



Hellblazer: Black Flowers

Mike Carey , Marcelo Frusín (Illustrator) , Lee Bermejo (Illustrator) , Jock (Illustrator)

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Continuing Mike Carey's acclaimed run on HELLBLAZER, BLACK FLOWERS ratchets up the suspense as Constantine begins to see — and battle — the signs of a coming apocalypse in the stories "The Game of Cat and Mouse," the 2-part "Black Flowers" and the 3-part "Third Worlds" from issues #181-186.

Hellblazer: Black Flowers Details

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Author : Mike Carey , Marcelo Frusín (Illustrator) , Lee Bermejo (Illustrator) , Jock (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Hellblazer: Black Flowers for online ebook

Justin says

Things slow down just a bit on Mike Carey's second collection of stories from his run on HELLBLAZER, but make no mistake about it:

History does not lie, where HELLBLAZER writers are concerned. From Ennis to Jenkins to Ellis to Azzarello, what seems like a "one & done" single issue story from the series is bound to turn into a major piece of the puzzle as the writer rockets toward his inevitable "end game" for the series...

...And if we're not lucky, for Constantine himself.

Conspiracy is in the air as more and more clues begin to suggest that something big is on the horizon and it's headed John's way...

...And it's probably bringing teeth.

Readers should beware that Carey's run is shaping up to be not so nicely contained in single volumes. Rather, references are made in "Black Flowers" to the past six months of Constantine's adventures, and wisdom only holds that the next volume will build heavily upon this one.

While a work in progress, this volume merely moves pieces around the board. Enjoy it while it lasts.

Jaimie says

With Mike Carey at the helm we see the return to a long-term plotline in this collection. Early chapters seem like one-off stories, but they artfully connect to the later plot and provide background details to further enrich the tale. As per usual, the issue-spanning saga has Constantine on hand to save the world again - or to at least try in his haphazard but sincere manner. Carey draws on multi-cultural legends (Celtic, South American, and Judeo-Christian) for Constantine's new foe - a dog-typed demon that seems to have the power to open the gates between the realms from the bad side, which is definitely not the norm. It seems that not all of the other realms denizens want this breach though, so Constantine may have some aid, even if it is unasked for and less than savoury.

Drizztl says

7.5/10

Jedhua says

ABSOLUTE RATING: {3+/5 stars}

STANDARDIZED RATING: <3/5 stars>

Darrell says

"It is the paradox of power. Those who have the least are always the most eager to use it."

Black Flowers is a collection of short stories in which John Constantine travels the world in search of clues leading him to the identity of his latest foe, the shadow dog. In the course of his search, he brings Swamp Thing out of retirement and grows closer to his latest girlfriend Angie. While he does possess an inordinate amount of occult knowledge, Constantine usually bests his opponents not by overpowering them, but by simply tricking them. If comic books are modern day mythology, Constantine is without a doubt the trickster god.

Bayandur says

'Black Flowers' is a state-of-art Hellblazer book, one you read and think - yep, that's what a John Constantine story should look like. The atmosphere, the art, the plot are great, suspense rises. Let's see how the "Shadow Dog" storyline goes on, I'd love to see how it turns out. Though there's one thing getting me worried - the storyline ends in the next book ('Staring at the wall'), and yet the previous two didn't reveal enough for the reader to get a full picture. I hope 'Staring at the wall' won't feel rushed or out of pace with the previous two.

Jenni Noordhoek says

I debated for a while between 3 and 4 stars. It's more like a three and a half.

It's a definitely better story than Hard Time and I appreciate that. It's more of what I expected from a John Constantine story based on its reputation. More adventure, more supernatural baddies, etc.

I still want to know who John is and why he's important and (most importantly) why I should care about him as a character... so that's still a drawback. I think I have one more volume to read.

Also disappointing is that the arc was not finished in this volume and I have no access to the next volume. So I've no way of finding out about the 'shadow dog' anymore... =P

Quentin Wallace says

Not a bad volume, just not one of my favorites.

We do get to see Constantine travel to Eden, and some cool ghosts and other creatures. It just seemed like generic Hellblazer to me, which isn't terrible, just not quite what I've grown to expect from the series. The art was decent, as most Hellblazer art is.

On to the next volume!

Mel says

I read these out of order. I found this definitely the weakest of the three Hellblazer collections by Mike Carey I'd read so far. It just felt a little disjointed and the travelling made little sense. Though I fear I may have spoiled myself by reading the volume that comes after this first. There were still some nice moments though and I did enjoy it.

Kirsten says

Mike Carey looks to be tying the already-impressive story arc from *Red Sepulchre* into something even larger. This bodes well for the series, which seems to be hitting its stride again after several stumbling story arcs while Brian Azzarello was at the reins. The series is harder to kill than Constantine himself, though, and I'm looking forward to seeing what comes next. (note: I'm reading this a bit out of order, so this book is much, much later than the ones above)

Jon Arnold says

Individually the tales that make up the volume work well together –the first with Constantine as prey, the second a village scarred by a horror hidden in the local asylum and the last a tale of a hidden gateway to paradise. The only downside is that it's the middle volume of a bigger story and as such it's a tad unsatisfying with the bigger story left hanging.

Jtumblepop says

No sé cómo pudieron cancelar la serie que adaptaba Hellblazer con la cantidad de historias que ya tienen escritas. En este tomo hay desde pastores de la muerte celtas pastoreando en un manicomio, utilización de la magia negra para ganar una partida de Póker cuya apuesta es el alma o un juicio bastante peculiar a las puertas del Edén. me hubiera encantado ver en la serie un cameo de La Cosa del Pantano tan grandiosa como una de las dos que aparecen aquí, como una pita gigantesca y bien verde, aunque yo le habría dibujado unos cuantos de higos chumbos.

47Time says

[He defeats the first two by having them follow him onto holy ground and the third gives him a warning. (hide spoiler)]

Morgan says

Not a lot of surprises here, just Carey continuing to pump out great Constantine stories. This really starts tying in many of the elements established in the last trade, his history from previous runs, and lays the groundwork for what is to come. Essential for the writer's arc, fun to read, but a terrible place to start.

Lauri says

Hea. Mike Carey käe kirja tunneb ära igasuguste mütoloogiate kasutamise poolest, Luciferis juba oli näha et mees valdab teemat. Eriti just selliste natuke vähemtuntud ja eksootiliste, siin kasutab ta näiteks Walesi keltide oma vist, kõik need Surnute Jumala kärbselukujulised saadikud (ma polnud ennem näinudki selliste jõhkrate lihastega kärbest, ja Constantine'i remark saadiku pakkumisele ta selga võtta ja kuhugi kanda, et ei, tänan väga, aga parem on mitte riskida pealeoksendamise ja nahkapanemisega...:)) ja puust maskidega surnute karjased jne. Varjukoer jõuab järjest lähemale, see liin kulmineerub järgmises osas. Üldiselt olen ma nüüd mitmeid mitmeid kordi kogu Hellblazeri sarja lugenuna hakanud Mike Carey osasid küllaltki hindama.
