

Review: LEGO® Adventure Book: Cars, Castles, Dinosaurs & more

By Bruce N H

Pictures by Megan Rothrock

After talking to the author of the book, Bruce N H, admin for Classic-Castle as well as for a series of themed blogs (including TolkienBricks and MicroBricks) gives his personal opinion on Megan Rothrock's fantastic book.

LEGO® Adventure Book: Cars, Castles, Dinosaurs &more, Megan Rothrock, 2013, No Starch Press

In the past few years there has been an explosion of LEGO-themed books, both from official sources and those authored by AFOLs. In my opinion, if you only wanted to buy one LEGO book from 2012, the LEGO Adventure Book: Cars, Castles, Dinosaurs & More is the one to get. Author Megan Rothrock is an active member of the community, and this book reflects that connection. Do you remember the LEGO Idea Books? Over the years LEGO released several of these booklets that went beyond the instruction sets found in any individual set. These books were a mix of instructions and just inspirational photos that could show you what you could build with enough time, practice, and, of course, more LEGO. Meg's book looks back to that tradition, and also celebrates the diverse building of AFOLs from all corners of the Legoverse.



The book is mostly photos (all high quality). What text there is is primarily in comic book style, as Meg's sig-fig travels through the world of LEGO, meeting the sig-figs of other prominent builders and seeing their MOCs. In addition to Meg herself, featured builders come from all different areas of the LEGO community, both geographically and in terms of building theme: Craig Mandeville, Are J. Heiseldal, Moritz Nolting, Jon Hall, Pete Reid, Peter Morris, Mark Stafford, Aaron Andrews, Mike Psiaki, Katie Walker, Carl Greatrix, Sylvain Amacher and Daniel August Krentz.

The book is 200 pages long and contains 'nearly 200 example models from the world's best builders. There are about 25 MOC breakdowns. Not exactly step-by-step instructions as you would get in an official set, but detailed photos at different stages of construction so that an experienced builder could reproduce the model without too much difficulty. Subject matter covers the gamut, from a dinosaur, to a classic castle, to trains, cars and town buildings, to robots, mecha, steampunk and space ships. This is pretty much all at fig scale (except arguably Pete Reid's turtle-bots).

Anyway, I give this book my highest recommendation. The proper audience is just about anyone. The kid starting out will see this as inspiration of all the cool things you can build. The intermediate builder will enjoy reproducing the models. The long-time AFOL will love the celebration of the community, including popular builders and fan-created themes. Perhaps the best part of this book is the fact that it is listed on No Starch as 'Volume 1', implying we've got a whole series of these to come. Perhaps in upcoming books we'll get as-yet missing themes, like Western, or other building scales like micro and miniland. I suspect that even now Meg is contacting people to be involved in future volumes, so I'll be excited to see where this goes in the future.

Links:

Flickr de Meg: www.flickr.com/photos/megzter/

No Starch link for the book: nostarch.com/legoadventure

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