

# Frank Miller sucker punches Al-Qaeda

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After five years, award winning comic book creator and graphic novelist Frank Miller dealt a heavy blow to terrorism through graphic artwork and “Pulp Fiction” style writing in his latest work.

Miller finally released the long awaited “Holy Terror” about a super hero who goes toe-to-toe with the terrorist group Al-Qaeda.

Miller may not be a household name but most people are aware of the film adaptations based on his work such as the neo-noir action/thriller “Sin City,” the epic “300” and “The Spirit” (in which he made his directorial debut). Inspirations were also drawn from his work for “Batman Begins,” “The Dark Knight” and “Daredevil.”

Anyone familiar with Miller’s work knows how he relishes shock value and violence in his stories and the much anticipated and highly controversial “Holy Terror” doesn’t disappoint. The graphic novel was originally titled “Holy Terror, Batman,” where Batman went head-to-head with the Al-Qaeda after an attack on Gotham City. During the book’s development, Miller decided to create a new superhero called the Fixer, who took on the Al-Qaeda. Regardless, the story still holds true to Miller’s vision where a hero stands up to the ever present villainy of terrorism.

The story starts out with a chase between the Fixer and the Cat Burglar (homage to Batman and Catwoman)

across rooftops in the fictional Empire City, which was modeled after New York. Things take a dramatic turn when terrorist attacks are reported all across the city. After regaining their composure, the Fixer and the Cat Burglar put aside their child’s play and divert their focus to stopping the citywide invasion of the Al-Qaeda.

Throughout the story the battle rages through the chaos and confusion to send a message that terrorism will not be tolerated.

The entire book is filled with Miller’s signature gritty style, and with the abstract style of “The Dark Knight Strikes Again.”

As an avid comic book fan, I was intrigued by the whole concept of masked vigilante fighting the same terror that the world is fighting today. It falls in the same vein as Captain America and Superman fighting Hitler in World War II comics.

Miller completely went against the grain with “Holy Terror” unlike most comic creators who go along with the mainstream. Most of the comic industry was against

this book due to their view on the war. Miller continues to assert his point that this is a real threat and not just the elephant in the living room that no one talks about. At times the artwork detracts from the story and can be confusing, but it does an excellent job of representing the confusion the world was feeling after the attacks of 9/11.

What drew me into the story was Miller’s ability to tell a story using Quentin Tarantino-style visuals as well as dialogue. There’s a sense of realism in this fantasy world. The reader can almost smell the chalky smoke from the explosions, and feel the sweat of the heroes as they fight not only for their own lives, but the rest of Empire City.

This book definitely has my seal of approval for anyone who really wants to read a good action

story about a superhero killing terrorists and saving the day, although it may not be suitable for children. The artwork is great and the action is enough for any fan to appreciate. After five years of development, “Holy Terror” is definitely worth the wait.

