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El Borbah

Charles Burns

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#1556012 in Books Fantagraphics 2006-01-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 12.10 x .50 x 9.10l, 1.40
#File Name: 156097693496 pages | File size: 68.Mb

Charles Burns : El Borbah before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised El Borbah:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. el Borbah detective storiesBy JeffI'm a big fan of Charles Burns' work, when I ran across this on it was a "had-to-have" and I was not disappointed. "Pulp" style detective stories with a 1950's sci-fi feel, along with Burns's incredible artwork, make this book a great addition to any self-confessed geek's bookshelf!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely Fantastic Production!By A CustomerIt's great to see Charles Burns' work get the treatment it deserves, this is one beautifully-made book with hilarious, pulpy stories starring the mad wrestler-detective El Borbah. Well worth the price!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some of the best of Burns' classic super weirdness.By pilooThere are few things that are as weird as the works of Charles Burns, and the El Borbah stories are perhaps his most humorously twisted creations. I personally much prefer

his early creations of wacky insanity like this to Burns' more formal literary stories like *Black Hole* or the *Nit Nit* trilogy. The humor here is warped, the characters are ALL freaks (and they like it that way), and it has that 80s underground feel to it. Between *El Borbah*, *Skin Deep*, and the *Big Baby* collection, I think Burns does his most entertaining work, but I will say that his later literary works are more visually skilled and haunting. I did like his *Nit Nit* trilogy, but it is a much different thing than what you will find here. Still, I like everything Burns does in general. If you want to know what the stories are like in *El Borbah*, think *Twilight Zone* meets *Tim Burton* in a pulp magazine.

An early cult classic graphic novel from the author of the acclaimed *Black Hole*. Meet *El Borbah*, a 400-pound private eye who wears a Mexican wrestler's tights and eerie mask. Subsisting entirely on junk food and beer, *El Borbah* conducts his investigations with tough talk and a short temper. He smashes through doors and skulls as he stalks a perfectly realized film-noir city filled with punks, geeks, business-suited creeps and mad scientists. *El Borbah* features five science-fiction and true-detective episodes: In "Robot Love," rebellious kids in nightclubs replace their "parts" with mechanical substitutes as part of a new fad, only to find that their parents have been automating themselves all along; in "Love in Vein" a mad visionary sperm donor plans a master race and turns "his" kids against their parents; "Bone Voyage" details the exploits of a cult called the Brotherhood of the Bone, a kind of cross between the Masons and the Mansons. The fantastic plots take up the weird fears of a scientific society, but the action is pure pulp. Charles Burns effortlessly spins yarns with gritty punchlines and pictures so perfect they must have existed in some collective memory of junk drama. And through it all crashes *El Borbah*, trying to make an honest buck from dishonest people. Burns is the author of *Black Hole*, the acknowledged masterpiece of the form that Fantagraphics serialized through the 1990s and will be collected into a massive graphic novel in 2005 by Pantheon Books. *El Borbah* is Burns' earliest work, created in the early 1980s, though the work remains eerily contemporary. Steeped in a "sci-fi-noir" aesthetic informed by Burns' steadily childhood diet of B-movies and comic books, but with a sophisticated sense of humor that is often as disturbing as it is funny, *El Borbah* is comics as its most entertaining.

El Borbah is wonderfully perverse. - *The Village Voice Literary Supplement* I still think Burns is the best cartoonist in the world. - Lynda Barry About the Author Charles Burns is the award-winning creator of the graphic novel, *Black Hole*. He lives in Philadelphia, PA.