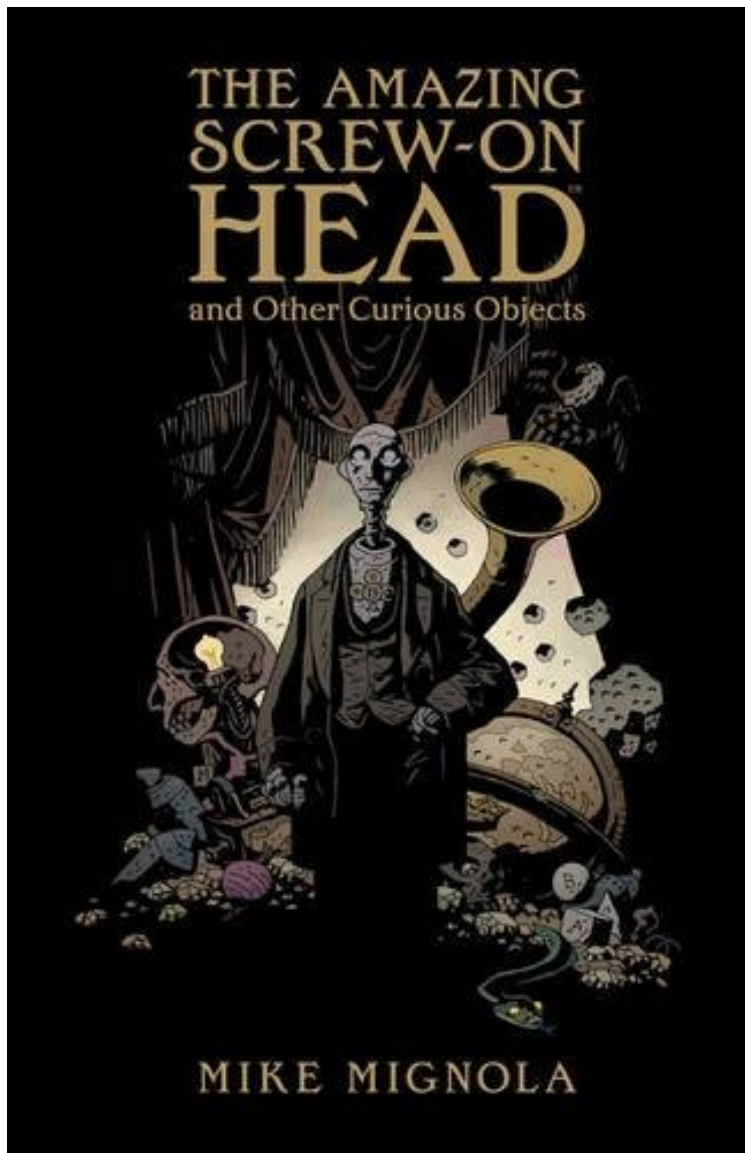


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## The Amazing Screw-On Head and Other Curious Objects

*Mike Mignola*

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#178965 in Books Dark Horse Comics Model: FBA-|284904 2010-09-14 2010-09-14 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.47 x .51 x 6.86l, 1.01 #File Name: 1595825010104 pages Dark Horse Comics | File size: 72.Mb

**Mike Mignola : The Amazing Screw-On Head and Other Curious Objects** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Amazing Screw-On Head and Other Curious Objects:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. THE AMAZING SCREW-ON HEAD AND OTHER CURIOUS OBJECTS by Mike Mignola By MOTU Review The Amazing Screw-On Head and Other Curious Objects (2010) collects Mike Mignola's eponymous Eisner-winning one-shot and a number of short stories, including "The Magician

and the Snake," which he co-authored with his daughter Katie, then seven years old. In the title story, President Lincoln enlists Screw-On Head to thwart the plans of the nefarious Emperor Zombie. In many ways, Screw-On Head is very typical Mignola: great quirky characters, fantastically atmospheric art, and light and minimalist plotting and stories. There are some obvious similarities between numerous Hellboy stories and Screw-On Head, although the latter is decidedly campier. It's also extremely amusing, and it's remarkable how effectively Mignola juxtaposes his dark gothic imagery with silly dialogue. Mignola states in the notes that "There are no untold Screw-On Head stories," and he's absolutely right - he does everything he needs to do with the characters, scenarios, and genre in this single comic. In broad strokes, he accomplishes quite a bit, and better this than running the ideas into the ground. (A note: I picked up this book after seeing the 2006 animated Amazing Screw-On Head pilot, which I found very funny. Good as this book is, and in spite of everything I've just written, I think I like it better as a cartoon, what with the fleshed-out backstories and the campiness and the comic delivery.) The other stories in this volume are only peripherally related, if at all, to Screw-On Head. The heartwarming (and Eisner-winning) "The Magician and the Snake" is popular with fans, but my favorite of the rest of the stories is "The Prisoner of Mars," which shares the title story's manically tongue-in-cheek tone. The others are enjoyable, if light on storytelling punch. Fair warning: this book is 104 pages, but a large chunk of that (close to 20%, maybe) is sketches and pinups. It's an extraordinarily quick read. Short as it is, with great atmosphere and entertaining stories, *The Amazing Screw-On Head and Other Curious Objects* is another solid offering from Mignola.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More screw, less head  
By Douglas E Maier  
While this compilation is certainly not made up of the best things Mignola has done, mediocre Mignola is still better than 90% of the graphic literature that's published. I highly recommend the animated adaptation of Screw-On Head, however. I thought it captured a tone that I couldn't pick up from the written work. This surprised me, as I got the opposite from the animated and live action Hellboy productions. While mostly enjoyable, only Hellboy comics have ever come close to that Hellboy ambiance I crave.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Curiosity Cabinet  
By Zack Davisson  
As much as I love Mike Mignola's continuing series and longer story arcs that he does for B.P.R.D. and Hellboy, it is really in the short story that he shines. Mignola is the undisputed master of the comic book short story. This is only fitting as his influences tend to come from the old pulp and horror writers - Poe, Lovecraft, Howard, etc. - who wrote in short story form as well. So even though "The Amazing Screw-on Head and Other Curious Objects" is wholly unconnected to those characters that made Mignola famous, it is some of his best work. This is pure Mignola, one could say; stories written and drawn for his own amusement as much as anything else. This is Mignola playing, letting his ideas pour unfiltered onto the page without worrying about marketability. And the results are fantastic. Of the six stories here, most are original to this collection. "The Amazing Screw-on Head" appeared before in a one-shot comic, and "The Magician and the Snake" previously appeared in the Dark Horse anthology "Happy Endings." The Indian legend "Abu Gung and the Beanstalk" first appeared in the Dark Horse anthology "Scatterbrain," but it has been entirely re-drawn for this collection (wisely giving the Devil a very snazzy parasol) and expanded from five pages to nine. The other three stories, "The Witch and Her Soul," "The Prisoner of Mars" and "In the Chapel of Curious Objects," are printed for the first time here. Both "Screw-on Head" and "The Magician and the Snake" are 2003 Eisner winners. "Screw-on Head" is essentially Mignola's idea for a goofy toy line involving a bizarre hero whose threaded neck can screw into a variety of action bodies. Commanded by a portrait of Abraham Lincoln and battling Emperor Zombie, the nonsense of Screw-on Head is given weight and seriousness by Mignola's heavy lines and Victorian setting. "The Magician and the Snake" is Mignola's collaboration with his 7-year old daughter, and is a touching portrait of friendship. I had heard about this story, but never read it in its original publication so I was looking forward to reading it. I wasn't disappointed. And yes, Mike, she is right. The floppy-hat magician works much better than a Victorian stage magician. Even unconnected, Mignola does a good job of keeping some links in the story. The monkey with a crown at the end of "Screw-on Head" turns up again in "The Magician and the Snake," and the Solid Objects reappear at the end of "In the Chapel of Curious Objects," along with a certain skull and some spooky puppets. The last story is admittedly little more than a framing device, but adds a nice little piece of closure to the book. I think "The Amazing Screw-on Head and Other Curious Objects," with its odd assortment of Emperor Zombie, Doctor Snap, Hankel and Manx, Abu Gung and various incarnations of the Devil, can best be summed up by a line in the book that Mignola could have said about his own creations: "I don't expect much from those guys, but I made some evil puppets and that's a good day's work for me." Indeed.

Mike Mignola has deservedly become one of the biggest names in comics for his creation of Hellboy. But when Mignola needs a short break from the Hellboy universe, he turns to diversions such as *The Amazing Screw-On Head*, winner of the Eisner Award for Best Humor Publication! When Emperor Zombie threatens the safety of all life on earth, President Lincoln enlists the aid of a mechanical head. With the help of associates Mr. Groin (a faithful manservant) and Mr. Dog (a dog), Screw-On Head must brave ancient tombs, a Victorian flying apparatus, and demons from a dimension inside a turnip. This new collection of oddball Mignola creations also includes "The Magician and the Snake" from *Dark Horse Maverick: Happy Endings* and nearly fifty pages of brand-new material, all as weird and hilarious as the beloved Screw-On Head. *The Amazing Screw-On Head* won an Eisner Award for Best

Humor Publication. "The Magician and the Snake" won an Eisner Award for Best Short Story. The Amazing Screw-On Head was the source for the cult animated short starring Paul Giamatti, David Hyde Pierce, and Patton Oswalt.