



# Comic Publisher Cuts Ties with Neil Gaiman Over Misconduct Allegations

## Description

In a notable development within the literary domain, Dark Horse Comics, the esteemed publisher responsible for disseminating Neil Gaiman's graphic novels, announced this past weekend its decision to sever ties with the author amid a tempest of sexual misconduct allegations. This declaration also entails the suspension of the forthcoming "Anansi Boys" series, an adaptation of Gaiman's acclaimed 2005 novel.

On Saturday, the company articulated its stance on X, stating, "Dark Horse takes seriously the allegations against Neil Gaiman, and we are ceasing all publications related to his works."

This pronouncement followed a revealing article published by New York magazine earlier in the month, which brought to light grave accusations against Gaiman, asserting that he had engaged in sexual abuse and assault against multiple individuals over numerous years. Gaiman has vehemently refuted these allegations, declaring in a statement on January 14: "I have never engaged in non-consensual sexual activity with anyone. Ever."

The ramifications of the allegations against Gaiman have reverberated through various sectors, prompting halts to television adaptations of his works, the discontinuation of productions, and growing reluctance from publishers to collaborate with him on future projects. Dark Horse had previously released the first issue of "Anansi Boys", positioning it as an eight-part series with seven installments already available.

The New York magazine exposé, issued on January 13, crystallized accusations that had begun circulating last summer, spurred by testimonies from several women on a podcast titled "Master: The Allegations Against Neil Gaiman." Following their allegations on the podcast, numerous adaptations of Gaiman's works in film and television were either halted or withdrawn.

While the entertainment sector responded with relative alacrity, the literary and publishing realms exhibited a more measured response, initially characterizing their reactions as tepid. Nonetheless, a discernible distancing from Gaiman has ensued among publishers. Many prominent authors have publicly denounced him or have called for the revocation of his literary accolades.

In an internal memorandum circulated to W.W. Norton staff earlier this month, the president of the company conveyed that they would no longer engage with Gaiman or pursue future collaborations with him.

HarperCollins, a publisher renowned for issuing many of Gaiman's seminal works, has similarly announced that there are no upcoming projects planned with the author.

Efforts to elicit comments from Gaiman's legal counsel and his literary agent at Writer's House have, as of yet, been met with silence.



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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Disseminating** /dɪ'sem.ɪ.neɪt/ (verb): To spread or disperse something especially information widely.
2. **Allegations** /,æɪ.lɪ'geɪ.jənz/ (noun): Claims or assertions that someone has done something illegal or wrong typically made without proof.
3. **Ceasing** /'si:.sɪŋ/ (verb): To bring or come to an end; to stop.
4. **Ramifications** /,ræm.ɪ.fɪ'keɪ.jənz/ (noun): Consequences or outcomes resulting from a particular action or decision.
5. **Exposé** /,ɛk.spə'zeɪ/ (noun): A report or publication that reveals something surprising or shocking often involving wrongdoing.
6. **Denounced** /dɪ'naʊnst/ (verb): To publicly declare something to be wrong or evil.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. Which publisher decided to sever ties with author Neil Gaiman?  
Option: A. Dark Horse Comics  
Option: B. Marvel Comics  
Option: C. DC Comics  
Option: D. Image Comics
2. What is the title of the series that Dark Horse Comics suspended?  
Option: A. Sandman Chronicles  
Option: B. American Gods  
Option: C. The Ocean at the End of the Lane  
Option: D. Anansi Boys
3. Which magazine published an exposé on Neil Gaiman?  
Option: A. Time Magazine  
Option: B. The New Yorker  
Option: C. New York Magazine  
Option: D. Rolling Stone
4. What action did W.W. Norton take regarding Neil Gaiman?



- Option: A. Stopped selling his books
- Option: B. Continued with collaborations
- Option: C. Denounced him publicly
- Option: D. No longer engaged with him

5. Which publisher announced no upcoming projects with Neil Gaiman?

- Option: A. Penguin Random House
- Option: B. HarperCollins
- Option: C. Simon & Schuster
- Option: D. Hachette Book Group

6. What has been the response of publishers towards Neil Gaiman?

- Option: A. Increased collaborations
- Option: B. Official denouncement
- Option: C. Promoting his works
- Option: D. No change in interaction

### True-False

- 7. The entertainment sector overtly supported Neil Gaiman despite the allegations.
- 8. Neil Gaiman accepted the allegations brought against him and acknowledged his actions.
- 9. Dark Horse Comics halted the publication of all works related to Neil Gaiman.
- 10. Prominent authors have shown solidarity with Neil Gaiman amidst the allegations.
- 11. Efforts to get comments from Gaiman's legal counsel have been successful.
- 12. HarperCollins has a history of publishing Neil Gaiman's works.

### Gap-Fill

13. The series "Anansi Boys" was adapted from Neil Gaiman's acclaimed novel published in

\_\_\_\_\_.

14. The New York magazine exposé on Neil Gaiman was issued on \_\_\_\_\_ 13.

15. W.W. Norton decided to no longer engage with Neil Gaiman after an internal memorandum circulated



earlier this \_\_\_\_\_.

16. Efforts to elicit comments from Gaiman's literary agent at Writer's House have been met with

\_\_\_\_\_.

17. HarperCollins announced that there are no upcoming projects planned with Neil Gaiman, signifying a

\_\_\_\_\_ from the author.

18. The allegations against Neil Gaiman prompted halts to television \_\_\_\_\_ of his works.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. A. Dark Horse Comics 2. D. Anansi Boys 3. C. New York Magazine 4. D. No longer engaged with him 5. B. HarperCollins 6. B. Official denouncement

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 2005 14. January 15. month 16. silence 17. distancing 18. adaptations

## Answer

### CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

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