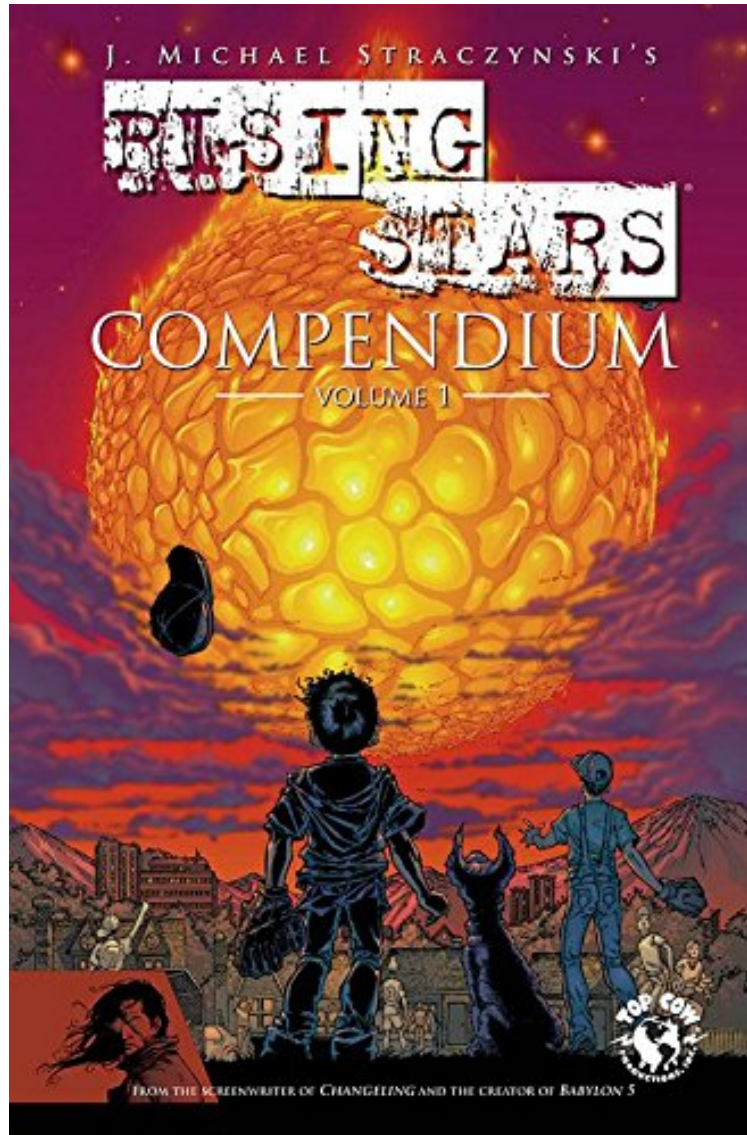


## Rising Stars Compendium

*J. Michael Straczynski*  
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#458670 in Books 2015-03-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.10 x 1.70 x 6.60l, .84 #File Name: 16321524601008 pages | File size: 18.Mb

**J. Michael Straczynski : Rising Stars Compendium** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rising Stars Compendium:

56 of 57 people found the following review helpful. Collected Material=good. Quality and design of book=not so good. By SBI'm not going to review the actual content of this book. There are lots of other reviews out there in which you can learn about this great comic book series. What you really want to know is: should I shell out for this or not? If you are familiar with the paperback "Compendium" editions from Top Cow, this is exactly like those, except

hardcover. That's a major improvement, as those compendium paperbacks were easily damaged. It is very thick, unlike the item displayed in the picture. The image content fills the pages: unlike Marvel Omnibuses or hardcovers, there are no borders at all. Also unlike the Marvel books, the paper is rather flimsy and thin, although glossy with good reproduction quality. In fact, the pages seem thinner than standard comic book paper used by most independent comic book publishers. The page size is exactly the same as standard comic book pages. The reason to buy this book is to get all this content in one place, and there is a ton of that. They aren't kidding when they list 1000 pages. But other than that the book design isn't much. Unlike competing oversize editions published by DC, Dark Horse, or Image, these Compendiums are the size of standard comic books. That's a real let down for fans and a missed opportunity for the publisher. Without borders around the artwork, some of it gets lost in the massive spine fold. The weight of the book makes it unwieldy, and easy to lose your grip on-- so the flimsy pages become a real liability--easy to damage as you fumble with the book in your lap. They also feel like they might tear if you turn the pages with any strength. I am quite happy with this despite those complaints, as I didn't have any of this material in another format. For those who do have other versions of these issues, collected or otherwise, there's not much motivation to buy this, as it really is just a bunch of standard comics bound into a thick and heavy tome.

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful.  
Great Story, Horrible Binding  
By Robert Ringenberg  
As others have said the story is great. The binding on the book is already falling apart after ONE reading! The glue holding the cover to the spine of the interior pages has released. I skipped buying the hardcover because of problems people said they were having and find the soft cover has the same problem. This is inexcusable for a professionally produced book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
Great story. Bad book.  
By John Nagle  
I had read through Rising Stars before and wanted to get the Compendium to have a complete collection of the story. Let me just say that the it holds up very well and is pretty thoroughly fleshed out and planned straight from the beginning. There are a few characters and plots that seem to be thrown in towards the end because they needed a person to fit within that specific trait, but all fairly forgivable. The art can be hit or miss, though, especially when compared to comics that came out more recently. It matches the Top Cow style of the era, as can be seen in titles like The Darkness, in that the guys tend to be big and muscly and the girls thin and beautiful. The absolute worst part of this is the quality of the book itself. As in the physical product you hold in your hands. Top Cow must have cheaped out completely on the glue for it because it literally fell apart in my hands after a few hours of reading. I think the thing that really did it was this one part where you hold a page up to the light to see through it to read it properly. It was a pretty incredible gimmick when I first came across it. A book this size you can't do that and now I'm suffering for it. It just makes me regret waiting to buy this big version just to have it fall apart as soon as I get it. If you're looking for a collector's piece or library version, this should fit your needs. If you've read the story before and want to reread it, it should too, but be fore-warned, it will fall apart on you. If you haven't read it before, I highly suggest doing so, just probably not this version.

When Rising Stars first debuted in 1999, people hailed its fresh take on the superhero mythos, grounding the fantastic in reality. The groundbreaking series about a group of people who are born with special abilities after a mysterious light appears in the sky by acclaimed writer J. Michael Straczynski (Babylon 5, Amazing Spider-Man, Thor) spawned three spin-off mini-series and has influenced successful TV shows like The 4400 and Heroes. This collection includes all 24 issues of J. Michael Straczynski's run on Rising Stars, as well as all three spin-off mini-series written by his protege, Fiona Avery.