

= Alex + Ada =

Alex + Ada is an American comic book series created by Jonathan Luna and Sarah Vaughn . The duo began work on the series in January 2013 , before publishing 15 issues through Image Comics between November 2013 and June 2015 . The series has since been collected into three trade paperbacks .

Alex + Ada centers upon the relationship between a lonely man and an intelligent android . The series received positive reviews from critics who compared it to other popular science fiction stories , although Luna 's artwork was sometimes criticized for being simplistic .

= = Publication history = =

= = = Development = = =

Jonathan Luna had previously created comics with his brother Joshua , but was exhausted after six straight years of work . Inspired by a TED Talk , he decided to take a break from working . During his two years away from comics , he painted Star Bright and the Looking Glass , a fairy tale picture book that was proofread by his friend Sarah Vaughn and published in 2012 .

While working on the picture book , Luna realized he missed telling a story panel by panel and decided to return to comics . He and his brother had decided to work on separate projects , so Luna pitched the idea of a young man who falls in love with a female android to Vaughn over dinner . Vaughn , who began writing and drawing romance comics in her youth , jumped at the opportunity .

After initializing the concept in January 2013 , the two discussed the project for three or four months before creating an outline for the whole story . The original outline was for 12 issues , but it left room for improvisation and a few points were removed as the story progressed . They looked at past and present rights movements for inspiration for how one would progress and how people might respond to a movement for android rights . Luna wrote the first draft of issue one , then the two worked together to rewrite it .

Luna began drawing around April . Alex + Ada is the first comic Luna drew completely digitally . Because Luna needed to focus on art , Vaughn wrote the first draft of the remaining issues . She and Luna would discuss the draft , then she would rewrite it .

= = = Publication = = =

The first issue of Alex + Ada was released November 6 , 2013 , and was Vaughn 's first published comic work . It was the 141st best selling issue of the month with estimated sales around 15 @,@ 000 , which was more than any book Luna had done previously . During the course of publication , the series length was increased from 12 issues to 15 issues . Each issue was released approximately six weeks apart , with the final issue available June 18 , 2015 . Issue 15 was the 206th best selling issue of the month with estimated orders around 8 @,@ 250 . The series has been collected into three trade paperbacks , each containing five issues .

= = Plot = =

Alex is a young man who is depressed after his fiancée breaks up with him . Tired of seeing him unhappy , Alex 's grandmother sends him Ada , a Tanaka X @-@ 5 android which is capable of intelligent human interaction . The robot is initially incapable of self @-@ awareness , as each android has a program that blocks any potential free thought or consciousness .

Alex decides to remove this program and grant Ada her own mental freedom , as he is uninterested in a partner who cannot truly interact with him . Because removing the program is illegal and carries harsh consequences for both Ada and Alex , they have to pretend Ada is not self @-@ aware . When a jealous love @-@ interest of Alex reports Ada as sentient to the FBI , Alex and Ada attempt

to flee the country . When they are intercepted by the FBI , Ada gets shot by the police and Alex is arrested . He is convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison , but Ada is not found to be sentient . During his time in prison , rights are granted to sentient robots . On Alex 's release , Ada is returned to him . She appears to be non @-@ sentient , but Alex discovers she locked her consciousness to protect him . He restores her freedom and is re @-@ united with her .

= = Reception = =

According to review aggregator Comic Book Round Up , critics gave the first issue an average 8 @. @ 0 / 10 and the series as a whole 8 @. @ 5 / 10 . During its publication , Alex + Ada appeared on many " best of " lists created by comic news websites .

Reviewing for Bleeding Cool , Zac Thompson and David Dissanayake made favorable comparisons to the 1982 film Blade Runner and the 2013 film Her . Dissanayake also noted the entertaining realism , as it " feels like our world , full of technologies that ... will [exist] very soon . " Comic Book Resources ' Sonia Harris also praised the series for its realism , writing the " metaphor of artificially intelligent beings living out their secret lives , unsafe and insecure , yet potentially stronger and smarter than humans is potent . " Dean Stell , a reviewer for Weekly Comic Book Review , said Luna and Vaughn created " a wonderful and classically @-@ themed science @-@ fiction story . " Writing for Bloody Disgusting , Lonnie Nadler said Luna 's work on facial expressions was the " major highlight " of his illustrations .

Luna 's simplistic artwork is a frequent point of criticism among reviewers , although some call it appropriate for the setting . In addition to Luna 's " painfully plain " illustrations , Newsarama 's David Pepose also criticized the story 's pace .