



Hoax Hunters, Book 1: Murder, Death, and the Devil

Michael Moreci , Steve Seeley , J.M. Ringuet (Illustrations)

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In this first collection of the critically acclaimed series, the Hoax Hunters travel to Russia, the Louisiana Bayou, and 1984 New Jersey to seek out the truth behind supernatural events - and cover them up! The Hoax Hunters demonstrate the truth isn't out there. Collects Hoax Hunters #0-5.

Hoax Hunters, Book 1: Murder, Death, and the Devil Details

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From Reader Review Hoax Hunters, Book 1: Murder, Death, and the Devil for online ebook

Vanessa Wolf says

A NetGalley first reads

The author of this review received an advance copy for an honest review

Reading the description how could I resist? The premise is great, a reality show cover hunting down the supernatural. A mix of the show 'X-Files' and 'Supernatural' and the art particularly creepy. I noticed where most people got confused, around pg. 16 everyone is in danger and then suddenly they are safe and sound? Bwaha? But the inconsistencies lessen as the volumes go on.

The last issue was undoubtedly the strongest, where the story telling and the art seemed in harmony, and it is engaging, I do plan on picking up the next volume. I would've liked a character break down in the bonus features because its really annoying everyone else in the team knows how each other's power works but we know nothing. However, I was relieved to hear the character Murder is named as a tribute to another empty suite. Still, I'd be a bit jumpy someone calling itself Murder wanted to help me.

The art became less confusing as well, I don't know if this was the artist's or the author's choice, but the second volume was much better than the first and so on. I think it helps picking this up in a set rather than issue because it is worth checking out and the first one might put you off. Don't let it. The characters are pretty funny and the villains are creepy. Bonus points for getting bokor right, and the Mothman bonus content made me think of Tom Petty.

I'd recommend it to fans of Joss Whedon's work and fans of the old 'Tales From the Crypt'

Meran says

Interesting concept: a group of 3 people with extraordinary gifts, (1 man of strength, a female witch, and a reanimated male corpse with telepathic abilities) are the team of Hoax Hunters. They run about, seeking the strange and weird, and debunk them, putting them on TV, for all to see. Thing is, the events they debunk are really in the supernatural realm!

In this first volume, they gain a new team member -- "Murder", a walking telepathic 1960 astronaut suit, filled with crows.

Russia, the Bayou, carnivals, a new concoction of possessed hive humans whose heads are totally engulfed in flames yet operate well as minions, voodoo, crypt ids, multi-dimentional travel, the Jersey Devil... all are arrived at or encountered.

There is a larger subplot, that of Jack's not-dead-but-gone-from-this-world father, a source of huge heartbreak and significant insubordination for Jack. If his employers find out...

The extra comic in the back, "A story about the moth man" was a nice addition; I'm confused about its entry, but I enjoyed it nonetheless.

The art is decent, even pretty good in spots; the writing is developing, presents an interesting promise. Far too many text errors though. Good potential.

Dimitris Nikiforos says

This is a new series that shows some potential. Not the best one out there, but interesting enough and with a few refreshing elements.

An important note for the new readers. The art in issue #0 is terrible -just a personal opinion and nothing more- and it almost stopped me from reading further. Do not let that stop you, if you also share the same opinion about the drawing style. Keep reading, finish issue #0 and proceed to the rest. It becomes so much better, story wise and art wise.

The main concept is quite interesting. Hoax hunters is a team that is the exact opposite of agent Maulder. They know that the truth is out there, but they'll do everything within their powers to disprove it, based on "real hard science". Basically it's X-Files with a twist and so far it's working. Even though I felt that a certain "something" was missing the whole time I was reading this book, the creators came up with interesting characters, nice ideas and I'm sure they'll find that missing element on the way.

Brent says

Government supernatural investigators including a psychic woman and a reanimated scientist led by a gruff and tough leader use their TV show Hoax Hunters as a cover for their investigations. It wasn't horrible but it just felt a bit ungrounded. The characters have little back story so when the story jumps around it can be disconcerting. The character I want to like the most, Murder is a half dead/ghost of an astronaut using his spacesuit full of crows for his physical form. Unfortunately he can't talk and for some reason Dr Cadaver never seems to psychically link to him anymore. So Murder just floats around and a crow caws on occasion. Missed opportunity for sure.

Travis says

The best part of this book was the sort of random 7-page story at the end about the mothman, which was cute and sad and entertaining. And completely unconnected to the actual story.

I thought I would like this since I tend to like paranormal investigation types of stories (X-files, Fringe), and because there was promise in the quirky weirdness of Murder, the flock of intelligent crows inhabiting an astronaut suit. But overall, it feels like a mass of unmatched parts thrown together and never meshing as a whole. The titular premise is insufficiently developed, and the times it is used the "explanations" they give are so wooden it is hard to believe that they would be at all convincing. And most of the story is about some odd idea of traveling to parallel worlds using research of the father of one of the main characters. There is potential in this story, since the idea of a sentient energy source existing in the void between universes, and that all of the "local" worlds are for some reason devoid of life are interesting, and I kind of want to read more to learn the answer, but that plotline just doesn't fit with the premise of the story and I probably won't actually. Also, the characters are don't have enough personality.

Doreen says

This book has so much potential! The over-all plotting is great: I like how the superstitions are commingled w cutting-edge science-fiction tech, but there's a lack of pace and tension in the execution that just makes the end product fall flat for me. I can't tell if it's a deficiency in the writing or the art, though I'm inclined to blame the latter (slightly) more. While the art in Issue 5 was most aesthetically pleasing to me, I found Axel Medellin's work best suited to the story-telling.

Speaking of story-telling, I wish there weren't so many enigmas regarding the team itself. It's a mystery to none of the characters what Regan and Ken can do: why then make it a mystery to the reader? And there were a lot of motivations that I just didn't understand. Clive's actions made sense, but what about the rest of the carnival? Why would they try to stop the team at one point, but not at another, similar juncture?

I was also not a fan of the poorly edited foreword. The crow motif throughout the book design was pretty cool, though.

Steve Davis says

I was pretty disappointed, though it's kind of my own fault. When I saw this in the library I thought I'd give it crack based solely on the title, because it reminded me of the following passage on how science is treated in film and television from Carl Sagan's *The Demon-haunted World*:

A series called 'The X Files', which pays lip-service to sceptical examination of the paranormal, is skewed heavily towards the reality of alien abductions, strange powers and government complicity in covering up just about everything interesting. Almost never does the paranormal claim turn out to be a hoax or a psychological aberration or a misunderstanding of the natural world. Much closer to reality, as well as a much greater public service, would be an adult series ('Scooby Doo' does it for children) in which paranormal claims are systematically investigated and every case is found to be explicable in prosaic terms. The dramatic tension would be in uncovering how misapprehension and hoax could generate apparently genuine paranormal phenomena. Perhaps one of the investigators would always be disappointed, hoping that next time an unambiguously paranormal case will survive sceptical scrutiny."

Alas, *Hoax Hunters* is certainly not *Scooby Doo* for adults. It's just a bunch of really unimaginative and poorly drawn short stories that are paced very awkwardly.

Don't bother.

Elizabeth Psyck says

I thought this was a solid graphic novel. The premise is fun - the cast of a TV show that busts myths (or old folk tales and crypto-myths like Big Foot) are actually agents from some mysterious agency that protect mythical creatures and keep the truth under wraps. There was a nice mixture of "real" stories (like the

obligatory Big Foot appearance) and fake, but actually pretty believable stories. (There's a great story arc that follows the terrible results of an early space accident.) The only thing that kept this book from being AWESOME was that the characters were a little too much like the Mythbusters. It just felt a little gimmicky, but not quite gimmicky enough for me to embrace it as being really intentional.

Dave says

It's hard for me to give a poor rating to a graphic novel, for the most part as long as I'm somewhat entertained, I really don't mind most things. Also, it might be because I stick with writers that I'm a fan of, so it's very rare that I'm disappointed by something. However I've been a bit more experimental and courageous lately when it comes to trying new stuff out; I saw this book featured in PREVIEWS (the comic distributors' catalog of sorts where comic fans get to see what's coming out and place orders through their local comic shop) and I figured I'd give it a try, because the summary seemed interesting.

Hoax Hunters is based on a television show that hides a reality; the stars of the show try to 'debunk' hoaxes and myths that pop up in our society, so people think that everything is hunky-dory. However who they ACTUALLY are is a secret organization that gets to the bottom of why these things are happening and tries to get everything back to normal.

That's an alright premise to base a book on, right? yeah, sure. that's why I picked it up. Although I was able to make it through the entire first trade (I was going to stop reading a few times through), that in no way means you should buy it. Firstly, the book itself starts with what I'm assuming was "issue zero," explaining the origin of the 4th teammate, an astronaut named Murder (more on him in a few). The artwork for these few pages was terrible. I mean "did a child do this?", "why did they think this was acceptable?" type of awful. I'm not trying to be outwardly mean here, but I just don't think it held up to the quality I'm used to from Image Comics (or comics in general). Past that point I'm assuming the main artist took over and the quality got much better, however here is the second problem with the book; the writing was god-awful. It was to the point where I almost stopped reading it quite a few times throughout the course of the story. Between the plot holes, the pointlessness of some things and the complete randomness of others, I don't even know where to begin. I'll try to recap some of it:

- many of the teammates on "Hoax Hunters" have 'powers' but absolutely NONE of it is explained. now I'm all for character-building and saving some information to be revealed at a later time, but the shit isn't even TOUCHED UPON! the girl on the team apparently has near-limitless telekenesis, just because. The 'scientist' (I guess...? he's never officially revealed as one) also has telepathy. OH, and he's dead. because he reanimated himself, or something. also never explained. the leader of the pack is a bad-ass black dude with more stereotypes than a junior high school poetry class, choosing to punch monsters and threaten with guns, and generally be a bad-ass. OH, and best for last; the last teammate is an astronaut suit filled with crows. No, seriously, that's what I said; a 1960's era US astronaut suit filled entirely with birds that also hold it up, so he floats/flyes. and he can shoot crows out at people. OH, and his name is "Murder." why? apparently because the writer thought it was "cool." it's weak, it sounds like it was written by a 16 yr old boy.

- the "tv show" portion of the story, re: the characters talking into a camera (literally one camera, usually held by another teammate), isn't really dealt with at all. you don't see people actually watching this show, you don't see them editing it or dealing with it other than them arriving at a location and them basically going "hey folks, so we're Hoax Hunters and this weird thing is happening so we're gonna figure it out." I understand that the show itself is used mostly as cover for them, but it comes across as if they are a group of psychopaths that think they are on a television show when they aren't.

- the bad guy for much of the story is a voodoo circus priest who travels through dimensions because our world is already dead (?), hypnotizes people into setting their faces on fire (but they can't feel the fire until one of the Hoax Hunters points it out), and is friends with an inter-dimensional space monster that kills all the animals in the area when it appears. I'm 100% serious about everything I just wrote.

- the leader of the group, the stereotypical "bad-ass black guy", has a flashback at one point, to where he is a little boy and he's with his Dad (who, coincidentally, is a major scientist guy doing scientist things for big bad government people (again, never explained)) and he remembers a SPECIFIC SCENE (keep in mind, he was like 4 yrs old) where A MAN WITH NO FACE CAME INTO THE APARTMENT and told his Dad to #1 - explain his "findings" and then #2 - tell him it's now "out of his hands." What the hell?!

- the team is friends with a giant Bigfoot-esque creature. his name is "Durand." Durand apparently used to be on their team (I think...?). I'll say that again, there is a Bigfoot named Durand in this book.

- example of AMAZING dialog. badass black guy walks into circus, confronts a giant muscular MAN-GOAT who he's apparently had dealings with before. "We don't have time for your grandstanding today, BONES. Go chew on a tin can or something, keep yourself occupied." Bones, The Man-Goat: "How about I chew on that kid over there, instead?" (apparently so ADD he's preoccupied with a kid in the background instead of the guy in front of him insulting him). Black guy (and yes he's so forgettable I don't even remember his name): "THEN YOU BETTER HOPE YOU CAN DIGEST BULLETS AS WELL AS YOU DO CANS." Can you hear the studio audience shouting "oooohhhh! snap!" Meanwhile, is this some known thing that goats chew on cans? I'm sorry but for those of us that didn't grow up in a field somewhere, this isn't mainstream knowledge.

I can go on forever, but the simple fact is that this just wasn't good. I really wasn't trying to be mean, but DAMN this book was just unreadable. Hence the bookshelf I'm putting it on. Buyer beware.

Katka Lady says

What the heck was that? I kept reading and thinking that this could not be the first volume, it seemed to start in the middle of the story. Nothing was explained, and it was written as if we already knew the back story of most of the characters. Still not sure what the powers of one character are. And what exactly is the astronaut anyway? Did I miss something? I felt like I missed something.

Michele says

This, and other reviews can be found on [Just a Lil' Lost](#)

Following a team of debunkers who have their own TV show, they travel to Russia, Louisiana and New Jersey with the goal to disprove mysterious happenings. With a forward by Ben Hansen, one of the stars of *Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files*, this first volume is a collection of #0-5 of the comic book series.

Being a huge fan of shows like *Fact or Faked*, *Ghost Hunters*, and *Destination Truth*, this comic series felt right up my alley. Unfortunately it fell flat for me. There was so much potential in what they could have done with this series but with how much the story was driven by debunking mysteries, it seemed to open up

more than it was disproving.

The cast of characters seem to be a regular bunch of investigators/TV personalities, yet we discover quickly that they've all got some special "skills", making them more like the X-Men than a bunch of ghost hunters. That's cool and all, but it's never explained to any length whatsoever. There was also another storyline running alongside the "TV show" one, but to be honest, I wasn't very sure what exactly was going on. I'm all for complex plots but this completely lost me.

There was so much potential in Hoax Hunters being an amazing series and it probably would have been if it stuck to one main idea. Introducing all the special powers and alternate stories just complicated things and made it feel like this graphic novel was trying to put too much in one story.

Sooraya Evans says

Not bad. Not bad at all. Paranormal investigating all the while covering it up as a debunking TV show. That crow guy in the spacesuit was cool. I believe this series has potential.

Aimeekay says

I almost wasn't able to download Hoax Hunters from NetGalley. Fortunately for me it finally fixed itself. Hoax Hunters Vol. 1 is awesome! Seriously tons of fun. Both the artwork and the story are fast paced. The artwork isn't always perfectly detailed. Some frames seem to even have a blurred quality to them. But it is consistent and there are some really nice full page pieces. It's not generally my favorite style, but it worked well with the story itself and I liked it.

The story is great. Even when the team is dealing with mass deaths and crazy death cults it still has a bunch of great one liners and jokes. Where they corny? Some, yes. But they were funny corny and kept the story from being way too serious. There are more than a few unanswered questions at the end of this volume. Plus quite a few characters I would love to find out the background on. But overall it was a great beginning and I hope to be able to get my hands on more Hoax Hunters very soon!

'kris Pung says

Although the concept is pretty cool (Hellboy meets reality TV) this didn't really do anything for me. Not to say it's bad but I'm glad I rented this and didn't plunk down any of my own cash on it.

Heather says

This was a really fun read. I'm interested in the next volume.
