



Hellblazer: Haunted

Warren Ellis , John Higgins (Illustrator) , Tim Bradstreet (Illustrator)

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Learning of the murder of a love from his past, cynical mystic John Constantine descends into London's underworld to uncover the circumstances of her death and catch her mysterious killer. Embarking on a journey that leaves him beaten and battered, Constantine is forced to relive his ex-lover's miserable fall from grace and her brutal murder. Pushed to his physical and emotional limits, the Hellblazer confronts the sadistic murderer and psychotic magician Josh Wright and makes him pay for all of his sins and a few extra for good measure.

SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS.

Collects issues 134-139.

Hellblazer: Haunted Details

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Author : Warren Ellis , John Higgins (Illustrator) , Tim Bradstreet (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Hellblazer: Haunted for online ebook

Geoff Sebesta says

John Constantine I am sick of your ex-girlfriends.

Joe Kucharski says

HAUNTED is a particularly dark and violent tale, even for HELLBLAZER. An ex-flame of John Constantine's is found murdered, spectacularly mind you, and, suspecting magic was involved, John goes on a rampage to find her killer in order to bring peace to her ghost. In typical Constantine fashion, John's retribution is turned back on him in a most physical way as he burns yet another bridge or two while coercing the assists he requires.

John Higgins remains as the artist on this arc, and whereas his art for the previous storyline, SON OF MAN, had a cartoony, even comical, feel to it, his style has refined for this outing. Higgins' crisp, thin ink work brings out a great indie style that is also all together British.

Warren Ellis' script, however, is unnecessarily padded and unequally unnecessarily graphic. Gore, horror and over-ripe descriptions are par for the course in this title, but Ellis' shocking violence and blatant hatred of women and children is both crude and lazy. I remember reading this story during its monthly publication run back in early 1999 and finding the tale to be one of the better ones leading up to Brian Azzarello's run. While the plot and the machinations of the story workings themselves indeed make for a great Constantine read, and now re-read in collected form, the over-the-top violence comes across as gratuitous.

Ellis, however, does capture one of the more rounded Constantine voices, making this rogue the perfect London haunt.

Taylor says

This is my favorite Hellblazer story arc...maybe it's just because I really like Warren Ellis...

Artemy says

Brilliant and very disturbing story. Warren Ellis at his best.

47Time says

The image of London in this story is of a dreadful, bleak place where some people die easily and are forgotten instantly. John seems to have the ability to see people's darkest sins and he takes advantage of that

information to force them to help him. He can also send a psychic message to someone far away and apply inventive psychological torture to his enemies. Basically, this seems to be John 2.0, but it's a welcome addition to an already cool character.

John reads in the newspaper about the death of one of his old girlfriends named Isabel. He finds more details from an inspector that owes him: the girl was mutilated before death, then raped. She also lost the child she was preagnant with. John is determined, even obsessed, to find the culprit.

(view spoiler)

Robert Hudder says

This volume brings with it the slight paranoia of Ellis along with the asides. It is different layouts than previous volumes. This one has a bunch of repeats towards the end. And some of the melancholy and nostalgic stories feel like filler. The newness of the layouts add a cinematic feel to the stories and also serve to separate us from John a bit. Not sure if it adds to the loneliness that seems to be coming from the sad fucker but there is something about this style that gives a new twist to this character.

It is Ellis writing. So, there is humour and words. Funny, thought there might be more wordiness but it didn't come to pass.

Misbah says

Sheesh that was gory. Having only seen the movie prior to reading this, I was definitely NOT ready for the amount of blood and snot in this very *graphic* graphic novel.

Constantine learns that an ex girlfriend has recently been brutally murdered and suspects that the murderer is a fellow magician. He gets help locating the bad guy and tortures him.

I'm not used to reading graphic novels outside of the Marvel/DC verses but despite the dark subject matter I am definitely intrigued.

Aaron says

Excellent distillation of John Constantine. Ellis gets this character, but I took one star off for the crummy art.

Karl Whitney says

John Constantine is one of the more unique comic book characters. An anti-hero in every sense of the word. No super powers to speak of Constantine is a foul, and foul-mouthed, chain-smoking part wizard, part detective, part demonologist. His is a world lower than the most seedy underbelly. He's a man who has seen the kind of death, sorrow, and evil that would drive the average man insane, and perhaps has already done so

to Constantine.

This Warren Ellis tale tells of an old lover named Isabelle who is horribly murdered. John investigates to find that his old friend had died as a cheap prostitute barely living on the fringes of society. John eventually finds out she came under the domination of a rival mage who did unspeakable things to her before killing her. Reluctantly John needs help and calls upon a couple of old friends. The ending...well, to say the ending was one of the more disturbing things I've ever read or seen in a comic would be understating it. It's not pretty, but then that is Constantine's world

Quentin Wallace says

Warren Ellis presents a more traditional style Hellblazer story.

In this one Constantine's ex girlfriend is sacrificed in a horrible manner, and John is out for revenge. It was pretty nice to read a straight forward revenge story after a lot of metaphysical type stories in prior volumes.

Overall a good read with decent art. Curious to see where else Ellis takes the series.

Shannon Appelcline says

Ellis takes over, and he offers us a very different sort of *Hellblazer*: it's deeply personal, not about any great crises; and it's very human, not about demons and faeries. It's also much more decompressed than the Jenkins run, going 6 issues for a small story.

The focus on character works well, as we really get to appreciate Constantine at his best and worst. Constantine's inner dialogues are often written at length, and they feel very true to the character. As for that story: it's grotesque at time, but it's also got just the slightest tinge of fanciful magic, with Isabel's ghost and Map in the Underground. Overall, it's a nice new direction for the comic.

Simone says

Se vuoi leggere la mia recensione, clicca qui! <http://ascwblog.blogspot.it/2016/06/h...>

Mike Cruden says

This is the first collection of Warren Ellis' run of Hellblazer stories, and if ever a series and a writer were made for each other, this is it. The story concerns the brutal, sadistic murder of one of Constantine's past loves, and no detail is spared in the graphic description of this murder, and Constantine's ensuing quest for vengeance, which results in his suffering quite a beating from some thugs. Part of the horror in this book is from the details of the story itself, but much of it also comes from the utter degradation of London itself,

which Ellis depicts almost as another version of hell, a complete wasteland, which, if you knew where to look, could be said of every major city.

The reason I haven't given this book a higher rating is the artwork, which is an important part of the package with a graphic novel. John Higgins' art is competent enough, and it carries the story well, but there's nothing particularly exciting about it, and in fact I find it too cartoony and not realistic enough to enhance this series, which has a very "streets" feel to it. Very worthy of particular mention are the covers to the individual comics by Tim Bradstreet, which are excellent and do convey the grittiness mentioned above.

This graphic novel and others like it plus individual Hellblazer comics are available from
<http://internet-comics.ebid.net>

Bayandur says

John Constantine, con-man and magician, finds out his ex-girlfriend from seven years ago has been killed. He calls in some favors from friends - to find the murderer and give 'im hell.

Now it's the first book of Hellblazer written by Warren Ellis. And the first Ellis piece I've ever read too.

Ellis' Hellblazer is a lot darker than that of Garth Ennis, and that of Delano, and even that of Moore. But... I might be a bit skeptical at first, reading a new author when you think you know all the good ones, Ellis is mesmerizing. His imagery borders with that of magical realism - Gabriel Garcia Marquez kind of stuff. John Constantine is a lot more into magic right now (though his treatment of Aleister Crowley brought in my old scorn for authors, like "read a couple of books and you fancy yourself experts on magic and Crowley, don't you").

The only reason I didn't give this book full 5 stars is that the John Constantine bloke has become a bit of a cardboard character now; though there were moments in Isabelle's diary (woefully little of them in the book) that really touched me. Maybe I've been hooked on Neil Gaiman's "Sandman" for too long, but I like the way Gaiman enriches the plot with side-stories and sentimental stuff.

And the reasons I didn't give the book three stars - the near-perfect portrayal of Isabelle's character in her writing style and John Constantine's Monologue on London Bridge.

Christian says

The usual hardboiled nonsense. Two white blokes fighting over a dead girl - a junkie prostitute, in this case. Lots of incomprehensible English slang and soliloquies about the dark side of London.
