



Rat Catcher

Andy Diggle , Victor Ibanez (Illustrator)

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New York Times bestselling-author Andy Diggle creates a tale of the FBI's manhunt for a peerless assassin who specializes in silencing mob informants hidden deep within the Witness Protection Program. But the Rat Catcher has finally slipped up — and one washed-up FBI agent has one last chance to hunt him down before he disappears again forever. As the two men spiral in towards each other in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse that plays out across the badlands of West Texas, each of them hides a deadly secret from the other — a secret that could destroy them both.

Rat Catcher Details

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Author : Andy Diggle , Victor Ibanez (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Rat Catcher for online ebook

Gayle Francis Moffet says

This is the story that the Vertigo Crime line was going for the whole time. People murdered, crooked feds, moody and interesting characters, and finale that tastes like the very best film noir. One of my major issues with the VC line is that female characters are so often seriously short-changed or treated as cannon fodder. The women in this book meet bad ends, but these bad ends are not singled out to cause manpain, and they're not easy plot devices. I'd have liked to see one of them stay alive, but in this story, the anti-hero and the bad guy really are the only ones who can make it out alive, and it's a damn fine tale of how they did it.

Jamie says

I've read quite a few of the Vertigo crime books, and this is easily the best. Of all of them, it's the only one that solidly delivers in both story and art.

TJ Shelby says

Outstanding book. Mafia, FBI, assassins...of course, I loved it!

Andrew Greatbatch says

I absolutely loved this.

This is one of my favourites out of all of the graphic novels i've read. It was clever, and Andy Diggle is a brilliant writer.

I'll re-read the crap out of this. Also, this NEEDS to become a movie.

Stephen says

Great art. Nice format. Solid story, believable motivations, well-researched police procedures, good dialogue - the weakest part was the blink-and-you'll-miss-it ending. I mean, dang, it just ends. Overall, this was reminiscent of Ennis' Punisher, and that's a good thing.

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

Someone is compromising informants in the Witness Protection Program...how can you catch this rat? Great

crime thriller!

Lono says

This one's another from the short list of worthwhile entries from the Vertigo Crime imprint. Andy Diggle's *Rat Catcher* is his own version of a "Keyser Soze"-like criminal that's been killing informants in the witness protection program for years. Pretty solid story that takes a lot of the mandatory twists and turns along the way before the final climax. The conclusion may not deliver for some, but I liked it, so there. I also appreciate Diggle's ability to write conversation. He's really able to sell his characters as real people to me in that regard and this had me hooked early on.

Who is Victor Ibanez and why the hell isn't he doing more comic work? The real crime here is this guy isn't doing more stuff. I **really** liked his art here and I'm shocked to see that he hasn't done anything else per Goodreads. (Turns out he's done some stuff for Marvel on *Storm*, but not much else.)

Pretty good comic that crime fans should probably check out. Andy Diggle hasn't been the most consistent writer, but I think this one falls on the "worthwhile" side of the fence when compared with the rest of his body of work. And will someone from Marvel, Image, DC, or Dark Horse get Victor Ibanez some regular work...What a waste.

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Matthew says

I've read several of the Vertigo Crime books, and sadly all but the first one, *Filthy Rich*, have either not been very good at all or not really a crime book. This one, however, is a lot of fun. Diggle's pulled together a fast-paced crime-thriller with some nice twists and very dark, Noir-ish characters. Ibanez's art is really strong, almost cinematic in style in the way he uses angles and sets up scenes with establishing shots. A good, fast read for anyone who likes action-based thrillers.

Sonic says

This was a superb thriller with pitch-perfect pacing (realistically) interesting characters and I have no complaints at all about it. I had to read it in one day. This was such a cool premise to begin with. And it was sweet all the way until the end.

Jedhua says

Other Useful Reviews: Lono's review , Sonic's review, Stephen's review

Book Info: This collection contains *Rat Catcher* issue #1.

ABSOLUTE RATING: {**3.5/5 stars**} (*Rounded Up*)

STANDARDIZED RATING: <**4/5 stars**>

As a mystery-slash-thriller, *Rat Catcher* gets a lot right; it's smart, fast-paced, and keeps you guessing from beginning to end. In terms of the writing, I was most impressed with how Diggle managed to keep the story rolling along quickly without slowing down to hold my hand hand or spell everything out, and at the same time not leaving me feeling entirely left behind. But to me, this story is slightly better as a mystery than it is as a thriller. While one of the most defining aspects of a thriller has to do with it's fast pacing, perhaps just as important is getting the reader/viewer to connect with it's world and characters. Once a writer can achieve that, all subsequent twists and turns become substantially more satisfying. So although Diggle managed to put together an excellent plot, I was never quite comfortably invested with what was going on.

Probably the single biggest explanation for my discomfort was that, unlike most other thrillers I've read, *Rat Catcher* doesn't immediately make it entirely clear who the main characters are – far less give you a chance to get to know them – but rather reveals bits and pieces in alternating snippets, and at the same time that it dives head-first into events. For this reason, it took me a little longer than I would have liked to feel grounded. But even in the face of that, I have to admit there were times when my mind would somewhat eagerly race to evaluate and sort out all the possible scenarios of what would happen next, based on what I had already been shown. And that's always a plus when it comes to any effective mystery.

Now I should say that although I've only just recently begun to develop a taste for black-and-white illustrations, this has got to be a candidate for the top comic book artwork I've seen without color. In fact, I never even missed it. So maybe if you're a fan of black-and-white comics, you'd be even more pleased than I was, and – believe me – I was plenty pleased.

Sometime in the future, I think I'll give *The Losers* another shot. Besides this and *Green Arrow: Year One* , I haven't really read any of Diggle's other stuff, but I'm beginning to think I should. I think he's just about proven to be a fairly promising talent when it comes to action stories and thrillers.

Eli says

A fast-paced and engrossing read full of a heck of a lot of twists I never saw coming and the sort of questions about the nature of morality and justice that I'll be chewing over for a while.

Mike says

Very clever, nuanced, fast paced and authentic writing. I could *not* put this down, and found myself grinning at the wonderfully well-structured twists and turns of this story. I haven't had this much fun discovering a hidden gem of a story in ages. Well freaking done Mr. Diggle, well done.

Rodolfo Santullo says

La cosa arranca allá arriba: una casa incendiada, un tipo herido que logra escapar de las llamas y de inmediato roba un auto a punta de pistola, llega el FBI y anuncia que la casa incendiada era un lugar donde escondían a un importante testigo contra un supremacista ario, se involucran los Marshalls y -por encima de todo- orbita sobre la situación de que se trata de un trabajo del mítico Rat Catcher: un asesino legendario de testigos contra criminales. Primero de manera desordenada, pero muy intensa, el guionista Diggle -que, en un movimiento raro para la colección Vertigo Crime sí es antes que nada guionista de historietas y no algo ajeno a la profesión- se despacha con un police procedural donde vamos viendo como los numerosos personajes se ponen en movimiento ante la situación, que muy pronto se torna tremendamente violenta en un in crescendo que se sostiene mientras avanza. Hay algo, sin embargo, que en su recta final le falla -a falta de una mejor definición, diré que se queda sin aire- y que termina por bajar varios grados de temperatura al hornito que venía construyendo. Quizá sea que las casi 200 páginas del libro le quedan algo cortas. 200 páginas dibujadas como los dioses por el español Ibáñez que narra magníficamente sean persecuciones, tiroteos o largas conversaciones en viajes de autos. Notable lo de Ibáñez.

Kurt says

I really enjoyed the story structure in this little crime spiral, with two stories that really do circle each other in an ever-tightening orbit. A hitman called the Rat Catcher (because he takes out informants before they can testify) makes what may be his first mistake ever, and a relentless FBI agent with nothing to lose chases after him. There's plenty of action, and some "go back and skim the first hundred pages to spot the clues" plot twisting, and the book shows off Diggle's strengths as a storyteller.

My problems are objectively minor, but significant to me. First, I don't love the art. Ibanez is good with visual storytelling, but his facial expressions never quite work for me. It's not bad enough to stop me from recommending the book, but it's bad enough to make me wish for better. Second, and the more important for me, is that the dialogue shows Diggle's British background too much. If this story had been set in the U.K., I would likely have given it four or five stars. As presented, though, the characters stomp through West Texas.. even though none of them ever uses "y'all" in the right way, and they talk about a "car park" and a "care home" and "*blah blah blah*, yeah?" and slide "ain't" into sentences without any real recognition that these are big glaring neon signs that say, "British person trying to write Texans." I grew up in the suburbs of Houston, and my folks moved to Wimbledon for a few years while I was in school, so I've spent a little time listening for the differences in speech patterns. It irritates me when a publisher gets a script from a British author and can't even take ten minutes to scan for slang.

I do recommend this book for someone looking to flip through a tense crime thriller with some well-sketched characters and engaging plot developments. I just don't recommend it for Texans.

Kate says

Solid writing and illustrations that pair very well with the style and story. When I started reading, I knew right away that this duo would deliver a fast-paced crime thriller with a twist. A man in the witness protection program, a burning safe house, and a possibly mythical man, The Rat Catcher, who does the dirty work for the head of the West Texas mob. These ingredients and a few other well-drawn characters kept me reading. I hope the other Vertigo Crime comics are as good as this one is.
