



Dead End

Thomas Ott

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Dead End is Ott's second U.S. release, following hot on the heels of early 2002's Greetings from Hellville. Like Hellville, Dead End consists of Ott's trademark storytelling: wordless, stark, black-and-white scratchboard horror stories with twist endings, rendered beautifully with fish eye perspectives that create a vertiginous anxiety. Parts Twilight Zone, O. Henry, and Kafka, Ott's work evokes a visual history of literary suspense and horror; it reads like Dante's Inferno done as an issue of Tales from the Crypt, drawn by original Inferno illustrator Gustave Dore. The two stories in Dead End focus literally and figuratively on the circle. In the first short story, entitled "The Millionaires, " mysterious suitcase of money creates a cycle of death spurred by greed and lust; yes, another contemporary-updating of the tried "Monkey's Paw" variety, but in Ott's inimitable hands the story becomes less a morality play for children than a menacing reality check for adults. "Washing Day, " the collection's second story, follows the path of an assassin on the trail of a former magician; the assassin quickly learns that there are perils in following a white rabbit.

Dead End Details

Date : Published January 1st 2003 by Fantagraphics Books (first published October 2002)

ISBN : 9781560975090

Author : Thomas Ott

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Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Horror, Short Stories, Graphic Novels Comics

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From Reader Review Dead End for online ebook

Javier Jiménez says

This two stories ("Dead end" and "Washing day") are also in Breakdown

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Michael says

Two stories. Cool art. Strange twist endings. Very short. The first one is stronger; the second is a bit of a stretch. Worth the 1 minute and 45 seconds it will take to read.

Lee says

The first story in this was a fun read, one that you could easily being made into a short film noir. If you spend a few minutes just looking at the artwork on the cover of the second story it really starts to dawn on you just how clever OTT is. It seems like he starts out with a black canvas and scratches out a story with literally contrast alone.

Reyel2107 says

a real dead end !!!!!

Tara Schaafsma says

I liked the artwork again, but I enjoyed these stories less than the previous ones.

Sooraya Evans says

Contains two stories. Liked the first one best even though it's rather similar to the overall plot of 'The Number' (in terms of the evil cycle repeating).

Danny Avila says

Thomas Ott is the greatest.

Forrest says

Two graphic shorts, one tedious, the other brilliant. I was not impressed with the first story about a suitcase full of money and its evil effect on those who come in contact with it. The movie Heavy Metal did this trope much better a long, long time ago.

The second short, "Washing Day," about a private investigator sent to shadow a dwarf magician, is much better. Reminiscent of the best moments of Cinema Panopticum, one of my favorite graphic novel reads of late. Had this story been paired with another of a similar ilk, something more playful and surreal than the first tale in the volume, this review would likely have been five stars.

When Ott's hot, he's hot. When Ott's not hot, he's not.

Akar says

Quite weird and surreal. If you like John Arne Sæterøy's work then you will love this too.

Edwin Vazquez says

This is the book that inspired and begun my career in the scratchboard medium.(Thanks Joey C.) Thomas Ott is a master at his craft and in creating moody, eerie stories.

'Dead End' has a cinematic approach in panel construction. A worldless book that screams inside your head.

Homosapiens says

It makes one feel at a Dead End!!! Goddamn Thomas Ott!!!!

Twan says

Another brief read here by Ott, that will last longer if you study his gorgeous artwork. Two short tales , yet again with twists and turns in them, the first concerning a breifcase full of money while the second follows a hitman trying to assainate a dwarf magician. Good-o.

David Schaafsma says

The Goodreads description seems apt, that it is a mix of O'Henry and Kafka and Twilight Zone. The first story, "Millionaire," is a kind of set piece about what happens when you have a briefcase with a lot of money in it, something that happens to several people, actually! Not a remarkable or surprising story in any respect, but the art still makes it worth it. Scratchboard, pen and ink, grim. The second story, "Washing Day," is creepier and more surprising as a tale. Superb work, though muted, not flashy in any way. Dark and eerie. Awesome.

Dewi says

Dua cerita dalam buku ini. Berjudul The Millionairs dan Washing Day.

Yang pertama memiliki pesan : uang membawa petaka.

Pesan yang saya tangkap dalam cerita kedua : jangan remehkan lawanmu.
