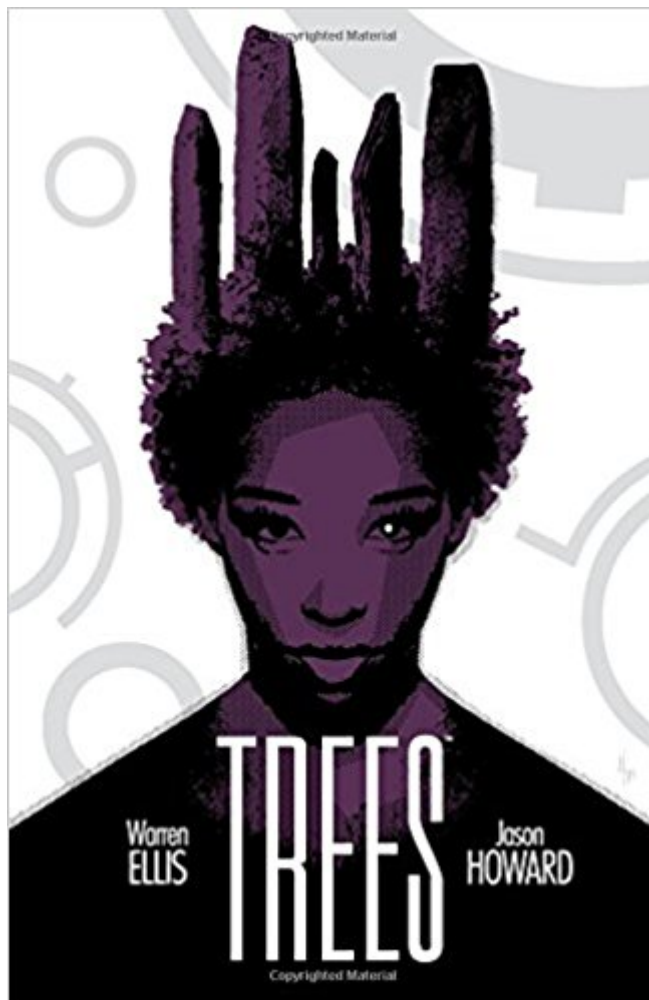


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Trees Volume 2



Synopsis

Collecting the second TREES story, TWO FORESTS. A survivor of the Blindhail Event looks for signs of imminent global disaster among the megaliths and relics of Orkney, while the new mayor of New York plans to extract his revenge for the awful thing that happened the day the Tree landed on Manhattan.

Book Information

Series: Trees

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Image Comics (October 11, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1632155222

ISBN-13: 978-1632155221

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.5 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #211,900 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Dystopian #312 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Image Comics #562 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Horror

Customer Reviews

Intriguing sci-fi premise, beautifully realized. A tad too violent for my comfort-level, but not enough to keep me from getting volume 2.

If you liked the first book you'll like this one

:)

In the first volume, Warren Ellis introduced us to half a dozen diverse characters from around the world who are dealing with the Trees that are in their region in different ways. He did a nice job of imagining how different professionals and culture would react to these alien structures existing in our midst for 10 years. The genius of the premise is that it starts 10 years after these alien trees show up. This second volume pales in comparison to the first, as we are introduced to a new character (the very corrupt mayor-elect of NYC) and follow only one of the characters from volume 1

(Dr. Creasy, a biologist who was on site during a disaster involving a tree in the arctic). Because of the focus on just these two characters, we don't get the questions about law, ethics and social upheaval that Ellis so brilliantly touched upon in the first volume. There is an incredible moment of dialogue between Dr. Creasy and an undersecretary to the Home Secretary. That alone moved this from 2 to 3 stars.

After reading Volume 1, I was excited to continue the story in Volume 2. The premise is captivating and the artwork is fantastic. These alien 'trees' are a truly unique idea, the stuff of epic dreams and nightmares. That's the good stuff. The bad? Although it's normally desirable to keep such a narrative grounded by the human scale of the characters involved, I felt this one focused too much on a couple only somewhat interesting characters, and missed much potential for exploring the mystery and intrigue of its titular entities. I got to the end, and almost said aloud, "That's it?" I had to actually look back through the pages to see if anything had actually happened at all. I tried to see if the plot or any of the characters had actually developed at all, other than a whole lot of talking punctuated by a couple explosions, and I'm not sure that they had. In order to buy any further material from this series or author, I would have to be convinced that this short and uneventful second episode was an unusual lapse.

An alien invasion has taken place on Earth in which large columns or 'trees' are planted in various places. In this volume, we find out that New York was particularly badly hit as a Tree landed smack in the middle of Manhattan whereas others are perched in more isolated areas like the Orkneys. Political machinations, born of unsavoury alliances, ensue. Rivalries result in bloodshed and death. An interesting concept with good writing and clear illustrations. An intelligent plot well worth a look. A third volume follows as the plot thickens as black flowers begin to emerge.

I read a lot of Image's offerings, and Trees is as good as it gets for me. I tend to fly through comics one after another, but not with this one. You can feel the craft and design that went into each issue. Volume one gave us a lot of stories, and here we only continue two of them. That's OK. The deeper look pays off as we learn slowly the characters of the mayor-elect and Dr. Crealy. The tease at the end reveals the other characters will return soon (Zhen!). The price of this volume is really a bargain, too. Sometimes they stick a large price tag for a little content on volume 2's once they've hooked you (I'm looking at you Low, Volume 2). Not the case here. What else can I say? If your shelf is filling up with titles like Black Science, Descender, East of West, Lazarus, Saga, Southern Bastards, etc.,

just add Trees to your list. It's turning into one of the best comics I've ever read.

Warren Ellis does not disappoint! The art style is perfectly matched for the story!

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