



Skin Deep

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Skin Deep is the third (following *El Borbah* and *Big Baby*) of a hardcover series of four volumes reprinting his acclaimed oeuvre up to his current project, the ongoing *Black Hole* comic book series.

Skin Deep includes Burns' popular character, Dog Boy, a red-blooded All-American boy with the transplanted heart of a dog, which was turned into a live action segment on MTV's *Liquid Television* series; new covers and endpapers; as well as several pages of new illustrations from his sketchbooks, as well as covers and other drawings from foreign editions of his work.

Skin Deep Details

Date : Published November 17th 2001 by Fantagraphics (first published 1992)

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Author : Charles Burns

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Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Graphic Novels Comics, Horror, Comix, Science Fiction

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From Reader Review Skin Deep for online ebook

Ryan says

Recommended if you already know that you like Charles Burns. If I understand correctly, these are some of his older stories from underground magazines, but redone. There are three stories and all of them are pretty strange. I like strange, so this is great for me. If anything is a detractor, it's the way he does the faces. All the main characters are done with weird eyes, and sometimes are missing eyebrows. They just look like freaky aliens and it's cool, but unsettling.

Reyel2107 says

a charles burns classic !!!!!

?enis says

No to zas bola haluz.

1. Psi dny - chlapik ma srdce v prdeli a potrebuje transplantaciu. Na tu nema peniaze a tak ide na cierny trh odbornikovi, ktorý mu to urobi za pakatel. Akurat, že mu da srdce psa. A potom tento chlapik hrabe kosticky, nahana macky, olizuje zenske a podobne psie kusky (3/5)
2. Hor znovu - Tato vymyslel zarobok a tak synovi urobi jazvu s jezisovou tvarou na hrudi. Potom akoze liecili ludi zazrakom. Syn dospeje a ozeni sa. Zena ho dovedie viac menej k tomu istemu. No a k tomu sa zapletie jednooký 'boh', ktorý oznamí, že vsetci uhoria a iba on ich zachrani. (3/5)
3. Manzelstvi uzavrene v pekle - Pani pise zamilovany roman o manzeloch - domacej panicke a navracajucim sa vojakovi. Samozrejme zvrat. (2/5)

Grant says

One of my favorite collections from Burns. With direct allusions to Burroughs' NAKED LUNCH and the Manson Family as well as satirical indictment of American televangelism, domesticity, and soap operas, there's something a bit John Waters-esque about these three loosely interlocking (and sometimes meta) narratives. Also, it's probably the best example of the artist hilariously utilizing his grotesque sensibility. I particularly like the intentionally self-deprecating portrait of himself as Karmen Reesey on pg 59.

rob says

Burns says, It's a cold, cruel world.

For things like dog-boy and Bliss Blister, it really is. It's like taking that extra bean you found on the floor of the club, only to realize your hair is now symmetrical H R Giger tentacles and the world you live in is controlled by an angry, one-eyed GAWD who drives even Bill Burroughs crazy with His demands. "Burn

"Again" is the best story here, combining fanatic evangelism with aliens and a revenge plot. Burns draws his characters like he is on drugs, but it's really just an analgesic for your own mind, softening the content by making the characters pop out of the '40s & '50s. Not his best, but even C. Burn's worst is better than most.

Josephus FromPlacitas says

Accidentally got the Spanish edition from the library -- pretty great, though I'm sure the translation and my slackass understanding of the King's Castellano detracted from the writing a tad. Love that late 80s/early 90s grotesque style. A world of impenetrable retro freaks, slick-haired evangelicals and sales jerks, projected from the 1950s through the Reagan nightmare with a heavy dose of EC horror comix. Great shit. Romance gone awry with a wonderful touch, an epic televangelical empire builder tale, and a dopey little circus freak story with a version of Doctor Benway showing up. Not a complaint in the world. One funny thing: the binding! It was like three comic books bound together, with the first and last being shorter than the middle section. It really made the three stories (although slightly intertwined) stand apart palpably, tangibly. Neat trick.

Lee Foust says

I love the monster Kid, Mexican wrestling, Twilight Zone, imaginary early '60s, sick, slightly off, David Cronenbergesque biological mutation, science fiction, psychedelic world that Charles Burns creates in his work. These are three stories from his *Big Baby* strip loosely linked together, a kind of weird, episodic-horror-anthology-film-by-Amicus triptych. Mostly in Burns' stuff I find all of the above stylistic elements covering up an actually naive early '60s comic strip innocence with the curiosity and vaguely musty/moldy terror of adolescent sexual desire permeating the stories. Burns hits adolescence right on with the pop psychology that blames parents/the adult world for its capitalistic/opportunistic abuse and how it drives us to madness and murder, has papa stealing your girl in a reverse Oedipus, makes you the high-school laughingstock with your doggie heart, and mixes marriage with war and dismemberment, the ultimate anxiety, how gender and identity, without adult sex, can be a hidden secret beneath the veneer of clothing and culture and who knows what going to war, working in a library, or taking many, many business trips does to our identity and gender-identity.

I really love Burns' more recent graphic novel *Black Hole* and many of these same themes are much more subtly and eerily realistically presented there, so *Skin Deep* is both more quick, a tad more fun, but considerably less sublime than the full-on graphic novel--it's great for those of short attention spans and who might crave a tad more stylistic flash and fun impact from your summer comic reading. Evviva!

Marily SV says

Définitivement le meilleur de ce que Charles Burns a fait. Malaisant et creepy à souhait.

Barry says

All the cliche words apply: weird, funny, beautiful, strange, etc. etc. Being that his character Big Baby was my favorite creation so far, I was excited (then subsequently disappointed) to see him at the beginning of "Dog Days," but luckily the rest of the story held up pretty well. "Burn Again" felt a little long for me, but then, it was a big story, so I'm not sure what I would have changed. And I was downright laughing out loud at "Marriage From Hell." All in all, a somewhat uneven but very satisfying collection. More, Charles, more!

MK says

Charles Burns is a giant of the medium. His books never disappoint and this one is no exception. My favourite material of his was the Black Hole series but this ranks in amongst his best work. In my mind Burns can be mentioned in the same breath as Daniel Clowes, Chester Brown, Seth, and Chris Ware. 9/10

Donald Armfield says

This graphic novel is another classic by Burns. This time using his name to burn a story skin deep into our skulls.

"Burn Again" and "Marriage from Hell" are sizzling masterpieces.

Brent Legault says

If Rod Serling had had an "acid baby" with Elvira. . . or if the old *Night Gallery* had been broadcast from an alien planet. . . or if H. P. Lovecraft had moved to Los Angeles and started a punk rock band circa 1977. . .

Garren says

Now I'm ready to read anything put out by this guy. This is what I imagine when I see all those "weird tales" pulp magazine covers from forever ago.

Adan says

Three very odd Charles Burns stories in an oversized volume. Burns' art is awesome as always, but these stories didn't seem to have any other purpose beyond being weird as hell. They weren't bad or anything, but they also weren't particularly good. Still, I'll be reading more Burns stuff.

Skunk says

This was pretty amazing. It is like three episodes of the twilight zone rolled into one graphic novel. The art is really amazing and the style encapsulates the style of the 40's/50's. This was a great read. Totally entertaining.
