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Criminal Macabre

Steve Niles, Ben Templesmith
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Steve Niles, Ben Templesmith : Criminal Macabre before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Criminal Macabre:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wow!!By Marcella A. WilliamsHellboy meets Magnum P.I. meets Army of Darkness with a dash of John Constantine (Hellblazer)If optioned for a movie, I'd cast either Timothy Olyphant or Aaron Eckhart as Cal McDonald and Steve Buscemi as Mo'lock2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Humor, horror, and noirBy AltPrivate detective Cal McDonald is a magnet for the bizarre, the supernatural,

and the creepy. His appearances in various comics are collected in this volume. In "Hairball," Cal investigates some college kids who are bringing home parts from dismembered bodies. Cal encounters a friendly ghoul and decidedly unfriendly werewolves. Both Steve Niles' story and the art, by Casey Jones/Bruce Patterson, are fairly ordinary. "Criminal Macabre: A Cal McDonald Mystery" starts as a vampire tale but evolves into a story about a variety of monsters and a plague and a dead etymologist. Monsters are in the tunnels, they're running the transit system, and they're making Cal's life hell. Niles injects humor into the story at exactly the right moments. Humor also permeates "Love Me Tenderloin", a story in which meat in a packing plant becomes animated by the spirit of a dead guy. Those two stories, and a lesser entry -- "A Letter from B.S.," about a dead guy who hires Cal to find his dead girlfriend -- feature very cool, edgy artwork by Ben Templesmith that often looks like photoshopped faces have been enhanced with an etch-a-sketch. Other panels look like cave drawings. Still others look like Picasso drew them after smoking some extra-strong reefer. The art in the last two stories, by Kelley Jones, is less striking but more realistic, if drawings of demons can be called realistic. It doesn't blow me away like Templesmith's, but it does justice to the series. In "Last Train to Deadsville", Cal saves a town full of white trash from demons and fiends and a seriously hot babe. "Supernatural Freak Machine" finds Cal battling a possessed '73 Chevy Nova (or maybe he's just having a bad acid trip ... or both) before taking on a villain who makes Hannibal Lecter look like a girl scout. The story might be the goriest in the bunch but it's also the most poignant, contrasting Cal's sick humor with his very human, very broken heart. A text story called "Savage Membrane" takes up quite a few pages but really, who buys a graphic novel to read a text story? While I wasn't equally impressed with all the stories, I consistently admired Niles' writing style. He skillfully blends humor, horror, and noir. If I could, I would give this collection 4 1/2 stars.

From acclaimed masters of the monstrous, Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith, comes a dark mystery, gas-bloated with black humour and blood-red action! Werewolves stealing. Vampires mugging. Ghouls beaten in their own sewers. A man murdered by monsters - with a letter opener. The connection? Private investigator Cal McDonald is damned (literally) if he knows. But, like a raging fever, the heat is building on Cal to come up with answers, and there'll be a lot more blood and sweat spilt before he can unveil the horrific truth! A witches' brew of crime noir and modern horror, and bristling with crackerjack humour, Criminal Macabre is the new must-read for any child of the Dark One!

The Ultimate Answer October 2004: "Wow. This was geat. A kind if Shaun of the Dead meets Film Noire." About the Author Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith have worked together on the acclaimed sleeper-hit series 30 Days of Night and its sequel, Dark Days, and Helispawn. Niles has also written other graphic novels and books featuring Cal McDonald.