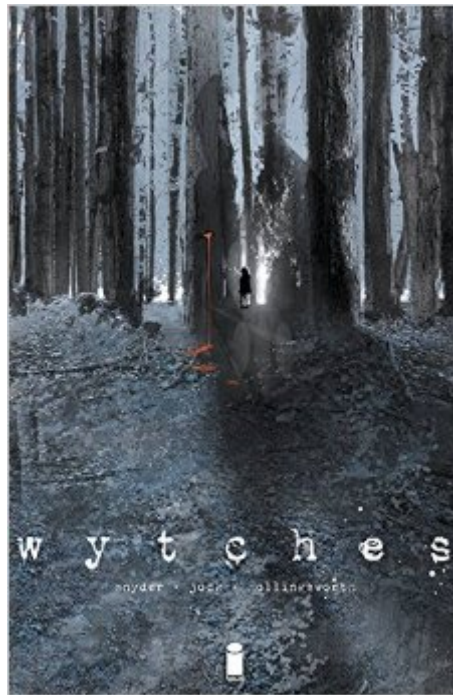


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# Wytches, Vol. 1



## Synopsis

It's fabulous. A triumph. -Stephen King  
Dark and brutal... Wytches are like nothing horror fans have ever seen  
-USA Today  
Everything you thought you knew about witches is wrong. They are much darker, and they are much more horrifying. Wytches takes the mythology of witches to a far creepier, bone-chilling place than readers have dared venture before. When the Rooks family moves to the remote town of Litchfield, NH to escape a haunting trauma, they're hopeful about starting over. But something evil is waiting for them in the woods just beyond town. Watching from the trees. Ancient...and hungry. Collects Wytches #1-6  
The most terrifying comic you've ever read.  
-MTV News  
Dark and brutal... Wytches are like nothing horror fans have ever seen  
-USA Today  
Very, very scary... Much like the works of Mary Shelley and the other writers of the Villa Diodati...  
-Paste Magazine  
Snyder has tackled horror before, but Wytches sets out to be an entirely new level of scary.  
-Complex Magazine  
An awesome and at times terrifying tale.  
-IGN

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Pledged is pledged. Wytches: Volume 1 chills like an icy whisper of wind across the back of your neck as you walk alone through a dark forest. Atmospheric and original | author Scott Snyder's script unleashes a dark, earthy terror that is both new yet primal while artists Jock and Hollinsworth deliver a motion picture-like experience from the cheery to grainy grim the splattered watercolor effect feeling like old celluloid and reminiscent of the found footage style of horror film-making. The opening pages are disturbingly visceral in terms of both the primeval setting and

on the human relational level â “ and you should be completely hooked (and uneasy) by end of the first scene. And while the opening chapters of *Wytches* threaten to be an impossible jigsaw of the macabre, Synder wisely hammers the ghoulish and gruesome into order, developing a mature (and amazingly heartfelt) story, where all the pieces fit. This is mythos building, and Synderâ™s creature designs (and their black symbiosis with humanity) is reminiscent of the monster-making Bram Stoker did in *Dracula* complete with a Van Helsing-esque opposition. *Wytches* hits that same vein, introducing a new terror to the genre ... that, at the same time, also seems like itâ™s a horror that has actually been around for a very, very long time, lurking on the borders of the human subconscious, waiting for some intrepid soul to give it name and give it form. Everything about this book is so good â | from the warped designs of the monsters to the amazingly well-developed characters â | even the trade-dress is well done, with the full-page covers of the monthly comics acting as chapter dividers.

It's not fashionable these days to see intelligent horror... meaning horror that also pays attention to the emotions and experiences of its characters. Scott Snyder's *Wytches* seemed to offer that when I first noticed it on my reading list, so I went in with high hopes. This story most definitely did not disappoint. The plot is fairly basic - beastly creatures tormenting a family in New Hampshire. As I read it, though, something unexpected came to the surface; a story with emotional depth that stayed with me long after any of the scares or gore of the story. The main characters in this story are Charlie and Sailor Rook, a father and daughter who have been through emotional hell even before the story starts. Charlie and Sailor are still dealing with the recent accident that has paralyzed matriarch Lucy when an added trauma is heaped on top of them; the death of a teenage girl who had been bullying Sailor. The family decides that a new start in a new town is what they need to heal, but the traumas still follow them (as we see when kids in Sailor's new school ask her if she killed the now deceased bully). Of course, this is a horror story, so the move stirs up more trouble in the form of the misshapen, flesh-eating wytches of the woods. It seems that someone has 'pledged' Sailor to these monsters in exchange for having them fulfill their deepest wishes. The story follows a familiar path, with Charlie fighting to find and free his daughter from their grasp. What sets this story apart is the emotional weight that Synder handles so deftly. Sailor appears to suffer from an anxiety disorder that Charlie struggles to understand and alleviate for her - while Charlie himself struggles with alcoholism that has made him absent in his daughter's life.

The hype for this book may have set it up to disappoint. After all, MTV News called it, "The most

terrifying comic you've ever read" and USA Today said, "Dark and brutal, Wytches are like nothing horror fans have ever seen." I'm a Scott Snyder fan. I enjoy his work on Batman, love American Vampire, and hold his short story collection, Voodoo Heart, in the highest regard (seriously - read it). But, to be frank, the blurbs on the Wytches back cover exercised such hyperbole that it created impossible expectations. Is this a good book? Yeah, it's okay. To be honest, it's not great, nor is it the scariest thing I've ever read. Personally, I didn't even find it all that original. For me, the best part were Snyder's notes at the end explaining the idea's origination. The idea is that Wytches are a primal force of nature, inexplicably advanced horrors that wear no clothes and incessantly click their teeth. They live underground, eat people, and come out through trees. People can sacrifice other people to gain power from these monsters, though it's never remotely explained how or by what means this "advanced" technology unfolds. In the end, this story is about a troubled teenager hunted by these creatures and her troubled father's attempts to save her. I generally love Jock's artwork. Though his angles and layouts are not groundbreaking, they are always pleasing to the eye, dynamic, and they progress the story well from panel to panel, page to page. Matt Hollingsworth's colors were a controversial aspect of the book for me. On the one hand, I've never seen coloring like his. At the core of each panel, you have traditional coloring. However, each panel or complete page is overlaid with splotches of colors.

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