

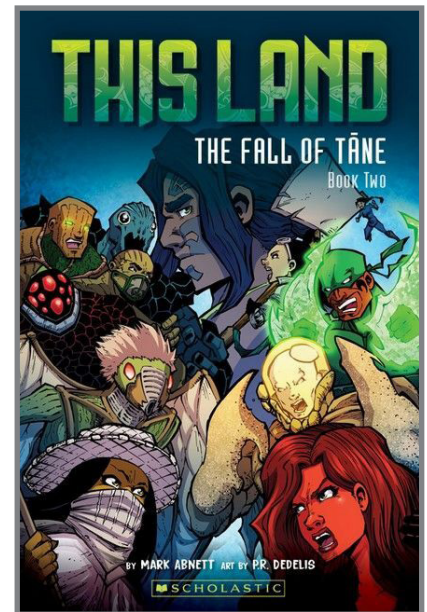
This Land, Book Two: The Fall of Tāne

AUTHOR

MARK ABNETT

ART BY

P.R. DEDELIS



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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Secondary
(Violence)

SYNOPSIS

With the heart-racing conclusion of *This Land, Book One: The Search for Māui* leaving mysteries to be solved and questions to be answered, Book Two takes readers on an adrenaline-pumping journey to uncover Māui and defeat the evil god, Whiro. But a battle with Shepherd and her mercenaries is imminent . . . will Hell'na and her ragtag crew live to see another day?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and raised in New Zealand, Mark Abnett is now based in Scotland. He won the Netflix-owned Millarworld Talent Contest in 2016 with his Hit-Girl story *Mindy's ABCs*, published by Image Comics in America. He is passionate about storytelling that can help bring the heritage and history of Aotearoa to life through the highly visual medium of comics.

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC TEAM

The artistic team consists of artist P.R. Dedelis from Poland; colourist Liezl Buenaventura from the Philippines; British letterers Rob Jones and Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou; Māori communications and engagement practitioner Verona-Meiana Putaranui; designers Hekiera Mareroa, Seb Wikaraka Peni and Te Haunui Tuna, and translator and cultural practitioner Trent Brown-Marsh

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Look at the front cover and ask:
 - What do you think this graphic novel will be about?
 - How might Tāne 'fall'? What does this mean?
 - Who are the main characters?
 - Will some characters be heroes and some be villains? Why do you think that?
- After reading the blurb and ask the following questions:
 - What do the words 'supernatural', 'mercenaries', 'underworld' and 'sacrifice' mean?
 - What might Tāne's 'ultimate sacrifice' be?
 - Who do you think the character on the back cover might be? Why might he want to 'take down' Tāne?
- As a class, discuss the features of graphic novels, such as sequential art, panels, splash pages, speech and thought bubbles, captions, onomatopoeia, the use of symbolism and techniques used to show movement or the passage of time.

AFTER READING

Comprehension

- What role does the pīwakawaka play? (pp 4–11) As a native bird of Aotearoa New Zealand, what is the pīwakawaka's relationship to Tāne?
- Why do you think it was Moa who sacrificed his life to fight off the taniwha? (p 9)
- What do you think the symbols on the right side of the map may represent? (p 12)
- How is the reader shown what happened at the Battle of the North? (p 13) Why do you think this technique was used?
- Why was a double splash page with captions used to show the end of the war? (pp 14–15) What does this tell you about the importance of this event to the narrative?
- Why is the colourisation different on pp 19–21? What does this show?
- Who is Hine-nui-te-pō? (p 19) Who is Whiro? How has Whiro become more powerful than ever? (pp 20–21)
- What caused Tūi to shrink? (p 23) What does she hope to do with her share of the mana steel?
- Why can neither Tāne or Hell'na lift Māui's mystical jawbone? (p 25)
- Who appears from Lake Taupō to help Hell'na's band? (p 27)
- How is Hell'na transformed when she goes into battle? What is her armour made of? (pp 28–29)
- What is a 'psychic'? (p 30)
- How has perspective been used to add drama to the battle scene? (pp 30–31)
- What special power does Hell'na unleash on Kiriana and her gang? (pp 32–33) Where does this power come from? (p 34)
- What has happened to Beach? (p 34)
- What is 'destiny'? How does Tāne know that Whiro will reveal himself? (p 35)
- What has happened to Hell'na's hand? (pp 38–39)
- What do the white symbols on p 39 represent? Who wants to talk to Hell'na?
- What creatures does Whiro appear as? (pp 40–41) Why does he suggest that Hell'na should be fearful of Tāne?
- Who are the figures that appear before Hell'na on pp 48–49?
- Why is the hononga (bond) between Hell'na's band important in their quest to defeat Whiro? (p 53)
- What shocking discovery does Hell'na make on pp 56–57?
- Who uses the negative energy from all those opposed to Tāne to manifest himself? (p 58)
- How does the frame between the two images on p 58 help to clearly show the two sides of the conflict?
- Why does Hell'na's brother, Dre, blow on the shell trumpet? (p 58)
- When the pīwakawaka flies in carrying Māui's bone weapon made from the magic jawbone (p 59), who does the pīwakawaka represent? How do you know this?
- How is onomatopoeia used to show that the glass lake has been broken by Māui's hook? (p 59)
- In the great battle scene on pp 60–61, Commissioner Ngaire's and Hell'na's stationary positions contrast with the dynamic movements around them. What effect does this have?
- What does Hell'na mean when she says 'the gods have been manipulating us since before the fever'? (p 62) Who is standing behind Commissioner Ngaire?
- Why does Pania strike down Tāne? (p 64) What is the significance of the appearance of Tāne's tā moko? What happens to Tāne's power?
- Why can Whiro not understand Tāne's sacrifice? (p 65)
- How do the illustrations show that Hell'na and her band have been transformed into something greater than they were before—into kaitiaki? (p 66)
- What does Hell'na do when she harnesses the power of unity? (p 67)
- How do Whiro's followers describe the aftermath of Whiro being banished underneath the glass lake? (pp 70–71)
- How did Hell'na use Tāne's gift of power? (p 73)
- What does Hell'na want for her people? (p 74)
- What is indicated by the captions 'The End . . .' and 'Or is it?' (p 74)

Activities

- Will the adventure continue? If so, what might happen next? Expand your predictions into a comic strip, including speech bubbles and captions, or write a story about possible future events.
- Using the artists' character interpretations on pp 84–86 as a springboard, create your own artistic interpretation of your favourite character from *The Fall of Tāne*.
- Reread p 76, The Guardians. Imagine that you could power up into a guardian, or kaitiaki. Research to find out more about the Māori gods. Which god would you like to receive powers from? What would the powers be? Would they be represented by a symbol, like Hērūa; an aspect of your physical being, like Beach, Mere and Pania; or would you transform into a different being, like Tūi? What would you look like? What could you do? Draw yourself in your evolved form and write a paragraph describing your gifts, appearance and new abilities.
- Māui sometimes took the form of a pīwakawaka in *The Search for Māui* and *The Fall of Tāne* to watch over people. Now it's your turn. If you could take the form of any animal, bird or insect that is native to Aotearoa New Zealand, which would you choose and why? Research your chosen native creature and present your findings as Google Slides, including photos.
 - Where does your creature live?
 - What does it eat?
 - How big is it?
 - Does it have special features that help it survive?
 - Include interesting facts about your creature.
- Turn to pp 82–83 and check out all the different roles of the people who worked on the This Land project. Which role most interests you and why? Research to find out more about this role or job and write a short paragraph describing what it involves and the training and/or skills needed to do this job.