



Date : 24/03/2021

Pages : 56

Format cm : 24 x 30

Prix : 15.0

EAN : 9782369811879

The Mirages of Venus

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Publisher : Rue de Sèvres

Category : Comic Books and Graphic Novels

Genres : Comic Books for all ages

Keywords : Exploration - Spain - Alchemy - Play

This new series set in the *Castle in the Stars* universe takes us to Venus, a planet inhabited by dinosaurs and other dangers.

1874: five years into the space race, Earth's major powers are colonizing the solar system. France and England dispute the sovereignty of Venus which (in keeping with the actual era's scientific beliefs) is a fog-covered jungle world where life is still in the primordial stage. There, operetta actress Hélène Martin is searching for her fiancé, poet Aurélien d'Hormont, an escapee of Napoleon III's labor camps . Pursued by the ominous Duke de Chouvigny and caught up in the rivalry between the two empires, Hélène must make her way through dinosaur-infested jungle and cross stormy oceans to the planet's strangest frontiers, where the vestiges of a mysterious civilization await.

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