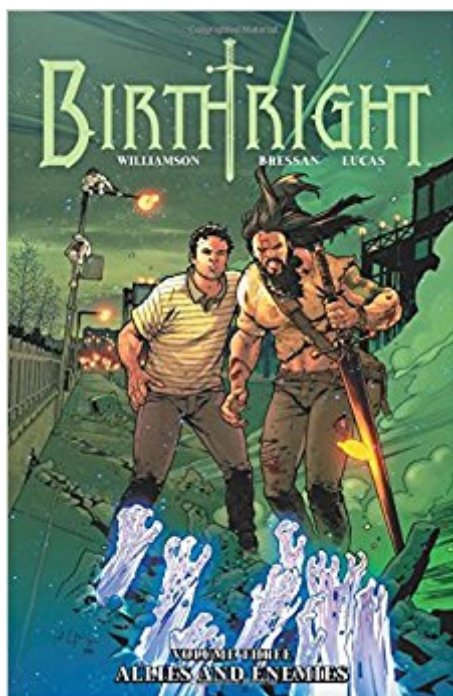


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# Birthright Volume 3: Allies And Enemies



## Synopsis

As Mikey and Brennan's quest to hunt Terrenos's worst war criminals intensifies, their parents make deals with new and dangerous allies to protect their sons...but a mysterious foe debuts, threatening to destroy the Rhodes family forever. Birthright Vol. 3 continues the saga of Mikey Rhodes, the boy lost to a fantasyland beyond imagination, who returned a powerful warrior of legend. But not all is what it seems with Mikey, and even the greatest fantasy shatters in the face of reality. Joshua Williamson is the acclaimed creator of the Image Comics' series NAILBITER and GHOSTED. Fans of Chronicles of Narnia, Game of Thrones and Lord of the Rings will enjoy the unexpected thrills, drama and adventure at the heart of this series.

## Book Information

Series: Birthright

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Image Comics (May 17, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1632156830

ISBN-13: 978-1632156839

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #80,153 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Image Comics #303 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Fantasy Graphic Novels #1739 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels

## Customer Reviews

Created and written by Joshua Williamson (Nailbiter, Ghosted), Birthright is something rather different in the high-fantasy hero genre. Volume 3: Allies and Enemies collects issues #11 thru #15. In the first volume of Birthright, the story began with a young boy named Mikey playing catch with his dad in a field near some woods on his birthday while his mother and older brother, Brennan were preparing a surprise birthday party for him back at the house. The ball went into the woods and Mikey went after it... and didn't come back. An organized search turned up nothing. Months passed, accusations flew, the father came under suspicion and the family fell apart. And then, a year later, the family was summoned to the police station because a strange man - fully grown, powerfully built, with long dark hair and a beard and wearing tattoos and armor of all things - had

turned up claiming to be their lost son. It's outrageous and impossible, but the father is immediately sure: "That's him. That's our son. Mikey." Even though only a year in our world had gone by, it was twenty years where Mikey had been, and he had a lot of stories to tell. And a mission to fulfill, a mission that Mikey drafts his older-now-younger brother Brennan into and that ends up with the two of them on the run. But Mikey wasn't telling everything, not by a long shot. The story shifts back and forth between our current-day Earth that Mikey has returned to and flashbacks to Terrenos, the place he was transported to to become a long prophesied hero and where he's spent the last twenty (for him) years of his life. In each volume, the flashbacks show young Mikey a bit older than in the previous volume reflecting how time passed during his years in Terrenos, and we see him experiencing the key events that shape the path he takes and who and what he eventually becomes. In Volume 3: Allies and Enemies, Terrenos-Mikey looks to be in early adolescence and well on his way to becoming a warrior as current-day Mikey relates another tale of his time in Terrenos to his older-now-younger brother, Brennan. But once again we see that Mikey isn't telling Brennan the whole truth. This time though the ghost/spirit of the Diviner that Brennan supposedly killed in the previous volume is around to tell Brennan when Mikey is lying. Mikey is still intent on finding the remaining four mages who escaped from Terrenos to Earth, focusing on one named Sameal, reputedly the most dangerous. And Mikey's mom, Wendy, and Mikey's very pregnant lover, the Gideon/Angel Rya, are equally intent on finding Mikey, and once again it seems that what Mikey is telling Brennan is not what Rya is telling Wendy. But Brennan has grown more wary and questioning of what Mikey is telling him, much to Mikey's annoyance, and the friction between the two is mounting to the breaking point. As always, more things are revealed. Another mage is found, and we learn that one major character is a lot more than they seemed to be. As is another character, who also turns out to have a very personal connection to Mikey's family. What keeps everything fresh in Birthright is the complexity of the characters and their situations. Nothing is as simple as it seems, and things quickly grow more and more complex, with layers of subtlety revealed that leave you wondering just where the lines are really drawn, who you can trust, and just how much a character can bend without breaking. The artwork by Anderi Bressan (Nailbiter, Suicide Squad, Green Lantern) and coloring by Adriano Lucas (Thief of Thieves) is both vivid and detailed and often downright disturbing on a visually visceral level, and the expressiveness that Bressan lends to the characters' facial expressions and body language gives an added layer of depth to what is brought out in the dialogue. Highly recommended for anyone who enjoys high sword & sorcery fantasy with complex characters and something extra that lets it stand out from the rest.

BIRTHRIGHT is a fascinating series in that it plays on reader's fantasies while always keeping the cost of such fantasies in full view. Imagine you're a young boy who gets abducted into another dimension where you are the Chosen One destined to overthrow the evil overlord in a fantasy land straight out of "Lord of the Rings". Sounds cool, right? But what about the fact that now you're separated from your family, and you have to learn how to kill monsters, or even kill just to eat? And what about coming home to a family that doesn't know how to accept the warrior that you've become? For lovers of epic quest fantasy, BIRTHRIGHT is a sharp and welcome slap in the face.

This series does not stop amazing just gets better every volume. I originally wasn't going to continue this series. I just didn't like it. Now after reading the last two volumes I get why it is so great. Wonderful story, can't wait to see what happens next.

Dang! Can't wait for the next volume to come out! Central character is very complex. Hero/antihero all rolled into one. Present day with flashbacks to his childhood in a strange, violent land lets the reader view the transformation of a compassionate, gentle child into a hulking, anger driven warrior with literally a demon on his back. Gripping story.

Overall the story is great but I felt like it started to become a little unhinged in this volume like Willamsons stories often do. Maybe he gets it back on track in the next set. If you're looking for something new to read I would recommend this story but start with volume 1.

This volume was pretty good. It was a slight let down after reading the first two, but still fun. It was captivating enough that I want to read the next volume when it comes out. The story could have moved a little quicker in spots than it did. Sections did feel like they were dragging a little bit. Overall a good read.

Great 3rd book for this series! Cant wait for #4 to come out.....would share these with my 8 yr old son but there is too much graphic violence for that, but for me I LIKE IT :-)

This series is very good . I enjoy reading it . Artwork is fantastic. The story goes at a good pace . I would suggest the first 3 Birthright books to others .

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