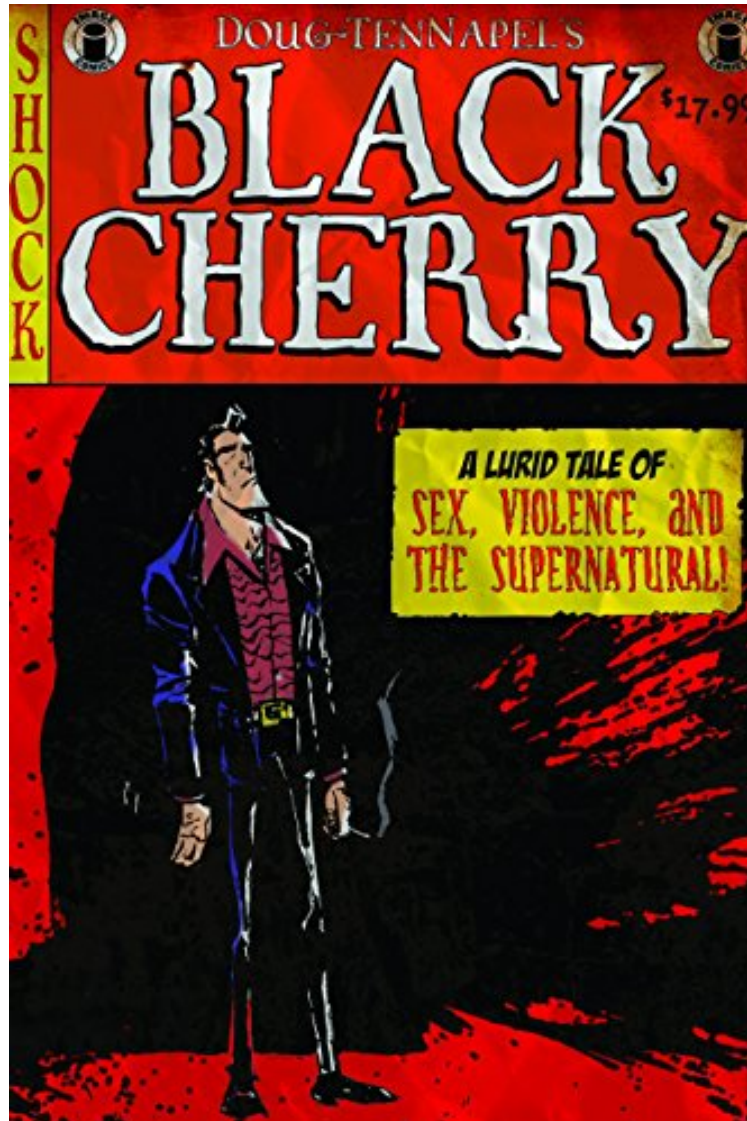


Black Cherry

Doug Tennapel

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Doug Tennapel : Black Cherry before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Cherry:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Riotous, Rollicking, Fabulous, Spiritual TENNAPEL-NESS! By MirHe has done it again. Doug TenNapel has taken an assortment of elements/genres--gangster, romance, sci-fi, horror, action, comedy, spiritual warfare--and made it all work together. The description on the cover says, "A lurid tale of sex, violence, and the supernatural." Yup. And funny as heck. They forgot that part. And moving. Forgot that,

too. And full of mercy for the outcast, the prodigal, the misfit, and the...alien. Not to mention squirrels. I can't offer much by way of summary without giving away some fun plot points and twists. I know you'd much rather learn those on your own the old-fashioned way (by reading it), so here it is: Bad guy Eddie Paretti, who's fallen in love with a stripper named Black Cherry, finds that 1. his girl is gone from the strip place and 2. he's made a deal to steal a body from his own mob boss in order to get money to pay off his debts and 3. that body is not what he expects. Stealing that body is about to get Eddie in a big, big fix, and it's going to save him, too, in all sorts of ways. The cast includes some staples of sci-fi/crime fiction/spiritual warfare/horror: demons, angels, bad guys, good guys, a priest, an alien, the hot chick, the wise-cracking protagonist, the cool pal, and car chases. But TenNapel has a way of taking traditional elements and doing something wacky, funny, moving, and new with them, and always with some spiritual insights. What he does with one particular, er, sacrament is to die for. I love D.G. and I couldn't put down BLACK CHERRY. This gets a big thumbs up for graphicky novel goodness. Or is that badness? And yeah, if you're easily offended by cussing and sexual talk, then this is not the work for you. But, as TenNapel says in his preface, "Criminals don't talk like they are trying to keep from offending soccer moms." One quibble: The ending needed a little more space. At least another couple of pages to fill out some blanks. But, really, that's all I found wanting. Hurry up with the next one, Doug. Your graphic novels are each a delicious, demented delight. Mir3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Required reading for visual storytellers. By Joshua Graham I honestly think that the genius of this work starts even before the story does, in the forward where Doug's simple, matter-of-fact rebuttal to content-critics provides a roadmap to other authors and artists who struggle with the same issues raised by the content of Black Cherry. There's a difference between obscenity and reality, and there's something strikingly, perhaps even dangerously untrue about media that tries to show us a sanitized version of the underbelly of society. Eddie's world is not one most of us would be comfortable in, but for all its demon-possessed mobsters and the monster cars that eat them, it feels more real than worlds where criminals talk -- as Tennapel put it -- like they're afraid of offending soccer moms. All that aside, it's the story that really shines, and I wouldn't be doing you any favors by spoiling it. Check out Black Cherry with an open mind, and you won't be disappointed. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great fun. By Kurt Belcher I had bought this book for a friend, but I couldn't let it go without reading it myself. I had only heard TenNapel's name in relation to "Earthworm Jim", so I wasn't expecting too much. Well, to be honest, I didn't know WHAT to expect. Well, color me surprised. This book was not only well-crafted, but it was a hell of a lot of fun. TenNapel's work seems to be a matter of jumping on an idea and just writing and drawing as it goes, and descends into every-deeper recesses of insanity. The book starts with a fairly 'normal' premise: Mafia hatchet man doing a job for his family. It goes from there into a story of alien Catholic priests being pursued by devils who want his powers for themselves, and whatever other craziness TenNapel can throw in. I found myself laughing at every turn. From 'Get a dick in his butt!' to the main character crashing a UFO into a building...it was all so over-the-top, there was no way you COULDN'T laugh at it. I'd highly recommend the book. If you don't get at least a guffaw, a chuckle, or a belly laugh out of it, there's something seriously wrong with you. KAB

Down-on-his-luck Mafioso, Eddie Paretti is so desperate for cash he's agreed to steal a dead body from his own mob boss! Things only get worse when he discovers the body isn't human! With few options and fewer people he can trust, Eddie calls on the man who raised him, Father McHugh. The priest tells Eddie that the body was stolen from his monastery by the Mafia. Father McHugh is accompanied by a beautiful woman Eddie swears looks just like a stripper he once fell in love with named Black Cherry.