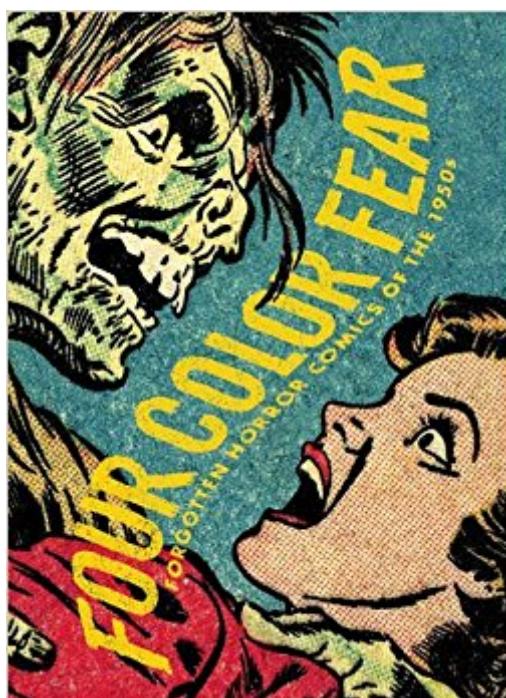**The book was found**

Four Color Fear: Forgotten Horror Comics Of The 1950s

Synopsis

A reprint of our massively successful collection of pre-Comics Code horror comics of the 1950s. Although EC is the comic book company most fans associate with horror, during the genre's peak (1951-54) more than fifty titles appeared each month. Four Color Fear collects the finest of these into a single robust and affordable volume. Jack Cole, Steve Ditko, George Evans, Frank Frazetta, Alex Toth, Al Williamson, Basil Wolverton, and Wallace Wood contribute both stories and covers, with many of the forty full-sized covers created by specialists Bernard Baily, L.B. Cole, William Eckgren, and Matt Fox. 304 pages of color comics

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

â œEC is often at the center of the story [of Pre-Code horror comics]... Four Color Fear strives to provide an accessible sampler of everything else. Editor Greg Sadowski is adept at such missions.â • - Joe McCulloch, Los Angeles Review of Books

Greg Sadowski is a writer, editor and designer (B. Krigstein, Supermen!, Four Color Fear, Setting the Standard: Alex Toth; Action! Mystery! Thrills!) living in Washington State.John Benson is a comics historian living in New York City.Basil Wolverton was born near Medford, Oregon in 1909 and died in 1978. His Fantagraphics-published books include Basil Wolverton's Culture Corner and The Wolverton Bible, and his work is featured in Supermen!: The First Wave of Comic Book Heroes

1936-1941.

I grew up in the just-post "Comics Code" era, and, in the area that I lived in at least, there was still plentiful used copies of older comic books to be had. Kids swapped them with each other, and there were a few stores that had boxes of them laying around so that we could buy - at discount prices - unsold/neglected back issues, some of which dated back twenty years at a stretch.Then, 2 things happened that had a profound impact on my (previously unaware) interest in pre-code horror comics.First, the original film "Tales from the Crypt" (1972) appeared at the local movie theatre and had us youngsters frothing at the skullcap over the crazed festivities held within. Shortly thereafter, I bought a news-zine called (I believe; I'm coasting on a distant memory so I may be completely wrong on the title) The Monster Times that ran a lengthy feature on the film, touching base on the E.C. Comics that the film was based on.I was beside myself in the intent to find these comics; but none had appeared for sale anywhere in our town at the above-mentioned venues, and why? I asked one of my pals (who set up crates of his family's old comics in his yard to sell during summer vacation) if he had access to any, but he said that though his older brother did have vintage horror comics, they "weren't for sale". For all I knew, corpses had risen from the grave, scarfed up all of their favorite comics after the code forbade them and then returned to their coffins to enjoy some fine literature. Who could blame them?All this build-up, and besides a few panels in the above-mentioned news-zine (and the Fredric Wertham anti-comic book Book courtesy of the local library), I still hadn't had the pleasure of reading a full pre-code horror story let alone an entire comic book. It was a dilemma sans solution, but like all obsessions, others appear to fill the void.It wasn't until either the late 70's or 80's that E.C. reprints began to appear, and though I bought a few of them, the glow was, for me at least, off of the jack-o-lantern, as I had entered a lengthy period of disinterest in comic book culture. Rock and Roll was destroying my mind at a faster pace than even the comic books did - the authorities were right, and I couldn't thank them enough for their efforts to shine the spotlight on what we whipper-snappers were supposed to avoid.Spring ahead to the present era, and voila, my interest in looking back to the roots of the culture that informed all things that currently absorb my brain cells (namely any low-brow/exploitation/pulp-oriented film and/or literature) have lead straight back to the pre-code comics that avoided my grasp all those years ago.So, I eyed this book on , read a few reviews, and plunked it into the shopping cart. It arrived like a meteorite filled with outer-space whatchamacallit capable of making puppets talk and corpses walk. It should be noted that no E.C. Comics were used in the recipe for "Four Color Fear", and all the more better for it (there are plenty of printed materials on them exclusively in this day and age,

and for right now anyway, I'm studying the underdogs).Thanks to Greg Sadowski's excellent editorial skills at compiling and annotating this collection - this book is worth at least 3 times the selling price - I can revisit the unknown in the safety of my living space without going bankrupt."Four Color Fear" is presented as a textbook/study guide regarding the history of these comics, without taking away the sheer fun and lunatic enjoyment of genre. The stories are cherry-picked to represent an excellent cross-selection of creators/artists/writers/publishers so we won't have to spend thousands of dollars to read these (though this book should include a warning of the possibility at becoming a "gateway" drug to entice us to do just that; still subversive after all these years)!If a title like "CorpsesÃ¢Â Â¦Coast to Coast!" intrigues you, wait until you read the comic - I forbid myself to uncoil any spoilers, but I will say that my mind was damaged beyond belief, the lone solace being that this is only the 3rd story and therapy was found in the fact that there were many, many more brain-grinding tales ahead.The notes by Mr. Sadowski are informative and will have you night-and-day-dreaming of the Iger Studio and all who passed through their doors. Clearly, this man excels at the job of the Editor for this book. I am still re-reading sections and re-learning bits of information that I glossed over on my first dive into these pages.The emphasis overall is on quality here, and I was delighted to find a sizable midsection of the book devoted to glossy-stock reprints of select comic book cover art. This is nearly worth the price of the book alone and if you love this genre and your eyes are sore and/or tired, this will especially bring relief. Just make sure that the "Witch's Wound" doesn't have other plans for those curious eyeballs that you so foolishly let wander across these forbidden pagesÃ¢Â Â¦eeeh heee heee heee!

This a wonderful book that contains what horror comics outside of the EC universe were bringing to the table. Here is a small list of the stories that stood out for me.Corpses...Coast to Coast- A New World Order of zombies takes over the globe thanks in part to a grave diggers strike. How this is not a movie yet what with the current zombie craze going on is beyond me!The Corpse That Came to Dinner- This is the one featured on the cover in which the title character harasses a couple he knew in his mortal life. Comes with one of the more standout twist endings but I won't say more than that.Green Horror- Killer cactus goes on the rampage. You can't make this stuff up.What's Happening at...8:30PM- Definitely the most unique story of the bunch. A very odd looking green man finds the streets of his town empty because everyone is hiding in fear of what's going to happen at-that's right- 8:30PM. This is one of those stories where you won't know what's going on until the last panel.There were other stories I was tempted to add but that would ruin the fun of you discovering your own favorites in this great collection! The book also contains a brief history behind

each story in the notes section.

The only thing preventing a five star review from me is the overall layout of the book. I thought they could've done something better with the cover and as I read the collection I kept wanting to know more about each story I was reading...I didn't realize until I was halfway through that there was a large section at the back providing all sorts of background information on the stories, artists and publishers of these horror gems! Another thing I wanted was more cover images which I think would've worked better scattered throughout rather than clumped together in the middle. Those are my complaints but the good definitely outweighs the bad. You get nearly 300 pages of pre-code horror comics by legendary names like Bob Powell, Joe Kubert, Jack Cole, Al Williamson and many more. For me, Basil Wolverton was the great discovery in this book. Wolverton's was a name that was barely familiar to me but I came away thinking he was the star of this collection and someone whose work I plan to seek out. FOUR COLOR FEAR makes an excellent companion to the recently published THE HORROR! THE HORROR! anthology of horror comics.

I'M GLAD SOMEONE TOOK THE TROUBLE TO PUT TOGETHER THIS GREAT COLLECTION ! I THOUGHT NO ONE ELSE REMEMBERED THESE COMIC BOOKS. THE STORIES AND ART WORK STILL HOLD UP AFTER ALL THIS TIME.RECOMMENDED FOR EVERYONE WHO ENJOYS RELAXING EASY BUT SATISFYING READING.UNIVERSALLY ENJOYABLE WHETHER YOU ARE 13 OR 73

The horror comics of the past are sadly forgotten in this day and age. This is a great collection of them all in colour. Some of these were absolutely fantastic but one or two werent great. In the end I loved this and would recommend it to people to buy.

OOOO, Four Color Fear was a good read! Why, because it has an assortment of different publishers from the precode horror era. They picked some good stories in this book. I don't regret buying it at all.

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