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Hellblazer, Vol. 2: The Devil You Know



Synopsis

The horrorist created by Jamie Delano and David Lloyd.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I decided that this would be a product instead of a story review. Since this is a re-release you can find reviews of the story [here](#). As far as I'm concerned, this was a great book as far as story and would actually get a 5/5 star rating from me. But I'm not here for the story. As I said in my review of the last re-release Hellblazer book [Vol. 1: Original Sins](#), I was angry at first and this time is no exception. First off, the cover, done by Paul Mounts, is just horrible. Maybe horrible too strong of a word but it's just lazy. At least Original Sins had some semblance of what to expect in a Hellblazer book, but here Constantine looks more like a cartoon than an occult detective. Next is that the quality has gone down. My original of Devil You Know is a first printing and the pages are mid gloss with great colors and feel. Here, well it's just another Vertigo book printed on newspaper quality paper. The colors look slightly muted in some areas but it's just hard knowing that the original release cost the same as this printing and the original holds up better. Finally, there are no extras. I'm sorry if that comes off a bit conceited but this is a re-release, a celebration of Hellblazer, of John Constantine. I would have loved having other artist's galleries of Constantine or even an intro...something. In the end, this is just a straight re-release; no more, no less. At the end of the day, is this a bad thing? Eh...nah. It's not good in my mind, but it's not completely bad. This does show that Vertigo wants to give fans what they want; really more what they need. New fans can come into the world of Hellblazer faster now and save money instead of paying over the top prices of the original from

online dealers. If you own the original *The Devil You Know* trade-paperback then there is no point in buying this re-release. Everything is exactly the same as before, but paper quality. This is strictly for new fans of the series and for those who missed out the first time around. 4/5 stars. *Hellblazer: The Devil You Know* (2012 edition) reprints issues #10-13 and the first Annual of *Hellblazer*, along with the complete miniseries "The Horrorist."

Great continuation from the first volume, *Original Sins*. Glad Vertigo is releasing these new updated editions of *Hellblazer* as they also include John Constantine appearances outside of *Hellblazer*. I don't know how far Vertigo is going to recollect the *Hellblazer* series, but I'm in for the long haul as I only got into the comic book during Azzarello's run, which is quite late in the series. It will be interesting if these re-releases get up to the number 150's of the original issues. That's quite a lot to collect! Thanks.

"*Hellblazer, Vol. 2: The Devil You Know*" collects the individual "*Hellblazer*" Issues #10 to #13, as well as a two part *Hellblazer* Annual titled "*The Bloody Saint*" and the mini-series "*The Horrorist*", all of which are written by Jamie Delano. Issues #10 to #12 (individually titled "*Sex and Death*", "*Newcastle*" and "*The Devil You Know*") conclude the storyline that ran all through "*Hellblazer, Vol. 1: Original Sins*" and it's as great as one would expect. It expertly finalizes the conflicts between John Constantine, Nergal and his Damnation Army and The Resurrection Crusaders. It also finally relates the events that haunt John Constantine since issue one and that had remained only marginally explained: the Newcastle debacle in which the botched attempt of exorcising a demon resulted in the eternal damnation to Hell of a little girl's soul. It's as brutal as one would expect and even more disturbing than I had anticipated. Delano pulls no punches in this story and the Newcastle episode alone screamingly justifies the Mature rating the *Hellblazer* comic boasts. These issues are as great as anything in Volume One and are some of Delano's finest works. Sadly, after such a strong start, Volume 2 takes a turn for the mediocre in its middle section. Issue #13 titled "*On The Beach*" relates a nuclear holocaust in a trippy and surreal fashion. It's not an awful issue but it's mediocre at best. The penciller work on all three is done by Richard Piers Rayner, who expertly replaces John Ridgway who had previously drawn the *Hellblazer* issues. This issue is followed by the *Hellblazer* Annual titled "*The Bloody Saint*". As far as I am concerned, this is the low point in this collection and almost wholly justifies the 3 stars rating I opted for. It relates a previous incarnation of Constantine, namely Kon-Stan-Tyne (or something like that) from the Arthurian times and it's as silly as it sounds. It boasts Constantine in armour, a giant dragon, bloodthirsty priests and Merlin and it

still manages to be dull beyond imagination. The artwork doesn't help, as it's as mediocre as the story. After the bumps in the road that are issue #13 and the Hellblazer Annual, the collection regains the high quality it opens with with "The Horrorist", a two-part miniseries written by Jamie Delano and with artwork by the excellent David Lloyd. It's a later work by Delano and it clearly doesn't belong to the collection chronologically, but I don't mind that at all, as it's a stand-alone story. Delano explores the mystic and supernatural consequences that ensue following a well meaning relocation to suburbia by a missionary couple of a woman of African origin who has been subjected to third world violence and starvation. The deep seeded anger that she carries in her heart is so intense and powerful that it manifests physically and psychologically in the lives of everyone she comes across. The story is strong, as is the artwork. It's a great close to the collection. I hesitated between three and four stars, but ultimately decided on 4 stars because although the middle section in the collection is pretty mediocre and a bit of a chore to get through the early issues and the final mini-series are gold and essential reading for any Hellblazer fan. So the rating is more like a 3.5.

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