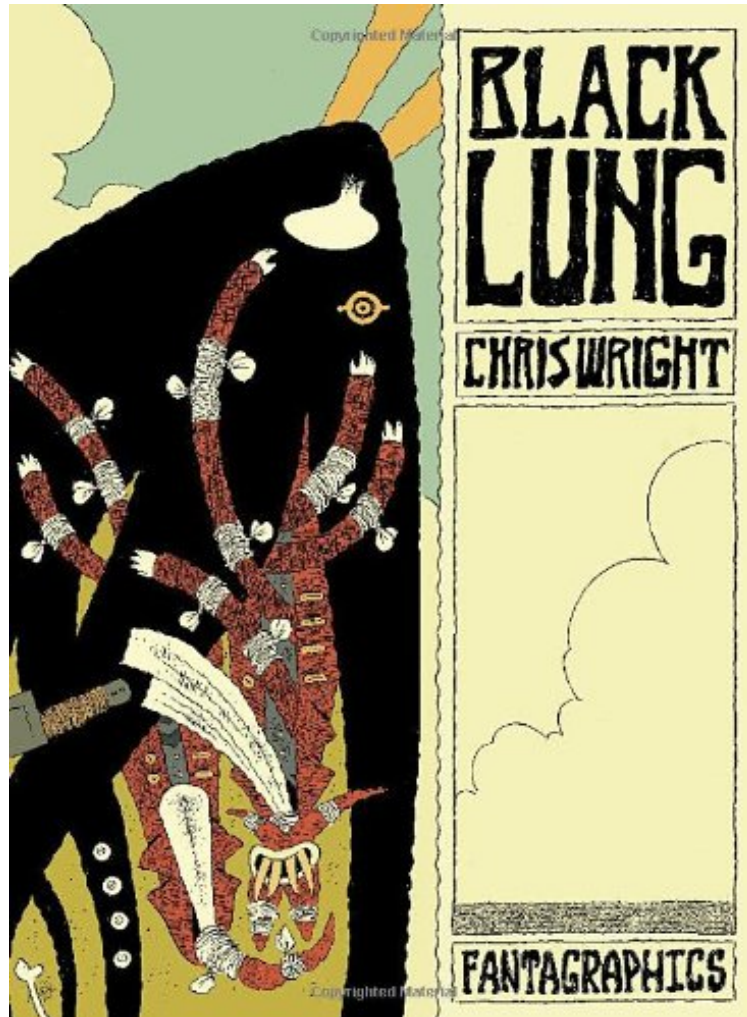


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Blacklung

Chris Wright

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Chris Wright : Blacklung before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blacklung:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Best Graphic Novel of 2012....Black Lung is a cutthroat masterpieceBy wilco29With BlackLung Chris Wright has written the Blood Meridian of modern comics. BL is a visually stunning work that has renewed my faith in the medium. Unlike most art comics, Wright knows how to tell a meaningful story of faith, obsession, and madness. His art style is unique and his elliptical prose is pure poetry to read.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Review for the average guyBy DrewfordI am a guy who enjoys reading a lot, enjoys great style and a well developed plot line, and can detect and appreciate great art (in the graphic novel medium). But when it comes to literature I have always had a tough time of seeing the deeper meaning and themes, the tidbits which really satisfy the critics.The reason I mention this is because I think Blacklung is one of those

rare graphic novels that delivers to both types of readers. A casual fan of offbeat comics will immediately notice the highly stylized and incredible artwork, and the story line is adequate to keep the reader interested. The narrator is the captive of a pirate captain whose obsession leads him down a brutal and destructive path. When I finished the book that's pretty much what I took away from it. But like all great books, when I was done reading I knew there was something more. It's that feeling that stays with you and keeps you thinking about what you just read. It's hard for me to interpret and express, but *Blacklung* has it. I would have rated the book a 4.5/5 if possible, but I give it -.5 stars because my copy shipped with a few pages out of order near the beginning of the book. This left me really confused until I noticed the issue and managed to reread the section in order. No fault of the author's for sure. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Product arrived in great condition. By S. Koch An amazingly disturbed story. Product arrived in great condition.

In this graphic novel cartooned by a promising up-and-comer, a schoolteacher and a gangster team up when pirates shanghai them. Chris Wright's *Blacklung* is unquestionably one of the most impressive graphic novel debuts in recent years, a sweeping, magisterially conceived, visually startling tale of violence, amorality, fortitude, and redemption, one part Melville, one part Peckinpah. *Blacklung* is a story that lives up to the term graphic novel, that could only exist in sequential pictures densely textured, highly stylized, delicately and boldly rendered drawings that is, taken together, wholly original. In a night of piratical treachery when an arrogant school teacher is accidentally shanghaied aboard the frigate *Hand*, his fate becomes inextricably fettered to that of a sardonic gangster. Dependent on one another for survival in their strange and dangerous new home, the two form an unlikely alliance as they alternately elude or confront the thieves and cutthroats that bad luck has made their companions and captors. After an act of terrible violence, the teacher is brought before the ship's captain and instructed to use his literary skills to aid him in writing his memoirs. He is to serve as scribe for a man who, in his remaining years, has made it his mission to commit as many acts of evil as possible in order to ensure that he meet his dead wife in hell. As the captain's protected confidant, finding his only comfort in the few books afforded him, the teacher bears witness to monstrous brutality, relentless cruelty, strange wisdom, and a journey of redemption through loss of faith. Yes

From Booklist *Starred* Wright's first full-length graphic novel is not easy to describe or digest. At its widest angle, it's a pirate tale about a captain determined to dole out as much evil as he can so that he might be reunited with his dead love in hell. His theological musings are recorded by a dandy schoolteacher who was press-ganged aboard and introduced to a life of misery, maiming, and madness. The first mate kills for erotic pleasure, the preacher rambles on about apocalypse, and a seasoned gangster boss becomes downright civil in contrast to the brutality on board. Sounds pretty grim, and it is, but what's stunning is how Wright slashes through it all with genuinely funny dialogue, reminiscent of the deep-black humor of Norwegian cartoonist Jason, and powerful insight about how any sort of god could unleash humanity upon itself. Wright contrasts his doughy figures with densely crosshatched textures in a visual style that's about halfway between the sorta-animals of French comics master Lewis Trondheim and the lummoxy hero of Drew Weings' poetic *Set to Sea* (2010). And when he fully lets rip with a sequence of experimentally tricky panel arrangements and disjointed narrative structures, Wright shows he's got a deep arsenal of storytelling weapons at his command. Unsettling, upsetting, and strangely touching, Wright's story arrives at something humane and emotionally true through a sea of aberrance and terror. --Ian Chipman Chris Wright's *Blacklung*... feels... like a cancerous tumor that had to be excised from Wright's imagination in order to finally free him of it. ... Wright unleashes the full power of his dense artwork to create a relentlessly grim and oppressive story that is at times a pitch-black satire of both reason and faith. --Rob Clough"