



Nailbiter, Vol. 1: There Will Be Blood

Joshua Williamson (Writer) , Mike Henderson (Artist) , Adam Guzowski (Colourist) , John J. Hill (Letterer)

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"Where do serial killers come from?" and why has Buckaroo, Oregon given birth to sixteen of the most vile serial killers in the world? NSA Agent Nicholas Finch needs to solve that mystery in order to save his friend, and he'll have to team up with the infamous Edward "Nailbiter" Warren to do it.

Joshua Williamson and Mike Henderson deliver a mystery that mixes Twin Peaks with the horror of Se7en!

Collecting: *Nailbiter* 1-5

Nailbiter, Vol. 1: There Will Be Blood Details

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From Reader Review Nailbiter, Vol. 1: There Will Be Blood for online ebook

Anne says

3.5 stars...perhaps a full 4?

Maybe I just don't read enough horror/serial killer stuff, but I seem to like this one a lot better than most of my friends. And that *may* be because I don't like scary serial killer stories, and (they're right) this *wasn't* scary. Even the gross stuff wasn't too bad! I mean, it's icky that this guy ate people's fingernails down to the bone, but I was expecting some really stomach-churning imagery, and lots of blood-soaked gore to be peppered throughout this entire volume.

Ok, so that was gross, but most of the stuff wasn't all that nasty.

This guy gets a call from his friend asking him to please come to this little town, and help him figure out why so many serial killers seem to be coming from **Buckaroo, Oregon**. He's not doing anything important at the moment, so he puts his gun down...and heads out on an adventure!

It kind of reminded me of that movie, Scream. There seems to be an underlying vibe that this story is making fun of the ridiculous horror clichés.

Especially in panels like these:

Seems to be a decent *mysteryish* sort of thing happening in this one, and I wasn't bored while I was reading it. Again, this isn't exactly the sort of stuff I gravitate towards, so any real Graphic Novel/Horror/Crime/Slasher *aficionados* out there...feel free to disagree with me. But I liked it enough to want to read volume 2!

Thanks (again) to Mike for another fun read!

Anne says

Horror is not one of my favorite genres, but man, this book was good! Honestly, the premise is great, but I don't want to know *why* Buckaroo is full of serial killers, I just want to know more about them. 0=)

I had *so* much fun with those few panels about freaks like **The Silent Movie Killer** (Walter Grant only killed people who talked during movies at the theater), **The Gravedigger** (he buried people alive), **The Terrible**

Two (brother and sister duo who only killed other twins)... I want MOAR! Oh, and a special issue dedicated to **The Blonde** would be perfect. C'mon, look at her!

I'm a passive reader when it comes to this kind of story, I don't even try to solve the mystery. Let's just say that my Sherlock side is useless. *shrug* Well, this is the first time I'm actually proud of my laziness strategy, because my attention was drawn to the art, which is beautiful.

The story *per se* is very engaging, so I'll probably buy the next volume. Crane is a shitty sheriff in my opinion, but her past with the infamous Edward "Nailbiter" Warren intrigues me. Also, Buckaroo has a new butcher. [insert evil laugh here]

ARC provided by Diamond Book Distributors via NetGalley.

Crystal Starr Light says

Bullet Review:

For a book that "tantalized" with the most gruesome picture of a man biting off his own fingers, well, it wasn't nearly as gory inside. Meaning, yes, it was still gory but at least I could open my eyes for most of the panels.

Carroll has become obsessed with the 16 serial killers of Buckaroo, OR; he's found the answer and tells fellow agent, Finch, to come to him. In classic thriller fashion, Carroll goes missing and Finch must have the local police led by Crane give him a hand.

This was very decent and intriguing. I was legitimately curious about why this town made so many serial killers - which means I'll be hunting down volume 2 to learn more. The characters are interesting and I liked the art style. It IS gritty and gory in places but not nearly as much as I feared. I can't take much gore and there were only a few panels I had to look past quickly.

Kate (GirlReading) says

3.75* so, yeah, um... this was so completely and utterly messed up. it was gruesome, gory, disturbing, definitely something I shouldn't have started reading alone at 2am but with that being said, I could not stop reading. It was horrifyingly addictive and 50% of me never wants to read it again and the other 50% knows there's no way I'm going to be able to stop reading this series now. I need to know what's going on!!! Definitely not something for people who are sensitive to graphic violence and gore, it was a little too much for me at times but I can't deny, no matter how messed up this is, it's definitely got me hooked and I'm not sure how I feel about that. ? I also have no idea how to rate this right now, my mind a little overwhelmed. ?

Rissa says

3.75 ??

Jesse A says

Interesting story. I'm intrigued by the possibilities. The art was fine. Doesn't stand out but wasn't bad. Interesting start.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

“Warren’s modus operandi was to kidnap innocent men and women who had the habit of chewing their fingernails. Warren would keep them captive until his victim’s nails grew back, and then chew their fingers down to the bone before ultimately killing them.”

First reaction? **YES PLEASE!**

I also have some experience with one of these “nailbiters” and figured I could relate to this story on a deeper level. Advice to anyone else struggling through this problem: A little mouth binding goes a long way to stop any attempted nomming of others . . .

Nailbiter takes place in Buckaroo, Oregon – birthplace of **sixteen** serial killers. When Nicholas Finch gets sent to Buckaroo, he believes it is only to meet up with fellow NSA Agent Carroll and learn the truth of the “Buckaroo Butchers.” What he discovers instead is that his friend has gone missing and there is *much* more to the town than meets the eye.

It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out a serial killer graphic novel is probably my idea of a great time and when you add in a freaky deaky locale like ~~Wayward Pines~~ Buckaroo along with some *Silence of the Lambs* humor, it’s a guaranteed winner . . .

I wasn’t a huge fan of the art, but I know crap about art so you can go ahead and ignore that. I will say that some panels won me over . . .

In my limited experience I’ve noticed there don’t seem to be a whole lot of non-white characters in most graphic novels, so I also dug the fact that the MC had the potential to become super kickass like Laurence

Fishburne . . .

Ha! I keed. I keeeeeeed.

If you can stomach the first issue in the volume, you'll find a pretty intriguing mystery begin to unravel. I will warn you that *There Will Be Blood* was **completely** open-ended, so have Volume 2 at the ready or you'll find yourself having a bit of an angry like I currently am . . .

Many thanks to Mrs. Gavin for being squicked out by this one and putting it on my radar :)

Sandra says

Who would have thought I'd thoroughly enjoy a graphic novel about a serial killer who murder people who bite nails?

What kind of person am I. LOL.

Say whatever it is that you want to say about my reading choices, but I really enjoyed this! Why? Becauseeee... I'm into serial killers. Oookaay. That didn't sound right, so let me correct myself. **I'm into serial killer stories.** Yes. That's what I meant.

These type of stories intrigue me. They get me curious. Fiction or non-fiction, these never fail to trigger my interest. So when I read Nailbiter's blurb, I knew, I was going to enjoy it. True enough, I did enjoy this!

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

In the town of Buckaroo, Oregon, originated sixteen, terrible serial killers. Not sure how. Not sure why. But they just manufacture serial killers there. One of the most famous of the serial killers was Nailbiter, Edward Warren.

FBI Agent Charles Carrol is obsessed in finding out what is causing people from this town to become serial killers. It seems that we finally got a lead, so he asked the help of his friend, Nicholas Finch, who then came to Buckaroo, only to find that his friend has gone missing.

THE GOOD

- THE PLOT IS INTERESTING. I mean, come on? A town that manufacture serial killers? A cop has gone missing because of an investigation? A serial killer with a questionable motive? Killings here and there? Who wouldn't want that??!
- WTF IS GOING ON? The fact that I have no idea what the fuck is going on with this book, keeps me

excited. I'm the type of reader who likes to guess what's going to happen next, and the fact that I can't seem to do that with this, is amazing. Things happen, you make your guess, then another thing happen that completely debunks your theory about wtf is happening to this town. Gaaaaah! I love it!

- EVERYONE IN IS SUSPICIOUS. **Not one of these characters are reliable**, in my opinion. Even the Sheriff, has something to hide, I think. These people are not at all what they seem, starting with Nailbiter. I am completely... puzzled by this dude. I can't tell if he's a good guy, or a bad guy, or just messing with your brain crazy person? The fact that I can't trust any of these characters is great.
- THE COLOR PALLET AND THE ART. I don't normally like these types of illustrations, but on this case, I feel that it fits the tone of the story, including the colors that were used.
- HANNIBAL REFERENCES BABY!!!
- THE PANELS SOME GREAT PANELINGS ON HERE THAT BUILT GOOD TENSION TO THE STORY.

THE BAD

- NOT A LOT OF CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. I have read quite a number of reviews mimicking the same sentiments about this not having enough character development, which I would agree, but only up to a certain point. I do agree that the characters weren't completely fleshed out. For me though, it was done on purpose. **They were letting us into the situation that these characters are in first. I think, we'd get to know them more as we read more of the volumes.** Let's not forget, this volume is collecting only the first 5 issues, this is not an entire book, or even a complete story. There are a lot more issues to look out for that, hopefully, might give these characters more life.

THE UGLY

- I AM PISSED THAT THEY MARKETING THIS WRONG. If you're going into this thinking that you'll be full-on terrified, you'll be extremely disappointed. Like with the previous point about character development, a lot of people who read this are saying that this isn't scary enough. And like with the first point, I would agree. **They marketed this book wrong.** There were gory aspects, but they weren't scary. Oh. Come to think of it, there was one specific scene where I got really creeped out. It was a scene where the light comes on and off, and something appears and disappears on the scene. That was pretty good. But going back to my point, this was marketed wrong. **People are expecting this to be purely a horror graphic novel, which it isn't.** There were creepier aspects, but the whole plot was more mysterious than scary.

FINAL THOUGHTS

If you're into gory stuff with a mix of mystery, I'd highly recommend this shit. I loved it. It might not be the perfect character-driven story, but the plot and the suspense was enough to keep me hooked and keep reading. I hope the next ones would be better.

Cheese says

4.5 stars, this was excellent.

I had no idea what to expect from this. No prior research at all.

I would compare this comic to watching that film *Scream* for the first time, but without the spoof. Creepy, original, suspense, horror and constantly trying to guess who the killer is.

So it's called *Nail Biter* because the first issue centres around a serial killer who captured 42 separate victims on separate occasions, chewed their nails off their hands and killed them. He only chose victims that chewed their fingers nails.

The press get onto it and blow the whole case open and realise that he's from a small town that had another 15 serial killers born there. So 16 in total.

The town gets a lot of publicity from press, evil hunter tourists and detectives. One detective goes to investigate and finally gets somewhere and sends for his partner who is on leave for a murder trial who specialises in information extraction (torture).

That's when it's gets interesting.

I would highly recommend this book, it's deep, frightening and intriguing. Fantastic writing and good artwork.

I'm jumping into this series straight away.

Jan Philipzig says

Buckaroo: Home of Serial Killers

The premise sounds interesting enough, one of the characters sums it up like this:

"Sixteen of the world's worst serial killers were all born and raised right here in Buckaroo, Oregon. The last, of course, being the infamous Edward 'The Nailbiter' Warren. If it's a curse, a coincidence, or an act of the devil himself, it is not for us to know..."

Unfortunately, the execution is sloppy: the character design feels forced, the dialogue stagy, the plot formulaic.

In addition, some of the story's ideological leanings bother me, most notably the insinuations that

- a) kids are trouble ("dear Lord, kids these days...").
- b) we need to be tougher on crime (apparently the justice system is so lenient that it lets even the most obvious serial killer walk).
- c) police brutality is acceptable (the victim usually deserves it anyway, right?).

After *Ghosted*, this is my second attempt to get into a Joshua Williamson horror series. "Fail," my merciless son would say.

Sam Quixote says

Three years ago, Eliot Carroll arrested the alleged serial killer Edward Charles “Nailbiter” Warren, so-called because he chews the nails and fingers off of his victims before murdering them. In the present, Carroll believes he’s found the secret behind the many serial killers - the last being Warren - that the fictional town of Buckaroo, Oregon, seems to produce. And then he disappears. It’s up to his friend Nicholas Finch and the local sheriff Shannon Crane to find Carroll before the latest of the “Buckaroo Butchers” keeps the secret hidden. Except doing so means the unthinkable - partnering up with the Nailbiter himself!

Horror seems to be a very difficult genre to get right in comics and unfortunately that trend continues with Joshua Williamson and Mike Henderson’s *Nailbiter*. The title character is probably the biggest flaw with this book. We’re introduced to him sat in a room full of corpses, the fingers of one of them in his bloodied mouth. Then later he’s in court on a string of charges, the heaviest being 45 counts of first degree murder - and still he gets off! I know there’s no story if he doesn’t but I just don’t buy that. OJ got away with a couple murders but he was a celebrity with a lot of money - this dude’s a nobody with no cash and still he walked away from 45 murders? Shenanigans!

Then we’re later reintroduced to him as this lovable rascal who moves back to his hometown and ends up helping the local law enforcement with their investigations in a contrived Hannibal/Clarice-type relationship (which isn’t much of a stretch to make the connection as Williamson repeatedly hits this comparison in his script). I get the impression that we’re supposed to like this character but I just didn’t care about him. He’s not charming or interesting like Hannibal, he’s just dull; he wishes he were Hannibal!

The story is no great shakes. Finch and Crane wander about Buckaroo looking for clues and slowly making progress while cosplayers of the Buckaroo Butchers rack up the body count of non-characters. Without getting into spoilers, this subplot reminded me heavily of the first *Scream* movie, not least because Henderson’s layouts - POV shots, repeated frames with small details tweaked - mirrored the same approach to murder that Ghost Face did. And the cloak/mask/dagger look is also very *Scream*. That’s the problem with *Nailbiter* - everything in here reminds me of better stories! *Silence of the Lambs*, *Scream*, even *Chew*!

Why *Chew*? The Buckaroo Butchers all have “quirky” murdering habits like *Chew*’s weird foodie villains. Walter Grant is the Silent Movie Killer who kills people who talk during movies; The Blonde cuts the tongues out of anyone who catcalls her as she walks down the street; The Terrible Two are a brother and sister duo who only murder other twins. And of course there’s *Nailbiter* who bites his victims’ nails before killing them (allegedly). It’s nowhere near as original or entertaining as *Chew* though.

Besides being derivative, *Nailbiter* is an unfocused, plodding police procedural that fails to bring the horror it’s aiming for. The characters are flat and boring, the story is uninteresting, and it’s overall another crap horror comic.

Liz Janet says

Buckaroo, Oregon has given rise to sixteen known serial killers, all just as creepy as the other. This has given the town a bad reputation, but no one truly knows how so many murderers come from such a small place, so

Detective Eliot Carroll assigns himself to figure it all out. He then makes a call to his friend, Officer Nicholas Finch, to come find him, since he trust his friend has the skills to completely solve the mystery, however when the cop arrives into town he discovers Carroll is missing, and that there might just be another murderer on the loose. Aligning himself with Sheriff Shannon Crane, he must go and try to find what has happened to his friend, and what exactly is happening in this town, including a backstory to Sheriff Crane, a girl who seems to want trouble, and a town of people bent on revenge. And also, he must seek the help from Nailbiter, one of the Buckaroo-Sixteen murderers, who has connections with many people in town, positive or negative.

“Warren’s modus operandi was to kidnap innocent men and women who had the habit of chewing their fingernails. Warren would keep them captive until his victim’s nails grew back, and then chew their fingers down to the bone before ultimately killing them.” -This is the guy that will help them throughout.

This story offers two things so far, a character study of the most renown of the killers, Nailbiter, and a horror story that seeps through the pages. There is little known of Nailbiter, and even less of the other killers, but we know it will be revealed in slower doses throughout subsequent volumes/issues, but the character study is not all about the murderers, at least not at first glance. Each character here has something to hide, something to achieve, so we are given snippets of their lives, and we must try to piece them together to discover who they are, what they have done, and what they might do. We get scenes of a town scared of themselves, suspecting any of them could be the next murderer, dark and abandoned streets, a creepy store that sells memorabilia of each of the killers that also serves as a museum, pouring rain, the odd teenagers, and main and side characters with relations to the killers, creating an air of suspense and doubt in every single person depicted here. This is exactly how we should feel when reading a horror story, no jump scares or useless information, but a well-thought out view of a place and people that will show instead of tell.

The main theme so far is whether or not serial killers are born or bred. Which one is it? The science is still not sure, although so far I agree it ought to be a bit of both, but I cannot wait to pick up later volumes explaining more about this town's murderers, their reasoning, their normal lives before being discovered, and how they manage to have such lives without anyone suspecting(which tends to be a trend with serial killers in general), and more panels of their gruesome murders.

A mix of "Silence of the Lambs", "Hannibal", "Dexter" and probably a bunch of other things, will provide a creepy story for the winter months, and in my case, all year-round. It is gruesome, and as such, not to everyone's taste, but it deserves at least a quick look through, there is beauty to be had in the pages, even if they are disgusting and gut wrenching.

Paul Nelson says

Review to come

Raeleen Lemay says

This was pretty good! Definitely didn't blow my mind, but I'll probably continue with the series if my library has them.

Christopher says

This is quite a good time, but I must admit that if I had realized it was an ongoing series, I might not have started it. Complex serial killer mystery books need (imo) to be limited series (even if that limit is like 75 issues) so they can be planned out. I need confidence as a reader that the ending is known and they aren't just making this mess up as they go.

That being said, now that I've started, I'll read the next volume or two.
