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The Hole: Consumer Culture, Volume 1



Synopsis

The Hole: Consumer Culture is a science fiction horror story about the buying and selling of race in America, the simultaneous worship and degradation of African Americans in popular culture, and the tearing down of physical and psychological boundaries. CEO Carla Bonte™ wants voodoo to be a national religion "a hyperbolic "hyper voodoo" that uses an advanced technology marketed through a multinational corporation. Papa Legba, voodoo spirit of the crossroads, stands in opposition to "hyper voodoo" and the consumer culture that propels it. Complete with biting postmodern satire, a visual hip-hop aesthetic, an annotated bibliography, and essays on the academic theory behind the story, The Hole stands at the crossroads of interdisciplinary education "fearlessly combining African American studies, media and comparative scholarship, horror, science fiction, comedy, and iconic teaching tools.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It seems as though 'The Hole' can be read on various different levels. For someone that never really read comic books and only delved into the short strips in a newspaper, I expected that the content within this graphic novel would be a new and inviting experience for me. I quickly learned that I couldn't read this as a simple novel. The leaps back and forth through time and the different character storylines offered more than a basic novel. Plus as a novice comic reader, I had to adjust to taking in the imagery especially of artwork so detailed and graphic. The commonality of the different characters from the very loose and hoe-ish Trina, to the aggressive and angry Curtis

though dark and sinister were all representatives of the realities of African American culture and the things we see throughout our communities. Within 'The Hole' were representations of the images that we are bombarded with daily and their subliminal messages including the portrayal of the Black Man as violent thugs on tv and in video games (unfortunately barraging our youth), the over sexualized images of Black Women and the references to her defined by her body or demeaned as a [...] or hoe. It's easy to be drawn the details of each image both visually and literally in what the characters are saying or doing, as well as the meaning behind various depiction as in the representation of 'Allmart', the Nazi symbol tattooed on Curtis, and the depiction of Voodoo in comparison to Christianity or Islam within our culture. I found myself reading 'The Hole' in different modes...at times studying and seeking meaning behind the story as when Trina was swallowed up into Curtis chest and the relevance of drug use. Still at times (as when reading a basic novel) empathizing and just feeling the emotion of the story and anticipating what would happen next like in the case of young Trina wanting to spend quality time with her father and his shopping spree not being a substitute for him being there. When she walked in on seeing her father smoked up/on fire, you couldn't help but wonder about her character but still relate to the reality of how our young girls are impacted by the lack of affection or presence by their fathers and what results when they become adults. This book addresses so many issues from religion to war, the pushing of pharmaceutical drugs to medicate so-called human illnesses (ADA, etc), sex, and race. In reading this book, you can't help but complete it with a feeling that you have to re-read it to find the next level of meaning to what you just read. I don't think you can read this book just for the comic story, or you won't like it and will miss a lot and yet still the book at times can be overwhelming making you wonder did I really understand. Overall, 'The Hole' can take you out of your comfort zone with the dark, sexual, and complexity of images and substance and it challenges you to delve deeper, which to me is a pleasant surprise from graphic novel.

Amazing graphic novel/comic book starring a black character. The protagonist is real and not real at the same time. He's got flaws, and a past that haunts him (almost every character in this book does!), but he's also someone to root for. The story is intense and overwhelming at times, but then that's the point of a graphic novel about the consumption of black bodies in mainstream media. Great book.

An excellent read. First of all the story is compelling and clever. The use of the african god Legba to represent the cultural appropriation of African / African-American culture was extremely well done. I

found myself drawn into the lives of Trina and Curtis. The artwork is excellent, the imagery and symbolism in this book allows the reader to get many interpretations of this reading. I can't wait for volume 2.

I loved this book. Even better the second time. Highly political with layers of relevant metaphor. Damian Duffy is an incredible and accomplished writer and accompanied by John Jennings an amazing AfroFuturist creator. Their collaboration is an A+ sequential text unique in its approach of exploration. Furthermore this text has become a major resource book for many educators that discuss the topics of and the complexities of consumer culture.

Intense, thoughtful, thought provoking, complex, rewarding, engaging ... I couldn't put this book down. I've read fifty or sixty graphic novels, and none of them are as thoughtful as this book. *Hole* as I understand it is about race and identity, about hate, about the African-American body, about consumer culture (as the title implies), and powerfully about stereotypes. One cool thing about the book is that it persistently challenges stereotypes by adopting and inverting them. And check out the art in this book: it's unconventional, evolving as the book goes along, and the kind of stuff that rewards looking for a long, long time. This is certainly a graphic novel, so be ready for some intense content. But for anyone interested in bodies, in particular, this is one heck of a study of the body as a place for writing, change, and identity development. A very imaginative book ... when is someone gonna come along and make a movie of this one???

Just so you know, this graphic novel is written by a Euro-American (Damian Duffy) with assistance from a token lightskin guy name Jennings, who gives him "cred." Think Justin Timberlake and Timbaland. Next.

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