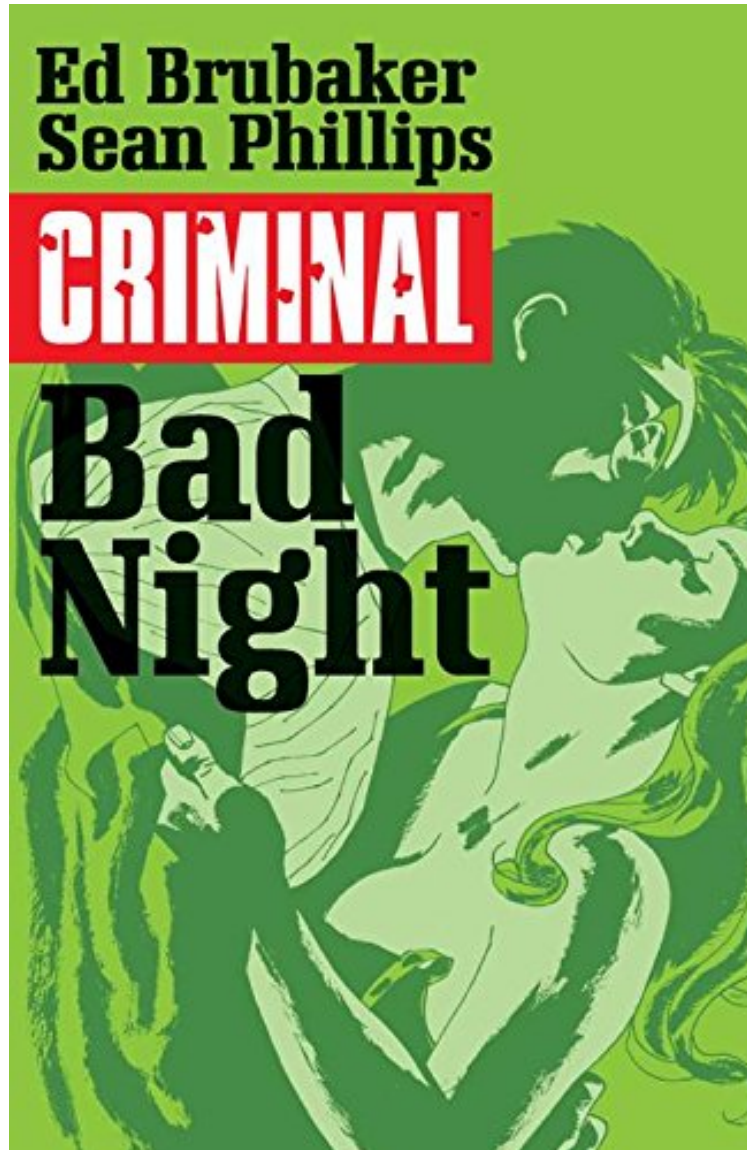


[E-BOOK] Criminal Volume 4: Bad Night (Criminal Tp (Image))

Criminal Volume 4: Bad Night (Criminal Tp (Image))

Ed Brubaker

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Ed Brubaker : Criminal Volume 4: Bad Night (Criminal Tp (Image)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Criminal Volume 4: Bad Night (Criminal Tp (Image)):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Graphic Noir Novel At Its Best; SexiestBy James EllsworthThe classic graphic novel art/story team of Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips are joined in this outing by colorist val staples. Together they turn out the sexiest 'Criminal' to date. For sure there are frames of feminine curves and explicit sex. The story picks up on 'Jacob', the insomniac cartoonist whose 'lost' wife is the neice of the local mob boss. Jacob may have

been framed by lazy and ambitious detective Max Starr but his wife's uncle had Jacobs legs broken just to be on the safe side of retribution. Jacob gets his own back on Starr by creating a detective comic strip featuring 'Frank Kafka' and dealing with the absurdity of Life. Literary types will immediately pick up on classic author Franz Kafka but nothing 'heavy' follows from that--just more of Life's absurdity. After all, we ARE back in the world of the graphic Noir novel. Jacob has more than one bad night here: first, he meets Iris, a bombshell with an unstable boyfriend, at one of his all-night hangouts. Just when it seems he is 'getting lucky' with Iris, it turns out he is being set up for another bad night, a heist that goes wrong. We just know other bad nights are going to follow, right up to an ambiguous, surprise ending. Unlike the Brubaker/Phillips series 'Fade Out,' the Criminal series can be purchased in just about any order without giving much away about individual plots. For sure, the characters are mixed up a bit and developed more in each issue but not every character appears in every story. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Masterful crime noir from Brubaker and Phillips meets high expectations (again) By K. W. Schreiter This fourth trade paperback collects four issues (Vol. 2 #4-7) of writer Ed Brubaker and artist Sean Phillips' consistently outstanding Criminal series. This story arc is self-contained but features some minor links to past issues and takes place in the same city. The main character is Jacob K., the ex-counterfeiter that helped Tracy Lawless in Volume 2. Jacob is revealed as the creator of "Frank Kafka, P.I.", a comic strip that appeared in previous issues and plays a significant role in this story. The woman on the cover is Iris, whose chance encounter with Jacob at a diner has powerful repercussions for both. The story retains the series' gritty realism and features an increased aura of psychological drama. Having pre-ordered this, I devoured it the day that it arrived at my house. Brubaker and Phillips took a break from this series for the six-issue mini-series "Incognito" but promised that "Criminal" will return. (I bought all six individual issues of "Incognito" and loved it - the TPB is scheduled for a December release). The first three "Criminal" TPBs have been collected into a deluxe hardcover edition. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fourth installation in a highly recommended series By Stan FREDO Mr. SCHREITER just before me has just about said all that has to be said about this book. It is not one of those cases where a fan praises the product just for the sake of it all and splashes five stars on it without giving any reasonable thought whatsoever. No. This truly is a masterpiece, just as the three volumes before were masterpieces. The story is fresh, the characters are very well defined, the interaction between them is very good, the art is consistently appropriate. This is a modern classic in the noir genre as well as a classic (graphic) novel. Period. So far, nothing that I bought with the names "Brubaker" and/or "Phillips" on it has been a disappointment or even average.

The best-selling crime series gets weird in this strikingly-designed new edition from Image. Criminal vol. 4: Bad Night -- It's the strangest story yet in the Criminal series, as an insomniac cartoonist gets caught in a winding tale of self-destruction, sex, and deadly deceptions. This is where Brubaker and Phillips showed how far they could push the boundaries between art, experimentation, and pulp.

From Booklist In their superhero-cum-spy comic Sleeper, Brubaker and Phillips played down the powers-and-costumes elements. With Criminal, they've escaped superheroes altogether, if only to adhere slavishly but rewardingly to another genre, hard-boiled noir. In this arc, insomniac cartoonist Jacob Kurtz's nocturnal excursions lead him to a fateful encounter in a seedy diner with an alluring redhead and her psychotically violent boyfriend, who ensnare him in an ill-advised heist. Jacob is damaged goods; he never recovered, physically or psychologically, from being framed by the police for murdering his wife and beaten by her mobbed-up relatives. The noose around him tightens; his obsession with the redhead grows; and in true noir fashion, he becomes increasingly desperate and unhinged (he receives visitations from his strips Dick Tracyish protagonist, Frank Kafka, P.I.). This all leads to an appropriately twisted denouement. Brubaker brings to Criminal the same intricate plotting and gritty dialogue that distinguished his earlier comics, and emphasizing mood and character plays to Phillips' considerable strengths. The shadowy, dangerous world of Criminal is hauntingly convincing. Criminals among the best mainstream comics produced today. --Gordon Flagg