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From Hell



Synopsis

Alan Moore (Watchmen) and Eddie Campbell (Bacchus), grandmasters of the comics medium, present a book often ranked among the greatest graphic novels of all time: *From Hell*. From the squalid alleys of the East End to the Houses of Parliament, from church naves to dens of the occult, all of London feels the uniquely irresistible blend of fascination, revulsion, and panic that the Ripper offers. The city teeters on the brink of the twentieth century, and only the slightest prodding is necessary to plunge it into a modern age of terror. Moore and Campbell have created a gripping, hallucinatory piece of crime fiction about Jack the Ripper. Detailing the events that led up to the Whitechapel murders and the cover-up that followed, *From Hell* is a modern masterpiece of crime noir and historical fiction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The mad, shaggy genius of the comics world dips deeply into the well of history and pulls up a cup filled with blood in *From Hell*. Alan Moore did a couple of Ph.D.'s worth of research into the Whitechapel murders for this copiously annotated collection of the independently published series. The web of facts, opinion, hearsay, and imaginative invention draws the reader in from the first page. Eddie Campbell's scratchy ink drawings evoke a dark and dirty Victorian London and help to humanize characters that have been caricatured into obscurity for decades. Moore, having decided that the evidence best fits the theory of a Masonic conspiracy to cover up a scandal involving Victoria's grandson, goes to work telling the story with relish from the point of view of the victims, the

chief inspector, and the killer--the Queen's physician. His characterization is just as vibrant as Campbell's; even the minor characters feel fully real. Looking more deeply than most, the author finds in the "great work" of the Ripper a ritual magic working intended to give birth to the 20th century in all its horrid glory. Maps, characters, and settings are all as accurate as possible, and while the reader might not ultimately agree with Moore and Campbell's thesis, *From Hell* is still a great work of literature. --Rob Lightner

As ambitious and affecting as anything ever rendered in pictures and word balloons. --Salon
At once a meditation on evil, a police procedural and a commentary on Victorian England ... an impressive piece of work. --The Los Angeles Times
My all-time favorite graphic novel ... an immense, majestic work about the Jack the Ripper murders, the dark Victorian world they happened in, and the birth of the 20th century. --Warren Ellis, Entertainment Weekly

Alan Moore is one of the smartest comic book writers of our time, if not the best. *From Hell* is another example of his genius. I can't say this is his best comic book because everything he does is great, but this is one of his smartest comic books that I have read. It's well resurrected and has enough reading material that makes this feel like a novel and not a graphic novel. *From Hell* is about the Jack the Ripper. Saying it's about Jack the Ripper isn't the full story, it's much more. It not only covers the murders, but the victims and the one who people thought were Jack the Ripper. It covers the people trying to solve the murders too. In this book we know who Jack the Ripper is half way through, unless you read the appendix. The book also covers history of Victorian England and occult history as well. As I just said we know who Jack the Ripper is in this comic. He is a mad man part of the Freemasons with an obsession of the occult. Everything he does with the murders is in a pattern according to occult laws. Towards the end of the comic Moore pulls a *Paradise Lost* type of feel with Jack the Ripper. You almost can understand why he did what he did. It's really clever how Moore writes this book. I will say this book has a lot of graphic sex and gory violence. Yet if you're picking up an Alan Moore book and don't know that then you clearly don't know what Alan Moore does. Yet like *Lost Girls* and *Watchmen*, the violence and sex is necessary. This is about Jack the Ripper! Even if you don't know anything about Jack the Ripper and want to read this for whatever reason, go right head. I knew most about it because I get obsessed with this kind of stuff (I'm a Scorpio), but some of the stuff I didn't know much about at all. Thankfully Moore or Top Shelf were nice and wrote an appendix. This comes in handy for history buffs and people who want to know what the heck is going on. And if that's not enough, there's a part two to the appendix which gives you even more

information. This comic book is historical fiction, but like I said it reads like a novel novel. Still baffles me how this was made into a movie. Never seen the movie and now I really don't ever plan on watching the movie. I'll stick with the comic book. I could see this made into a TV show on Netflix or something because each chapter is set up like an episode, but then again it's not the same. If you're a fan of the Jack the Ripper murders then this book is a must. Even if you're a fan of Alan Moore or Eddie Campbell this is a must. Hell, just read this to experience what a good comic book is even about.

Eddie Campbell is a great talker about comics. *From Hell* is one of the novel-length comics works of lasting significance from the 1990s. This book, combining excerpted pages from the work along with Campbell's commentary and Alan Moore's original script, is a great way to explore the creation, publication, and reception of *From Hell*. I don't know how many of Moore's scripts for any of his works are readily available to read, so it's fascinating here to see how much thought he puts into the world he imagines--conjures--even if there's no hope of the artist including every detail. Also included are some of Moore's original rough layouts (which Campbell didn't see until much later), numerous photos of the actual locations, and a few relevant stills from the film. This is a very thorough and entertaining look at the decade-long production process of the novel. It earns five stars from me. However, I read this on the Kindle for (1st gen) iPad app. I found it to be a disappointing experience. The reproductions of the comics pages do not look nearly as good as the same pages from the digitized novel available through at least one popular digital comics sales website. Those pages with this version are usually slightly blurry and the lettering is difficult to read. Additionally, the captions for individual photos and drawings don't always appear on the same page as those photos and drawings, so you have to flick back and forth to see all the information. (The e-book edition from a leading competitor has similarly bad comics images, but the captions do appear alongside the photos and drawings at least.) So one star removed for a disappointing experience reading this on Kindle for iPad. It's possible a later version of the iPad or a real Kindle may provide a better experience for you.

Love Alan Moore stuff. Great graphic novel from which the movie, "From Hell" was made...great movie too. The story of course, a mix of fact and fiction. It got me interested in the ripper however and got me reading everything I could find on the subject. Learning the characters from this novel made reading other works that much more enjoyable. I highly recommend the latest book on this subject, "They All Love Jack"...perhaps the best researched book to date on Jack the Ripper, I

believe this latest book solved the case. IMO only of course.

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