



## The Raven's Child

*Thomas E. Sniegoski, Tom Brown (Illustrator)*

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*Thomas E. Sniegoski has entranced audiences with his exploration of the Batman universe, thrilled fans with his Buffy the Vampire Slayer comics, and uncovered the paranormal with his Hellboy spin-off series, B.R.P.D. Now, he introduces readers to a mesmerizing dark world filled with monsters, where humanity's only hope lies in the bravery of one woman...*

When the Throng came, the human race never stood a chance. The monsters were simply too strong, too numerous. It only took a few months for them to take over and leave the few poor souls who survived cowering in terror for years to come.

But even the monsters fear something: the dark goddess known as the Raven's Child. Legend says that she alone is destined to destroy the Throng and free those under their cruel power.

And whoever wields her name and image could become the bane of the Throng and an inspiration to humankind—even if she were only a young woman, like Carissa Devin, who has vowed to reclaim the world for the human race, no matter what the cost...

## The Raven's Child Details

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Author : Thomas E. Sniegoski , Tom Brown (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review The Raven's Child for online ebook

### JHollywood says

my first introduction to graphic novels, absolutely loved it. the story was amazing, very original way of retelling a story told a thousand times, the prose was great, the pictures were an amazing addition. very dark and very forthcoming. loved it.

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### AK Mama Reads says

Mama's Thoughts on The Raven's Child:

I can honestly say I've never read anything quite like this. A graphic novel written with a science fiction master's voice, this dystopian tale with elements of the supernatural and interweaving myths is an action-packed, emotional journey through the eyes of Carissa, who is more than human, less than god. She is afraid, but very strong for someone who is obviously quite young, and utterly alone.

"Fear is the most virulent of diseases."

Fear is what the throng races invoke as you turn the pages, the desolation of the entire planet and its inhabitants paints a bleak picture, and the gritty illustrations accompanying the striking text lend a hand in creating this frightful nightmare. Although I wouldn't classify The Raven's Child as horror, it certainly is spooky. I kept wondering what new atrocity awaited me as I continued the journey, but ultimately I kept rooting for the human race.

When it comes down to us vs. them, we tend to unite in our fight to survive. I appreciated the realistic manner in which Sniegoski portrays the remaining humans, how their emotions and horrible living conditions were portrayed by Brown, and how the artist and author managed to work together so well, I would never have thought I was holding the product of more than one voice. It's not only cohesive but also deftly woven into a tale of an alien apocalypse with more to the story than meets the eye. For its humanity, and for its striking use of mythology, The Raven's Child deserves 4.5 stars.

\*\*\*I was kindly provided with a review copy by the publisher, though the opinion presented is my own.\*\*\*

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### Tom Brown says

Well, the art was recently described as a "tentacle party", and who does not like one of those, I ask you?

Clearly, I'm going to be biased on the Art (guilty as charged) but I \*can\* comment on the story. Mr. Sniegoski worked a lot of depth, atmosphere and more than a few poignant scenes into this adventure. The mythology of the Throng gives it a sense of tangible history. I'm honoured to have been a part of this. I started out as a fan of Mr Sniegoski and after studying the mechanics and subtleties of the script, I am even more impressed.

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### **Melissa says**

Huge fan of Thomas Sniegoski. This graphic novel does not disappoint. Great artwork by Tom Brown and a really compelling Cthulhu-esque story. Hope the two collaborate again!

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### **Deviki says**

I picked up this book while shopping at Big Bad Wolf book sale, as I dropped it in the basket I hoped this book is a standalone graphic novel rather than a graphic series .....and I was right :)

The story takes place after an alien/monster race called the Throng, has invaded earth for some time. Humanity is at great risk of extinction.....*Am I the only one who don't feel bad about this situation* Then you see a mysterious girl in a some kind of odd get up making a difference, she alone stands and kills the fearful Throns.

The story follows Kiley's and Carissa's life and the history of the how everything happened is seen through their POV. For a fairly short standalone book, this book packs a lot of information....enough to "carry" the story without too many confusion and plot holes. The book does not reveal how the Throng found earth, why they decided to kill humans and what kind of creature they were suppose to be. But the story does reveal enough to answer the some important questions. Who is Raven's child?, how the Throng creature came about? and why did they became savage vicious monsters .....

Graphics:

- The art concept is monotone, but its more like black and white on grey scale. Which is not bad considering the ambiance of the book plot and its Gothic theme.
- The character designs are fantastic. I have Trypophobia so this book was a little difficult to read because of the many big black glassy eyes on almost all the pages and I also hate many eyes or eye balls on a person or creature. It makes me cringe and itch all over !! which is great news for horror comics though
- I don't understand why the Claudius Priest had to be a freaking Goat ? Like he looksway to normal compare to other Throng race. Even the Lord's Magistrate looks too much like a human.
- Am I the only one who thinks the High Lord looks cute ? Seriously, he is the least cruel looking Throng race, even the Gollum looking magistrate looks a lot more creepier than him.
- The statue of Raven's Child reminds me of an Indian god and goddess, The Raven's Child statue looks very similar to the statue "Lord Nataraja", I don't know if other Indians "see" this, but I do.
- The whole concept of a female god that is angry and unmerciful with her punishment and death reminds me of goddess Kali. Her trademark attire of skull necklace and body parts is also similar.

**No no don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to make a Indian relation here no no, only that the Raven's Child reminds me of some very popular god and goddess.**

The only problem I have with this book is that, the final fight between the High Lord and Raven's Child is very short and abrupt. I felt like they should have shown the wrath of Raven's Child in a more vengeful

ways. They should have shown the strength and power she possessed when she rain down her punishment. Because the book majorly focus on the fearful Raven's Child and her powers but somehow it felt downplayed in the final showdown. You don't get to see her fury and vengeance all that much.

Also this might just be me, but the dialogue for this comic is a bit weird.....

*"Go Now, Down, Down, Down the corridor of shame" ?.....huh !?*

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### **Mark Lawrence says**

Artwork is always important in a graphic novel, obviously. Tom Brown has a unique style and it sets the tone for this book. Check him out. If you like the art, you'll enjoy *The Raven's Child*. The art is very in keeping with the story being told. Both have their own internal logic and it doesn't quite match the everyday variety, but if you 'surrender' to the vibe then it's a journey you can really enjoy.

Putting a graphic novel together isn't an easy task. I've seen it done badly. It's not a case of putting pictures alongside a condensed version of a book. It's done well here. The words carry the pictures and the pictures carry the words.

It's a fat graphic novel, 200 pages, with probably an average of four frames a page. It's an even fatter story of alien apocalypse and fight-back that had to squeeze to fit in. Occasionally you feel it could have used more space.

In any event, we have a world of weird, surreal, often-tentacled monsters thrust into our own with messy consequences, and then a 'terrorist' insurgence by human survivors aided (hugely) by the decaying and moribund state of the monster society who even have their own goddess dedicated to destroying them.

I read through the whole thing in 3 days and enjoyed it a lot. I love the imagination in Brown's art albeit a world away from the hard-edged realism on display in many of my favourite graphic novels.

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### **Nimue Brown says**

It's fantastic to see a kick-ass female lead who isn't presented as a sex object and who has a plausible, healthy body shape. At the surface level, this is action adventure in which a lass kills a lot of monsters and inspires another lass to kill monsters in a desperate bid to save humanity from being wiped out. Things die. Other things explode.

On a deeper level, its a story about resistance, and what it takes to fight back. It's a story about cultural decay, and in that way it makes me think of the monstery writing from the 1890s. It's tempting to think that we are The Throng, the monstrous planet destroyers threatening life on Earth. I like that (without giving too much away) by the end its not as clear-cut good and evil as the beginning suggested. We all get to choose how to face our challenges, as hero or monster, fallen from grace, or aspiring to it. I think it's an inspiring

idea and the story plays those choices out in a number of ways, without being in the least bit preachy.

I like the art a lot, but there's an obvious bias on my part there (wife of the artist).

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### **Sophie Marie Stewart-Ravenscroft says**

I loved everything about this book! It's dark and bleak and starkly beautiful. This story sings Justice into every corner of darkness, depravity, and destruction. It's the story of humanity inspired by an archetype from a completely foreign culture. Hope persists against all odds and even in the aftermath of death our heroine lives on and holds out her talons, beckoning, "You know what needs to be done. Now do it."

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### **Jon says**

The Raven's Child is a great graphic novel from one of the writers of the Buffy comics. A grim novel that is both well-written and gorgeously drawn, this blend of paranormal and dystopian fiction will definitely hit the spot. The child is a strong, fearless heroine and is just epic in her battle against the forces of darkness. Few stories really capture the unwavering spirit of humanity and the thin line between man and monster like Sneigoski.

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### **Kak Jaya says**

such a great book

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### **Barbara Justiniano says**

Very good graphic novel.

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### **James says**

As a graphic novel, this book blends horror, dystopian literature, and seems to pull almost from mythology in equal measure. The challenge, then, is just to get into the flow of the work. I must admit, it took me a bit to get into the book, but once I did, I found it very rewarding. The book's art leads to a slow burn of horror - the Throng may look like recognizable elements of people, animals, and horror tropes, but the further you get into the work, the more the seemingly kid-friendly work feels darker and foreboding.

The story is well done. It recalls invasion works from classic Science Fiction and elements not unlike Barr's The Crow in his origin. If you can give yourself time to get into the world - it is complex in the blending of the Throng's religion and their fears related there unto, the building of the mock Raven's Child, and the idea of a human resistance front. The story blends the view of the titular protagonist, a Throng priest realizing the error of his kind, a human girl emboldened by an encounter with the Raven's Child, and the villain who has

come to crave a challenge he hopes to find in the prophecy. It is not a simple story and I find myself playing with the themes more and more and that is the type of work this will be for many readers.

Definitely worth a look!

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### **Gladys Gonzales Atwell says**

\*This graphic novel was provided by the publisher for an honest review\*\*

I was thrilled to receive an ARC of this graphic novel but am very delayed with my review and with that I apologize. It is a totally thrilling read with fantastic illustrations!!

Tom Brown's work was dark and beautiful. Truly a piece of skillful art! Love it. His work speaks volumes and can tell a story all on their own. Like a new fangirl I will be looking up his other works and gobbling them up!!

As a Buffy the Vampire Slayer fan, I have a few of Thomas E. Sniegoski works already. He amazes me at every turn!! In this graphic novel he didn't disappoint!

In this standalone graphic novel (which of course saddened the series lover in me) we had the right mix of strong compelling heroine, evil characters and monsters!!! The world building was fantastic and the characters leaped from the page!! I literally was sitting on the edge of my seat on this one!!

Love love loved it!!! Jump at the chance to grab it!! 5 stars and a tip of the Nerd Girl hat!! My geek girl was dancing around as well!!!

\*This review was done in conjunction with Nerd Girl Official \*

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### **Graeme Talboys says**

When I first saw this announced I put it straight onto my wish list. And waited. And the wait was worth it. Because this is a graphic novel produced by two great exponents of the form. Like all good stories this is deceptively simple. The narrative and the illustrations on first glance seem almost sparse. You sit down and you read and enjoy a really great story. And then you go back and see that beneath that surface there are many layers of complexity. The straightforward narrative is a vehicle for many subtle messages about fear, adversity, friendship, and hope. The illustrations are packed with superb detail that brings them alive and gives them a kinetic energy - even the static scenes of ruined buildings and interiors seem alive with history.

So, if you enjoy graphic novels and want something different, something with a bit of mythic resonance and a bit of darkness, something created by two people who know exactly what they are doing when they put words and pictures on paper, then this is definitely for you.

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## Julia L. says

Thomas E. Sniegoski's standalone graphic novel *The Raven's Child* has all the right ingredients for an epic fantasy: an inspiring protagonist, a memorable cast of evildoers, and a detailed, visually striking world. The story is set in a modern day Earth overrun by the Throng, a grotesque army of people-eating monsters. Humanity is on its last legs, but a sliver of hope is created by tales of a monster slayer known as the Raven's Child. The Throng believe the Raven's Child is the "Dark Goddess" destined to destroy their race. In reality, she is a human woman with a strong will and an even stronger desire for revenge, but the rumors of her activities are enough to terrify the Throng... and inspire a handful of her fellow survivors to fight back.

*The Raven's Child* should have been much, much bigger—in both size and scope. I have an advance reader copy, but if Amazon is to be believed, the final version of this book is only 6 by 9 inches and about 200 pages. Tom Brown's black-and-white artwork (which looks like what would happen if you mashed together a Margaret Keane painting, *The Dark Crystal*, and Hieronymus Bosch's depiction of Hell) would be better appreciated via a larger format, and Sniegoski's story needed to be *at least* twice as long. Limiting this graphic novel to 208 pages is like trying to condense the entire run of *Y: The Last Man* down to the length of a single *Archie* volume; there is still the germ of an entertaining idea, but it falls tantalizingly short of what it could have been.

Original review posted here.

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