

Grendel/Batman: Devil's Masque

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The true aggressive evil of Grendel is revealed as, in his malevolent quest to prove his superiority over Batman, he slaughters a squad of Gotham City cops and kidnaps an innocent child to use as a pawn in his cruel games of duplicity and murder. But the Dark Knight is not so easily duped, and Grendel's extreme actions set them both up for a chilling confrontation.

Grendel/Batman: Devil's Masque Details

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From Reader Review Grendel/Batman: Devil's Masque for online ebook

Ola says

Piece of crap too!

East Bay J says

Part two of the confrontation between Batman and Grendel. I read some Grendel years ago but I have little recollection of the character. In this story, he seems like a self centered, egomaniacal asshole and you know what happens to those kind when Batman's around. I like the use of different thought balloons to indicate what the four main characters are saying (Hillary and Rachel, in addition to Batman/Wayne and Grendel/Rose). Another example of Wagner being a thinker. As far as crossovers, this remains one of the best because it's not just superhero A and B duking it out and because neither of these superheroes have super powers, nor are they necessarily "heroes." Good stuff.

Ron says

Matt Wagner has always been to my mind one of the worst comic book creators in the history of the medium (Mage was simply bad and Grendel was hampered by his bad art and erratic storytelling style, though there are minor exceptions when he worked with other artists and found moments of lucidity, the best still being a graphic novel he had nothing to do with, the marvelous Four Devils, One Hell).

It was with great trepidation that I approached a pairing between the best DC character and his uneven Grendel tale, but I am happy to report that it is the best of both worlds, a story that will be immensely pleasing to fans of Wagner's work without alienating the hardcore Batman fans.

Shawn says

This, the second half of Grendel's tangle with Batman, is even more fun in the resolution than the first was in the set-up. We get to see Hunter Rose really cut loose with some bloodthirsty sport against Gotham's finest, get to see Grendel's corrupt snares enclose the necks of a number of unwilling characters (including our two female leads), witness some wonderful contrasts that again point out how close Hunter and Bruce really are (despite being on opposing sides), and get a thrilling rooftop fight and rescue from which one poor individual does not return, and from which Grendel's arrogant peace of mind and self-assured swagger does not survive unscathed either (what *nearly* transpires is perhaps more wounding to him - that he could have been the cause of it - than what actually does - broken bones can heal and masks can be replaced, after all). What's well-done here is the humbling that Hunter undergoes as his gamesman approach to crime is tested and found wanting against Bruce Wayne's serious and sober determination and mettle.

Both close fights, BTW, were well worth waiting for - the sparring on the rooftop, told in a tiled tier of tiny panels, is particularly nice, especially the repeated "hold" moment of three panels where the opponents, mid-

fight, wait and size each other up before resuming the match, to the uncompromising defeat of one.

Bruce's inability, as Batman, to deal with justifiably upset women is also nicely contrasted with Hunter's cruel suavity and manipulation. The drawbacks of being the good guy perhaps.

This is one fine read!

Logan says

Not bad, not fantastic though. Plus side though is the book actually has colour coded thought boxes so you can tell who's monologue your reading, who knew!(I'm looking at you Trinity!)

StrictlySequential says

I highly enjoy The Batman, riddles and Wagner's writing (plus his art is above average when he's at his best) but forgot HOW UTTERLY STUPID GRENDAL IS!

Without the costume, he's the nauseating side of David Niven (at least Wagner can make fun of himself)- an ego-maniacal, minus the funny, BOORISH PONCE who dresses with a lavish gaudiness and to make himself seem unassuming, "so naturally" sporting THE ULTIMATE FASHION ACCESSORY- The Unnecessary Cane!

Also an exhaustively self-congratulatory/satisfied writer, this high-bred and supremely-cultured, unconvincingly-handsome DILETTANTE named HUNTER ROSE becomes GRENDAL: a white-guy ninja (never works) with BALLERINO MOVES that GETS boo-hoo BORED FROM DOMINATING NEW YORK'S ENTIRE UNDERWORLD so he goes to Gotham to PLAY with The Batman by farting out non-riddles while very poorly pretending to be The Riddler. When in combat, he dashes around and PARRIES, (*he practices his fencing in his lavish hotel*) pokes and prods while undulating theatrically with his long, thin seemingly phallic ELECTRIFIED UTENSIL!

Helpful Backstory: This DASHINGLY-DAINTY, DOUCHE-JUICY DANDY is A DEVIL! He and the other GRENDORKS (not in this story) inherited some sort of horse-puked ancient evil that they use against New York's creme-of-the-crop criminals (unless he's killing cops by the dozen) with his word-balloon represented spooky voice!

But that's all superseded by his LOVE FOR KIDS (to ensure likability to cheese-dicks) but "DELICATELY" KIDNAPS THEM in this case over a week and kisses them on the cheek while trying to scar this one for life in the vein of Wayne!

SKIP THIS SERIES: his art is hurriedly half-assed on this one and you'll find yourself wishing it was the actual Riddler because he DOES DO AN EXCELLENT JOB WITH **BRUCE, ALFRED AND THE BATMAN!**

To clear any misunderstanding via the theme (gauche over-theatricality) of his description- Myself (and Grendal) are proudly pro-gay.
