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Transmetropolitan, Vol. 4: The New Scum



Synopsis

Investigative reporter Spider Jerusalem attacks the injustices of the 21st Century surroundings while working for the newspaper *The Word* in this critically-acclaimed graphic novel series written by comics superstar Warren Ellis, the co-creator of *PLANETARY* and *THE AUTHORITY*. In this volume, two candidates are facing off in the presidential election, and in all the media only Spider Jerusalem seems to have the intestinal fortitude to hack his way through the campaign propaganda and find out the reality behind the spin. But even if he manages to bring the public the unvarnished truth, the question still remains: will they do the right thing once they have it?

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Customer Reviews

It's no wonder he hates it here. Spider Jerusalem, journalist and hero of sorts in Warren Ellis' *Transmetropolitan*, wades through a sewer of poverty and high-tech despair daily in his efforts to understand and report on America. In *The New Scum*, Ellis contrasts the powerful, in the form of presidential candidates, with the powerless, who are begging and hustling on the streets. The satire is savage and rarely subtle, but the author takes care to show some human warmth lest the comic descend into the nihilism it warns against. The plot, largely secondary to the characters and background events, focuses loosely on Jerusalem's assignment to interview the two candidates, each psychotic and unfit for any office. His bodyguard and personal assistant, meanwhile, discover the terrors of pleasure in a post-nanotech world with unlimited credit. The election-eve climax fully captures the anxiety and depression that come from having no real choice in matters of great importance. Either Ellis or his creation deserves a Pulitzer. --Rob Lightner --This text refers to an out

of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Warren Ellis has created and written *The Authority*, *Transmetropolitan*, *Orbiter*, the award-winning *Planetary*, *Ministry of Space* and much more. Darick Robertson is the artist and co-creator of *Transmetropolitan*. He is also the artist on *The Boys and Fury*, and creator of *Space Beaver*. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The election continues and Spider seems lost. Some of the satire seems a bit off and the power fantasy elements get more laughable. Still highly enjoyable.

This is best comic I've read since Grant Morrison's "The Invisibles" and it tackles the right angles. God bless this comic.

I love this series so much I had to re-purchase 5 volumes after the person I lent them to "lost" them.

This is an amazing series. It continuously gets better and better as you go along. At this point in the saga of Spider Jerusalem and his filthies I knew I was reading a work like no other, and that I was going to love it forever. This particular volume also includes a little bonus at the end, with the winter/Christmas shorts that were released in a separate compilation from Vertigo. If you're new to *Transmetropolitan* then start at the beginning. If you've got the backbone, then you'll read them all.

New Scum is all about Spider's involvement in the political campaign, how he fights for the little guys all around him who he sees and describes throughout the book. This particular book is more story driven than some and shows the presidential campaign up against Spider's journalism. Fun read.

i really loved parts 1-3 but this one is boring. nothing is happening here, no plot to talk about just a couple of jokes. parts 1-3 are my favorite comics books... so it is a very big disappointment. also print sucks as usual, Vertigo uses the cheap recycled paper and the colors are dull, you can imagine how great it would look if printed in better quality.

While I like this series, I can't say I enjoyed volume 4 overly much. While many of aspects I loved are still here, the pacing slows to a crawl as the election plot line is dragged out another 6

issues. This volume focuses on the people of the futuristic city, the 'new scum' as they are so aptly named. Ellis and Robertson sketch many one page vignettes of life in this city. From cooked dog sellers to holographic news vendors. Spider interviews both the beast and the smoker, but there just isn't enough to say. In the last volume, there was some discussion of political issues, but this is all about personality. Hopefully the next issue will be a return to form.

Following a shocking political assassination, the election between the Beast and the Smiler ramps up and Spider Jerusalem finds himself courted by both candidates for interviews. Meanwhile Channon finds out Yelena's dirty secret and election day looms. This book has Warren Ellis writing more about the world of the City with Spider, amidst the campaign madness, showing the reader the poverty stricken and the disenfranchised that live within the richest country in the world. It's a bold move that has no comedic value but it's applicable to circumstances in the real world and adds depth to Spider's character as well as the increasingly familiar-seeming City. You even get to see Spider... be nice. Weird. The best parts come from Spider's interviews with the incumbent President, the Beast, who comes across as an apathetic and unlikable man who is nonetheless resigned to doing any good for his country, and the Smiler, who comes across as the Joker minus the facepaint. He shows his true colours here and makes it clear that Spider is on his hit-list when he gets into office. Also included are a couple of Christmas themed one shots which has Spider pontificating on this most gaudy of holidays and referring to Channon and Yelena as his "filthy assistants" for the first time. "The New Scum" is a solid book from start to finish, Warren Ellis continues to write Spider with a perfect pitch and extra nuance, while Darick Robertson's art is his usual high standard. An excellent read for an excellent series, readers of the series won't be disappointed, and definitely worth a look for any comics fan unfamiliar with Spider Jerusalem.

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