

Venusia

Maxim online

Having mixed parents is always a burden on the child.

Rating:

Reviewed by:

Mike Errico

Venusia, the mind-bending first volume of Mark Von Schlegell's *The System Series*, reads like a head-on collision between a David Lynch film and a Philip K. Dick novel. In the 23rd century, Venus is colonized and ruled by a dictatorship that upholds social control via the enforced feeding of memory-eradicating plants. (Kinda like how TV works, now.) When Rogers, a deadbeat antiques dealer, finds a critical Venusian artifact and decides to get off the hallucinatory hayride, a revolution is sparked, with the disputed real estate being the nature of memory and the fabric of space-time. Like all good sci-fi, it brings the science, but like a blue *Star Trek* episode shot on DV in the Hollywood Hills, it also brings the girl-on-girl action, not to mention the critical girl-on-dwarf-who's-being-controlled-by-a-mind-reading-plant action. (All, thankfully, with no naked Shatner.) A psychedelic sampling of high and low literature that marks the best of the genre, *Venusia* assures that you'll never look at your houseplants the same way again.