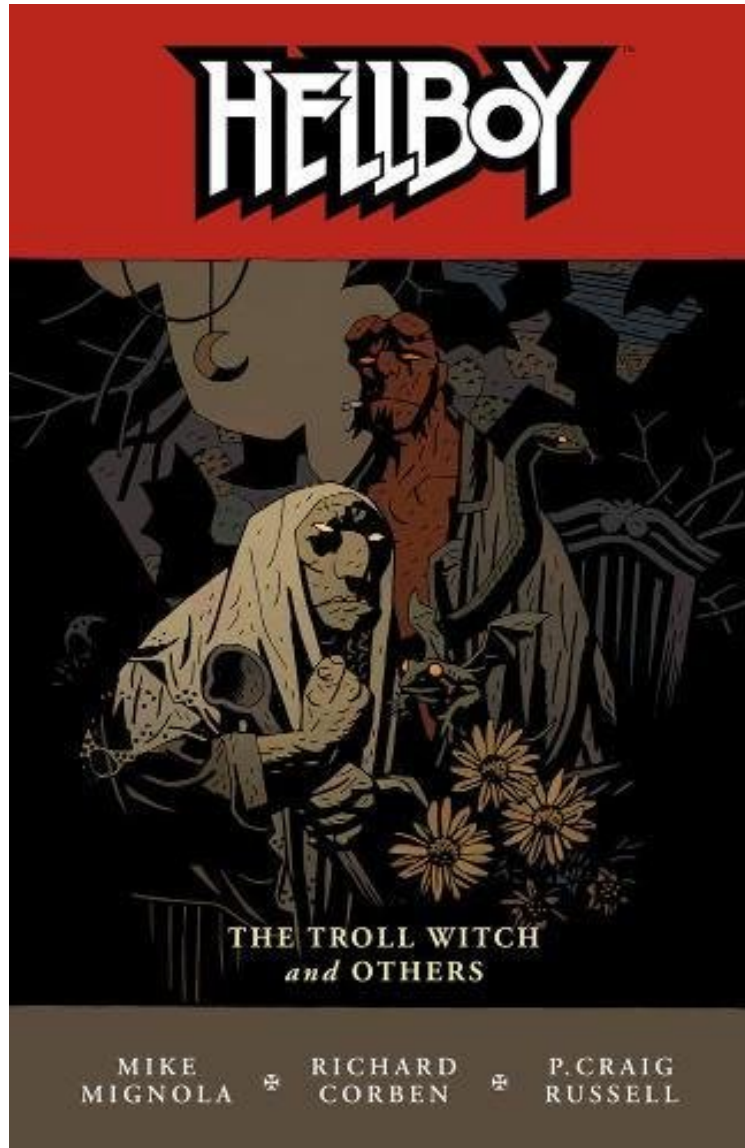


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## Hellboy, Vol. 7: The Troll Witch and Other Stories

*Mike Mignola*

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#510316 in Books Dark Horse Comics Model: FBA-|294243 2007-10-02 2007-10-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.20 x .34 x 6.70l, .72 #File Name: 1593078609144 pages | File size: 50.Mb

**Mike Mignola : Hellboy, Vol. 7: The Troll Witch and Other Stories** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hellboy, Vol. 7: The Troll Witch and Other Stories:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Troll Witch By jonathan briggs This volume marks a transition in the Hellboy series as Mike Mignola laid down his pencils and inks and turned the book over to other artists, setting off fanboy wailing that can be heard to this day. In fact, I'm wailing as I type this, and the people in the desks around me are staring. But Mignola, still at the writing helm of the book, brought in more-than-able replacements in P. Craig

Russell, Richard Corben and later Duncan Fegredo. "Troll Witch" is a collection of scraps and one-offs, few of consequence or even much substance. They're larky little experiments that give Mignola a chance to riff on the multicultural folklore he loves so much. Mostly it works like this: Hellboy visits a faraway locale, learns a little bit about the hometown spook, then gets his ass kicked before somehow managing to triumph in the last couple of panels. Hellboy has a lot in common with Ash the Stud from the Evil Dead movies: He's supremely confident but not equally competent. He visits Malaysia for a run-in with the Penanggalan, a blood-drinking noggin that took flight with a tail of intestines when a woman got so startled she accidentally kicked her own head off. "That might be the stupidest thing I've ever heard," sez Hellboy, a hulking red demon with a ponytail and soulpatch, who wears shorts and a trenchcoat and carries a rosary and likes to smoke cheroots and eat giant stacks of pancakes. He goes to Prague for a smackdown with a rather pitiful little vampire. He socks it out with a hydra in Alaska. Norway's Troll Witch captured the book's title, but the collection's real showpiece is "Makoma," the first Mignola/Corben collaboration, a nerd's dream team pairing that's always guaranteed to produce something special. An encounter with a talkative mummy at the New York City Explorers Club launches a romp thru African mythology that includes elemental giants, ant-men, a city of singing corpses, a fire demon and a seven-headed dragon. Corben gets to draw a small zoo's worth of monstrous beasties for Hellboy to bonk on the head. Mignola notes ruefully that "Richard got to do the fun stuff." This anthology reads like there was plenty of fun to go around during Mignola's playful exploration in other cultures' sandboxes.

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Depending on your PoisonBy ThatUmbrellaGuyThe 7th installation in the Hellboy graphic novel releases is something good to acquire, BUT acquiring it depends on what you want from your Hellboy. First and foremost, the stories herein are mostly collected tales from fragmented places. The Troll Witch, The Hydra and the Lion, Doctor Carps Experiment, and The Ghoul are pieces from the "Dark Horse Book(s) of the..." (Witchcraft, Monsters, Hauntings, and The Dead respectively). These range from five to eight pages depending, and all of them have something to offer. The best piece in the book HAS to be The Troll Witch, and I personally liked Doctor Carp as well. The Ghoul is a Shakespeare adaptation and the Hydra and the Lion is, as Mignola admits in its forward, a bit odd. If you want these and don't want to pick up all of those books, then this is a good way to do it. Second, there is some random stuff here and some new stuff BUT some of it isn't the best stuff out there. The Penanggalan is an older story that came out of a Wizard magazine release, and covers a beast spawned from Malaysian folklore. It is a big odd but also a bit predictable, covering ground that Hellboy covered back in 2004. The Vampire of Prague is unique to this series but isn't really one of my favorites. P. Craig Russell did the artwork and, to be frank, it looks a bit rudimentary. When reading Hellboy I guess I've been spoiled and I want Mignola to cover every aspect. The story is small, good to read but normal, and Mignola could have sealed it for me and didn't. I guess that's something that is up to individual tastes. And the last is Makoma, the longest addition to the book by far, covering some of Hellboy's younger years when he was in Africa. I liked the story and liked the quest artwork of Richard Corben, with everything clicking in that folklore sense that Hellboy often delivers. There's a mixture of Mignola there, too, and that made it worth a read. And the extras - little etchings of characters and rudimentary cover art - don't really make me want to invest in Graphic Novels. I DO enjoy the forwards that come before each story, telling where the ale came from and how people became involved therein. Mignola is nothing if not a storyteller and this aspect adds to the read. All that said, I enjoyed the series and thought people would enjoy it as well depending on what they want. If you missed the Dark Horse Book of series then there's a lot of tales here that are interesting and this format is a lot cheaper to acquire. The additions are good but are not necessary in pushing out a storyline and the book, on the whole, is just fragmented tales that cover some of Hellboy's adventures. Keep that in mind before purchasing.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Skip this one...By SquidshoesWorth a read for the Hellboy completionist, but otherwise a lackluster collection of short stories that don't impact the main Hellboy storyline. Most are short with a lot of "BOOM!" but not much depth or story. I wasn't initially fond of Corben's guest artwork here, but enjoyed his style more in Vol. 10: The Crooken Man. Russell's contribution to this book bored me, and I didn't find his artistic style to fit within the Hellboy universe that Mignola (and later Fegredo) have carefully designed.

With a new Hellboy series on the stands, fans of the world's greatest paranormal detective can find older favorites collected for the first time in the seventh volume of the Hellboy Saga. Hellboy: The Troll Witch and Others collects short stories from The Dark Horse Book of the Dead, Witchcraft, Hauntings, and Monsters, the 2004 Hellboy: Wizard 1/2, as well as the critically acclaimed 2006 miniseries, Hellboy: Makoma by Mignola and comics legend Richard Corben, and a previously unpublished Hellboy story by P. Craig Russell and Mike Mignola, along with sketches and story notes. Contains new Hellboy story by Mike Mignola P. Craig Russell!