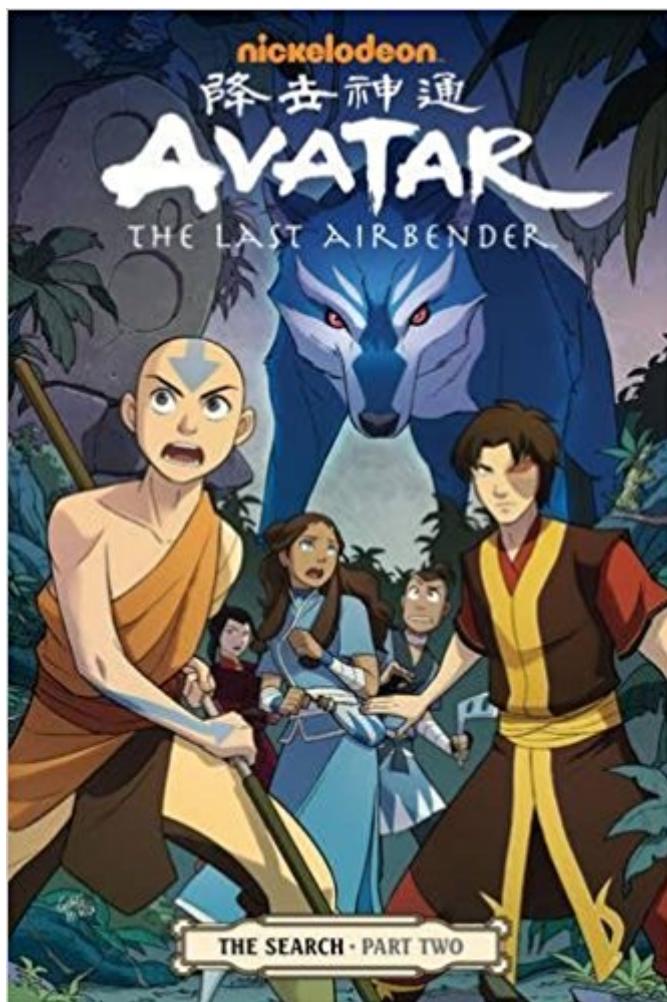


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# Avatar: The Last Airbender: The Search, Part 2



## Synopsis

In search of their long-lost mother, Fire Lord Zuko and his deadly and insane sister Azula have brought Avatar Aang and his friends into a mysterious forest, but what they discover within may be more than they can face. Will they too be lost in these woods forever? \* Perfect companion to Legend of Korra! \* The official continuation of Airbender from its creators. "A fantastic glimpse into the post-series universe... " — Bleeding Cool

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## Customer Reviews

"She was born lucky. You were lucky to be born." That's a pretty harsh thing for a dad to say. But it fits Fire Lord Ozai perfectly. In this story, we see how ruthless he was through some flashbacks that are interspersed with the current adventure. Zuko and Azula as children--Azula already cruel and calculating, hiding behind her childishness to portray false innocence--are caught up in a plot that puts Ozai's deep cruelty on display, revealing why Zuko's mother disappeared and what she was forced to sacrifice. In the present, we see Azula continuing to butt heads with Zuko and with Katara, disturbing every scene with her outbursts and violence as she struggles with visions of her mother telling her her destiny lies beyond the throne. Aang and his crew continue to hunt down Ursa's past, following her trail to the thespian group she was once a part of and finally into the Forgetful Valley. The art is really top notch in this, conveying every mood with depth and implied action where

appropriate, and there's that really nice humor that's familiar from the animated series in moments like Aang being asked if he has secret knowledge because of his Avatar powers only to have him reveal he read it on a sign. And theme-wise, I LOVE the extra layer of brother-sister relationship exploration. We already had Katara and Sokka contrasted powerfully with Zuko and Azula, and now we have the story of Misu and Rafa. Another sister who is loyal to her brother and wants the best for him--and is willing to sacrifice for him. It says so much about their characters when Katara recognizes herself in Misu's actions, but Azula hears nothing but a sob story. She would be an entirely unlikable character if not for her desperation that betrays deep insecurity. I'm looking forward to finding out what happens with the Mother of Faces and Zuko's mother in the final chapter!

If you (or your kid) read the first book in this series, you know (or should know) that an implied sexual situation is important to the plot of this story. That theme continues in this book, which, I thought, was even better than the first in the series. Little kids who know about step parents probably won't catch on, but some kids in the near-tween age group could have some questions. The drawings are excellent. The characterizations are true to the anime series, with some surprising additions to the back story making at least three relationships easier to understand. Or more complicated. Depends on how you look at it. Mild violence. Complicated parental relationships. Other than that, completely appropriate for any age group.

I was practically drooling by the time this got released. The oh-so-juicy twist at the end of the Search Part One had me begging for more. With that said, I forgot to keep in mind that a third one has to come out as well. This means that they can't reveal too much in Part Two. Almost half the book is flashbacks and basically they confirmed everything they had set up about Lady Ursa and Prince Ozai. Nothing came as a surprise, but it was almost nice to have affirmation. It was like the author wanted to say, "yes, this is exactly what happened, you were right." I did enjoy the ending. A trip into the spirit world is always welcome. And the spirit they introduced is really cool looking and I can't wait to find out what happens with her. I was happy that the characters were staying true to who they are (something I thought was lacking in The Promise series). Zuko is the Zuko that I've grown to love (and fangirl over) to a tee. Overall, it was a decent addition, but really leaves the readers itching for book three... which I guess is what they want you to do.

As a huge fan of this series, though admittedly not until after the series had nearly ended on TV, I want to love every bit of ancillary Avatar: The Last Airbender fiction. I got so hyped for the live action

movie, and was so let down. I wanted more Avatar, more GOOD Avatar, and eventually went searching for news from the creators of the cartoon. That's when I stumbled on the existence of the comics, and I knew I had to buy them. So I gathered up old gift cards to alleviate the strain on my wallet, and bought The Promise and the first two parts of The Search (part three was not published yet) all at once, and I am so glad that I did. The art is beautiful, and the story so immediately captures the tone and pace of the cartoon that before long it was like watching the show again, which was in turn like revisiting an old friend. Continuing where part one left off, this installment suffers a bit from the "middle installment syndrome" that is a necessary part of so many trilogies. It had a lot to set up, and did this effectively, but it didn't actually resolve anything. Also, while this isn't glaring enough that I would lower my score over it, I thought the foreshadowing for the big twist in the next installment (you'll see what I mean if you read these) was a slight bit too heavy-handed, as I caught on immediately. Of course this could just be something that I picked on for some inexplicable reason that no one else would, so this complaint might not even be valid. Either way, this comic is as much a must have for fans of the series as any of them are.

This book was amazing.! The storyline and plot were excellent! When the TV series ended I always wished they would have revealed what happened to Zuko's mother. And now we finally know! I especially loved the flashbacks so we could see the lives of the royal family members before the avatar story took place. It explained so much. I'm so glad the creators made this book and I hope they will continue to make more.

I have been a fan of the Avatar ever since I was a kid and this book had an amazing story line on how Zuko found his mother. It shows how far Zuko has come as a person in regaining the fire nation's honor and how no matter what had happened between his father and him. I recommend anyone who loved Avatar as a kid or even as an adult when this first came out, to continue on with the story line after the 100 year war.

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