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John Constantine, Hellblazer Vol. 1: Original Sins (Hellblazer (Graphic Novels))



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

File Size: 148555 KB

Print Length: 304 pages

Publisher: Vertigo; New edition edition (June 4, 2013)

Publication Date: June 4, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00D59OIYW

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #125,320 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #42

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Horror

Customer Reviews

Not too long ago I saw a trailer for an upcoming show called Constantine and I was blown away by how cool it looked. I found out it was based on a comic book called Hellblazer and five minutes of research later I was looking on for the first book. The premise and protagonist were so brilliant I knew I would love it right away. After reading Volume 1, I'm proud to say that I was right. Hellblazer tells the story of John Constantine; a cynical, foul-mouthed, chain-smoking, Liverpudlian magician, con-man, and occult detective who protects humanity from black magic and demons. Despite being a master sorcerer, he rarely ever uses magic. This is because unlike most people, John understand

the dangers of his art. He chooses to only use magic as a last resort, instead relying on his talent for manipulation to get himself out of bad situations. Batman may be the world's greatest detective, but John Constantine is the world's greatest con-man. This talent makes him a very morally ambiguous character. He'll save hundreds of people, but manipulate and use them in order to do it. He's not a hero and he doesn't try to be, he's just a guy making a living doing what he does best. Unfortunately this living has been the death of several close friends who continue to haunt him years later. John Constantine is a brilliant character. Despite being morally ambiguous you can't help but love him and hope he wins. Even if you don't like the story, Hellblazer is worth reading just because of its protagonist. This book contains the first nine issues of the comic, referred to as the Original Sins arc. The story is very episodic, the issues being only loosely connected to each other. Together they serve as an excellent introduction to the world of Hellblazer.

This new version of the Original Sins TPB includes the first 9 issues of Hellblazer from 1988 along with issues #76-77 of the Swamp Thing. The first nine issues of Hellblazer involve a man named John Constantine who plays a role between heaven and hell and keeps the people safe from their literal demons all while being shunned from those of a higher, heavenly authority. The first issues involve Constantine helping an old friend who ended up releasing a demon named Mnemoth who makes people develop a voracious appetite for that which they covet and they eventually starve from it. Constantine is forced to use his contacts and find the evil beast plaguing the people and coax it right into a trap! Later, after thwarting a bit of demon politics, he meets a woman named Zed who becomes quite the love interest all the while helping him find a lost girl in a sickening kidnapping and then, after heading to the states to check on his old buddy Swamp Thing, encounters a man from Vietnam that is still haunted by the mental wounds of war that envelope him. Constantine, hot on the trail of a religious sect, learns that he's not the only one who wants Zed and figures out that the cult has taken her and is using her as a "virgin Mary" of sorts and it's up to him to get her out of her predicament! In the issues of Swamp Thing, the Swamp Thing possesses Constantine's body to bear a child with Swamp Thing's wife but she is (rightfully) uncomfortable with the whole ordeal and doesn't truly believe it's Alec in Constantine's body and not just Constantine himself playing a devious trick. As she flees to think things through, she encounters the real Constantine back in his own body and learns that he's really out to protect her and bring her back to her love.

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