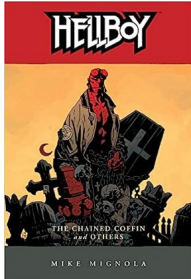




Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



Hellboy, Volume 3: The Chained Coffin and Others

By Mike Mignola

Colored by James Sinclair, Matthew Hollingsworth, and Dave Stewart

Discussed October 2023

Contents

- The Corpse (1995)
- The Iron Shoes (1996)
- The Baba Yaga (1998)
- A Christmas Underground (1997)
- The Chained Coffin (1995)
- The Wolves of Saint August (1994)
- Almost Colossus (1997)

Discussion Questions

1. Did you read the book? Did you like it? Had you encountered any Hellboy stories before? (Comics, movies, etc.)
2. Mike Mignola offers up behind-the-scenes commentary on all of the stories as part of the collection. Did you read the write-ups before or after reading the stories themselves? Did you find them useful/interesting? Did you agree with Mignola's own assessments of his stories?
3. Mignola's stories are heavily influenced by folk stories and fairy tales that Mignola had heard before. Did you recognize any of them and if so, Mignola do justice to them? How did you feel the influences worked out overall?
4. "The Wolves of Saint August" was the first Hellboy story that Mignola wrote entirely on his own (the one previous mini-series was plotted by Mignola but scripted by John Byrne). How did you find it compared to the writing on the other stories? Did knowing it was the first story he'd fully written change your opinions at all?
5. Two of the stories were originally serialized ("The Wolves of Saint August" as four 10-page installments; "The Corpse" as twelve 2-page installments). How well do you think they work in their collected forms? Would you have preferred them as episodic?

6. The stories here range both in tone as well as in length (anywhere from 6 to 46 pages). Did you prefer the darker or more comedic elements? Shorter or longer stories? Did any individual stories stand out for you?
7. What did you think of Mignola's art, as well as the coloring by Sinclair, Hollingsworth, and Stewart? If this was your first encounter with Mignola's art, does it surprise you that prior to this he primarily drew superhero comics?
8. Would you read any other Hellboy comics down the line? If so, more short stories or a full length mini-series?

Further Reading

Mini-Series Collections	Short Story Collections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed of Destruction • Wake the Devil • Conqueror Worm • Strange Places • Darkness Calls • The Wild Hunt • The Storm and the Fury • Hellboy in Hell: The Descent • Hellboy in Hell: The Death Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chained Coffin and Others • The Right Hand of Doom • The Troll Witch and Others • The Crooked Man and Others • The Bride of Hell and Others