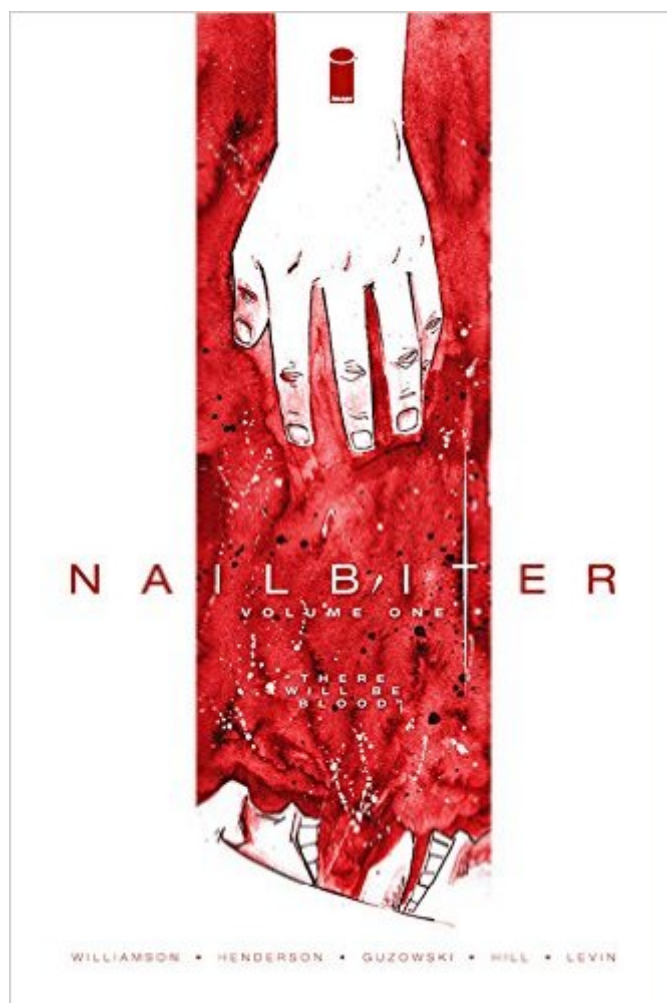


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Nailbiter Volume 1: There Will Be Blood



Synopsis

"Where do serial killers come from?" and why has Buckaroo, Oregon given birth to sixteen of the most vile serial killers in the world? NSA Agent Nicholas Finch needs to solve that mystery in order to save his friend, and he'll have to team up with the infamous Edward "Nailbiter" Warren to do it. Joshua Williamson and Mike Henderson deliver a mystery that mixes Twin Peaks with the horror of Se7en! Collects Nailbiter #1-5.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It's probably pretty rude to start a review by noting that I didn't have very high hopes for this book, but there it is. Since I ended up liking it very much I guess all will be forgiven. The cover suggests that this will be drawn in that washed out grey style, (with stark white and red highlights), that many horror artists favor, especially in zombie themed numbers. The cover is misleading. The artwork here is dynamic and expressive, with a full color range and some nice detail work. The drawings are "realistic" when the story is calm and natural and then a bit exaggerated during high-action and horror sequences, which is fine by me. The likenesses are consistent, characters are easily distinguishable, lettering is crisp and clear, scenes are well lit, action scenes have energy and dramatic scenes have some oomph. I know that sounds a bit silly and sort of obvious, but there are a lot of books out there where the graphic part doesn't match the novel part, or the illustration is so idiosyncratic or artsy that you can't make out what's happening, and that isn't a problem here. The story is also more engaging than the blurb might suggest, even if it is a bit conventional. Disgraced

NSA Agent Finch, on suspension and depressed, gets a call from a buddy to come to some nowhere burg to help him. Agent Finch shows up and buddy has gone missing. Finch is aided by local policewoman with an attitude and crazy cop skills, and is also aided or frustrated by a range of colorful local characters. That's a fine frame for me; I don't complain when murder mysteries involve murders, or sailing stories involve sailboats, so I'm not going to complain when creepy-town horror stories involve creepy towns and horror. The hook here is that the creepy little burg, (Buckaroo, Oregon - good name), has been the birthplace and hometown of sixteen different serial killers. Needless to say this is higher than average and makes the town an interesting, extreme and mysterious outlier on the serial-killer-bell-curve. Agent Finch's buddy was investigating this phenomenon when he disappeared and now we and Finch and the local cop are investigating. NO SPOILERS HERE, but the tale takes a number of interesting twists and turns before it - oh, oh - cliffhangs. Yep, this volume collects the first five issues of the comic, but doesn't conclude the story. You'll have to stay tuned. But meanwhile - there are tricky clues, and twisty developments, and dead ends and red herrings, and real suspense. All of this is high quality and pretty tightly constructed. So, if you like a nice solid story, good drawing, some snappy patter, an actual suspenseful mystery, and a hero who isn't too angstsy, and if you're O.K. with slightly over-the-top cinematic/slasher mayhem, this could be a satisfying and entertaining choice. Please note that I received a free advance ecopy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

What would happen in a town full of serial killers? Nailbiter takes a look at a town where a large percentage of the population has become or has the potential to become serial killers. The most famous one was known for chewing the fingernails of his victims. After receiving a mysterious phone call from an old friend, FBI agent Nicholas Finch heads to Buckaroo, OR to find out what is going on. Upon arriving, he learns that his friend has gone missing and some strange incidents are occurring in town. Finch's search for his friend leads him deeper into the town history and an investigation into the proliferation of killers. This plays out like a cop drama in many ways. The main characters we see are associated with law enforcement or serial killers in some way. The town itself becomes a major character in the story. There are some twists along the way, which help move things along. One aspect that I particularly enjoyed is the unveiling of some of the killers from the town's past. Each one presents a unique MO and notoriety in the town. One of the residents even set up a shop dedicated to memorabilia from the killers. The art helps pull the story off quite a bit. I feel like it grounds things within a story that has the potential to be very over the top. The restraint

with the art makes some of the twists much more effective.

This book has a pretty interesting concept: why have so many serial killers come from one place? The book is very well written, the characters are diverse and intriguing. And the serial killers in the story are all unique and have their own morbid obsessions. This first volume sets up the mystery of the story very well, and does a really good job of drawing the reader in. The art, to me, was the weak point. It was still really good, but I had a few issues with it. Some of the panels were erratic and sloppy, and there were inconsistencies with some of the characters. I would recommend this to fans of the creative team, and fans of serial killer/ mystery stories.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. The story centres on the town of Buckaroo which is now infamous for having 'birthed' 16 serial killers. One of whom is Edward 'Nailbiter' Warren. Agent Carroll, who caught Warren, is now convinced he understands why so many killers have originated from the small town. He calls his friend Finch to meet him there but soon afterwards goes missing. It is then up to Finch and the local sheriff to track him down and work out the mysteries of Buckaroo, although not without the help of Warren. I didn't know quite what to expect with this read but the premise sounded amazing and I was extremely pleased that the story didn't disappoint. I loved the artwork, it was vibrant and fitted the genre nicely. As you would expect from a horror read, it was extremely dark and violent, the colour palette reflecting this beautifully. The story is paced really well, intriguing me enough so that I kept reading and finished it in one sitting. The volume only collects #1-5, ending on a cliffhanger that has me itching to read volume 2. The characters were engaging for the most part, details being added over the 5 issues to slowly add back story, fleshing them out. I'll be interested in what comes next with this series. Loved it, highly recommended.

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