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Ho Che Anderson

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#6098453 in Books 2005-06-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.00 x .20 x 10.10l, .45 #File Name: 156097651956 pages | File size: 67.Mb

Ho Che Anderson : Scream Queen before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scream Queen:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Dada horror.By Robert BeveridgeHo Che Anderson, Scream Queen (Fantagraphics, 2005)Ho Che Anderson takes the Brute method of drawing (if you don't know Brute's work, look at some KMFDM album covers) to whole new areas of weirdness. It's a kind of German expressionism mixed with pulp-fiction-book-cover thing they've got going on. Not too easy on the eyes, but then the subject matter usually demands some pain.Kind of hard to explain the plot of this one without getting into spoilers from the very beginning. There's this woman, you see, hitch-hiking...Very odd stuff. Requires some thought at the end to see what Anderson's on about (not with the plot, which resolves nicely, but the reason for the existence of the thing in the first place), and you're likely to draw only the most ambiguous of conclusions. Feels like a short story that's begging to become a novel; will we see a full-length Scream Queen from Anderson in the future? One can only hope. ***

Following his landmark King, Anderson turns his attention to fiction in this harrowing tale of sex, depravity and overdue retribution. Expressionistic graphics and mastery of form are employed to chilling effect. A woman driving alone through the desert picks up a younger woman whose car has broken down on the side of the road. Later at the younger woman's job, the two ladies chat, revealing bits and pieces of their lives. After this meeting, the older woman leaves for an appointment with a man. She arrives at his apartment where he's having sex with a woman. The woman

confronts him. Turns out she's the living dead, come to bring the man to the other side. *Scream Queen* marks the first book by Ho Che Anderson since his landmark graphic novel, *King*, a biography of Martin Luther King, Jr. *Scream Queen* represents a marked departure from *King*, being a much shorter work of genre fiction, but employing a similar graphic sensibility and mastery of form to chilling effect.

From Publishers Weekly Anderson's first outing since *King*, his monumental biography of Martin Luther King Jr., is a visually stunning fable of sex and death that collapses under the weight of its own pretensions. But until it falls apart, it's a good ride. The story is presented in a 10"-square format, and Anderson uses this to create wide cinematic panels in stark bw. The tale tracks an angel of death stand-in as she drives through the desert, stopping for a hitchhiker on her way to confront a depraved killer. The first section, with Death and her passenger, Avril, is entertaining and humorous as the two have a lively discussion about life and sex. But the second section, in which Death confronts the killer, tilts toward melodrama. Over-the-top dialogue like "The only time I feel anything is when I scream" pushes this otherwise compelling novella into gothic-kitsch territory. Anderson's trademark expressionist art is still compelling, and he stretches out even further here, crafting unusual panels of light and dark drawings that stand on their own as visuals and also advance the narrative. Still, they're not quite enough to redeem this overdramatic work. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. He is one of the few explorers, the few pioneers in North American comic books, moving into new territory, and its about damn time more people recognize. - Leroy Douresseaux, *ComicBook Bin* About the Author Ho Che Anderson lives in Toronto, Canada. His books include *King*, *Scream Queen*, and *Sand and Fury*.