



The Black Incal

Alexandro Jodorowsky , Moebius (Illustrator)

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The Sci-Fi masterpiece by Moebius and Jodorowsky about the tribulations of the shabby detective John Difoool as he searches for the precious and coveted Incal. John Difoool, a low-class detective in a degenerate dystopian world, finds his life turned upside down when he discovers an ancient, mystical artifact called The Incal. Difoool's adventures will bring him into conflict with the galaxy's greatest warrior, the Metabaron, and will pit him against the awesome powers of the Technopope. These encounters and many more make up a tale of comic and cosmic proportions that has Difoool fighting for not only his very survival, but also the survival of the entire universe

The Black Incal Details

Date : Published March 19th 2014 by Humanoids (first published 1981)

ISBN :

Author : Alexandro Jodorowsky , Mœbius (Illustrator)

Format : Kindle Edition 48 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Bande Dessinée, Science Fiction, Graphic Novels

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From Reader Review The Black Incal for online ebook

Rachel Fellows says

Feels a bit like The Fifth Element and Heavy Metal. Quite campy and weird. But it's Jodorowski, so that's to be expected. Pretty cool to read this right after reading Akira: Otomo and Moebius have a lot in common.

James Adams says

A fun, surreal SF head-trip that doesn't make a lick of sense.

Moebius is a legend in comics, but I've always thought he was better at design than character work, and nothing here made me rethink that. This is not his best work by any stretch.

Jodo is also a legend, and ridiculously prolific, but coherence has never been his first priority. It sure as hell isn't here. He's known, in his films, for putting image and symbol before story, and this work follows that pattern. Sadly, as I've said, the visuals here don't merit that emphasis. Still, there is some inspired silliness and the action is well executed.

In the end, this collaboration between two masters just doesn't live up to its promise. Neither artist is at his best, and the whole thing is a mess. But it's a glorious mess, and can be quite fun. Still, not enough that I care to continue the series.

Sam Quixote says

I put off reading this one after seeing a clip a while back from Alejandro Jodorowsky's movie The Holy Mountain where a screaming naked old geezer wearing cheetah breasts squirts milk into the face of a kneeling man (for your trauma/amusement, here's that scene), thinking that his comics were gonna be equally inaccessible, utterly incomprehensible and way too fartschool-y. And I was wrong - or at least half wrong - when it came to the first Incal book!

Set in a futuristic universe full of the usual talking aliens and flying cars, a lowly private investigator called John Difoel stumbles across a mysterious glowing object - The Incal - not realising its immense power. But others do know and John must stay one step ahead from the various forces arrayed against him!

Given Jodorowsky's arthouse background, the story is surprisingly fast-paced, coherent and full of action: from the opening scene, John is thrown off a Judge Dredd-esque Mega-City One high rise and has to outrun cops and thugs with blasters, and aliens and whatnot are getting mugged left and right! Coupled with Moebius' striking art, the book looks and reads a lot like the excellent late '90s movie The Fifth Element - not surprising though given that Moebius was a storyboard artist on that film, along with other sci-fi classics like Alien and Tron.

Everything people say about Moebius' art is right. He's got an incredible sense of perspective, a keen eye for action and great vision for strange new worlds. If the sci-fi visuals seem overly familiar it's because he was one of the original architects for these kind of modern space stories. Also, unlike a lot of '80s comics, The Incal has aged really well and doesn't look its 35+ years - it still looks very contemporary.

(Total aside: I wonder if Grant Morrison is a Jodorowsky fan? Probably - they both write trippy, out-there comics - maybe Jodorowsky was an influence? It's funny seeing the character of The Metabaron here because he looks exactly like Morrison does today! Maybe Morrison is a Jodorowsky creation come to life...? Alright, I'll stop there - I'm just kidding but still I'd bet Morrison was heavily influenced by Jodorowsky.)

Besides The Metabaron, the various adversaries chasing John are kinda rushed being setup and I felt a bit overwhelmed at so many characters being thrown at me in one go. Also, the constant chasing - John being captured, escaping, reacting to one bizarre situation from the next, repeat - gets a bit tired after a while.

Things get fairly convoluted once The Incal starts showing John its powers - dividing him up into quarters, each somehow sentient. It's not really clear either why everyone wants The Incal given that all it seems to do is fuck with you, but then this is just the introductory book so I don't expect everything to be explained right off the bat. For now it's like the Infinity Stones in the Marvel movies: a powerful cosmic MacGuffin driving the plot.

I didn't love The Incal, Volume 1: The Black Incal but I didn't dislike it like I thought I would. I might continue with the series, though I'm in no rush to. That said, if you're after an intelligent and pretty decent, if abstract, space opera, The Incal might be for you.

Michael Finocchiaro says

There are few series as iconic in the sci-fi geek comic genre as Incal. This series is just as beautifully drawn with absurd and funny storylines as any you can find.

Timothy Urges says

The work of Moebius is always amazing. It was the plot I couldn't get into but I'm interested in reading more.

Donovan says

Action movie dialog meets intricate futurism sci-fi and world building, with artwork of incredible detail. Intriguing.

Aildiin says

One of the great classic of french bandes dessinees, drawn by the master Moebius (Jean Giraud).

I highly recommend this.

This book started a universe of over 30 books but the core is really the 6 books that make the Incal story.

Przemek Skoczyński says

Gdybym w końcu przeczytał "Diun?", to bym się pewnie wyśmiał w temacie powiasta z dziełem Herberta, ale póki co wszystko przede mną, więc wiem tyle ile przeczytałem w posowie "Incala". Na początku nie zachwycały mnie grafiki, a historia wydawała się nieco chaotyczna, ale z czasem ten komiks wciąga niemiłosiernie. Efekt jest taki, że kończysz po tych ponad 300 stronach i chcesz więcej. W każdym razie sięgam po "Przed Incalem". PS. Wielka szkoda, że obecnie rzecz jest nie do kupienia w Polsce.

Devlocke says

Interesting beginning.

No idea what is going on. But as bizarre as I could have hoped. Looking forward to finding out if it goes somewhere, or makes zero sense, in the ensuing volumes.

Øystein Tobias Foss Langeland says

Beautifully absurd

I love the artwork and how Jodorowsky really is true to his mystical and slightly absurd style. Beautiful, funny and deliciously weird!

Ed says

This is quite wonderful. Möbius's art is gorgeous, of course and Jodorowsky does a great job of balance storytelling with world building. It gets better as it goes, but this first installment is already great.

Helena says

Full review: <http://semtudo.pt/2017/07/06/o-incal-...>

Esta banda desenhada é uma ficção científica/fantasia onde encontramos de tudo: extraterrestres, cientistas, monstros, amor, guerras e etc. A história transmite algum mistério em relação ao mítico Incal, mas a ilustração de Moebius chama mais à atenção.

Youboox says

Dans un futur lointain, une autre galaxie ou un autre espace-temps, l'Incal et l'immense pouvoir qu'il confère exacerbent toutes les convoitises. John Difool, minable détective de classe R adepte d'homéoputes et de bon ouisky se retrouve embarqué malgré lui dans cette course à l'Incal. Il aura affaire à des mouettes qui parlent, des extraterrestres idiots, un empire dictatorial ultra violent, des rats de 15 mètres commandés par une déesse nue, une bataille mémorable dans une fourmilière, une secte adepte des trous noirs, mais surtout une bataille intersidérale entre le bien et le mal.

Cette bande dessinée est culte et ce n'est pas pour rien !

Il s'agit certainement d'une des oeuvres majeures de Moebius et Jodorowsky. Avec cet ouvrage, la bande-dessinée n'a plus rien à envier à la littérature et déploie tout son potentiel romanesque dans un savant mélange de science-fiction, d'aventure, d'humour et d'ésotérisme.

Plus qu'une histoire rocambolesque !

Avec ce premier tome, on embarque dans un monde qui ne semble avoir aucune frontière. Les deux auteurs ont créé un véritable univers, riche, délirant et plein d'humour, coloré et sombre à la foi, un monde fou qui fait parfois écho à notre société actuelle. On retrouve au fil des planches mais aussi des tomes, philosophie, religion, politique le tout grâce à un anti-héros auquel on s'attache très vite...

Plus qu'une aventure extraordinaire dans un univers fantastique, L'Incal, c'est aussi l'histoire d'un homme médiocre, égoïste et lâche qui, dépassé par les événements qui le touchent, prend peu à peu conscience de sa propre valeur : un véritable parcours initiatique empli de poésie !

<http://app.youboox.fr/share/books/137788>

Cathy (cathepsut) says

First published in 1981 and I probably read it shortly thereafter, as a teenager, branching out from Tintin, wanting something more artistic and with a deeper storyline. I could still kick myself that I didn't keep those early editions.

I like everything about it, the story, the humour, the line art, the colouring. A lot of running, shooting, blowing stuff up, sci fi geek madness, The Fifth Element absurdness and it is as good as I remember.

Alec Watkins says

Impressive

This story was exactly what I was hoping for from this acclaimed artist. Similar to Philip L Dick in the style of science fiction, but more like Harrison Burgeron meets Fifth Element in implementation. I'll have to add this one to my permanent collection soon enough.
