



The Originals

Dave Gibbons

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When they walk, they look cool. When they ride, they drive fast. And when they hate, they fight -- brutally. One of comics' most esteemed names, Dave Gibbons (co-creator and artist of WATCHMEN and Give Me Liberty) arrives at VERTIGO to deliver an original hardcover graphic novel he's been waiting his entire life to write and draw. Lel and Bok -- two best friends -- want nothing more than to join the Originals, the top gang on the streets. Through them, they'll meet the high-speed world of hover scooters, all-night clubs, and, for Lel, the girl of his dreams. But with the fast life comes tough foes, and tribal loyalty will teach them the unforgettable meaning of unforgivable loss. Neither a science-fiction story nor set in a mundane reality, THE ORIGINALS takes place in a world both familiar and strange, where the young are angry, loyal and fight for what they believe in. And the only thing more important than who your friends are is who your friends hate.

The Originals Details

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Author : Dave Gibbons

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From Reader Review The Originals for online ebook

Marc Pastor says

Bandes i pandilleros, una distòpia lleugera de pseudomods i retrorockers amb una història d'amor i mort força clàssica.

El millor: la sobrietat exquisida de Gibbons. La senzillesa del plantejament. La claredat expositiva.

El pitjor: que sembla desfasada, anacrònica i, fins a cert punt, naïf.

Cale says

Was he going for irony with the title of this book? Because it wasn't original in any sense of the word. Cliche plot, every point utterly predictable, and nothing new added. Setting it in a retro-future 50's doesn't change the fact that it felt like a 50's documentary on the dangers of gangs. The art was interesting, but beyond that it was dull.

Damon says

Kind of inappropriately named.

This is the exact Quadrophenia-knock off Mods/Rockers thing that you're expecting when you first see it, except everyone rides floating scooters. You know right off exactly where it's going, but luckily it's short enough that it doesn't take long to get there.

Even the art wasn't anything special - Gibbons is long since canonized, but he didn't go out of his way to break any new ground here, and didn't make any effort to take advantage of the black and white or the non-traditional page sizing.

Didn't do much for me overall. Not really bad, but I'd be pissed if I'd paid more than \$5 for it, and if I had a chance to get my \$5 back, I'd probably take it.

Chris says

An interesting-enough short story that moves along without any major surprises. The setting is an alternate reality wherein people ride on hoverbikes and drinking water must be artificially created due to polluted rain. Unfortunately, this setting doesn't do much to serve the story and probably distracted more than it enhanced the narrative. This story is all hampered to some degree by some of the most explicit use of the F-word I've encountered since Pulp Fiction. On most pages, it probably appears at least four times. I'm usually not prudish about language, but this story just seemed rather excessive to the point of distracting from the story. All in all, this is a decent, although somewhat bland, gang story. It reminded me a little too much for its own good of the gang scenes in West Side Story -- minus the dancing, thankfully.

Jonathan Papernick says

Shit sandwich.

Sooraya Evans says

Nothing original about The Originals.

Basically a lame story about a pointless gang rivalry between the Dirt and the Originals.

There wasn't even any backstory explaining the source of the feud. That would have been interesting.

Decent artwork though. Loved the black & white.

Griffin Muli says

Beautifully drawn, terribly authored.

Christopher says

It's kinda like a British (or is it English?) cousin to Akira, but without all the psychic body horror stuff. More importantly, it's pretty damn good.

Matti Karjalainen says

Dave Gibbons on mahdollisesti parhaiten tunnettu Alan Mooren kanssa tekemästään yhteistyöstä, jonka tuloksena on syntynyt muun muassa sarjakuvaromaanien terävimpään kärkeen laskettava Vartijat.

"The Originals" (Vertigo, 2004) kertoo 17-vuotiaasta Lelistä, jonka unelmat muuttuvat todeksi kun hänet viimein hyväksytään osaksi ilmassa leiuvilla skoottereilla ajavaa, coolia musiikkia kuuntelevaa ja Dirt-rokkareiden kanssa rähinöivää mod-jengiä the Originalsia. Elämä hymyilee nuorelle miehelle, etenkin kun ylimääräistä rahaa virtaa pillerien jälleenmyynnistä ja vierelle löytyy kaunis samanhenkinen tyttö - mutta miten kauan onni kestää, kun eräässä jengien välisessä yhteenotossa virtaa veri?

"The Originalsin" lähtöasetelma on hyvin 1960-lukulainen ja tuo mieleen Frank Roddamin "Quadrophenia" -elokuvan, mutta tapahtumat onkin sijoitettu jonkinlaiseen futuristiseen Englantiin. Varsinaista syytä tapahtumien viemiselle vaihtoehtoiseen maailmaan ei oikein löydy, ja scifi-tematiikka jää nyt vähän ulkokultaiseksi. Stoori olisi toiminut yhtä hyvin historiallisessa kontekstissaan 1960-luvun Brightonissa.

Sarjakuva käsittelee aikuiseksi kasvamista ja tehtyjen valintojen seuraamuksia, ja vaikka tarina ei itsessään mitenkään tajuntaaräjäyttävän omaperäinen olekaan, on se joka tapauksessa ihan kelvollinen lukukokemus.

Dawn says

Hmm, can't decide between 1 or 2 stars. It wasn't bad, just not all that interesting to me. It felt like a script for a movie that has been made too many times already. Sorry.

Kathleen says

I'll break my review down into categories (just to give it a spin) :

execution: Visually, the book's been very cleanly and smoothly executed. I can appreciate the believability of the characters, machines, and settings-- the effort towards realism on the artist's part is clear.

aesthetic: I've heard this described, sometimes laughingly, as "mod sci-fi," and that's strangely appropriate-- the clothes of the characters are actually a big part of the story- literally. Since the story concerns youth cultures, the clothes are a huge deal: they mark out who is a member of what gang-- acquiring and wearing the right kind of jacket is, as many of us who might recall this experience in high school, a huge deal when you're trying to fit in. The jackets which the characters wear in this story are, well, a bit hilarious in my view, but I suppose that's bound to be the perspective of someone coming from the outside. Flipping through the book, the bizarre jackets and hats tend to stand out-- as well as the shots of the "mod" clothing and furniture. I suppose fashion does tend to recycle itself, it's perfectly easy to imagine that future teenagers might base their styles on fads of the mid 1900's.

SOME SLIGHT SPOILERS HERE:

Story: I read this over the course of a bus ride, it is a pretty rapid and absorbing read, and it ends very abruptly in my view. I felt that the story left me with many thoughts to muse over, thoughts about what growing up and getting "old" means when one is immersed in one's teenage years (it actually brought me back to a lot of issues that concern my own high-school and young-adult years, which I hadn't thought of in a long time!) And all the trouble that can arise. I think there was this very powerful thing that happened midway through the book where the reader is brought to think "hey, he's a kid just like you! Stop hurting each other!" -- I mean that the reader is compelled to see past the violence, and wants in turn for the characters to likewise transcend, which is probably a very socially positive effect. One is a little bit reminded of the Michael Jackson "Beat It" video, where MJ comes into the middle of a gang-fight, and in a matter of seconds transforms what might have been a tragic encounter into a harmonious dance troupe. Except in this story, MJ never descends upon these unfortunate warring kids, and the tragedy ensues.

The real tragedy seems to be the inability of these kids to see past the clothes, and it really seems to reflect on the stupidity of wars at large as conducted by adults-- which is, I think, probably a socially-positive thing for us all to reflect on.

Savannah Tanbusch says

If you're into Mod Culture that was big and bold in London in the 1960's (as I am), then this book is probably for you. It has some clear references to **Quadrophenia** (The Waterdome vs. Brighton Beach, the similar endings), which is part of the reason I liked it so much.

My only qualms with the book was a few problems to do with how the reader was to understand the setting. For example, it's never clear if this actually takes place in a future London, or if it's just an alternate universe. (I think it's easier to read the book if you imagine the whole as an alternate universe). I think if you read it in that respect, rather than assuming that it takes place in England, it is easier to understand why a culture seemingly "reverted" back to Mod culture.

All in all, I think it's an excellent book if you're into that kind of culture. And the art is amazing, too!

Cherish says

A very shocking read. The storyline was really good.

Jake says

I read this in one sitting. It was fun. Alternate world enough to be sci-fi, but based enough in reality to not be abstract. It's the mods vs. the rockers, but they're called the Originals and the Dirt here. Teasing, with periodic jumps and brawls, it's what you, as an assumed American reader, are familiar with, given your experience of this particular pop culture rivalry in history or parallels in films like *The Warriors*, *SLC Punk*, all that.

Main character and best friend want to join Originals (who all look like they're Devo thugs, by the way). Guy picks up chick, sees her as hope, etc. It's jivey '60s slang mixed with doomed youth in modest futuristic scope (drugs called zebs, hover bikes instead of motorcycles, a big spacey dome destination for Spring Break, etc). The narration is remorseful mutterings, and the artwork is pretty fun for grayscale with some brief black and white trip-out scenes.

Honestly, for the most part, it kind of felt like a *Batman Beyond* episode without Terry McGinnis.

Kristin says

Has a very *Clockwork Orange* vibe, but in a good youth-fighting-amongst-themselves-in-dystopian-universe way rather than an "eyeballs-forced-open-and-old-women-raped" kind of way. Good lazy afternoon read.
