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John Constantine, Hellblazer Vol. 4: The Family Man



Synopsis

Collected for the first time in chronological order and featuring stories by fan-favorite writer Grant Morrison (BATMAN INC, FINAL CRISIS) and the legendary Neil Gaiman (SANDMAN, AMERICAN GODS), FAMILY MAN continues the arcane adventures of Vertigo's chain-smoking magician John Constantine. In this volume, Constantine attempts a vacation after recent events, but as usual, things don't go as planned. Plus, Constantine must uncover the mystery of the murderous Family Man.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hellblazer, Vol 4: The Family Man was, without a doubt, the strongest volume of the Hellblazer series I have read thus far. It reinforced the positive aspects of the Hellblazer comic and brought something new to the series as well, namely a new array of writers and artists (mostly) gracing the series and a strictly human foe for John Constantine, our favourite chain-smoking down-and-out low rent living Liverpoolian magus and supernatural sleuth (how many of these can you find in fiction of any medium, anyway? It's certainly a testament to the originality of the Hellblazer series that Constantine is so originally characterized). "Hellblazer, Vol 4: The Family Man" collects the individual issued issues #23 to #33. Issues #23, #24, #28, #29, #30 and #31 are all written by Jamie Delano and are pertaining to "The Family Man" storyline, in which John Constantine unknowingly becomes indirectly responsible for the murder of a family at the hands of a serial-killer dubbed "The Family Man". When he realizes what he caused, he decides to stop the killer at any cost. However, "The

Family Man" is a resourceful man and Constantine soon finds himself alternating between the role of hunter and prey. This storyline is quite interesting, as it pits Constantine against a entirely human foe. That's a somewhat new and dangerous terrain for Constantine, a man who deeply fears and hates guns and whose foes are generally of supernatural origin. In the words of Constantine himself "Demons I can handle - this trouble's strictly human." This storyline is compelling and even if the motives that fuel "The Family Man"™s murders are somewhat lazily constructed edipian references; it's still a very good storyline.

This volume of the ongoing Hellblazer comic series proved to be a mixed bag, not in terms of quality but in terms of subject matter. Much like the first volume, but in this case it was all tied together by a larger narrative. It was, I think, my favorite volume so far - which is a bit chilling, since this was undoubtedly the most messed up volume yet as well. At any rate, I'm finally seeing what everyone raves about with this series. John Constantine knows how to handle a supernatural threat. Usually, that™s run like heck, but still. He faces down the things that go bump in the night on a regular basis, has stared into Hell and had Hell stare back. He bears the scars of these encounters, both physical and mental. But now? Now Constantine is up against his most unnerving enemy yet - a strictly vanilla human serial killer who specializes in slaughtering entire families. Fresh from the near-apocalypse caused by the government™s runaway - fear machine, - and needing a place to lay low, Constantine drops in on an old friend and finds himself in the middle of a mind-bending meta-fictional romp. A few weeks later, a mysterious figure shows up at the door in search of Constantine™s missing friend. This encounter will plunge Constantine into a deadly game of chess for his very soul. In between the moves of that deadly game, we get some guest appearances. First off, Grant Morrison and David Lloyd spin a tale of nuclear horror as a town and the new missile base just up the road both fall victim to a sinister experiment. Then Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean take an issue to explore the human need for affection and just simply being noticed. Later, Dick Foreman spins a yarn about a madman™s dream to take over the world using an unlikely vehicle for his ambitions.

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