



Hellblazer: Shoot

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An assortment of Hellblazer stories written by Brian Azzarello (100 BULLETS), Warren Ellis (PLANETARY), and others. In these stories by some of comics' top writers, John Constantine faces school violence, a desperate, occult family and more. Plus: A group of documentary filmmakers try to find out what happened to Mucous Membrane -- an up-and-coming punk band led by John Constantine that met a mysterious end.

Collects HELLBLAZER #144, 145, 245-246, 250 and VERTIGO RESURRECTED: HELLBLAZER--SHOOT #1.

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From Reader Review Hellblazer: Shoot for online ebook

'kris Pung says

A really good collection of 3 or 4 short Hellblazer stories by various writers and artists.

Derek says

This awesome book collects a very diverse bunch of Hellblazer stories by a few regular contributors and some random writers and artists as well. The following are my favourite of the collection:

1. SHOOT. Script by Warren Ellis, pencils by Phil Jimenez.& Andy Lanning

This follows Constantine investigating a bunch of murders involving kids pulling guns on their mates before eating the bullet themselves.

Apparently when Warren first pitched this script, DC were very reluctant to publish it, citing it as too controversial, which it is, the same way the truth always is. DC's refusal to print the comic in its original form led to Warren Ellis withdrawing from the Hellblazer series. He wouldn't stand for their cowardice. Way to go, Ellis!

2. ASHES AND HONEY. Script by Darko Macan, pencils by Gary Erskine.

Constantine's attending a funeral of an old beekeeper he met about a year ago when his grandson, Samir, stole his magical-healing boots and was going around trading miracles for stuff like VCRs. Everything comes with a price, and Samir learns the hard way when he tries to revive a dead girl. A life for a life, that's the going fare.

3. NEWCASTLE CALLING. Script by Jason Aaron, pencils by Sean Murphy.

A bunch of American Rockers travel to Newcastle to film an episode of "Bands You've Never Heard Of" This episode takes them to the condemned Casanova Club where Mucus Membrane played way back in '77. Shit gets trippy very fast and keeps hitting the fan and the next fan and the next fan till Constantine has to get on a train to sort things out. As far as Constantine is concerned, Newcastle will never be put behind him.

4. CHRISTMAS CARDS. Script by Jamie Delano, pencils by David Lloyd.

It's Christmas, John, Chas and the rest of the derelicts are holed up in Dave's Poker Bunker, playing Poker when this foreign sod walks in and starts to play, problem is, he's playing against Barry, a vicious wanker if there ever was one. Barry always wins, but this foreign sod has a lot riding on the pot, and through Constantine's eyes we see why. We empathize fully. Question is, will Barry do the same or take him for the ride?

5. ALL I GOT FOR CHRISTMAS. Poem by Brian Azarello, pencils by Rafael Grampa.

An old disgruntled man lays a curse on the Cubs and it comes true. It takes a wandering English man to raise up to the challenge and break the curse, but the cost of breaking the curse will turn out to be more than the local pubbers can pay, or can they?

Andrew Knighton says

John Constantine remains one of the darkest and most interesting characters to have emerged from DC comics, and this volume of short pieces by different writers and artists lives up to that promise. It's the usual Hellblazer mix of cynicism, horror and social commentary, and the art has a wide range of American comic book styles with occasional European influences.

In terms of writing the standout story for me was Darco Macan's 'Ashes & Honey'. I'd never heard of Macan before but his story is touching and clever. My favourite art was Sean Murphy's angular, detailed work on 'Newcastle Calling', which had some captivating panels.

A good read for any Hellblazer fan, though new readers should probably start with a longer arc first to get to know the character.

Kat says

Constantine didn't do much in the first few stories. The concepts were ok.

I just liked the last story.

Sam Quixote says

Shoot is a grab-bag of Constantine short stories from quite a few big name creators like Warren Ellis, Brian Azzarello, Jamie Delano, Peter Milligan, China Mieville, and Dave Gibbons but the name that got my attention the most was Jason Aaron's.

His two-part Constantine story with artist Sean Murphy (with colours by Lee "Deadly Class" Loughridge and covers by Lee "Batman: Noel" Bermejo - what a line-up!), Newcastle Calling, is THE reason to pick up this book. In his youth, John was in a punk band called Mucous Membrane who played a gig in a now-condemned building where six people were murdered in the basement in '78. Set in the present day, a documentary crew break in to film an investigative piece - and then shit goes very far south for them!

Aaron's story is spooky, unnerving and totally compelling by itself and then he brings in Constantine who's written both so damn cool and such a total bastard. If only DC had been quicker than Marvel to sign Aaron to an exclusive contract years ago, imagine the Constantine books we'd have now - but then we wouldn't have all the great stuff Aaron's done at Marvel either so I guess things worked out for the best. Newcastle Calling is far and away the best Constantine story I've read so far.

Ellis' story is about a psychologist investigating the causes of school shootings who notices John appearing in the background news footage of each of the most recent shootings. It's not a bad story but it's not great either - Ellis ranting about the fucked up state of the world through Constantine as his mouthpiece.

Darko Macan's two part Ashes and Honey is about Eastern European mysticism and bringing the dead back to life. It's an ok story if a bit too miserable at times to call it very fun. The volume closes with some seasonal themed stories by Azzarello, Milligan, Delano, Mieville and Gibbons most of which are amusing little supernatural snapshots in the life of Constantine though Mieville's was an overcomplicated mess - he's not a very good comics writer.

Newcastle Calling is easily a five star story, the rest of the volume is three stars average - let's split the difference and call Shoot a four star book!

John says

A solid collection of Constantine stories from various points in the history of the title, most by top-shelf creators. As with any collection like this there are highs and lows, but all of the stories effectively capture the mood and style of this great long long running series. I especially enjoyed the background story on John's punk band, and the special Christmas issue, which brings a decidedly different attitude to the holiday. Worth a look for fans of the character.

Dan says

This assorted collection sees Constantine dabble in cases at Christmas, revisit his punk past in Newcastle and encounter eastern sacrifices - and he generally moans about it all as he does it. Giving the book its name, Ellis opening story is, alongside Jason Aaron's take on Constantine, are the strongest contributions collected here; others lose their thread in confusion caused by over-plotting (Macan's effort) and the rest are mostly too short to ever get going. As with most books of this ilk, a mixed bag - but, if you're a newcomer like me, a solid introduction to the John Constantine canon.

Artemy says

A great collection of short Hellblazer stories. My favourites were, of course, the titular 'Shoot' by Warren Ellis, which is brilliant, and the two-parter by Jason Aaron called 'Newcastle Calling'. Other stories were generally pretty good, too, but the quality of writing and art is, of course, varied, which is what you'd expect from such a collection. Still, the volume as a whole is worth of your time if you are into Hellblazer already, and if you're not, this may be a nice introduction to the series.

Quentin Wallace says

This collection is a little scattered as it reprints issues from different places in the run, but still a good read. Warren Ellis issues are included along with some various holiday stories that appeared in different Vertigo

one shots. There are too many themes to go into detail but they are all nice and creepy.

The quality is a little varied, and the lack of cohesiveness was a little disconcerting, but still not a bad read.

Kay says

This collection of John Constantine stories is mainly notable for the significant number of Christmas themed stories. I have may now have a whole new take on the holidays--in Constantine's world. The last Christmas story had such a plot twist that I had to check out who wrote it which was China Mieville. I gave this 3 stars because as a collection of different stories by different writers, there was no depth or significant plot development. Constantine seems to be on the edges which makes him a good character for different writers to share their visions. Just know that this volume could jump start your holidays especially if you like them sick, twisted, and dryly funny.

Robert Hudder says

A bunch of one shots; one of which talks about school shootings. Also, a few more Christmas season stories as well. We also revisit Newcastle. All in all, these stories are helpful in back filling pieces of the mythos of Constantine. Due to their shortness, they seem to be a little more preachy and overt than the longer arcs that have time to breathe.

There is something to being hit over the head with a blunt instrument of meaning. The dry and dark humour comes through almost like a quip in an action movie. I still prefer the longer stories with time to burn and watch the embers blow out and flare at moments.

John says

a nice anthology with some great talent. Warren Ellis has a quick intro, more of a monolog than a story, but things pick up from there. I picked this up because I am hoovering up anything with Jason Aaron's name attached, and he does not disappoint here. Brian Azzarello wins Miss Congeniality for a Christmas poem about Cubs fans vs. a monstrous ScapeGoat.

Benjamin Barnes says

Very cool art absolutely love these comics

Iván says

Tarique Ejaz says

Ah! John Constantine!

I must admit that slowly and steadily, I am getting addicted to this freelance walking judiciary meting out swift and at times, messy judgements to the dark and the underworld dwellers.

A solid collection it was indeed. Despite the fact that there wasn't such a hell lot of clear cut-throat butchery and supernatural antics as one would normally associate with someone like Constantine, each of the story was well scripted and there wasn't a shallow moment in most of them.

Playing with the charade of human emotions, Hellblazer highlights the very statement that "evil dwells in us" with such finesse and ease that it is almost dumbfounding to comprehend it completely.

The artwork in the Mucous Membrane is so frigging brilliant and elusive that it almost got me hooked onto it so badly that I couldn't stop until I had traversed through the entire story.

:)

An interesting and inquisitive read, to say at most.
