

hellboy the crooked man and others

hellboy the crooked man and others is a compelling collection of stories that delve into the dark, supernatural universe of Hellboy, the beloved comic book character created by Mike Mignola. This collection stands out not only because of its captivating narratives but also due to its exploration of folklore, myth, and horror through a modern lens. As fans and newcomers alike delve into these tales, they are treated to a blend of haunting imagery, rich storytelling, and a deeper understanding of Hellboy's complex world. In this article, we will explore the stories contained within Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others, the themes they explore, their significance within the Hellboy universe, and what makes this collection a must-read for horror and comic enthusiasts.

Overview of Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others

Publication and Background

Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others is a collection of stories published by Dark Horse Comics, written and illustrated by Mike Mignola, with contributions from various artists. The collection was first published in 2014 and features a series of standalone tales that expand on Hellboy's universe, exploring folklore, myth, and supernatural horror.

The stories are set in different times and locations, showcasing Hellboy's adventures beyond the main narrative. The collection's title story, "The Crooked Man," serves as a centerpiece, but the other stories are equally compelling, each adding depth and nuance to Hellboy's character and the universe he inhabits.

Contents Overview

The collection includes several stories, notably:

- The Crooked Man: A Western-inspired tale rooted in Appalachian folklore.
- In the Chapel of Moloch: A story involving ancient evil and a cursed altar.
- The Man With The Scarlet Head: A supernatural tale with roots in Asian mythology.
- Becoming: A story exploring Hellboy's origins.
- The Outer Dark: A narrative involving cosmic horror.

Each story is a self-contained tale, yet they are interconnected through themes of folklore, morality, and the supernatural.

Exploring the Main Stories

The Crooked Man

One of the most acclaimed stories in the collection, "The Crooked Man," is set in the American West and draws heavily from Appalachian folklore. The story introduces a sinister figure—a crooked man who embodies evil and chaos—and explores themes of justice, vengeance, and the supernatural.

Plot Summary:

Hellboy is called to investigate strange occurrences in a small town where a crooked man, a folklore creature, has been causing havoc. As the story unfolds, it reveals the dark history of the creature and the town's own secrets. The tale blends Western motifs with supernatural horror, culminating in a tense confrontation that exposes the nature of evil.

Themes and Significance:

- The struggle between good and evil
- The influence of folklore on modern storytelling
- The importance of confronting one's past

Why it stands out:

The story's blend of folklore, Western elements, and horror makes it a unique addition to the Hellboy universe. It also showcases Mignola's talent for weaving myth into modern narratives.

In the Chapel of Moloch

This story delves into ancient evil and the corrupting influence of a cursed altar dedicated to Moloch, a deity associated with child sacrifice in ancient cultures.

Plot Summary:

Hellboy and his team investigate a series of disappearances linked to an old chapel. They discover that the altar, once used for dark rites, continues to exert a malevolent influence. The story explores how ancient evil persists and how it can corrupt even modern society.

Themes and Significance:

- The enduring power of ancient curses
- The moral dilemmas faced when confronting evil
- The importance of historical awareness

The Man With The Scarlet Head

Set in an Asian myth-inspired universe, this story features a mysterious figure with a scarlet head and explores themes of identity and transformation.

Plot Summary:

Hellboy encounters a creature with a red, scarlet head who is cursed and seeks redemption. The story involves elements of Asian folklore and explores the creature's struggle to find peace and understanding.

Themes and Significance:

- Identity and self-acceptance
- The impact of curses and redemption

- Cultural folklore and mythological influences

Becoming

This story provides insight into Hellboy's origins, charting his early days and the circumstances that led to his rise as a supernatural hero.

Plot Summary:

Set before the main series, "Becoming" explores Hellboy's early life, his encounters with other supernatural beings, and the events that shaped his moral compass.

Themes and Significance:

- The formation of identity
- The nature of destiny and choice
- The importance of understanding one's roots

The Outer Dark

A cosmic horror tale that delves into the unknown and the terrifying aspects of the universe beyond human comprehension.

Plot Summary:

Hellboy faces cosmic entities lurking in the shadows of the universe, confronting fears of insignificance and the dark forces that threaten reality.

Themes and Significance:

- Cosmic horror and existential dread
- Humanity's place in the universe
- The confrontation with the unknown

Themes and Motifs in the Collection

Folklore and Mythology

A defining feature of Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others is its deep roots in folklore from various cultures. Mignola's stories often reimagine traditional myths, blending them with horror to create fresh, compelling narratives.

Common motifs include:

- Creatures from Appalachian folklore
- Deities and spirits from Asian traditions
- Ancient curses and relics

Good vs. Evil

The stories consistently explore moral questions, illustrating the ongoing battle between good and evil, often emphasizing that evil is complex and sometimes rooted in human flaws and history.

Supernatural and Cosmic Horror

From cursed altars to cosmic entities, the collection embraces horror not just as monsters but as existential threats that challenge humanity's understanding of reality.

Redemption and Morality

Characters often grapple with moral dilemmas, seeking redemption or confronting their own darkness, which adds depth and relatability to the supernatural tales.

The Significance of the Collection within the Hellboy Universe

Expanding the Mythos

Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others broadens the scope of Hellboy's universe, introducing stories that are more folklore-driven and mythologically diverse than the main series. It enriches the world-building and offers fans a deeper dive into the cultural origins of the supernatural beings and legends.

Showcasing Mignola's Artistic Style

The collection features Mignola's signature art style—bold lines, stark contrasts, and atmospheric compositions—that perfectly complements the dark themes. The stories are visually compelling, enhancing the mood and tone.

Influence on Later Works

Many themes and motifs in the collection influence subsequent Hellboy stories and spin-offs, making it a foundational piece for understanding the broader universe.

Why Readers Should Pick Up This Collection

- **Rich storytelling:** Each story offers a unique narrative rooted in folklore and horror.
- **Beautiful artwork:** Mignola's distinctive art style brings the stories vividly to life.
- **Cultural diversity:** The collection draws from various mythologies, providing a global perspective on supernatural tales.
- **Character depth:** Insights into Hellboy's origins and moral compass deepen fans' connection to the character.
- **Standalone stories:** Perfect for casual reading or as an introduction to Hellboy's universe.

Conclusion

Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others is a must-read for fans of horror, folklore, and comics. Through its richly woven stories, it explores timeless themes of morality, folklore, and cosmic horror, all while showcasing Mike Mignola's exceptional artistic talent. Whether you are a long-time Hellboy fan or new to the universe, this collection offers a compelling journey into the dark corners of myth and supernatural darkness. Its tales remind us that evil often lurks where history and myth intertwine, and that confronting it requires courage, understanding, and sometimes, a little bit of folklore magic. So, pick up this collection and immerse yourself in a world where myth becomes reality, and darkness takes on many forms.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main storyline of 'Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others'?

The collection features stories centered around Hellboy facing supernatural threats, with 'The Crooked Man' being a standout tale about a sinister creature terrorizing a rural town and Hellboy's efforts to confront and defeat it.

Who is the creator of 'Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others'?

The collection is created by Mike Mignola, with artwork and storytelling contributions from various artists, including Richard Corben, who brought the titular story to life.

How does 'The Crooked Man' story connect to Hellboy's overall mythos?

'The Crooked Man' explores themes of folklore and supernatural horror that are consistent with Hellboy's universe, highlighting his role as a protector against dark and mythic threats from folklore and legend.

Are there any new stories or characters introduced in this collection?

Yes, besides the titular 'The Crooked Man,' the collection includes several other stories that expand on Hellboy's adventures, as well as new characters rooted in folklore and horror traditions.

Is 'Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others' suitable for new readers?

While the collection can be enjoyed by new readers, it is especially appreciated by fans familiar with Hellboy's universe, as it contains stories that deepen the mythos and explore darker, folklore-inspired themes.

Where can I read or purchase 'Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others'?

The collection is available through comic book stores, online retailers, and digital platforms such as ComiXology. It is published by Dark Horse Comics and can also be found in libraries or specialty comic shops.

Additional Resources

Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others is a compelling collection that showcases the dark, gritty, and often emotionally charged storytelling that fans have come to love from the Hellboy universe. Curated by Mike Mignola, the anthology brings together a series of interconnected and standalone stories that delve into the mythos, folklore, and supernatural horrors surrounding the iconic half-demon hero. This volume stands out as a testament to Mignola's mastery of atmospheric storytelling, intricate artwork, and thematic depth, making it a must-read for enthusiasts of supernatural fiction, horror, and comic artistry alike.

Overview of Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others

Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others is a curated collection of stories that span different arcs, focusing on themes of morality, darkness, and the supernatural. The stories are set in different times and locations, emphasizing the character's long and complex history. The collection features stories penned by Mike Mignola himself, along with contributions from talented guest writers and artists, adding variety and fresh perspectives to the series.

This anthology is not just a collection of horror tales; it also explores Hellboy's internal struggles, his relationships with other characters, and the folklore that shapes his world. Overall, the book offers a comprehensive look at not only the hero but also the dark universe he inhabits, blending myth with modern storytelling.

Story Highlights and Themes

The Crooked Man

One of the standout stories in this collection is "The Crooked Man," which is inspired by Appalachian folklore and traditional American ghost stories. It tells the tale of a town haunted by a sinister creature that resembles a crooked, devilish figure. Hellboy is called to investigate the disturbing events, and what unfolds is a layered narrative about evil rooted in local legend, human weakness, and moral ambiguity.

Themes:

- Folklore and myth as a reflection of societal fears
- The nature of evil—innocent appearances versus true malevolence
- Redemption and moral choices in the face of darkness

Pros:

- Rich storytelling with atmospheric art
- Deeply rooted in American folklore, adding cultural depth
- Complex characters with moral dilemmas

Cons:

- Some readers may find the pacing slow in parts
- Requires familiarity with Hellboy's universe for full appreciation

Others Stories in the Collection

Beyond "The Crooked Man," the anthology includes stories like "The Man Who Hunted Himself," "In the Chapel of Moloch," and "The Visitor." Each story explores different facets of horror and supernatural themes, from existential dread to ancient pagan rituals.

- "The Man Who Hunted Himself" delves into identity and self-destruction, with Hellboy facing a creature that embodies his own dark side.
- "In the Chapel of Moloch" explores religious fanaticism and ancient pagan gods, emphasizing the clash between faith and superstition.
- "The Visitor" offers a poignant look at loneliness and the connection between worlds, portraying a strange visitor who reveals unsettling truths.

These stories collectively showcase Mignola's signature blend of myth, horror, and character-driven narratives, each adding layers to Hellboy's mythos.

Artwork and Visuals

The artwork in *Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others* is a defining feature that elevates the stories to a visual masterpiece. Mignola's signature style—bold lines, stark shadows, and atmospheric color palettes—creates a mood that oscillates between gothic horror and folk art. The illustrations evoke a sense of timelessness, blending Victorian gothic elements with American folklore aesthetics.

The visual storytelling enhances the narrative, often using minimalistic yet expressive imagery to convey mood and emotion. The use of color, particularly dark reds, grays, and muted earth tones, underscores the themes of darkness and moral ambiguity.

Features of the Artwork:

- Distinctive, atmospheric style
- Effective use of shadows and light
- Detailed character designs rooted in folklore and horror traditions

Pros:

- Enhances the storytelling, immersing readers fully in the universe
- Artistic consistency maintains the tone across stories
- Visually striking, making the collection a pleasure to behold

Cons:

- Some may prefer more detailed backgrounds or dynamic action sequences
- Minimalist style might not appeal to fans favoring more realistic art

Character Development and Themes

Hellboy himself is a complex protagonist—an agent of the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense (B.P.R.D.)—whose internal struggles with his demonic heritage and moral choices are central to the stories. In this collection, the character is portrayed with nuance, often torn between his duty and personal morality.

Other recurring characters, such as Professor Broom, Liz Sherman, and Abe Sapien, appear in supporting roles, further enriching the narrative fabric. The stories also delve into supernatural entities, folklore-inspired monsters, and human characters whose actions reveal themes of fear, faith, and redemption.

Key Themes:

- Moral ambiguity and the grey areas of heroism
- Folklore as a mirror for human fears and societal issues
- The importance of choice and morality in confronting evil

Pros:

- Rich characterizations that resonate emotionally
- Thought-provoking themes that go beyond simple horror
- Interplay between myth and humanity

Cons:

- Some stories may assume familiarity with Hellboy lore
- Character development is sometimes subtle, requiring attentive reading

Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

- Masterful storytelling rooted in folklore and myth
- Unique and atmospheric artwork that complements the narrative
- Deep exploration of moral and existential themes
- Varied stories that balance horror, humor, and drama
- A collection that appeals to both new readers and longtime fans

Weaknesses:

- Some stories may feel disconnected due to their standalone nature
- Pacing can vary significantly between stories
- Requires some familiarity with the Hellboy universe for full context

Conclusion and Final Thoughts

Hellboy: The Crooked Man and Others is a masterful addition to the Hellboy series, offering a rich tapestry of horror, myth, and moral inquiry. Its stories are haunting, thought-provoking, and visually stunning, making it a compelling read for anyone interested in supernatural fiction or dark folklore. While it may occasionally challenge readers unfamiliar with the broader Hellboy universe, its standalone stories and thematic depth ensure that most will find something to appreciate.

Whether you're a seasoned Hellboy fan or a newcomer exploring the dark corners of folklore through comics, this collection stands as a testament to Mike Mignola's storytelling prowess and artistic mastery. Its blend of atmospheric visuals, compelling narratives, and thematic richness makes it a highly recommended read for those seeking dark, folklore-inspired horror stories with emotional depth.

Final verdict: A beautifully crafted, thematically profound collection that elevates the Hellboy universe and cements its place in the pantheon of modern horror comics.

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 Mike Mignola, 2010-06-08 The Eisner Award-winning miniseries The Crooked Man, by Mignola and Richard Corben, teams Hellboy with a wandering hillman in a devilish tale of Appalachian witchcraft. This volume also includes the rare They Who Go Down to the Sea in Ships by Mignola, Josh Dysart (B.P.R.D.: 1947), and Jason Shawn Alexander (Abe Sapien: The Drowning), never before available for purchase; Mignola and Duncan Fegredo's The Mole, from Free Comic Book Day 2008; and Mignola's most recent solo outing, In the Chapel of Moloch. * Also includes a look into the artists' sketchbooks! * 2009 Eisner Award winner for Best Limited Series! Richard Corben shows

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hellboy the crooked man and others: Hellboy: The crooked man and others Michael Mignola, 1997 Mike Mignola's story notes accompany the out-of-print stories, giving insight into their creation and inspiration.

hellboy the crooked man and others: **Hellboy: The Complete Short Stories Volume 1** Mike Mignola, 2018-06-26 The ultimate introduction to this supernatural hero features 16 standalone stories with Mignola's greatest collaborators--stories that can be read in any order. This 368-page volume covers Hellboy's adventures from 1947 to 1961, reprinting stories from *The Chained Coffin*, *The Right Hand of Doom*, *The Bride of Hell*, *The Crooked Man*, *The Troll Witch*, and Hellboy's childhood adventure, *The Midnight Circus*, drawn by Duncan Fegredo, artist of *The Wild Hunt*, the basis for Neil Marshall's 2019 film *Hellboy*. In 1994 Mike Mignola released the first Hellboy series, *Seed of Destruction*, as Hellboy faced his supposed destiny as Beast of the Apocalypse. Before that, he'd spent fifty years fighting monsters as a somewhat carefree member of the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense. The Complete Short Stories Volumes 1 & 2 present those early adventures. *The Crooked Man* and *Double Feature of Evil*, both of which earned Mignola and his legendary collaborator Richard Corben Eisner Awards, are collected with the complete Hellboy in Mexico saga, featuring collaborations with Corben, Mick McMahon, Gabriel Ba, and Fabio Moon, as well as one of Mignola's early masterpiece, *The Corpse*. The two volumes of *The Complete Short Stories* together with the four volume Hellboy Omnibus series collect all of Mignola's award-winning Hellboy stories in chronological order for a definitive reading experience.

hellboy the crooked man and others: *Hellboy: The Crooked Man #2* Mike Mignola, 2011-08-24 A lifetime ago, Tom sold his soul to a devil of old Appalachia. Now, he and Hellboy are fighting to win it back through the witch who first lured it away and a host of supernatural horrors as old as the land itself. This three-issue series reunites Mignola and legendary horror artist Richard Corben (*Hellboy in Mexico*, *Hellboy: Makoma*, *Hellboy: Being Human*) in a tale of witchcraft rooted in Appalachian folklore.

hellboy the crooked man and others: *Hellboy: The Crooked Man #1* Mike Mignola, 2011-04-20 In 1956, somewhere in the mountains of West Virginia, Hellboy encounters Tom, a man who in his youth sold his soul to a backwoods demon known as the Crooked Man. Together they travel back into the dark heart of the Appalachian mountains to confront that demon and see if Tom's soul can't be saved. This three-issue series reunites Mignola and legendary horror artist Richard Corben (*Hellboy in Mexico*, *Hellboy: Makoma*, *Hellboy: Being Human*) in a tale of witchcraft rooted in Appalachian folklore. Mignola and Corben team up for the first time since

Makoma! **Award-winning artist Richard Corben returns to _Hellboy_!**

hellboy the crooked man and others: *Hellboy: The Crooked Man #3* Mike Mignola, 2011-04-20 Trapped in a crumbling church, Hellboy must save a man's soul from ancient witches, a rain of exploding corpses, and finally the evil magic of the Crooked Man himself. This three-issue series reunites Mignola and legendary horror artist Richard Corben (_Hellboy in Mexico, Hellboy: Makoma, Hellboy: Being Human_) in a tale of witchcraft rooted in Appalachian folklore.

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hellboy the crooked man and others: *Hellboy: 25 Years of Covers* Mike Mignola, 2019-07-16 To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first issue of *Hellboy*, this deluxe art collection includes more than 150 full-page cover pieces from Mike Mignola, Richard Corben, Duncan Fegredo, and more! This book is sure to appeal to Mignola fans and comics enthusiasts alike, featuring an introduction by colorist Dave Stewart and a foreword by Mignola himself.

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hellboy the crooked man and others: *Hellboy Volume 6: Strange Places* Mike Mignola, 2006-04-25 Mike Mignola returns with his first new Hellboy collection since 2002's *Conqueror Worm*. After leaving the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense, Hellboy's travels take him briefly to Africa, then for a two-year stint at the bottom of the ocean. An ancient witch doctor, a giant fish woman, and the keeper of the secret history of the universe force Hellboy to either accept his role in the coming apocalypse, or have that role stolen from him. Weird undersea creatures and talking lions populate this turning-point adventure, which reveals secrets buried since Hellboy's very creation. This volume collects Harvey-and-Eisner-award winner Mike Mignola's Hellboy series *The Third Wish* and *The Island* with over a dozen unused pages, and a new epilogue. • *Strange Places* is the first Mignola-drawn Hellboy collection in over three years. • With the 2004 release of *Hellboy*, the motion picture, Hellboy has become a media phenomenon! Look for production on the Hellboy sequel to begin in 2006! • Collecting issues #1-#2 of *The Third Wish* and *The Island*, plus new material.

hellboy the crooked man and others: *Hellboy Volume 5: Conqueror Worm (2nd edition)* Mike Mignola, 2004-02-03 The Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense has sent Hellboy out on

what will be his final mission. At the end of World War II, Lobster Johnson led an Allied attack on Hitler's space program, but not before the Nazis were able to launch the first man into space. Now, after sixty years, Hellboy and Roger the Homunculus, who's been implanted by Bureau scientists with a bomb, travel to the ruined castle in Norway to intercept the returning capsule, and its single passenger...the conqueror worm!

hellboy the crooked man and others: Hellboy's World Scott Bukatman, 2016-04-07 Hellboy, Mike Mignola's famed comic book demon hunter, wanders through a haunting and horrific world steeped in the history of weird fictions and wide-ranging folklores. Hellboy's World shows how our engagement with Hellboy's world is a highly aestheticized encounter with comics and their materiality. Scott Bukatman's dynamic study explores how comics produce a heightened "adventure of reading" in which syntheses of image and word, image sequences, and serial narratives create compelling worlds for the reader's imagination to inhabit. Drawing upon other media—including children's books, sculpture, pulp fiction, cinema, graphic design, painting, and illuminated manuscripts—Bukatman reveals the mechanics of creating a world on the page. He also demonstrates the pleasurable and multiple complexities of the reader's experience, invoking the riotous colors of comics that elude rationality and control and delving into shared fictional universes and occult detection, the horror genre and the evocation of the sublime, and the place of abstraction in Mignola's art. Monsters populate the world of Hellboy comics, but Bukatman argues that comics are themselves little monsters, unruly sites of sensory and cognitive pleasures that exist, happily, on the margins. The book is not only a treat for Hellboy fans, but it will entice anyone interested in the medium of comics and the art of reading.

hellboy the crooked man and others: Hellboy Volume 1: Seed of Destruction Mike Mignola, 2004-02-03 Dark Horse presents new editions of the entire Hellboy line with new covers, beginning with Seed of Destruction, the basis of director Guillermo del Toro's blockbuster films. Hellboy is one of the most celebrated comics series in recent years. The ultimate artists' artist and a great storyteller whose work is in turns haunting, hilarious, and spellbinding. Mike Mignola has won numerous awards in the comics industry and beyond. When strangeness threatens to engulf the world, a strange man will come to save it. Sent to investigate a mystery with supernatural overtones, Hellboy discovers the secrets of his own origins, and his link to the Nazi occultists who promised Hitler a final solution in the form of a demonic avatar. ... Hellboy is a brilliant example of how to elevate the comic of the future to a higher literary level while achieving a higher pitch of excitement. —Robert Bloch, from his introduction

hellboy the crooked man and others: Monstrous Imaginaries Maaheen Ahmed, 2019-11-29 Monsters seem inevitably linked to humans and not always as mere opposites. Maaheen Ahmed examines good monsters in comics to show how Romantic themes from the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries persist in today's popular culture. Comics monsters, questioning the distinction between human and monster, self and other, are valuable conduits of Romantic inclinations. Engaging with Romanticism and the many monsters created by Romantic writers and artists such as Mary Shelley, Victor Hugo, and Goya, Ahmed maps the heritage, functions, and effects of monsters in contemporary comics and graphic novels. She highlights the persistence of recurrent Romantic features through monstrous protagonists in English- and French-language comics and draws out their implications. Aspects covered include the dark Romantic predilection for ruins and the sordid, the solitary protagonist and his quest, nostalgia, the prominence of the spectacle as well as excessive emotions, and above all, the monster's ambiguity and rebelliousness. Ahmed highlights each Romantic theme through close readings of well-known but often overlooked comics, including Enki Bilal's *Monstre* tetralogy, Jim O'Barr's *The Crow*, and Emil Ferris's *My Favorite Thing Is Monsters*, as well as the iconic comics series Alan Moore's *Swamp Thing* and Mike Mignola's *Hellboy*. In blurring the otherness of the monster, these protagonists retain the exaggeration and uncontrollability of all monsters while incorporating Romantic characteristics.

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the Lambton Worm, Hellboy and the B.P.R.D.: Saturn returns #1-#3, and Hellboy and the B.P.R.D.: the Beast of Vargu--Title page verso.

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hellboy the crooked man and others: B.P.R.D. Volume 6: The Universal Machine Mike Mignola, 2007-01-16 Abe Sapien follows a strange clue to the jungles of Indonesia and a secret society with connections to his past life during the American Civil War. Meanwhile, Liz's apocalyptic visions have begun to escalate, and Johann makes a startling discovery about a member of the Bureau. Written by John Arcudi and Hellboy and B.P.R.D. creator Mike Mignola, and drawn by Guy Davis, Garden of Souls offers a window into the bizarre backstory of Abe Sapien and his colleagues in the mysterious Oannes Society—complete with Victorian cyborgs, doomsday devices, and a very well-preserved mummy. • Collects B.P.R.D.: Garden of Souls #1-#5.

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