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John Constantine, Hellblazer, Vol. 1: Original Sins



Synopsis

The very first Hellblazer collection ORIGINAL SINS is available in a new edition that includes John Constantine's appearances in SWAMP THING. This is the first of a series of new HELLBLAZER editions starring Vertigo's longest running antihero, John Constantine, England's chain-smoking, low-rent magus. This first collection is a loosely connected series of tales of John's early years where Constantine was at his best and at his worst, all at the same time.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Vertigo; New edition edition (March 8, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1401230067

ISBN-13: 978-1401230067

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 0.7 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 117 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #58,377 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Mystery #131 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Horror #182 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > DC

Customer Reviews

I thought the story to this was interesting, I saw the movie first then was intrigued to buy the Graphic Novel, I just think that the aspect of him trying to buy his way into Heaven was interesting, Keanu Reeves would have looked weird with blond hair though...

It arrived in perfect condition and in a timely manner. The illustrations are delightful and the story is great. I've already read it a few times and I see myself reading several more times. I originally got this after watching the movie "Constantine" with "Keanu Reeves". While searching the internet I found the it was originally a comic book. So I bought this and was in no way disappointed. So whether you're a hardcore comic fan or just happening across it, I think it's something you'll enjoy as well.

I will preface this with the caveat that I love Hellblazer, and remembered the comic fondly from my teenage years when it was my first glimpse at the darker and more adult elements of the DC

universe. Jamie Delano's writing is often quite good but very inconsistent. The first arc, "Hunger," is particularly strong and serves as a great introduction to the world of the character. John Constantine's dual nature is really established here, but Delano's later arcs don't seem to know what to do with them. Furthermore, the "Damnation Army" and the Crusaders are not particularly lived in or adult conceptions of fanaticism. Later stories with John Constantine do better justice to these concepts but this early one feels of caricature. Some stories do have a touch of Alan Moore which seems to have effected Delano as does the grittiness of some like Miller. Moore's politics seem closer to Delano's despite the latter seeming love of seedy and the gritty, and this really shows up in "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," which digs into the social damage of the Vietnam war in an effective but ultimately not very deep way. Moore would linger more but Delano does not. The art is dark, messy, and slight off, but hasn't aged as well as one would hope. It is more gritty than noir, and sometimes the figure work seems sloppy and the demons cartoonish. That said, the original muted colors are crucial, and I am glad they are maintained here. The styles seem root it in the 1980s but some of the art is distractingly inconsistently drawn and feels even older than it is. The Swamp Thing stories seem to break the continuity a bit, and while it is nice to see Delano's work, the context for them is largely lacking. Overall, this is a very inconsistent volume but the promise of the character is definitely there.

I enjoyed the book overall and had fun watching them build the characters. However I was totally in over my head in the final two issues which are a swampthing story that just happens to have Constantine in them. The writing is very good and shows the amount of time and quality that DC has spent on their craft. I only wish that the art had been more adventurous in terms of style. Hellblazer's story is unlike any other. I would hope that it would have art to match rather than a more traditional "pulp" style of comic.

The early Constantines (which the show is following a bit) are brutal and keep one's attention. Bringing him into the DC universe was, to me, a mistake. This is the way John should be. A loner.

I've recently become obsessed with Constantine vol 1 is very good already ordered vol 2 with a lot more hellblazer to go!

Loved this series! I ordered the second volume as soon as I finished this one.

The artwork is stunning with a interesting narrative to back it up. I'm currently on the 4th volume of the hellblazer series and so far I gotta say this might be my favorite so far. If you want to dive into the world of Constantine start here.

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