



Abbott

Saladin Ahmed , Sami Kivelä (Illustrations) , Jason Wordie (With)

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While investigating police brutality and corruption in 1970s Detroit, journalist Elena Abbott uncovers supernatural forces being controlled by a secret society of the city's elite.

In the uncertain social and political climate of 1972 Detroit, hard-nosed, chain-smoking tabloid reporter Elena Abbott investigates a series of grisly crimes that the police have ignored. Crimes she knows to be the work of dark occult forces. Forces that took her husband from her. Forces she has sworn to destroy.

Hugo Award-nominated novelist Saladin Ahmed (*Star Wars: Canto Bight, Black Bolt*) and artist Sami Kivelä (*Beautiful Canvas*) present one woman's search for the truth that destroyed her family amidst an exploration of the systemic societal constructs that haunt our country to this day.

Abbott Details

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Author : Saladin Ahmed , Sami Kivelä (Illustrations) , Jason Wordie (With)

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From Reader Review Abbott for online ebook

Roy says

I'd been impressed with some of Ahmed's previous work. You can tell Ahmed really knows reporting and the city. I just didn't feel that interested in the overall plot. Journalist mixed up in some killings but involves supernatural elements. A slight noir nod but not at the level of Brubaker.

Lauren says

Billed as a supernatural crime thriller set in 1970s Detroit, I was already in, but then having this tough-as-nails investigative reporter in Elena Abbott as the lead, well... It's just too good.

Abbott works for a daily newspaper, and gets tips on stories from her ex-husband, a police sergeant. She stumbles on to a gruesome murder that brings up a painful past, and then starts seeing supernatural creatures around town. What evil force is behind this?

Urban fantasy plus retro 70s: It's a good combo, and Ahmed's writing and Kivelä's art round it out nicely.

Gabriell Anderson says

Hodn? dobrá a atmosférická jízda. Sedmdesátá léta v Detroitu se s ?ernochy rozhodn? nemazlila a když do tohohle mixu p?ihrajete ?ernošskou investigativní noviná?ku, která se p?í pátrání po tom, kdo zabíjí ?ernochy zaplete do boje s magií, tak máte zad?láno na slušnou jízdu. Jediná škoda na tomhle jsou postavy, které v?tšinu ?asu nevypadnou ze svých až archetypálních škatulek, ale jinak není nic co bych tomuhle vy?etl.

Mohlo by se vám líbit, pokud:

- máte rádi atmosférické a tajemné p?íb?hy
- toužíte po dalším p?íb?hu se silnou ženskou hrdinkou
- chcete slušnou sondu do doby, kdy byl racismus všudyp?ítomný a otev?en?jší než dnes

Spíš vás zklame, pokud:

- vám vadí, když se v p?íb?zích objevuje nadp?irozeno
- už máte plné zuby všech -ism? (racismu, feminismu, apod.)

Eli says

Read this one (a little too late) for I Read Comic Books Group.

Oh, my god. I really loved this. I need the second volume in my grubby hands right now. I really haven't been this interested in a non-superhero graphic novel since like *Locke & Key* or *Saga*. This did have some

Locke & Key vibes, though. Anyone who loved that should definitely give this a shot.

One of the biggest differences from *L&K* is that this takes place in 1970s Detroit, told from the perspective of a controversial Black female journalist (controversial only because she's calling out police brutality, racism, and police coverups in her articles). I really loved this about *Abbott*. I just finished reading a book about the intersectionality of race and gender, so I had no problem with the not-so-subtle racism and sexism Elena Abbott had to endure [solely for the fact that it paints an accurate picture of racism and sexism in the 1970s].

Also, the main character, a woman of color in the 1970s, is (view spoiler).

So this was an absolute win on all fronts for me. Can't wait to read the next one!

Rory Wilding says

2018 has been an exceptional year for Saladin Ahmed, who has written one of the best limited series for Marvel Comics with *Black Bolt*, which you can now get in two volumes. Although he still writes for Marvel with *Exiles*, Ahmed finds room for creator-owned work with Boom! Studios, where the writer steps into the world of 1970s pulp journalism with *Abbott*.

Please click [here](#) for my full review.

Anne-Marie says

Absolutely gorgeous artwork and fantastic characters. I felt that the mystery and supernatural/horror aspects could have been further developed - the downside of a five-issue storyline in my opinion.

The setting was excellent - 1970s Detroit with a black female bisexual lead as a kickass journalist? Yes, please!

Overall, worth the read (especially for the art - did I mention how awesome the art was?) but didn't go as in-depth as I would have liked. 3.5 stars

Dakota Morgan says

You know a book starring a black, bi, female investigative journalist in 70s Detroit is going to have something to say about the rampant racism and sexism of that era. You might be surprised to learn, though, that *Abbott* has a lot more to say about vaguely defined supernatural mysticism. Too much to say about that, I'd argue.

Abbott is an intriguing book when it focuses on Elena Abbott and her journalistic adventures. Solving crimes, uncovering police brutality. This stuff is good! Sure, it's basically a CBS procedural, but it's thoughtful and well-written and all the secondary characters feel like real humans. *Abbott* is more of a head-scratcher when it reveals Elena is the "lightbringer" who must defeat some dude and the half-human monsters he's created. The supernatural elements are never fully explained - Elena appears to have some kind of Spidey-sense, but she kills the various beasts by flashing them with light, which it kinda seems like any old person could do.

Even if the hoodoo doesn't make much sense, *Abbott* is a largely enjoyable read. Saladin Ahmed tends to overwrite some scenes, but the pacing is excellent and the art has a nice throwback vibe. The book also acts as an excellent advertisement for smoking what with Elena smoking in every scene. Maybe don't read *Abbott* if you're trying to quit.

Alfredo (Fred) says

'Abbott' é uma graphic novel sobre uma mulher negra jornalista em Detroit na década de 1970. Ela não apenas precisa constantemente lidar com racismo e sexism, como acaba envolvida com um mistério sobrenatural que vem amaldiçoando não só sua família como a cidade inteira.

De longe, aqui temos uma das protagonistas que mais gostei de conhecer. Abbott vive do jornalismo investigativo, denunciando principalmente os casos de brutalidade policial. Isso, é claro, incomoda não só os leitores (brancos) do jornal, como os donos (brancos). Ela, no entanto, é a melhor de toda a equipe e isso faz com que seu chefe faça o possível para que ela continue empregada lá.

Eu pensei que não fosse curtir tanto assim a parte sobrenatural, estava mais interessado em ver a Abbott em ação, investigando casos e escrevendo as matérias. Aconteceu que eu adorei todo o suspense, o sobrenatural e a magia daqui. Se analisarmos um pouco mais afundo, dá para entender a situação inteira como uma metáfora para o que ela representa. Infelizmente, não posso me alongar nessa teoria porque seria spoiler. Ainda assim, quem ler não vai ter dificuldade em entender sobre o que eu estou falando. Acredito que tudo que ela usa para lutar contra essas forças é bem simbólico.

Os diálogos são muito bem construídos, a arte da GN é de tirar o folêgo e toda a montagem estética dos quadrinhos é inteligente. Perdoem caso eu não esteja usando os termos corretos para definir, mas precisava falar disso.

Em geral, eu adorei essa história e espero ver mais volumes com a Abbott. O final dá muito pano pra manga, agora é torcer para que o autor aproveite isso da melhor maneira.

Sara says

Great characters and you can tell that Ahmed knows Detroit well - the city feels very well imagined and three dimensional. I thought the mystery part could have been developed with a little more depth though.

Maksym Karpovets says

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Václav says

Abbott is surprisingly good. The art of Sami Kivela is very, very nice and rich - in details, ink and colours. I especially like the colouring - it's vivid but still "noir"-dark. With the combination of great panel work and scenes, it's pleasure to read every page of this comics. But back to the writing. Abbott is very mellow to start. The atmosphere is perfectly fitting that mysterious-noir settings and even around 2-3rd issue it bit struggled for me, the start and the finish of Abbott's story are very strong and altogether I really enjoyed the story in this beautifully graphically elaborated comics book. Some may object that bringing up black lesbian "strong female" main protagonist (especially set in the time when all these things were at least still commonly frowned upon) is quite a populism. I would agree. But it is very well composed into the story that it is the irreplaceable part of the story. And it works. It works well.

Shannon Appelcline says

This comic has an enthralling premise: 1973 Detroit, where a black newswoman is caught up in the occult. This could have been a great period piece, and there's some good work on racism and sexism in the '70s, just when things were beginning to change. This could have been a good noir piece, but it really doesn't do much for the genre. In fact, overall, *Abbott* is a bit slow and a bit unoriginal. Oh, there's some good content here, but not necessarily enough to leave you begging for more.

Chad says

Damn, I have to say I was really impressed with this. It's about a black female reporter in Detroit 1972. Not only does she have to deal with racism and sexism but she gets involved unwittingly with the supernatural as well. The dialogue and settings can be rough. I'm not disparaging the author here. It's just that I'd like to punch a few of the misogynistic and racist jerks in the book. I really liked the supernatural element to the book and since Elena Abbott is new to it as well, the reader finds answers as Abbott does. the art and coloring work really well with the feel of the book and set the mood. I'm really looking forward to more adventures set in this world.

Rod Brown says

A newspaper reporter who takes their own photos while reluctantly and ineptly fighting supernatural beings in the 1970s? I could not get *Kolchak: The Night Stalker* out of my head the whole time I was reading this. Kolchak is now a tough as nails African American female named Abbott in order to get a little of 1970s blaxploitation films into the mix too, but still enjoyable as ever.

There was a little awkwardness in the writing as all the characters and their situations are introduced, but the cliches and occasional clunkiness sort of play into the whole throwback homage.

I would like to see a second volume.

Seymone says

Wow! Wow! Wow!

This was heavy, yet fantastical. I will definitely follow this comic series.
