

B.P.R.D., Vol. 5: The Black Flame

Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, Guy Davis (Illustrator)

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The Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense faces its worst tragedy ever as the war against the plague of frogs reaches a devastating new level. Heralded by a bizarre villain from the B.P.R.D.'s past, an ancient monster-god marches across the American heartland portending an end to the reign of men, and leaving a permanent mark on the Bureau.

*Hellboy*creator Mike Mignola continues his collaboration with artist Guy Davis and co-writer John Arcudi to unravel a tale that will leave the earth shaken and the B.P.R.D. shattered. This collection includes a sketchbook section chronicling Guy Davis's creation of the abominations unleashed in The Black Flame.

The B.P.R.D. is changed forever in this story revealing secret names, visions and dreams, a Nazi madman, and the death of a beloved agent.

B.P.R.D., Vol. 5: The Black Flame Details

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Author: Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, Guy Davis (Illustrator)

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Genre: Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Horror, Fantasy, Comic Book, Fiction

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From Reader Review B.P.R.D., Vol. 5: The Black Flame for online ebook

Michael says

Too much missing backstory to be a completely compelling read, and the mysteries of the villains are left unresolved, which was a bit disappointing - too many open issues at the beginning and the end. Still, very nice art and some decent bits along the way, but BPRD reads more like an ongoing series than a miniseries.

Willow Redd says

This one is absolutely heartbreaking.

The war on the frog monsters has reached a boil. Roger and Captain Daimio are running full military invasions into frog nests and cleaning house. Unfortunately, dark forces are at work and the new head of Zinco (no brighter than the last guy) is planning to take control of the beasts. But, there is more to the frogs than meets the eye, especially for those blinded by power and glory.

The Black Flame just flows from Lovecraftian horror to Kirbyesque supervillians to Godzilla-style kaiju versus military action. Guns blaze, monsters roar, and not everyone will come out unscathed.

Sam Quixote says

"The Black Flame" continues the Frog War saga the BPRD are waging against these Lovecraftian horrors and adds a new character. A wealthy industrialist who collects Nazi memorabilia fashions himself a suit that he believes will allow him to control the hordes of frogs and bring about the resurrection of a god like creature called "Sadu Hem". He calls himself the Black Flame and brings about a near Armageddon on a major city with his recklessness, and a major character in the series dies.

The book continues the ongoing battle of the ever growing hordes of frog monsters versus the increasingly beleaguered and desperate BPRD. Well written by Mike Mignola and illustrated by series staple Guy Davis, the book is interesting by turns and is a great addition to the expanding storyline of this fantastic series. A good read.

Brendan says

Another great volume that takes all the characters we know and love and creates an utterly twisted tale. I had no idea where this story would go and only a comic book could accomplish something so intricate. I expected interesting things with a villain that fans give high praise but this exceeded anything I could've expected. There are some solid moments in the panel work and the black flame is carefully portrayed on the pagr. This spinoff has surpassed Hellboy and grown into the core franchise of the series.

Martin Hassman says

První díly byly slabší, ale tahle série dob?e zraje, p?ibližn? od t?etí knihy to s ní jde nahoru.

Sesana says

The Black Flame is a cool character, but I got the impression that somebody, writer, artists, characters, didn't understand just how big the implications of what was going on were. There are major events going on here, but it feels much smaller than it really does. Still some great moments, but it could have been better.

Wing Kee says

Katha Hem! *drops mic*

Man what an arc! Everything I love about this series can be experienced in this arc. It's bloody amazing and here's why:

World: Guy Davis art is amazing, his monsters are just the best in the Industry and seeing Katha Hem is proof of that. I won't go into details but man the art is stunning. The world building for this arc is insane. The Black Flame story and more important the Katha Hem story in the grand world building scheme is amazing. Not to mention the further development for the BPRD, the Plague of Frogs...so much world building...so much awesomeness.

Story: Man this arc is insane. This is exactly why I love this series so much. The pacing and dialog was fantastic. Arcudi is simply amazing, he injects humour in this series when if you look at the story is pretty much all doom and gloom. I don't want to go into spoilers but man things change in this world and things will never be the same after this arc. Just trust me and experience this story, it's simply stunning. It answers many questions and just like any good comic, poses many more that will keep you coming back. Plague of Frogs so far has been amazing and this just made it even so much more so.

Characters: I can't spoil anything so I will say that this arc is intimate and also heartbreaking. Sure, a lot of stuff happens in this arc, but Mignola and Arcudi don't forget the character aspect of the book. We've been spending time with the team for a while now and so with even more character development I think we have gone from characters to real fully fleshed of characters now with the BPRD. No spoilers so I will keep it short, it's amazing!

This arc is stunningly good and a perfect example of why I adore this series so much. I can't wait for the next

Onward to the next book!

Geoff Sebesta says

I've been half-heartedly following BPRD, because Hellboy's alright, nothing special to me but solid entertainment. But now they've got my strictest attention. This story is AMAZING. Guy Davis nicely balances everything that Mignola doesn't do (like backgrounds). The story has taken on an epic sweep. They're doing a very good job of convincing me that the group, indeed the world, is in serious trouble. And the Black Flame is one of the funniest supervillains I've ever seen.

Otherwyrld says

[being blown apart

Jonathan Briggs says

Roger the homunculus has become quite the pistol-packin, cigar-chompin ass kicker. Since Hellboy left the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense, Roger has adopted Capt. Ben Daimio as a role model and thrown himself into the war on frogs with a militaristic fervor, much to Liz's disquiet. Her misgivings are bolstered by dream visitations from a mysterious mandarin-type figure who warns that things are about to get REALLY bad. He's right. While the B.P.R.D. works to exterminate the frog plague, the Nazi fetishist CEO of Zinco has his research and development department working to exploit the batrachian beasts for his own evil purposes. Well, everybody knows what happens when hubristic humans start screwing around with the Old Ones. "The Black Flame" is a series that profoundly changed the B.P.R.D. in ways fans are still upset about. This ain't no Death of Captain America. As in the previous volume, the only weakness here (and it's not such a detriment) is the art by Guy Davis, who draws every face like a potato and occasionally adds an extra digit to a character's hand.

Artemy says

The war with the frog monsters continues, and the team takes a toll. An excellent volume, although really dark in tone — this trend will continue as the story progresses, but this is the first big moment that hits right in the feels.

First read: November 11, 2015

Rating: ★★★★

Second read: October 24, 2017

Rating: ★★★★

Laura says

In which we consider whether, when we try to bind Lovecraftian horrors to serve us, whether those Lovecraftian horrors bind us to serve them too. Also whether it's a good idea to turn nuclear bombs on Lovecraftian horrors. I think there might be something about Project Paperclip fruiting here.

Still no Hellboy.

Oliver Hodson says

Love the villain reveal here of the 'black flame'- villain or sort of servant of the mega frog, it is hard to tell, but it is nice to move the story on with something other than just frogs attacking. The threat of the frogs is grotesque and interesting, and it is cool how there is quite a wide range of possibilities for their powers and motives, while the BPRD team is slowly learning about how to stop them. The development of captain daimio as a character and his relationships with roger and liz are awesome. I also like it jow these super powerful characters can be drawn into the unknown and can diffuse a threat with empathy- johan trying to return some frog monsters souls to hell is the kind of patient understanding of villainy (and effective dealing with it) that you just couldn't get in a Superman story!

Spencer says

This was a fitting and solid ending to the plague of frogs story arc, the story was exciting, eventful and action packed. I'd also like to acknowledge the brilliant art of Guy Davis, I've been a fan of his for a while now and it was awesome to see him get such a great story to show off his skills.

Eric says

To say what I liked would spoil the book.