

Battle at Cobán Rock: Mezo: Volume 2

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Brave tribal members battle religious warriors who are bent on exterminating those who don't follow their god in the Mesoamerican-inspired fantasy graphic novel *Battle at Cobán Rock*.

A large cast of characters populates this world, including Kyma, who seeks an alliance with her estranged mother and her tribe of warriors. Kyma believes that such a partnership is the only way to defeat the Tzalekuhl Empire, which seeks to eliminate anyone who doesn't convert to its religion. Incredible creatures and magic play important roles; and an impending eclipse has serious implications, unless the missing pieces of a celestial seed are found and brought together.

This vibrant world with Mesoamerican influences features Mayan- and Aztec-inspired architecture, clothing, and sports, all incorporated as parts of a larger imaginative landscape. People on all sides of the narrative have rich backstories and a variety of perspectives on the unfolding events. Drama permeates the book as questions of loyalty and betrayal are cast alongside the complications of family, friendships, and religion.

The full-color artwork is outstanding, featuring lush landscapes, dynamic action, and attention to details. Large-scale battles are crucial to the story, filling more than half of the book, and they are delivered in an intense, compelling visual language.

Battle at Coban Rock blends historical and fantastical elements into its rousing, satisfying graphic novel adventure.

PETER DABBENE (November / December 2022)

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