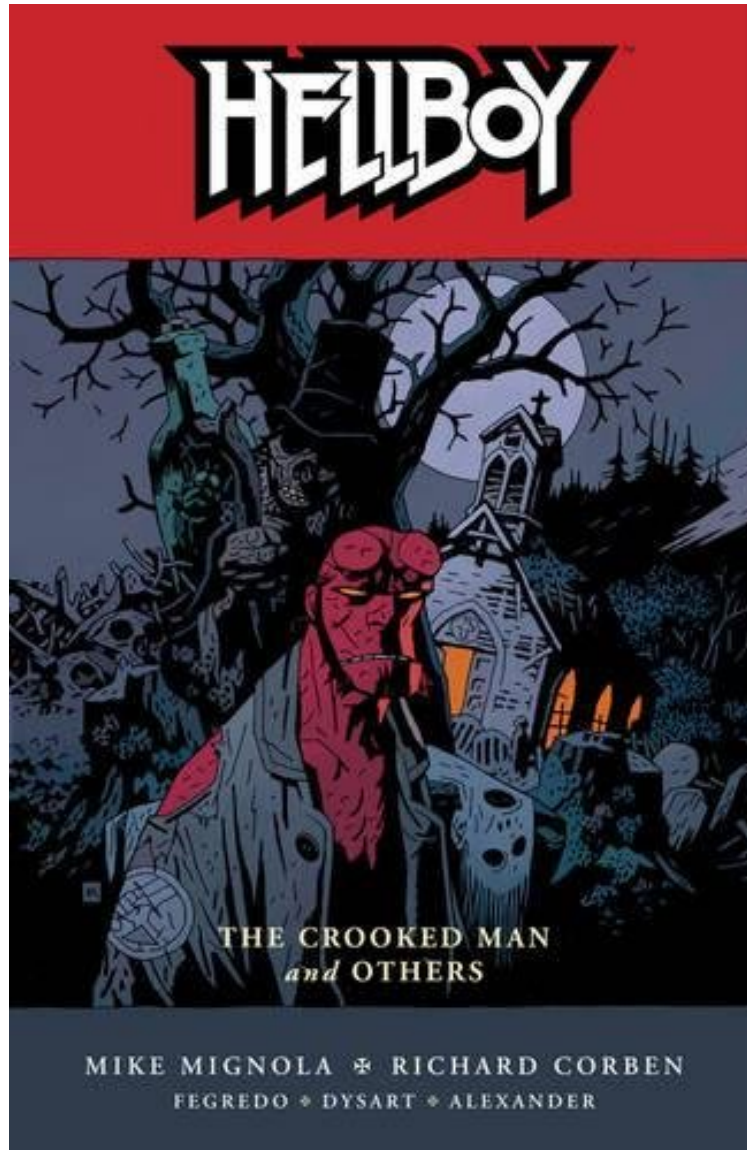


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## Hellboy, Vol. 10: The Crooked Man and Others

*Mike Mignola*

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**Mike Mignola : Hellboy, Vol. 10: The Crooked Man and Others** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hellboy, Vol. 10: The Crooked Man and Others:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An all-time great By jonathan briggs H.P. Lovecraft is arguably the biggest pulp influence on the Mignolaverse, but in "The Crooked Man," Mike Mignola takes a break from the normally cosmic goings-on to pay tribute to another writer from the classic "Weird Tales" roster: Manly Wade Wellman. In 1958, Hellboy, still working for the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense, sets cloven foot into

the mountains of Appalachia, where the terrain may be sunnier on the surface but whose forests hide hillbilly witchcraft as black as the farthest reaches of the Old Ones' domains. The locals, complete with corncob pipes, are convinced that a woman in an open-eyed coma has been hexed by a witch named Cora Fisher. Tom Ferrell, a former member of the community who's reminiscent of Wellman's character Silver John, has returned after 20 years and found evidence of said hexing. Hellboy and Tom head farther up into the mountains to find Cora. They face a zeppelin-chested seductress (a longtime specialty of artist Richard Corben) and the legacy of dark vows Tom swore as a teen to a devilish thing known as The Crooked Man, one of Corben's creepiest-looking creations. "One look at him scared all the bad thoughts right out a me. I lit out for home, swearin all the way to be good again." But Tom, like Cora, has been "bought an paid for," and The Crooked Man is a possessive owner (no pun intended). Mignola says he wrote "The Crooked Man" specifically for Corben, who "really delivered the goods." I enthusiastically agree. I don't think even Mignola himself could have nailed the art any better. As the corporate clots at Marvel and DC continue to display their willingness to trample their own legacies for a quick buck (or 4 bucks rather) with 52 this or Ultimate that, it's heartening to read a title that's so obviously a joyful labor of love that holds its forebears in reverence while freshly renovating decades-old material. "The Crooked Man" is one of the all-time great Hellboy stories and one of the most frightening horror comix since Alan Moore days on "Swamp Thing." The backup stories in this volume are fine but not in the same class, though "In the Chapel of Moloch" is written AND drawn by Mignola (interpreting Goya yet!), which is always an occasion for fanboy squee. The book also appends an appreciation of Manly Wade Wellman by pulp authority John Pelan for those who might not be familiar with Wellman's contributions to the weird tale. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scary, Freaky, Headless, and some other Propositions as well By ThatUmbrellaGuy Hellboy has been a long way from home for a while now. On those trips he's run into a lot of odd fellows. Here, we have a few of those tales, along with a few tales that are shorts and haven't been included in anything before. Personally, I thought the shorts were great, and having the insight into the process that Mignola utilizes is also great. In one of the stories, for example, he explains how he uses a statue of Moloch in the story and prepares a little clay statue so he can see all the angles. I like that. I also like the things you find out when you read the forward he puts in. In the mole, for example, you find out that it is based on an experience he had and on some "itch you can't scratch." Intersting how the mind works. Equally interesting are the people that inspire the tales. The Crooked Man is a tale of witchcraft and a personal journey we are witnessing, set in the backwoods of the Apps. The Crooked Man is freaky and some of the story is freaky as well, making it bizarre and interesting at the same time. When you look at it, look at the way Mignola's influences shine through in the tale - there's an area in the book that tells you all about it. if you already know Manly Wade Wellman's work, you can envision what is going on here. They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships pits Abe and Hellboy against a certain body and head that want to be reunited and that are not exactly the friendliest cast to walk the Earth. The way the art comes together with the tales of this person is great, taking all of the things that people have said over the years and putting them in the story. Honestly, I thought the subject of this was a good one because he's someone that people have heard odd things about - as a kid those things used to creep me out. In the Chapel of Moloch is a great story because it goes back to that true Hellboy feel for me. You have a painter that wants to do creepy work and that gets his own foreign studio/ chapel to work in. his partner sets him up and exhibition, too, and then leaves him to his work. When he returns, however, he finds the work undone and something built in the chapel that frightens him. and when Hellboy comes in, you know it gets worse. The Mole is just a short that is informative in soem way because it dwells on the fears. Even Hellboy has them, that's what the story says, and we know what he has haunting his mind. All in all, this is a great collection. You don't have to be schooled in anything to enjoy it but you don't have to be a novice to walk right up and play ball. Its good stuff - and it is something to divert from the massive story going on right now. Hellboy has great things inside and hopefully people see them all. I personally think this deserves a solid five. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of my favorite Hellboy novels By Josh Matheny One of my favorite Hellboy novels. Not a whole lot of continuity here to worry about either, which is nice.

The Eisner Award-winning miniseries *The Crooked Man*, by Mignola and Richard Corben, teams Hellboy with a wandering hillman in a devilish tale of Appalachian witchcraft. This volume also includes the rare "They Who Go Down to the Sea in Ships" by Mignola, Josh Dysart (B.P.R.D.: 1947), and Jason Shawn Alexander (Abe Sapien: The Drowning), never before available for purchase; Mignola and Duncan Fegredo's "The Mole," from Free Comic Book Day 2008; and Mignola's most recent solo outing, "In the Chapel of Moloch."\* Also includes a look into the artists' sketchbooks!\* 2009 Eisner Award winner for Best Limited Series!"Richard Corben shows these youngsters how it's done... and it's so good, in its grotesquely beautiful way." -Comic Book Resources

From Booklist As a collection of one-off stories, this is a nice volume for the Hellboy-curious to get a good sense of Mignola's flexible, occult-centric storytelling in a variety of milieus. The centerpiece has Hellboy wandering the Appalachians, where he wanders into what amounts to an old folk tale of witchy possession and other devilish backwoods Americana-horror come to life, marvelously drawn by frequent collaborator Richard Corben. Another

story pits Hellboy and Abe Sapien against the ghost of Blackbeard trying to reunite with his lost skull. In addition, Mignola, who focuses primarily on writing these days, draws one here, too, which is always a treat. --Ian Chipman