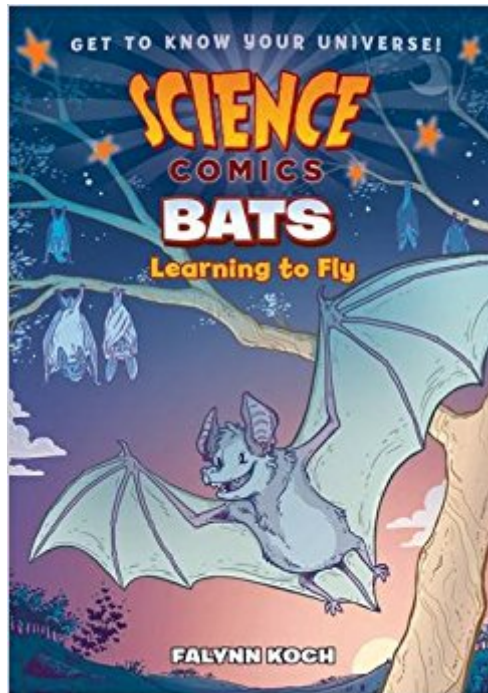




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# Science Comics: Bats: Learning To Fly



## Synopsis

Every volume of Science Comics offers a complete introduction to a particular topic—dinosaurs, coral reefs, the solar system, volcanoes, bats, flying machines, and more. These gorgeously illustrated graphic novels offer wildly entertaining views of their subjects. Whether you're a fourth grader doing a natural science unit at school or a thirty year old with a secret passion for airplanes, these books are for you! This volume: In *Bats*, we follow a little brown bat whose wing is injured by humans on a nature hike. He is taken to a bat rehabilitation center where he meets many different species of bats. They teach him how they fly, what they eat, and where they like to live.

## Book Information

Series: Science Comics

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## Customer Reviews

"The writing is accessible and engaging, and the level of content is detailed enough for young researchers, but casual browsers and graphic novel enthusiasts will find this an attractive choice, too." —*School Library Journal*, starred review  
"With plenty of informative back matter, this inviting, engaging nonfiction comic is perfect for kids hungry for science." —*Booklist*  
"Neatly drawn illustrations." —*Kirkus*

Falynn Koch can be an illustrator, comic book artist, or storyteller, depending on when you ask. Born in Buffalo, New York, she then went everywhere, near and far, and wound up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with her two dogs and her fiancé. She graduated with a degree in sequential art

from SCAD, and Science Comics: Bats is her first graphic novel with First Second. Her favorite things to draw are illogical mythological creatures.

Science Comics are a collection of graphic novels each focusing on a particular subject. In this volume, there is a story line involving bats and also interesting facts about bats sprinkled throughout the book. The target audience is ages 9-13. I was blown away by how much I enjoyed reading this graphic novel. The illustrations were outstanding, the story line held my interest, and I walked away with a fair amount of knowledge about bats. I highly recommend this book to kids that are reluctant readers. Sometimes graphic novels can spark in interest in reading for those that have previously shown no interest. I received a free copy of this book and that is my honest review.

I cannot say enough good things about this book. I know it's geared towards 9-13 year old readers, but my 6 year old devoured this book within the 1st two days we had it, and continues to re-read it frequently. The graphic novel format is perfect for younger kids and preteens, and the illustrations and flow of the book help keep them engaged while educating them on the subject matter (in this case, bats). There truly is a wealth of knowledge in this book, which was evidenced on our next trip to the zoo when my daughter shared a number of the bat-related facts and figures she had learned while reading it. I can't wait to pick up different titles of these Science Comics for her.

I won a free copy of this book from a Goodreads giveaway. While I'm under no obligation to review it, I will anyway. I received this book with every intention of giving it away to a friend with kids who I thought would find it interesting. And I did give it to them after I read it, albeit begrudgingly and after a lot of internal debate. It's such a cool book that I really didn't want to part with it. Falynn Koch somehow crafted a compelling narrative while still providing tons of information about bats. We're introduced to a soon-to-be-injured little brown bat as well as a teenage girl. The injured bat is taken to a rehab center where he meets different bats who explain how different species live, what they eat, etc. The teen girl, taking an interest in the welfare of the injured bat, learns about what humans can do to help our flying friends. The story is fun and really informative. I learned a lot in the 120+ pages of this comic. And the illustrations are gorgeous. Since reading this book, I've donated money to bat conservation efforts. While I haven't volunteered my time yet (can't find a local group!), I have printed schematics for building a bat house, which I plan to do very soon. So I guess this book has made a (small) impact on the lives of bats. It has definitely had an impact on my life.

Great book. Fun to read, informative, great comics and the story keeps kids interested.

Brought to you by OBS Reviewer ScottThis is a beautiful alteration on the Science Comics line *Science Comics: Bats* is a book on, well bats, aimed at the younger reader. Prior books have been aimed at a *Science Comics: Dinosaurs* audience, whereas this can easily be read by a younger reader. As stated before (and rather blatantly in the title) this subject on hand is bats and this is an informative, educational look at the only flying mammals. Filled with trivia and biological facts, for example on the nature of echolocation and the fact that the bat stems from the primate family, this is sure to entertain anyone who holds interest in bats, big or small, or wants to educate themselves on bat preservation such as making *bat-friendly* shelters. *Science Comics: Bats* is a welcome addition to the line. The writing was what struck me immediately *Science Comics: Bats* is not preachy, and only resorting to scientific nomenclature when absolutely necessary. It struck me that this is precisely like my long gone, dog-eared copy of *Dinosaurs* I had when I was eight. The diction is concise and written towards the younger reader. Following a bat that gets sent to a rescue shelter, the story revolves around his introduction to different species of his genus, and the daughter of the rather over-exuberant parents who unintentionally injure it causing her to become a volunteer at the veterinarian's clinic. Through the two (more the bat than the girl *Science Comics: Bats* the bat is written less *Scientifically*) the reader is propelled into the wonderful and exotic world of bats. It whets your appetite and has further reading for both the younger and older reader in the back is a nice touch. The educational quality of this book cannot be understated. The artwork in *Science Comics: Bats* is also unique. Blending an Eisner-like cartoonish approach with biological artwork, *Bats* details the differences between different species. It's not so cartoonish to be dismissed by the older reader but accessible to the younger ones. The panelation flows well, and aside from one or two oddly placed speech bubbles, is quite easy to follow. The linework is well done, and inking is as equally deft. Overall the artwork compliments the writing and almost keeps the story flowing. This is rare, but Koch pulls it off with elegance. The backgrounds suit the characterization, and all in all, this truly represents Eisner's educational comics point in Comics and Sequential Art. I can't do anything but recommend this book for anyone even remotely interested in bats. The educational content is enough, as said, to whet your appetite and point you in the right direction for further reading. Aimed at a younger audience, however, and this really is their playground. Like that copy of *Dinosaurs* I had in my youth, this book would have spurred my interest in chiropterology rather than herpetology (although I still think

snakes and giant lizards are cool). Science Comics: Bats is a must buy that might spurn an interest in these wonderful and mysterious creatures.

I bought this for my daughter originally, but then bought a copy for my classroom as a middle school teacher. Perfect for anyone who wants to learn more about bats!

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