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Robert Venditti

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#847223 in Books Top Shelf Productions 2006-09-12 2006-09-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.25 x .50 x 6.751, 1.32 #File Name: 1891830872208 pages | File size: 49.Mb

Robert Venditti : The Surrogates (Surrogates (Graphic Novels)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Surrogates (Surrogates (Graphic Novels)):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not Like the Movie At All By Joshua Palmatier I decided to buy and read "The Surrogates" because, of course, the movie was coming out soon and it had Bruce Willis in it, and I've lately been drawn into the graphic novel universe. So I said, why not? I've read a few other graphic novels and the concepts

presented in this one were interesting. First off, the graphic novel is significantly different from the movie, so you should probably read it even if you have already seen the movie. It starts off with the same initial setup--some surries get zapped and detectives are there to investigate--but pretty much from that moment on it diverges from the movie. Characters are the same, but they don't do what they did in the movie, tec. So read the novel, it's worth it. The storyline is definitely interesting and pulls you along, weaving the actual detective work together with the life of the main detective, Greer. You find out about his relationship with his wife and how the introduction of the surrogates--androids that the user controls and that pretty much act out everyone's daily life for safety reasons--has altered society and interpersonal relationships to a huge extent. The main idea of the surrogates is what kept me interested in the novel, although the plotline about who's zapping surrogates and why also drew me in. The ramifications on every aspect of society if we did ever reach a point where the majority of the population lived their lives through surrogates is . . . astounding. And that's why this graphic novel rocks. It's also why it's slightly disappointing. There are so many aspects of life that would change that what was presented in the novel seemed . . . limited. I loved the story and the novel, but when I was finished I felt that there was SO MUCH MORE to explore with this concept and I was disappointed that there wasn't more, a volume 2 or something. I know there's a prequel, and I will definitely read that, but I seriously hope that there will be more set in this world in the future because there is so much more left to explore. Since this is a graphic novel, I must also comment on the artwork: spectacular. The artwork was subtle and appropriate and a perfect amalgamation of art and photoshopping, especially regarding some of the SF elements that were incorporated into the artwork, such as realistic digital screens and such. At the same time, the artwork was extremely simple. The level of detail was appropriate and minimalistic, as well as the color palette. Some panels were sketchy and blocky, others were more finely detailed, and the ability of the artist to convey complex emotions through facial expression and such was astounding. So, overall a very good graphic novel, the only drawback being that the world created had SO MUCH potential that I felt there should have been much more done in this universe and with this plotline, so was disappointed when the novel ended. I'd love to see more from this pair, and even if you've seen the movie, I'd definitely suggest reading the novel.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By A. Mares
Great story, with interesting artwork.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great concept, good first 75%, abrupt (disappointing) ending
By M. Rylaarsdam
I saw the movie trailers and was really excited by the concept. I don't normally read graphic novels, although I read the Watchmen before the movie came out and really enjoyed it. So, I wanted to read this before seeing the movie. I was really interested and excited after the first half, it was a great concept and I really enjoyed how the author developed some of the story. However, I was really disappointed in the abruptness of the climax and ending of the story. It kind of reminded me of myself in high school English when we were assigned a story to write...I would start out with an interesting concept, then get bored and finish it as quickly as possible just so I could turn it in. Same thing here. Great start, interesting story, climax that ended in two pages with little drama and no suspense. After finishing this book, I decided that I don't need to rush out to see the movie, and the movie reviews seem to support that conclusion.

The year is 2054, and life has been reduced to a data feed. The fusing of virtual reality and cybernetics has ushered in the era of the surrogate, a new technology that lets users interact with the world without ever leaving their homes. It's a perfect world, and it's up to Detectives Harvey Greer and Pete Ford of the Metro Police Department to keep it that way. But to do so they'll need to stop a techno-terrorist bent on returning society to a time when people lived their lives instead of merely experiencing them. Welcome to *The Surrogates*, a daring, five-issue, full-color miniseries from Top Shelf Productions. First released ten years ago, when social media was in its infancy, *The Surrogates* anticipated numerous trends that have emerged with the ever-increasing confluence of technology and social connection. Nowhere is this more evident than in its exploration of identity, remote interaction, and the masks we hide behind. Now is the time to discover or rediscover this ground-breaking modern classic; it's never been more relevant.

From Publishers Weekly
The year is 2054, and the Central Georgia Metropolis is held in a grip of fear by a series of crimes committed by the mysterious lightning-wielding techno-terrorist dubbed Steeplejack. His attacks stem from an agenda that seeks to disconnect humanity from its dependence on "surrogates," androids that the consumer can link with and allow to carry out the user's life, acting as a full-time stand-in. For investigating detective Harvey Greer, Steeplejack's anti-surrogate rampage unearths possible connections to a fanatical prophet. Years earlier, this prophet incited riots while preaching a gospel of returning society to a time when people actually lived their lives instead of merely experiencing them, a point of view that Greer is slowly coming to agree with. Basically a straight police procedural laced with science-fiction trappings, Venditti's script offers a convincing future in which mankind doesn't realize that the virtual reality of the surrogates is potentially worse than any narcotic. This quietly bleak scenario is capably illustrated by Weldele in a straightforward style reminiscent of film storyboards. As a change of pace from typical superheroic fare, this volume comes heartily recommended. (July)
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From Booklist
In 2054, everybody in the Central Georgia Metropolis who can afford one owns a surrogate to go out and do things while its owner transmits all the decisions and receives

all the effects safely at home. But someone or something is frying surrogates with megavolt electrical charges, and police lieutenant Harvey Greer has to find out who or what. The prime suspect is the Prophet, the quasi-Rastafarian leader of a cult that rioted against the surrogates 15 years ago. It soon seems, however, that the actual, physical perp is a supersurrogate, and the Prophet wouldn't ever use any kind of surrogate. Venditti fills this police-procedural sf scenario with tech-savvy-sounding dialogue and serious satire of humanity's love of gadgets, ingeniously supplying backstory via documents (academic paper, TV transcript, etc.), not flashbacks or exposition. Weldele gives the tale exceptional gravitas by drawing figures and settings more or less sketchily and memorably conveying emotional effect by tinting each scene or sequence in its own peculiar set of hues of just one or two colors. Ray Olson

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About the Author
Robert Venditti is the New York Times best-selling author of *The Homeland Directive* and the sci-fi graphic novel *The Surrogates*, which was adapted into a feature film. He has written the monthly comic book series *X-O Manowar* and *Wrath of the Eternal Warrior* for Valiant Entertainment, and *Green Lantern* and *The Flash* for DC. He currently writes *Hal Jordan and the Green Lantern Corps*, as well as the children's novel series *Miles Taylor and the Golden Cape*.