



Jennifer Blood, Volume One: A Woman's Work is Never Done

Garth Ennis , Adriano Batista (Illustrator) , Marcos Marz (Illustrator) , Kewbar Baal (Illustrator)

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Jennifer Blood is a suburban wife and mom by day - and a ruthless vigilante by night! Every day she makes breakfast, takes the kids to school, cleans the house, naps for an hour or two, makes dinner, puts the kids to bed, and kisses her husband goodnight. This suburban punisher is ready to be unleashed in a story that can only be told by the legendary Garth Ennis.

Collecting issues #1-6 of the hit series, along with additional bonus material, sketches, cover gallery, and interview with Garth Ennis.

Jennifer Blood, Volume One: A Woman's Work is Never Done Details

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Author : Garth Ennis , Adriano Batista (Illustrator) , Marcos Marz (Illustrator) , Kewbar Baal (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Jennifer Blood, Volume One: A Woman's Work is Never Done for online ebook

Sam Quixote says

A woman sets out to avenge her dead father who was murdered brutally at the hands of his fellow gangsters. But this is no ordinary woman - except she's trying to be. Wife, mother, housewife during the day, Jennifer drugs her family at night and slips out for a night of bloody retribution.

Look at the cover. You could almost say you've read the book just by looking at it. Woman with guns... what else could it be? I've read almost everything Garth Ennis has written and this book feels a lot like his Punisher books except of course the main character's a woman. And if you've seen "Kill Bill 1 + 2" then you'll notice that this book resembles those movies' plots very closely.

None of the characters in the book seem even remotely real. The bad guys are all bad, full stop. The good guys are good. There's a wacky character meant to bring comic relief and he's as one dimensional as the others. Even Jennifer is your archetypal assassin. She's perfect, she knows weapons, explosives, she's done recon, everything goes well for her - so well, it's dull.

Dull is what the book is. She goes through the list of baddies she wants to kill and does so. Then we get the occasional scene where she's at home being a mum, pretending to them she's not a highly trained killer, and then she's off to the next kill. Ennis doesn't throw in much variation and if you've read as many of his book as I have you'll notice a lot of similarities. Punisher and Hitman spring to mind first, then his other female assassin book "Bloody Mary", and the book begins to look like Ennis on autopilot.

Like I said, if all you're looking for is a brainless, straightforward killer chick who takes out bad guy Eastern European gangster types, and nothing more, you'll adore this book; for anyone looking for something a bit out of the ordinary, hoping Ennis has written a genius, sly take on the overfamiliar revenge plot will be disappointed with this offering. Weak story, dull characters, "Jennifer Blood" is a swing and a miss for Garth Ennis.

Scott says

So what is it about Garth Ennis I like so much? I don't know, maybe I'm just trying to make up with all the mayhem I missed out from not being able to read comics as a kid. Anyway, not as good as the Preacher series, but still a fun read.

Steve Isaak says

Jennifer Blood is a bloody, nasty, for-mature-audiences-only work, featuring writer Ennis' fast-moving, raunchy and black-as-frak wit. The storyline is familiar (see the back cover description), but Ennis' action-lean writing, coupled with Jennifer's eye-popping illustrations and visual tones (courtesy of various artists, colorists and Rob Steen's lettering) make its plot-familiarity irrelevant. This is not a graphic novel for readers put off by gore, nudity and ultra-dark - and effective - themes: worth owning, this, if the above description

doesn't apply to you.

Followed by *Jennifer Blood: Beautiful People*.

(This review originally appeared on the Reading & Writing By Pub Light site.)

William Thomas says

I felt like I was reading the original screenplay to 'Serial Mom'. Or a rewrite of 'La Femme Nikita' by John Waters (whose movies just irritate me to no end). Garth Ennis was really just phoning it in on this one without any real conviction, tons of hackneyed dialogue and a ridiculously campy monologue that cramped the pages. On top of that, we get some very C- grade artwork here that makes the entire thing down another notch. Amateurish on every level.

Honestly, this could have worked better as a series of novels published by Angry Robot or Orbit. It had much too much monologue and dialogue and backstory and frontstory and just, well, too much of everything to really fit the confines of the graphic novel medium. It felt cluttered and everything suffered for it. Its not nearly as fun as his run on Punisher and not nearly as literary as Preacher. Just very disappointing overall.

L. McCoy says

Yesterday I gave the third volume of Battlefields 5/5 but didn't type a full review and I wrote a 2-star review for the second volume of The Boys. So, this is a 5/5 review for the first volume of a book that gives readers a look at all the reasons that Ennis is such a freaking great writer!

What's it about?

Jennifer Blute grew up around crime and was part of a crime family. Now she just wants to be a sweet wife and loving mother for her family... at least that's what she is in the daytime. At night she is a merciless vigilante and it makes for an awesome book.

Why I'm giving it 5 stars:

The story is really good and well written. The idea of a sweet, caring woman who loves her family also being a vigilante who does some really messed up stuff and shows no mercy is a crazy but fun idea for a story. This is possibly the only book I've seen with a good balance of interesting story and family subplot (I know some would probably argue that the family stuff is the interesting thing but let's be honest, you're reading this, you're most likely here for a vigilante gorefest). With most books, the second a little kid (and I mean under 10 or 12) shows up, this chorus describes my thoughts (NSFW: strong language and I highly recommend listening to the full song after you read this review because it's an awesome song) because it becomes most of the book and it's boring as s***, good job here making the stuff with the family interesting! Yes, the vigilante stuff is more interesting but I actually give a s*** about Jennifer's family so I'm actually kind of amazed.

The art's good and there's some amazing stuff in the covers gallery.

There's a lot of gory as hell action which is one thing you can find in almost any Ennis book but he's really good at writing it and it's really good here! The highlight of the book if I'm being perfectly honest. People

who appreciate Ennis' twisted-ness in his comics (just, keep it in the comics of course) will love the stuff in this.

Some humorous stuff in here for sure. Yeah, it is immature humor but if you can have fun with it and it makes you laugh, that's what matters and despite how immature the humor in this book usually is I still laughed quite a bit so it earns the humor points.

The main character is a pretty interesting, bad-a** vigilante type. There's a lot of those characters in comics but they're often entertaining and she is one that is definitely that, entertaining.

This is not a predictable one and it has some pretty good twists.

Overall:

This is exactly the kind of thing people (or at least people like me) want when they pick up a Garth Ennis book. It's twisted, full of action, kinda (but not too) immature but fun at the same time as well as being often comedic and it actually tells a great story. Ennis is one of my favorite writers, I'll at least look into just about anything with his name in the writer's spot and if this is exactly the kind of thing I'd want from one of my favorite authors it obviously earns...

5/5

47Time says

[Jennifer reveals all the details of her father's

David says

[

1. She didn't consistently wear gloves at the first crime scene.
 2. A vinyl bodysuit seems like a bad choice for fighting.
 3. Leaving a signature in blood at the crime scene was a bad idea.
 4. 10mm may have more stopping power but it is a lot easier to trace.
 5. She drove her own car to both crime scenes. What about cameras or late arrivals?
 6. Maiming the drunk at the second crime scene was ill considered. If she had waited a week the victim wouldn't have suspected anything. It was al
-

Alex Murphy says

This is not the most original idea ever. A seemingly devoted spouse and parent leads a secret life as an assassin. I don't even think the twist of that it's the wife and mother is that shocking, the idea of a bad ass machine gun toting female spy isn't that ground-breaking for about...30 years?

Anyway, was it good? It was OK. The story follows Jen Fellows, a 30 something housewife, with two kids, a VERY Beta male husband; a seemingly nice life. But some nights she spikes her husband and children's drink with sleeping pills (with no long side effects apparently) and goes out on vigilante killing sprees against the city's mob, leaving the name 'Jennifer Blood' written in the dead's blood at the scene. The reason isn't new, if you've seen the film Colombiana you will get it. A throw away story about a new neighbour

who's a pervert sex pest is just filler really.

I usually like Garth Ennis' stuff, I love The Boys, Volume 1: The Name of the Game, and I get his style of ultra-violence, but this just seemed dull, unoriginal and unexciting. I never grew to like the characters. Jen seemed very one dimensional, you see no conflict between her home life and butchering people. The reason for her killing (spoiler...its revenge for her gangster dad.) seems '*unworthy*' when you discover what her dad did (he killed and tortured innocent people to rise to the top...but he was a nice dad and husband!). The other characters are just...bland. The villains are given no real time to show how evil and powerful they are. Her husband is a joke, a weak nerd who likes bird watching. I get she likes someone opposite but he didn't need to be a total wimp. No other real characters in the book, the next biggest character is the pervert neighbour.

The artwork is good enough. The style is the same as many Ennis books I've read, just nothing that seemed to stand out. For an action book, the fight scenes seemed lacklustre, nothing that really stood out, final fight didn't even really happen, so it didn't even end on an explosion filled, bullet riddled finale.

If this was a film (either a mid-80s action film with someone like Kathleen Turner or one from the late 90's to early 2000s with Tea Leoni) it would be average, something to watch when there's nothing else on that's enjoyable enough but you're ready to turn it over for something better. Even for Ennis fans or for people who like that kind of hardcore violent comic I wouldn't recommend as an essential read. A library borrow maybe at best. If I continue reading this series it will be that way unless I find the other issues cheap.

Jonathan Maas says

I love Garth Ennis - but this one is a bit too over the top for me. I like it when he tones it down just a bit - like in War Stories, Volume 1, or the one I am reading now - Pride & Joy.

Still - great tale, and great art by Timothy Bradstreet, and all the other artists.

Chad says

Take the Huntress's backstory and cross it with a female Punisher and you have Jennifer Blood. She's out for blood to kill her uncles who murdered her parents while she was growing up. The series got better as it went along. Starting out there was way too much writing in her War Journal, to the point where it took away from the story. The art on the first 2 issues was subpar as well. But as the story moves on, Ennis's black humor starts to emerge and the action picks up.

Warning: The violence was very graphic.

Daniel Sevitt says

Any time I can pick up something by Garth Ennis, I probably will as he has given me a fair bit of cheeky entertainment over the years. This was just sitting around in online bargain bins waiting for me to find the energy to click buy. The real prize would be collections of his Punisher runs, but in the meantime, I'll read

this kind of thing all day.

Wesley says

This book collects the first six issues of *Jennifer Blood* from Dynamite. It was written by the now veteran of the field Garth Ennis - writer of *The Boys*, *Hellblazer*, *Preacher*, *Hitman*, *Just a Pilgrim* and many more. The art duties were carried out by Adriano Batista, Marcos Marz and Kewber Baal.

On the surface, Jen Fellows is a typical American, suburban housewife. She has a loving, if slightly boring, husband with whom she has had two children - Mark and Alice - the perfect nuclear family. But Jen has a secret. At night she drugs her family and takes to the streets delivering justice to a notorious crime family the Blutes. But for Jen the attacks on the Blutes are more than just vigilantism for the target of each of her attacks is one of her uncles.

Ennis invites comparison to the Punisher with the very first page of this series:

And while she has had her life torn apart by the actions of criminals just like the Punisher, the focus of her attacks, at least in this book, is desire for revenge on the specific men who killed her father and destroyed her mother. But unlike the Punisher she has built a new life beyond the revenge she seeks and must take extraordinary steps to protect her new family.

According to an interview in the back of the book this series sees Ennis returning to the lighter side of life. Fortunately for his fans the usual elements are still in place - black humour, sexual deviancy and a high, gory body count. This is a great story and a good introduction to the character. I will be interested to see where he takes it now given that her initial revenge has been satisfied and her peeping tom neighbour has discovered her secret - though not the secret he initially thought it was. One slight annoyance was a change of artist midway through issue 3 which was slightly disorienting due to the main bad guys not looking the same as they did just the page before but despite this recommended for fans of Ennis.

Mike says

Interesting take on the "guy-takes-on-the-mob" trope. In fact, halfway through I thought, "This is an excellent rendition of 'Punisher as a housewife'.". And it is exactly that - with a couple of additional twists to make sure it's not just a straight retelling of some of Ennis' good work on Punisher itself.

The only thing I'm not sure of is the diary/narration. It definitely stands in stark contrast to the visceral action that plays out - and it makes sure we know it isn't just a boobed-up version of Frank Castle walking us through the story. But really, it feels a little overdone - like it would be good in about half the volume.

Beyond that however, it's quite amazing how good it is to see a trophy wife taking on a mob gang and pulling them apart one step at a time.

The characters other than Jennifer aren't much more than one dimensional - but they're just there for Jennifer to play against. However, the set pieces and the brutality are pretty vividly rendered, as are the stark contrasts with suburban life, annoying neighbours and clueless family.

Madeleine says

Fun, blood-soaked revenge romp, though I was a little unhappy about some of the collateral carnage.

Ill D says

Jennifer Blood, by Garth Ennis, is something alarming for even the most veteran reader of blood-splattering comics. If you've think you've seen it all, get ready to guess again! With an excessive approach to brutality that would bedevil Tarantino, Jennifer Blood truly puts the *Graphic in *Graphic* Novel!

Saturated with more blood and guts than your local butcher, a torrent of blood addled gore and the violent acts that have predicated them splurge across the panels. And just who is the progenitor of this violence? Is it a man? Of course not! Why its Jennifer Blood, a red-blooded woman whose approach to violence feels like it was directly influenced by the entire Cannibal Corpse discography.

Imagine Cat-Woman, sans the silly ears and tail, but saturated in sex appeal and a thorough dosage of reality and it would be a stiff approximation of Jennifer Blood. With a sartorial array that is as much skin tight leather as it is copious armaments, the main character really roars. And oh boy, does she roar!

While given somewhat piecemeal throughout the series, a (somewhat traditional) narrative of revenge serves as the underlay. Although I think a more orthodox (traditional) approach/distillation/presentation toward/of (a) narrative of vengeance would have served the story better, Garth Ennis is hardly a typical storyteller/comic book writer, and the plot just fits fine. As a matter of opinion and preference I will let, as I always do, my readers decide for themselves.

Along with this theme of opinion(s), so too might there be problematic depictions of not-so-casual-racism and even sexism in this comic. Furthermore, for a work that explicitly (fiercely too I might add) deals with a strong female lead, there is a somewhat schizophrenic application and exposition of feminist ideas in its depictions. Again I will digress and let the readers arrive at their own conclusions.

Problematic instances, no matter how arguable, aside I found it to be quite well written and the characters to be (for the most part) believable as they were enjoyable in their depictions and importance to the story. Pacing was well plotted and off-kilter (British?) humo(u)r was pleasant too.

On a second to last note (penultimately as it were) I admittedly have a very love/hate relationship with the Garth Ennis Canon. Some of his work I really, REALLY, loved Like this one. Some *ahem, not so much To be completely honest, I feel like I have more ups an downs - on and offs again with Garth Ennis canon than a teenage fling and these facts have colored my reviews/perspectives on his work(s) accordingly.

In either case, I would definitely recomend this. And I would definitely give it a solid thumb up if not two, depending on my mood that is.

