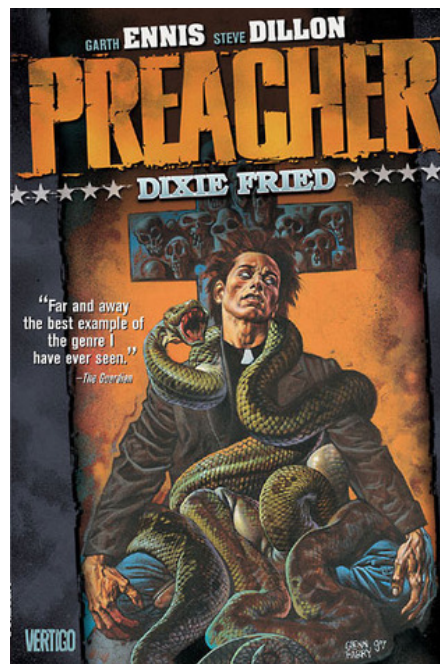




Preacher, Volume 5: Dixie Fried

Garth Ennis , Steve Dillon (Illustrator)

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Collectible. First Edition. Fifth Printing.

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(Illustrator)

From Reader Review Preacher, Volume 5: Dixie Fried for online ebook

Mike says

Resurgence of the Great Hunt For God, with a whole bag full of rich side quests along the way.

My absolute favourite story, maybe in the whole series, is Cassidy in New Orleans meeting an Anne Rice vampire - and his goth hangers-on. Ennis conjures up the emo heartfelt tortured immortal as well as any of those deadly serious books ever did, and then kicks them straight in the balls exactly as it should be. I read a couple of those Anne Rice turds as a young man, but even then I wasn't able to stomach any more, and I was never sure - until I first read Preacher - if that was some kind of moral failing of mine.

Cassidy's disgust and dry sarcasm are the perfect balm for that scuff on my soul. His moral outrage is even better near the end. Makes a man proud to have Irish roots, I tell ya.

Arseface and Herr Starr both after Custer. Then Les Enfants du Sang after Cass, and a little tribute to Bill Hicks of all people...quite a cast of people gunning for these terrible lost souls. You'd almost think they'd done something right to warrant this kind of hatred.

And there's some uncomfortable stuff in here, stress between Tulip and Cassidy - the kind of shit if you were hearing it firsthand, and if you're anything like me, you'd be sitting there dumbfounded, no idea what to say to break the tension, no idea how to escape so you're not assaulted all day by the brutality of all the emotional turmoil.

I don't begrudge it being in here - it's a pretty common occurrence in life, and makes for some rich, nuanced characters - but holy good god it's probably more tense than some of the "who's going to die next" subplots we endure in long-running books like this. I think I'd rather a poetic or pathetic end than this slow, agonizing drag through a field of broken glass.

Mike says

I loved this series as a teenager, although I didn't start reading it until it was close to the end of its run. My father often took me to the comic store as a kid, but I was until a certain age only allowed to browse through old issues of DC and Marvel titles, the ones originally priced, as indicated on their covers, at 35 or 40 cents, and kept in protective coverings in a separate part of the store from the new releases; my parents justified this to me at the time with the sophistry that new comics were 'crazy', and that the writers had 'run out of ideas.' I guess I must have been twelve or thirteen before I developed the chutzpah to take one of the individual issues of *Preacher* up to the counter.

The story follows a Texas preacher, Jesse Custer, whose mind is invaded by an entity that is half angel and half demon (I hate when that happens, personally); the entity informs him that god has abandoned his responsibilities in heaven and now walks the earth. Jesse, his girlfriend Tulip, and an Irish vampire named Cassidy decide to search for god, to confront him and make him answer for the misery of the world he's

made. There is also a villain named Herr Starr, who- I can't quite remember- is the leader or highest ranking member of some secretive cult of some sort, and I think he wants to use Jesse as his own messiah, a figurehead, for...well, it's hard to remember now, but surely for some nefarious purpose or other. *Preacher* will soon apparently be adapted into a TV show, and most likely not a good one, but I'll at least watch the first episode. I haven't read it in years, and I think there are elements of the story that would now make me cringe, but I feel confident in the memory that Ennis is a great writer of dialogue, of confrontational moments, and that the series is frequently both dramatic and hilarious. *Preacher* is very cinematic, influenced by the morality and simple plot construction of Clint Eastwood, John Wayne and John Woo; it's almost all dialogue and action, no thought bubbles or narrative boxes or notes to the reader like "see Amazing Spider-Man #335- ed." The artwork helps with that too; it takes us to the deep rural south, early twentieth century New York, revolutionary Ireland, New Orleans, Monument Valley, and finally, San Antonio and the Alamo.

Like Dickens and Tolstoy in centuries past, Ennis (and the majority of comic book writers, I guess) was writing this as he went along, which means that he couldn't go back and fix or change something in a previously released issue, if he needed to. I have no idea how far ahead he and Dillon were, but I do remember that the monthly issue was never late (I also remember there were certain comics at the time that got a lot of hype but would routinely be months late; people eventually lost interest); nevertheless, some of the early issues of the series seem improvisational. This collection is where the series started to hit its stride, in my opinion. The next story, collected as *War in the Sun*, in which Herr Starr detonates a nuclear bomb in Monument Valley (I never claimed the story was plausible), is also great. But I think that this collection in particular, in which Jesse, Tulip and Cassidy go to New Orleans in search of a practitioner of voodoo who may be able to help Jesse locate god, is where Ennis started to realize what a complex and interesting character he had in Cassidy, Jesse's alcoholic, jealous, pathetic, loyal friend. It also moves beyond the, well, comic-book violence of many of the earlier installments, and focuses instead on one specific act of violence, and all of its horrible ramifications.

Ennis was always confident enough in his sense of story to digress freely about whatever he wanted. This is also the collection in which Jesse relates to Cassidy, while they walk around the French Quarter, having wandered into a bar where the late comedian Bill Hicks happened to be performing; and they just talk about Bill Hicks for about five pages.

Years after I read this I lived and worked in New Orleans, post-Katrina; but most of the downtown area was undamaged, and I could still remember the images from this comic.

Bradley says

Ahhh Assface, what a delightfully understated comic/tragic character. To say that I'm invested in all these wonderful and wacky characters is a bit of an understatement, too. They're all going to haunt my nightmares and will have pushed my boundaries for what is acceptable in polite company, too. Gotta love it.

So yeah, we're moving out of the backstory stage and back onto the main quest, mainly, to hunt down god and make him answer for all his dastardly deeds, but first, let's get away from being a man of god, screw psychoanalysis, and go find some shrooms and dance with indians... um... no? Okay, screw that too, let's get VOODOO on this here head-shrinkery. :)

Oh, yeah, and Cassidy's past comes to bite him in the ass. You know. New Orleans. Bunch of wankers, there. :)

Jana says

Popravde, , táto ?as? sa mi ve?mi pá?ila. Zaujímavo sa vyvíjal príbeh Cassidyho a Tulip.

MJ says

Random thoughts about this volume:

- C'mon y'all, let's go to New Orleans, muck around with some voodoo shit to unlock Genesis's memories & maybe we'll battle some vampy little wankers!
 - Cassidy is turning into a little lovelorn dickhead (there's something off about him...), Tulip is becoming more and more badass, and Jesse is just Jesse/Genesis.
 - While reading this series, a quote that often comes to mind is "You might be through with the past, but the past ain't through with you."
 - my favourite bit in this volume is when the gunfight is going down at the cemetery, and Tulip shoots the tape deck to break Jesse's voodoo spell. Jesse sits up and asks, "WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON?!" while simultaneously lighting a cigarette. I nearly died laughing.
-

Gavin says

What to say...what to say...

Well it keeps on moving right along, picking up after our interlude in Vol. 4 with the excellent Saint of Killers story.

But first we have the best story of the Volume, with Cassidy: Blood and Whiskey. Cassidy is in New Orleans and runs into another vampire, only this one turns out to be a tosser, a wanker, a pompous twat. Worst part is, he's got a cult of gothic morons following him and worshipping. Cassidy ends up taking the guy out (in a fantastic crucifixion on the church roof with the sunlight) because of his preying on the stupid goth kids. This exists to show us that Cassidy is a good man when push comes to shove...that's crucial because most of the rest of the book is showing us what an absolute asshole he can also be, just by not thinking or not caring.

Throw in Tulip kicking ass, Jesse getting into a Voodoo trance, and Arseface hitting the big time, and you've got the idea.

I hope that's it for Arseface, as he's a waste of time now, no need for comic relief thanks. Also, not enough Saint of Killers...

Still a very solid book, moving forward on the theme of friendship, and men with their friends, a very accurate description put forward by Ennis (for many men at least, of the 'shrinks are for sissies' ilk and what they consider to be important qualities in a friend. Funny in that Jesse sees Cassidy having all the qualities, whereas Tulip sees his other side, and we the reader get to see and decide for ourselves, but it's a very well written dichotomy between who Cassidy can be, and who he is, by virtue of laziness or just exhaustion from being 75+yrs old.

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

Just gets better and better. This series is definitely not for everyone, but for those who like offensive, violent, whacked shizz, this is the best. Lots of good stuff happening in this one. It starts out with Cassidy blowing down the highway, when suddenly sirens are behind him and he's about to get pulled over. He yells out to the cops who have pulled up beside him:

*"Hey! Sheriff! I f***ed yer wife last night!"*

(Sheriff fires his weapon at Cassidy and takes off half the back of his head.)

*Cassidy says, "F****in' hell, she--she wasn't worth it--," and ends up going over a cliff, plunging into a river below.*

Hahaha... Cassidy is in this one a lot. He finally meets another vampire after three quarters of a century, and he's a wanker.

He calls himself Eccarius and feeds his ego by participating in blood rituals with a group of humans who call themselves *Les Enfants du Sang*. They are pasty humans who cut themselves and drink each others blood, mimicking the vampire lifestyle. They show up a couple times in this volume.

We also get the return of Arseface. He is out for revenge and blames Custer and his crew for his father's death.

But things don't exactly turn out the way you'd think and Arseface finds a new career.

Custer gets some answers by seeking out a voodoo practitioner who contacts the Genesis demon/angel hybrid inside him.

This comic is very irreverent and, some would say, even "blasphemous" in ways. Custer really can't wait to get his hands on God and tell him how much he's screwed everything up.

Starr shows up, has declared himself the new Allfather, and is still out to get Custer. Custer is somehow supposed to save the world. But as soon as he's done saving it, Starr is planning to kill him. Meanwhile, he's trying on wigs and hats to hide the huge scar Jesse gave him in Vol. 3 that makes his bald head look like a gigantic penis. Who knew Starr would ever be the one to provide the comic relief?

I still didn't really care for Tulip's character in the first half, but she does get some bad-ass scenes and kicks some booty. I liked her more by the end of this one than I did before.

Overall, definitely one of my favorites. Vol. 6, here I come...

*****Dave Hill says**

(Somehow I skipped reviewing this in 2011, the last time I read it)

This is Cassidy's volume, highlighting the good, the bad, and the ugly of his life. The good part comes with an earlier tale wherein he finds another vampire, and we see demonstrated that he has his own code of behavior, however slippery it might be.

That sets up the next bit, wherein Cassidy's essential adolescent nature comes to the fore in his propositioning Tulip, betraying both her and Jesse.

Finally, we go to New Orleans, where we start getting a hint of the trail of negligent destruction that Cassidy leaves in his wake.

Oh, Jesse and Tulip have their moments in here -- Jesse's search is incrementally moved forward through the help of some voo-doo, and Tulip demonstrates she is more than capable of kicking ass and taking names. But it's really Cassidy's tale, where he moves from being a sidekick to a true protagonist with his own story arc.

Devann says

I've been putting off doing this review for like a week but here goes, probably just going to be a lot of pictures ngl. Anyway, it's nice to be back on track after the complete and utter pointlessness of volume 4.

It's great to see more of Tulip and it's also great to see telling Jesse what's up

It's also nice to see her have a night out with a friend, although once again it brings me back to the old 'exactly how self-aware IS Ennis' question that, if I could find a solid answer to, would allow me to just like or dislike his work instead of going back and forth all the time

Having just finish Ennis' first run on Hellblazer, I had to include these panels because apparently he's got some kind of thing for making his main characters' girlfriends lose an eye???

Also this. You're not fooling anyone, Cassidy.

Overall a really enjoyable volume, and I even enjoyed the special issue that was included in this volume [unlike the ENTIRE previous volume]

Really the only bad thing about this volume is that it starts the horrible fucking love triangle that is easily the worst part of the entire series. #why

Garth Ennis, introducing horrible vampire love triangles a full decade before Twilight!

Brittany says

I love the rest of the series so far, but this one felt unnecessary to me. There was a lot of relationship drama/friendship drama in this one, which I did not enjoy. I felt not much new was learned and wanted to just get on with the plot. There was no introduction to this one, which I found odd. A lot of the female characters also looked so similar, I was having a hard time deciding if it was a new character be being introduced or if someone was just trying to disguise themselves. I feel the next one will pick up again.

Mark Lawrence says

This is a 3* as in good, rather than a fuck-you 3*

I bought this for myself as a Christmas present and I've enjoyed reading it. The artwork is good, the characterisation and dialogue excellent, the story ... not bad. It's significantly better than #4 which nearly turned me away from the series. It does not however (for me) have the brilliance of the first two books. Book one really grabbed hold of me, it was fresh, exciting, unpredictable, I didn't know what I had hold of and I liked it. This episode was more comfortable, time spent chilling with old friends. But really I wanted to be shocked, amazed, to be unable to put it down. And that didn't happen.

The artwork, by the late, great Steve Dillon continues to be top notch.

At £10.99 a shot it will take some convincing for me to move on to #6. I might put that money down gambling on finding something as good as #1 from some new talent...

I should add that I've now watched the first season of the Preacher TV show and I really liked it. The show uses the graphic novels as rough guidelines rather than as a script but the end product is very watchable and I give it an 8/10.

Join my 3-emails-a-year newsletter #prizes

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Ashish Iyer says

Review in Volume 9.

Jesse A says

Not my favorite volume.

Kemper says

Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon are vile and disgusting men who should be banned from the comics industry!

What did they do to so offend me, you ask? Was it the multiple depictions of incredibly graphic violence, including skull shattering gunshots and people getting their faces cut off? No, years of American television has desensitized me to that kind of stuff. Did the many drawings of naked people, orgies and various other disgusting sex acts that you can't see outside of a third world donkey show make me angry? Meh. Was it the constant profanity in the dialogue? Please. I'm a big fan of cursing. I think it's an underrated art form.

What was it that made me turn like this on Ennis & Dillon? It was that damn snake.

Not just any snake, but a big honking anaconda draped over our hero, Jesse Custer, as he was in a voodoo trance in a graveyard. What kind of sick bastards would come up with the idea to add a giant snake into their comic? I can handle the murder and mayhem and a disfigured guy whose face looks like an ass, but snakes?

That's just not right.

Anyhow, Jesse, Tulip and Cassidy are picking up their quest to find God and kick his miserable ass for running out on humanity. The key to finding him and other info is locked in the Genesis entity that inhabits Jesse's skull, and Cassidy has the bright idea to go see a voodoo priest he knows to see if they can do some kind of possession ritual to shake some tidbits loose. So they're off to New Orleans, but Cassidy has old enemies in the area, including a gang of Anne Rice inspired vampire wannabe posers. They'll also have another encounter with Arseface. It's not all grim though as Herr Starr gets to try on some hats.

But then they do that voodoo ritual and Jesse gets a big snake wrapped around him, and It's too horrible. I can't go on.

Freakin' snakes, man....

Brandon says

Believe it or not, this was the most bizarre Preacher yet. The storytelling was exceptional, as usual, but the comedic elements were turned up to eleven!

In the beginning, Cassidy meets up with another vampire, something he thought would never happen. The douchebaggery oozing out of the fellow bloodsucker was off the charts. Cassidy has a hard time even believing that someone could act this way but understands where he's coming from when the only basis for vampire activity comes from the movies.

The story continues much along the same path that Ennis has already worn down. Jessie is still on the search for God and is continuously trying to look within himself to find answers behind his possession by Genesis. He even goes so far to enlist the help of a practicing voodoo.. artist? What's the word you use there? You get the idea.

A pretty major revelation come to life in this volume that occurs between Cassidy and Tulip that will threaten the bond the 3 main characters share moving forward. I initially wasn't super fond of it because I wasn't quite sure of it's point. However, I still have a sizable journey to the end so I'm holding off judgement for now.

5 books in and this series is showing no signs of slowing down. They've already accomplished so much in the first 5 that I can't help but hope they haven't peaked early or will start showing signs of slowing down.

On to book 6!

Zedsdead says

Dixie Fried begins with possibly the best single issue of the series. Cassidy meets another vampire for the first time. He's a mooney, pretentious Anne Rice vamp right down to the New Orleans setting. Cass quickly ascertains that the new guy is a right proper wanker and attempts to straighten the git out.

The best single issue is followed by the single biggest mistake of the series when Cass declares his love to Tulip. Three times. As Tulip points out, it reeks of Melrose Place. Vol 5 is a damned sweet trade, but Preacher would have been better off without this particular twist.

Plot points:
(view spoiler)

Jedi JC Daquis says

Dixie Fried felt like a large yet necessary filler chapter om Preacher. It sets the playground for the next arc of the story, which is to find God by letting Genesis overtake Jesse Custer's consciousness. The whole Cass vs. Les Enfants subplot is more like a channel for some some violent and bloody action.

I absolutely do not dig the love triangle subplot though. Tulip, Jesse and Cass are so awesome together that painting a malicious issue between them really hurts the way I see them. I hope this goes to something relevant and good.

Arseface was a bit of a chore to read. He is funny as ever yet he works best in small doses. Going full Arseface is not the way to go.

Volume 5 may not be as good as the other Preacher volumes but it is blasphemously entertaining and funny to read.

Holly (The Grimdragon) says

This is my least favorite so far in the series. It was mostly filler. Although, Arseface does get somewhat of a resolution. Tulip also expands more as a character. I liked her even more in this volume!

My biggest complaint is that all of the females are different variations of each other in how they are drawn, essentially. I really noticed it in this volume, with a handful of female characters looking far too much alike. I kept having to double check to see what character it was supposed to be.

Really looking forward to volume 6 with the return of Herr Starr & The Grail!

Stephen says

It's a no doubter that this is **foul, blasphemous** and brutally **violent**...

However, it's equally doubt free that this is powerfully **evocative**, brilliantly **original** and darkly **humorous**...

It's 100% sans doubt that this is a kudo-worthy **masterpiece** of American **pop literature**...

So please put your hands together and give it up for.....**PREACHER**

I've read a veritable **parking lot** full of comics/graphic novels and consider myself some+what of an aficionado of the genre. I've also read several pounds short of a ton of most other fiction genres and an oil drum or two of history and non-fiction. I mention this only so that when I back the praise truck up and dump a load of warm, moist awesome on the unique genius of the *Preacher series* by Garth Ennis, I am doing so not simply in relation to other graphic novels but to the full-color spectrum of everything I've previously read.

This series is **superb, enthralling** and all manner of **excellent**. True, It's also very brash, very visceral and, potentially, VERY offensive, given the religious themes that are at the heart and "soul" of the narrative. I for one find nothing offensive about it as it doesn't **belittle** or poke fun of faith so much as paint an off-color, amoral picture of the universe's government. This view is no more extreme than those our ancestors took when they wrote about dudes and dudettes in white togas living on a mountain top issuing curses, starting wars and quasi-raping mortals to produce an "all star team" of heroes.

Just my opinion.

Anyway, here's the low down:

PLOT SUMMARY:

Jesse Custer is on a mission to find **GOD**...find Him and kick His ass (or at least chew Him a new one!!).

Why? Well, Jesse was an unhappy preacher in a small Texas town when he was “possessed” by an entity known as Genesis, an event which killed Jesse’s entire congregation and left Jesse in a bit of a foul mood.

Genesis, it turns out, is the spiritual “love child” of an “forbidden” sexcapade between an archangel and an even “archer” demon. Genesis, as a creature of both pure good and pure evil, has the potential to be the most powerful force in existence. However, it’s also basically an infant soul and has no sense of individual will. Thus, the Jesse/Genesis hybrid which Jesse controls is one BADMOFO (no offense Sammy Jackson, but Jesse has even YOU covered).

Now the cool daddiest part of Jesse’s new situation is definitely **The Voice** which allows Jesse to “encourage strict compliance” with his orders when he is invoking this power. Thus, when you piss Jesse off and he says to you

...you will...**LITERALLY**....much to the monkey barrel fun time of the reader!!!

So again, what **EXACTLY** does this all have to do with God, you ask? Oh yeah, sorry. Well, you see God cut and ran scared the moment that Genesis came into existence and has been in hiding ever sense, afraid Genesis will go all Armageddon on Him. This has left Heaven without proper management and in a bit of a quandary.

I know, not exactly a PC story-line. However, as dark as this tale is, it is not a celebration of wrong. Jesse, in addition to being a complex, fascinating character, has a highly developed sense of right and wrong. Thus, despite all of the blasphemous content leaking through the narrative, it is hard not to feel like you are in good hands with Jesse riding point.

By the way, Jesse is co-piloted on his quest by a hard-drinking, Irish Vampire named Cassidy and Jesse’s tough as nails girlfriend, Tulip O’Hare. Tulip’s character truly shows why Garth Ennis is such an incredible master of his craft. Tulip is not fluff, scenery or some kind of bimbo set piece which might have happened given how larger than life Jesse and Cassidy are. Oh hells no pilgrim. Tulip is spectacularly well-drawn (no pun), three dimensional and as integral to the series as either of our male badassios. Ennis just doesn’t make many mistakes and he certainly has created an unbelievable cast of characters and a brilliantly unique storyline.

Oh, oh, oh, oh...I have to mention one more thing even though it is only a minor plot point in this volume. **BILL HICKS** makes an appearance. For those who don’t know of Bill (what a shame) he died in 1994 (at age 33) and was one of my favorite comedians/social commentators. Since his death, he has become a face for politically incorrect social commentary and I just thought he was awesome. So when I am reading this and Ennis works a scene with BH, I went nuts.

Sorry for the random thought, but I wanted to share that so I stuck it at the end. Anyway, in sum, the Preacher series is **AS GOOD AS IT GETS**. I am only waiting for an “omnibus” version to add it to my “all time favorite” list as I try not to have multiple volumes diluting the list. Until then, it gets 6.0 STARS and my **HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION!!**

The Flooze says

Dixie Fried feels a little bit like filler.

It opens with an entertaining story of Cassidy finding another vampire in New Orleans--as well as a group of immortal-wannabes. This sets up the action for the present-day when Jesse, Tulip and Cassidy visit the city. The stop-over leads to a voodoo trance, flying bullets, uncomfortable revelations, a beheading, and a meeting with none other than Arseface.

Since I'm not crazy about the route Ennis is taking with Cassidy, I was somewhat dissappointed in this installment. Still, it was nice to see a resolution for Arseface and to learn more about the entity sharing soul-space with the Preacher. Back to the normal gory mayhem in the next book!
