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Murder Ballads



Synopsis

Murder Ballads is a truly unique package, A Graphic Novel with an accompanying soundtrack by Dan Auerbach and Robert Finley. It deftly weaves the music into an narrative that is a meditation on music, race, obsession, and how far someone will go to see their vision become real, Murder Ballads follows the fall and reinvention of Nate Theodore, the dead-broke and deadbeat owner of a failed record label who is on a cross-country drive in the dead of winter with his wife Mary, fleeing the wreckage of their business and heading towards the destruction of their marriage. But Nate is given an unexpected chance to redeem himself when, during an unscheduled detour, he "discovers" Donny and Marvell Fontweathers, two African-American brothers who play a singular version of doom-laden country blues. Convinced that the brothers are the key to his salvation, Nate's desperate to make an album with the brothers before someone else finds out about them-but he needs money. Money he doesn't have and can't get through any conventional means. So he persuades Donny and Marvell to join him in a crazy scheme: they'll undertake a minor crime spree to raise the funds needed to produce their record. Naturally, complications arise for this wannabe modern-day Alan Lomax and his soon-to-be stars, and just like in the murder ballads the Fontweathers Brothers play, the body count starts to grow..Music contributed by Dan Auerbach and Robert Finley."

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Z2 Comics (August 8, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1940878101

ISBN-13: 978-1940878102

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #57,923 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in [Books & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Mystery](#) #113 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Literary](#) #6713 in [Books > Teens](#)

Customer Reviews

"The story of Murder Ballads explores the seedy underbelly of American music history, the darkness and violence that sometimes fuels hit records...Writer Gabe Soria's graphic novel is a

note-perfect tale of music and mayhem..." -- ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY"Coen Brothers-Esque" -- BILLBOARD"Gritty."-- THE TENNESSEAN"...a taut and intense graphic novel...The comic doesn't waste a single panel, and writer Gabe Soria knows how to pace the whole endeavor like a bat out of hell. The artwork drips with synesthetic musicality... -- VULTURE"Paul Reinwand and Chris Hunt both submerge the reader into the smoky, bottom-shelf underworld of Shreveport, Louisiana, swinging from moody swaths of ink to angular suspense sequences. The additional album constructs an immersive, form-is-function totem to an art form baked into the fabric of America's underbelly, and a trans-media experience unlike anything released this year."--PASTE MAGAZINE

part blues tribute, part Tarantino-esque story telling, and part rocking blues companion. I really enjoyed the comic book and music blending medium that murder ballads provided and I hope that this opens the door for more creative music collaborations like this in the future. I would have liked to see this be a little longer, but it was a quick read and very enjoyable. The music is solid too. Most Black Keys or blues fans will enjoy the music. You don't have to be a die hard of either to appreciate it.

Quick, fast-witted, and genuinely authentic to its core. It's all on the surface, much like blues music itself. As for the music it's a perfect companion, it reflects in the pages of the story, and the beauty of the entire package is that while the music and the book can exist as great entities on their own, together they create a richness not found in any other book I've read this year. Highly recommended!

I'm probably Dan's biggest fan, so whatever project he does, I know it's going to be a good one. This graphic novel was a very quick read, but don't let that fool you! The illustrations were gorgeous, the music is amazing, and the story is very, very cool.

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