



## Hitman, Vol. 1: A Rage in Arkham

*Garth Ennis , John McCrea (Illustrator)*

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On the back streets of Gotham City, ex-military operative Tommy Monaghan has set himself up as a hired gun. Surrounded by an odd assortment of friends and allies, the Hitman with a heart must deal with personal conflicts over honor and morals as he makes a living with a gun. But even with the telepathic ability to read his targets' minds, he still finds himself well over his head when he runs into some of Gotham's most notorious citizens such as the Demon, the Joker, and the Dark Knight himself, the Batman.

Plus, a vindictive mob boss from his past puts a contract out on Tommy. With his friends caught in the crossfire, he must find a way to take out the hired assassin and exact retribution against the mafia head. But even with his extrarodinary powers, the Hitman may find that a trained killer and a mob army is just too much for one man.

## Hitman, Vol. 1: A Rage in Arkham Details

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# From Reader Review Hitman, Vol. 1: A Rage in Arkham for online ebook

## Teo says

Having read this years ago and having a very positive memory of it as a whole, I must admit the re-reading of the first volume left me somewhat underwhelmed.

When the pink goggles are off, "Hitman" might not just be that perfect 10 it once appeared to be. The first few issues are very so-so. The Bloodlines introduction to the titular is average at best. McCrea's art leaves much to be desired, Ennis' writing is noticeably worse than his later stuff. Even the first few proper issues do not excel in any way. The makings of a great story are there, but the result fall just short of great.

However, give it a chance. By the end of the volume, things started resembling those all around awesome memories I have had of this series. The script and the artwork improves gradually, and the volume finally leaves you wanting for more.

"Hitman, Vol.1" is "only" a good start, leading up to something much better. Stick with it, you'll be glad you did.

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## Bill says

Fun read, interesting characters. I will continue reading this series.

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## B says

There are a couple of problems with this series. One thing is a lot of this does not really make sense. The origin of Hitman's powers is utterly baffling. One thing is that the villains' speech is hard to read.

Perhaps the weirdest thing is that it's about how a regular guy feels in the world of capes. But this regular guy gets by because he has more powers than anyone he encounters, right? So it's at odds with itself.

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## Christopher says

The next volume in my 2015 comics reread list.

This one is interesting for me because I read the individual comics and this volume collects Hitman 1-3, a single story from Batman Chronicles #4, and The Demon Annual #2. The latter of which I do not have access to and am not sure that I have actually ever read.

The Batman Chronicles story is a good intro to the character. Hitman 1-3 also include Batman, and are

entertaining as Tommy gets hired to kill the Joker. The alien gunslinger is pretty weird, but it provides a good action sequence, and it was the late 90s, so it gets a pass.

In all honesty, the most annoying thing about this comic was the font-face used for the aliens. I've read much worse, but that was annoying to read. I may have skimmed bits of them talking due to the font.

Almost 20 years later, I'm still digging DCs version of the Punisher, though not quite as much as I used to. Sit this between 3.5-4 stars.

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### StoryTellerShannon says

The tale of a hitman who picks up super powers that let him x-ray everything and read the thoughts of others. He starts by dealing with the fallout from the mob but the real focus is when an alien race employs him indirectly to assassinate the Joker in Arkham Asylum but Batman tries to stop him. This is mostly a lighthearted action piece that doesn't take itself too seriously. You should not either.

**ARTWORK: C plus; STORY/PLOTTING: B minus; DIALOGUE/CHARACTERS: B minus; OVERALL GRADE: B minus; WHEN READ: end of December 2011.**

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### Darko says

Subjektivani sam, ali Hitman je pravo stripovsko osvježenje a to osvježenje se odnosi na akcijski žanr. Batman, Superman, Green Lantern, Catwoman su epizodni likovi i na trenutke prikazani kao obični ljudi. Inače volim antiheroje i Tommy Hitman Monaghan je jedan od njih. Naravno tu je i cijela plejada uvrnutih likova iz kvarta koji još više doprinose ljudskim odnosima za razliku od vječno herojski nabrijanih inačica iz DC/Marvel/Vertigo multiverzuma. Preporuka za opuštanje na plaži :) Pročitao prva dva prevedena izdanja od Fibre i u iščekivanju ostala četiri koja će se vjerovatno pojaviti u idućih godinu, dvije.

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### Mark Desrosiers says

Hitman (Tommy Monaghan) is really just a Punisher with x-ray vision and mind-reading abilities, plus some normal human drives (thirst and lust). In other words, mildly interesting but also a potential snoozefest. And yeah, this first trade compilation doesn't quite flesh out a personality for Tommy, other than the occasional quip. What really made this click was not writer Garth Ennis -- who seems a bit constrained by Gotham City here -- but some truly garish and hideous adversaries created by artist John McCrea. The double-corpse that comprises the Arkhannone is one of the most horrid and fascinating villains in DC history: their appearance gives the stories here an almost Miltonian sense of epic proportion and strangeness.

And the one-pager of the Batman with a gun in his mouth remains unsurpassed.

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## **Gilberto Soriano says**

Antes de The Boys fue Hitman.

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## **Sarah says**

Initially I wasn't sure Hitman was a comic for me. I was entirely wrong. I'm so in love with his character and story line that I am not going to bang on my friend's door and demand more.

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## **Tanya Renolds says**

So it's Batman vs Hitman vs Mawzir, when Tommy is paid a million clams to whack the Joker. The 1st issue is just you getting to know Tommy Monaghan and what he's about, a Hitman with a heart. He comes to find out the job was a ploy to get him to Mawzir and he can deliver him to his demon bosses, but Tommy being the hero don't anna kill for the demons and ends up winning the day by the end of the 3rd issue. Quick and on to the next.

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## **Brenda Burns says**

This was a fun and quick 3 issue story. Hitman is contracted to hit the Joker, but it's not him, it is a demon from hell. 2 demons send their multi armed goon after Tommy Monaghan (Hitman) to bring him to hell and join their army, or something like that, it never really gave the super detailed reason why they want him, just that they think he is a true evil person, but Tommy even tells Batman that he could use his x-ray vision to find out who he is, but won't because he is a good guy, a good guy killer? Is that for real, well I guess so because Tommy has his honor and a code.

Of course the side cast of characters is a Garth Ennis regular, I notice he likes to write sad and pathetic people and give the story humor with them, I am a real fan of Garth, ready to read more.

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## **Sam Quixote says**

After a freaky encounter with a space alien god thing, Tommy Monaghan aka Hitman, is left with super powers including telepathy and x-ray vision. Rather than help out or become a superhero like everyone else, Tommy decides to keep going as a Hitman choosing superhero targets and putting him in a different class of Hitman.

Sound familiar? This seems like DC's weak attempt at getting a "Punisher" type character together. Ironically, this 90s effort from Garth Ennis would be a warm up for Ennis' legendary run on the Punisher who would go on to make that series the definitive version of that character.

Ok, so the Punisher didn't have stupid powers like x-ray vision but I think that made him a better character. But that series where the Punisher storylines got all supernatural were the worst and Hitman has a strong

supernatural undercurrent to the stories where Hitman's biggest foes are from Hell or some weird alternate reality, snooze...

Besides the sub-par Punisher knockoff and the even weaker storylines featuring gods and monsters, the origin story of how he got these powers has got to be one of the most pointless and poorly thought out storylines Ennis has ever written. I'm willing to let this pass as this was early on in his career, pre-Preacher/Punisher/The Boys, eg. everything great, but that doesn't make this a better comic book. Nor does the inclusion of Batman and Joker improve it.

Overall if you're a diehard Garth Ennis fan and have to read everything he's written, this review won't dissuade you, but if you're thinking maybe Ennis struck gold again with this series, think again. Crap character, crap stories, crap comic book.

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### **M.i. says**

Fun read, reminds me of Spawn. Going to check out more in this series.

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### **Mohammed says**

I had read the first 3 issues of Hitman collected in this volume before but not The Demon Annual special where Tommy made his debut and the Batman Chronicles issue. I'm reading this series now because i have waited 5,6 years for DC to start reprinting volumes of the series.

This volume collect the start of my favorite dark humor series. Its a violent story about Tommy Monaghan a Hitman in Gotham, a different POV on Gotham. Tommy isnt a superhero or supervillain despite he has two superpowers. Naturally being set in Gotham, the stories make fun of superhero, supervillians. The dark humor i rate highly and respect Ennis & McCrea for alot is one thats funny because its hard to see the jokes coming.

Its funny that the best humor comic stories i have read are both brutal dark humor stories about Hitman. The other series i'm thinking are the Spanish classic series Torpedo by Bernet and Abuli.

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### **Melissa says**

Great book. I love Ennis though.

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