

## The Goon, Volume 12: Them That Raised Us Lament

*Eric Powell , Scott Allie (Editor)*

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Zombie rockabillicies, superheroes with hilarious gay abandon, and the tragicomedy of carnny folk are just a few bizarre tales in this new *Goon* collection from Dark Horse Comics! See why Eric Powell has won the Eisner Award for Best Humor Publication and Best Ongoing Series! This volume collects *The Goon* #38-#41.

\* New cover by Eric Powell.

## The Goon, Volume 12: Them That Raised Us Lament Details


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## **From Reader Review The Goon, Volume 12: Them That Raised Us Lament for online ebook**

### **Brian says**

Powell brings the funny back. Skunk apes! Robert Williams tributes! Drag racing! Even so, it's book-ended by two more serious pieces about Kizzie's childhood and the Zombie Priest's plans for the future. (And by the way, compare the drawings of the Zombie Priest to his earliest appearances ... Powell's clearly taking some kind of art steroids!) Solid chapter in the ongoing tales of the Goon.

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### **Sarah says**

There are only a few series I regularly spend money on, and this is near the top of the list. This volume includes a touching tale of Goon's past, a(nother) brilliant skewering of superhero comics, and a prohibition story that includes a creature that is half car/half bathtub-cough-syrup-battery-acid-gin-infused primate. All drawn as brilliant as usual.

Seriously, the hero comics thing almost made me bust a gasket laughing. I love hero comics but I'm not blind to their faults and holy sweet lord that was hilarious!

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### **Joe says**

Powell can do no wrong with this series. Love it.

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### **Anchorpete says**

The greatest comic books of all time, the comics that are considered literature have a few things in common. Your list might not match mine, but I would put Sandman, Watchmen, Y The Last Man, Preacher and Queen and Country on that list. There are a ton more that I could add, but I really don't spend more than five minutes writing these reviews. Those exceptional books have main characters that you care about, and an over arching story that pulls you along, but each do a very good job at telling a story in a single issue, and many times about supporting, or non-important characters.

Certain exceptional super hero comics do this as well. It is the proper way to use this serialized medium. This volume of the Goon shows that this book should be in that collection of stand out books. There are single issue stories in here that are better than some novels, and certainly better than many movies. The story about the Goon's Mother is my favorite, but the story of what the Zombie priest has been up to is pretty damn fantastic as well. People who complain about superheroes and comics will love the bitter parody that Powell throws in the middle of this trade. It just shows how unique the Goon is. May it reach 100 issues and more!

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## **John says**

Murderizing mobsters, madness on the Midway, squalid satire, and dark hints of things to come.

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## **Jennifer says**

Really liked the Aunt Kizzie story; also glad to see the return of the Zombie Priest and Cat. . . for a while. I hate that cat, but damn, that's harsh. . . .

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## **Sam Quixote says**

Encountering a new Eric Powell "Goon" book is like checking in with a mad genius who's off doing his own thing in his far off workshop, creating one brilliant thing after another and firing them off every year to be picked up and devoured by those who are smart enough to know these are comic books that are unlike anything else being produced these days. "Goon 12: Them That Raised Us Lament" collects issues #38-41, and like all the volumes that came before it, is utterly brilliant - Powell is unable to write/draw a bad book.

While this is Volume 12, there isn't really an overarching storyline that threads through all of the books - at least not for the last few books anyway. Instead, this book collects 4 disparate stories that are each brilliant in their own way and continue to explore Goon's strange world while going off on entertaining tangents.

The story that opens this book "Kizzie the Iron Maiden" tells the tragicomic story of Goon's parentage. The story of his mother who worked as a strong-woman in a travelling sideshow and his absent and no-good father are told and contains a beautiful one-line eulogy in the final panel that is as much for Goon's mother as it is for Powell's grandmother, Betty Jean Wheeler, to whom the issue is dedicated to and who passed in 2011.

Goon and Franky then go off on a bonkers story of prohibition that references contemporary country music and whacky races, while including a uniquely Powell-esque creation, the Hooch Monkey. It's meandering and silly and very enjoyable. We also check in with the necromancer whom Goon defeated in an earlier book, lamenting his poor fortune while hinting at a new villain for Goon to battle in forthcoming volumes.

But the best of the book by far is the satirical issue #39 lampooning DC's "New 52" relaunch. I've been reading a lot of the "New 52 books" and Powell informs us early on that he hasn't read a superhero book since the 90s, but his observations and critiques are all salient points against the nature of commercial superhero comics, in particular this reboot. From the mocking taglines like "LOOK AT US, MAINSTREAM MEDIA!! LOOK AT US!!" and "1st (39th issue)" to the multi-coloured Goons, to the frequent costume changes, to the headline grabbing superheroes who are revealed as gay and/or ethnically diverse, I was laughing throughout. I love superhero comics, I like some of DC's New 52 stuff, but Powell's barbed take is spot on in every point. It made the book for me.

If you've never read a "Goon" book before, don't be intimidated by the "Volume 12" label and jump straight in with this book, then when you've fallen for it, go back and enjoy the rich, varied and fun world Powell's created in this series. If you're a fan, you've already bought this and know how brilliant Powell is. "Them That Raised Us Lament" shows an artist at the height of his powers, creating fantastic comics and having a

great time doing so. Good on you, Mr Powell, keep them coming!

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### **Gabriel Wallis says**

Well, *The Goon: Them That Raised Us Lament* (volume 12) is the last available Goon graphic novel to read. I'm not really sure if Eric Powell intends to publish anymore Goon graphic novels or not, but if he did, I'd probably read them. This one wasn't the best, I thought. It was entertaining and all, but some of the content wasn't what I like to read about. It now seems Eric Powell is trying to fill space, trying to keep the series going. Honestly, it's like he's trying to salvage the series by writing about subjects that are controversial, just to keep the ratings up.

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### **Jonathan Schildbach says**

I tend to like "The Goon" most when it's in its more serious/creepy mode. So, the first story in this collection is perfect for that. Then there is a sendup of superhero comics which at times sounds a lot like sour grapes-- Powell complaining about gimmicks common to superhero comics, and how 'the media' only tends to pay attention to comics at all when it is announced that a superhero is coming out as gay. Perhaps the funniest observation in the issue is about Powell not having read any superhero comics in many years--which makes the humor make a lot more sense, but really doesn't make it all that much funnier. I mean, I expect a good dose of bathroom humor with everything Powell does, but it works better when it comes in smaller doses...which is also the problem with the third story in this collection--too much juvenile humor and too many easy jokes. The third story does have some fun visual references, but not a whole lot more to recommend it. As usual, Powell's artwork is eye-catching and fun, but it's best when it's in service to better stories.

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### **Jeridel Banks says**

I always enjoy reading The Goon! In this silly volume, Powell jabs at today's cheesy and predictable superhero comics to try to raise media interest and sell more comics. Of course, that's not The Goon.

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### **Sierra says**

I loved this TPB. Eric Powell infuses these pages with the kind of humor that makes you laugh out loud embarrassingly on the bus. The artwork is styled really elegantly, though rather than clashing with the subject matter and language, it makes it a more complete package of greatness in comic book form.

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### **Sonic says**

Hilarious and depraved Low-Brow hi-jinx!  
(I wonder if Eric Powell drinks, because this is) Mostly full of gut busters,

but with occasional sombre and sappy moments, and some in-between weirdness that is hard to classify,...

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### **Peter Derk says**

The Goon is always great. This one had a particularly funny send-up of the gimmicks that company-owned comics will try to sell books, an answer from Eric Powell to questions about why he doesn't try this or that to sell more books.

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### **Ogreart says**

The satire was more pointed in this one. Powell really skewers superhero tropes.

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### **Ollie says**

The great thing about The Goon is that it's mostly creator run: Eric Powell does the writing and illustrations (and even some of the coloring). And, when both are so fantastic, that's a good thing.

The Goon has been an ongoing story for some time, and although the arcs had a beginning middle and end, lately the book has been operating more on a one-shot basis. The writing borders a bit on the absurd sometimes, which isn't exactly my cup of tea, but fortunately, when looking at the big picture, The Goon is still a great book.

Collected mostly in 4-issue paperbacks, volume 12 is split into one-shot once-upon-a-time stories. We get some stories that relate to the ongoing Goon story, like what appears to be Goon's foster mother, and the return of the shaman (?) and how he gets both eyes back. These stories are interesting enough, but the superhero one-shot Death of the Goon is truly fantastic. This story basically makes fun of the current state of superhero comics, completely deprived of innovation and just rehashing of played-out themes in an attempt to get sales. Brilliant!

Though the polished aspects of this book seem out of place (digital coloring and slick lettering don't really complement the rough look and tone of the book), volume 12 is a winner and goes to prove that with the sporadic ways in which the Goon gets published, trade paperbacks is the perfect way to enjoy the Goon.

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