



## Criminal: The Deluxe Edition, Vol. 1

*Ed Brubaker, Sean Phillips*

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## **Criminal: The Deluxe Edition, Vol. 1** Ed Brubaker , Sean Phillips

A fantastically-designed and printed book showcasing the Eisner and Harvey Award-Winning crime comics from the creators of Sleeper and Incognito, this oversized, deluxe hardback edition features Criminal books 1 thru 3 - Cowards, Lawless, and The Dead and the Dying. Also features many extras, including a Criminal short story and the never-before-printed five page "movie trailer in comics form" that Brubaker and Phillips created to announce the series online, plus illustrations, selected articles, behind-the-scenes glimpses, painted covers, and much more! Features an introduction by comics legend and Watchmen artist Dave Gibbons.

Collects Criminal (2006) #1-10 and Criminal (2008) #1-3.

## **Criminal: The Deluxe Edition, Vol. 1 Details**

Date : Published November 18th 2009 by Marvel

ISBN : 9780785142294

Author : Ed Brubaker , Sean Phillips

Format : Hardcover 432 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Noir

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## **From Reader Review Criminal: The Deluxe Edition, Vol. 1 for online ebook**

### **Aaron says**

This is crime noir at its best, which is to be expected with a team like Brubaker and Phillips. The art is as brutal and stark as the writing, which keeps you guessing the whole way through. Even when you think you've figured something out it doesn't do you any good in the long run, because Brubaker turns the story back on itself or twists it in a whole new direction. This is classic noir with a modern spin, and the world Brubaker's created here is rich and full of characters drifting in and out of each other's lives in a way that lets you really FEEL the criminal underground of Center City. I don't think I've read any crime comics in a long time that come close to touching this one.

But, I guess that's where I take off a star. For as rough and bleak and intense as this book is, it's still Crime Noir, a genre that has been done over and over again since the first Hardboiled magazines were published in the 1920s. This is GREAT crime noir, but I never felt like I was reading something that redefined the genre, or took it to new heights. It's hard to fault something for that, I guess, but it did leave me wanting a little something else.

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### **Maria Kramer says**

Brubaker is a modern master of noir. Each volume focuses on a different member of the criminal underworld - thieves, enforcers, and gun molls - and how their lives fall apart. I loved the simple, direct, compelling plots; the gritty atmosphere; and how the plots all subtly interlocked. This is a book I stayed up way too late reading, and I look forward to reading volumes 3-6.

If I had to complain about something, it would be that the women fall into the stereotypical "gun moll" pattern. They certainly have agency and are capable criminals in their own right - but their purpose in the story revolves around how they affect the men.

Similar titles:

Parker

100 Bullets

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### **Paul says**

An amazing book!

The American Comic had finally grown up. Gone are the men in tights and anatomically impossible women. No more funny quips as the heroes and villains punch each other out with leaving nary a bruise. A punch to the nose hurts and bleeds... and bullets kill.

Brubaker takes us into a world that, even though few of us are ever likely to experience, does, none-the-less exist.

I loved how the stories intertwine throughout multiple generations and a small character in one story suddenly becomes the entire focus of another.

The art perfectly matches the noir story telling. In an imperfect world, (and really, which world is truly perfect?), we get imperfect characters. No heroes, no precise line between who are the good guys and who are the bad guys, in fact, is there really such a thing? Just predators... and the rest of us.

I would never invite any of the characters depicted in this book into my home, nor would I actually want to be part of "their" world... but I'm glad I got the chance to get a glimpse into it thanks to Brubaker.

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### **Sean Kottke says**

Fantastic noir epic, and really the best format to read it in order to catch the intricacies of relationships that tie all of the stories together (so helpful to be able to flip back a page or two or a hundred in a single volume for a quick refresher on who's who). Plus bonus content and back matter from the single issues not included in the trade paperbacks. This is world-based storytelling at its finest - both in the sense of quality and grittiness.

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### **Valéria. says**

First of all, I'm very disappointed with myself that I didn't take a time to read this masterpiece. It's Brubaker I love and even though I always said "it can wait". Stupid \*spits on myself".

How to continue.. This couple definitely know how to make amazing reading. It was one of the best thing I have read in my life. I loved that balancing between violence, swearing, quiet and really amazing dialogues. I fell into that atmosphere of dark streets, feeling it + in Lawless that uncertainty about who is killer was kindly eating my mind until the very end.

I dropped a tear or two at the end of the Coward. Tracy earned my affection in seconds. When I saw Mallory's reaction, it kind of broke my heart. But all characters deserved full attention, not even one was useless, redundant. I spent twice more time looking at that art than reading - those bodies, faces, background, everything. Gosh, I could even imagine music to every fucking situation.

I would recommend this book to everybody, who.. wait. That's it. To everybody.

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### **Andrew says**

I read the first story arc ("Coward") a while back, and I thought it was very well-written and enjoyable, but then I forgot about the series for a while. Completing the next two arcs ("Lawless" and "The Dead and the Dying"), I see that the Criminal series is more than just well-written. The stories in these arcs stretch from

the 1950's to the modern day, following generations of lowlifes, and telling their family histories from multiple perspectives. Brubaker makes the most of the varied viewpoints to flesh out characters and events over time, taking his time to reveal motivations and back stories. This broad, un-rushed approach gives the whole series a sense of scope and weight that none of the individual stories have on their own. The majority of the plots focus on the decisions characters make as they try to escape their pasts, but in almost every instance, the protagonists find themselves either dead or trapped in situations far worse than where they started. The fatalism and unrelenting ugliness gets a little wearying over time, but it fits with the noir genre and the gritty atmosphere established by the artwork.

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### **Cheese says**

Seriously, you can stop what your doing and read this book. This is Brubaker and Phillip's best - EASILY! If you love crime, if you love crime noir, if you love Brubaker or if you love comics, you gotta read this.

This book is absolute quality. The story, the artwork, the extras, the binding, the printing all excellent. You cannot go wrong buying this book.

So this book tells different stories about different characters that all intertwine into the same group history of characters. So when i say history, I mean family history and even city history. It tells the story of the Lawless brothers, and I was thinking, "they keep mentioning their father and his reputation, i'd love to read that", and then boom, vol. 3 you get to read it. It's a very well thought out story, so intricate, and if you read the commentary after the story from Brubaker, he tells how he researched a lot into the crime noir genre and real life stories.

It's an exciting story as well. It's very adult, with violence, nudity and cursing i.e. shit, fuck, bollocks, hitler's cock & cunt. :D - Nah it's not that bad, but it is definitely written for mature readers.

I would say though, without a doubt the best thing about this book is the artwork. Phillips has always drawn pretty damn good and he's currently banging it out again with the Fade out, but this is where it's at. Sublime.

Loooooooooooooooooooooved it.

I will look forward to reading the final book, volume 2.

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### **Germancho says**

While artistically and technically very good, it lacks humanity, and the stories are not entirely compelling, except for the last one "Female of the Species" which I found perfect in execution.

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## **Nick says**

I had made an initial pass through Ed Brubaker's *Criminal* when the first story, *Coward*, first appeared in 2006. I remember really liking it but didn't stick with it on my pull list for one reason or another. Over the years, I kept hearing how great the series was, with each new story featuring different characters but staying within the universe that Brubaker and Sean Phillips had created. When the Deluxe Edition was released in 2009, I circled it a few times for a buy, but never pulled the trigger. Now, 4 years later with the second Deluxe Edition just released, having received the first for a Christmas present, I dove headfirst into the seedy underbelly of this noir tale. The wait was worth it. The world of *Criminal* is one that many readers will be familiar with. Not the specific characters or stories themselves, but the feeling, atmosphere and downright filth that occupies the classic "bad people doing bad things" formula. You feel a bit of remorse at the beginning of this story (I consider it one despite the 3 different tales that are combined into this volume), but as the pages flew by, I quickly realized that these aren't good people doing bad things, but flawed individuals who never stood a chance. The final story, *The Dead and the Dying*, really encompasses this, stepping back in time to show the first generation of criminals whose offspring have picked up right where they left off. It's haunting and tragic, but it's also incredibly entertaining - a gritty standalone that doesn't have to deal with crossovers and tie-ins. Brubaker is free to stretch his legs and tell his story, his way, and we're the benefactors. I'll have to cut down on the lag time between volumes 1 and 2.

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## **Donovan says**

Damn. I don't often do five stars. And stories don't normally bludgeon me over the head. But it's both in this case because it's Brubaker and Phillips.

I first read *Fatale* Deluxe Volume 1 by these fellas, now *Criminal* Deluxe Volume 1. And they can sure as shit write and illustrate a story that captivates you, with or without supernatural elements (see *Fatale*).

I love how *Criminal* tells stories in a round about way. That by the end you have even more perspective on characters whose stories were already told. *Coward* is by far my favorite volume. Followed by *Lawless*, then *The Dead and the Dying*.

Leo Patterson is a brilliantly written character with probably more brains and heart than any other person here, particularly because he isn't recognized as a badass but rather a coward, as the volume title suggests. And perhaps that makes him the most empathetic character, if not realistic.

Sean Phillips spoils us with his illustrations, layouts, lettering and inking. Illustrators can transcend average work when given control over the visual process, and this is totally the case. It's rough and dramatic, dark and muddy. And Val Staples dark and subdued colors also do the trick.

Again, I don't really get into noir. But the drama and artwork in *Criminal* is as good as it gets.

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## **Richard says**

A great read for any crime fiction fan interested in possibly reading comics! This deluxe edition collects the first three loosely-interlinking stories of the Criminal series following on-the-fringe survivors in crime-ridden Center City stuck in situations that go from bad to worse in fine noir fashion. While each story gets progressively better, they're all great. I reviewed each tale here:

Vol. 1: Coward ????????

Vol. 2: Lawless ????????

Vol. 3: The Dead and the Dying ????????????

Kinda crazy that one of today's best crime writers is working in the comic book world!

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## **Blindzider says**

Of all the crime/noir books by Brubaker that I've read, this is the best so far. It didn't take me long to be fully vested in the characters and wanting to see what happens to them. It never ceases to amaze me how Brubaker is able to craft these realistically flawed people and have me eagerly reading on to see what happens next.

There are some similarities here to Sin City: A single town, where the whole place may not be corrupt but there's at least a side of the city where criminals abound. Between Phillips art and Staples' coloring, you end up with a dark/greyish look with minimal washed out colors producing a dirty, sad area that people can't seem to get out of even if they aren't completely bad. Morality clashes with life here. Brubaker creates real people who are generally "good" but external events "force" them into actions and situations that go against their better judgement. This flawed humanity is where Brubaker excels and that's where you find the most fascinating reads.

There is some overlap between stories. Generally story arcs focus on one character, but as you continue reading you see them reoccur, sometimes in the background, and sometimes background characters become the focus (again similar to Sin City). There's also some continuity between arcs, but not enough to make you feel like you missed something.

I'm really curious about Vol 2, to see if all characters come together in a story or if he maintains the same modus operandi.

This is really fantastic stuff, enough that I can't believe someone hasn't picked this up as a live action miniseries.

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## **Don says**

Maybe it was all the hype, maybe I was expecting too much, but something about this series didn't click with me.

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**Chaunceton Bird says**

One of my favorite books. Absolutely top shelf.

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**Tfitoby says**

Noir perfection in graphic form. Brubaker's understanding of the workings of the genre is phenomenal and the artwork of Phillips just tips it over the edge. There's a lot of talk about Sin City but that collection pales in comparison to what Brubaker and Phillips have created without the need for a hyperstylised world. This stuff is as real and as bleak as noir gets and I'm in love. Each edition an entirely new story arc yet remaining the in the same milieau as previous stories and one hundred percent authentic, constantly adding new understanding to what came before whilst promising many more tales of horror to come from the flawed denizens of The Undertow bar.

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