



Abbott #1

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Hugo Award-nominated novelist Saladin Ahmed (Black Bolt) and artist Sami Kivelä (Beautiful Canvas) present one woman's search for the truth that destroyed her family. Hard-nosed, chain-smoking tabloid reporter Elena Abbott investigates a series of grisly crimes that the police have ignored. Crimes she knows to be the work of dark occult forces. Forces that took her husband from her. Forces she has sworn to destroy.

Abbott #1 Details

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Author : Saladin Ahmed , Sami Kivelä (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Abbott #1 for online ebook

H says

I'm not usually a comic person because I find the plot/character development is thinner than a novel, but here the story had the nuance that a longer work explores. I love Elena already and the people she works with... it all feels so real. It takes place in Detroit in the 1970s, and I found the gender/race subtext to ring true. Beautiful art. Excited for the series.

(Be aware of gore: two panels with mutilated body and horse head).

Carol Tilley says

This series is off to a strong start! I look forward to reading the next issues.

Garrison says

This first issue is incredibly well done. I'd describe it as 50% Fatale (supernatural crime) and 50% Black Magick (possible occult, police, female lead). And in reading that summary, I've added the 5 issue arc to my subscriptions. Great start for a series.

FrankieReads says

Affiliated with comicattack.net

This comic blew me away. First I loved it because, as a native Detroit, I recognized many of the locations in the story. Everything from the style of dress to the lingo was familiar to me. I love the main character, Abbott. She's a hard-hitting, chain smoking, brandy drinking, crime reporter in the Motor City. These kind of characters are usually male, but they're one of the tropes I love in any kind of mystery story; the hard-boiled detective.

I loved the art style as it has a vintage feel, which is appropriate for the time period of the comic. This comic puts you in mind of the cop dramas that were popular in the late seventies and early eighties. The supernatural element and gruesome nature of the crimes adds an intriguing element to the story that makes me want to read more.

So far I'm a big fan of this comic and cannot wait to read more from this series.

Sharonda Isadora says

1. Solid Story
 2. The 70's
 3. Bad ASS Black Female Journalists
 4. I need to get my hands on #2!
-

Chelsea says

This was a wonderful introduction!

Abbott is already a solid character. I feel like I have a pretty good handle on her personality and way of thinking. She's tenacious and headstrong, even when faced with several white men telling her to stay quiet and keep her head down. Her past is still being fleshed out but we got enough to nibble on here and I want more!

I like her boss, Charlie, quite a bit. Can't wait to see more of them interacting in the future. The supernatural element took me by surprise a bit, even having read a little about this series online. Black women don't often get to see ourselves in supernatural stories and even then, we're usually not the main characters. I'm very interested to see where this series goes next! I love the setting, the tone and the art.

5 stars.

Definitely a recommend.

Basma says

An excellent start to the comic and I can't wait to see how it progresses. I love Abbott's character, I love the art and the colors, and I love her role in this story. I hope though it doesn't get way too supernatural.

Anne-Marie says

What a fantastic introduction! Abbott is your hard boiled detective type - heavy smoker, drinker, raising hell among the racist, sexist police force of 1970s Detroit with her hard hitting journalism. However, what starts out as a weird case/story takes a dark turn for the supernatural. I'm looking forward to seeing where this goes!

Ps. The artwork is to die for!

Brennan says

If you love The X-Files, Kolchak: The Night Stalker, or Hellblazer but with a black chain-smoking heroine who has a tragic past that is haunting the streets Detroit in the 70's, this the series for you!

Kait says

[Examples are the supernatural entity, Elena's typewriter, and the flashback.

I really liked the series of panels showing Elena's walk past the other newspapers. The Free Press is basically golden, as it is in renown, followed by the "o

Sean Kottke says

First pick from the Michigan Notable Books consideration list, and a great way to kick off both the MNB reading season and this mini-series. Investigative reporter Elena Abbott debuts fully formed in this mystery/horror story set in a retro-styled rendering of Detroit 1972. The narrative has the look and voice of a classic blaxploitation urban horror, with a strong social conscience and without a whiff of camp. This write-up covers the full five issue run, and I can't wait to read more installments in Abbott's saga. Please let there be more!

Jess says

Black women reporter embroiled in demons and crime in '70s Detroit? Hell yeah! Saladin's a super solid writer, and in some ways, this is more his thing than the Black Bolt stuff. He's been nailing that, but this is the one I'm excited about.

Bryan Cebulski says

Some awkward lines, especially regarding Abbott's routine-oriented behavior (I think they state that she drinks two brandys a night two or three times in as many pages), but an interesting start for sure. Beautiful artwork, and historical urban fantasy/weird fiction with the backdrop of race and civil rights is definitely something I can get into.

Su says

In a "making-of" style interview, writer Saladin Ahmed, was asked what he hoped readers would take away from this new series and he responded: "Kick*** heroine! Old-school late-night TV horror chills! Snappy dialogue! Crime and magic! Newspapers and monsters! If horror or crime or history or social drama is your thing, there will be something here for you to love."

After devouring this title in one night and rereading it just to oogle the artwork some more and giggle at all my new favorite lines again, I have to say that that's Ahmed's hopes for the series are exactly what readers should expect out of this! This is an amazing new series - sharp and witty, with the same tonality and

goosebump thrill of an old late-night crime show (I've watched many in-rerun with my granddad) and all the natural and well-paced dialogue! My mom and grandpa don't necessarily share my love of comics or of reading, but this is a title I know I can get them into and we can read as a family!

This social politics of this comic while set solidly in the 1970s are also so unfortunately relevant today. And there are no punches pulled here and certainly no sugar coating, folks! This is hard-hitting, but not at all preachy. It feels very real, raw, and authentic.

And the magic! Some ancient magic is being introduced in this series, stuff I imagine is from African traditions (since it is first called by name by Abbott's first love who was African) but also has a scary voodoo vibe. I am interested to see how and what all this turns out to be, and excited to discover if it's a magic of many origins, manipulated and corrupted until it becomes the destructive force haunting and taunting Abbott in this series. So much to look forward to reading!

Now let's talk about this artwork - simply beautiful, energetic, and very period appropriate. Artist Sami Kivelä and colorist Jason Wordie combine the artistic talents to create a style and feel that instantly transports you to the Detroit of the 1970s and very clearly translates all that goes bump in the night from the pages to your goosebumps. I'm also really in love with Kivelä's commitment to giving each character their own unique face and hair even if we won't ever see them again. That's the kind of work I live for! And to see so many Black faces with different noses and mouths and ner one is stripped of their afro-centric look/appeal just really makes my heart skip a beat.

And that last point is perhaps a bigger deal to me because from what I've gleamed of the creative team here not a single one of them is Black in any kind of way (except maybe the associate editor Chris Rosa?) - but you wouldn't know it if you weren't already familiar with them and I hadn't told you! And that is so significant because it proves that Black stories ARE universal - as much as any other story you've ever read - and that Black people ARE people just like anyone else and the work it takes to authentically portray Black people, our communities, and even regional and culturally specific dialogue is NOT any harder than portraying diverse White communities so there is absolutely no reason why any form of media and any creative team shouldn't be creating more characters of color who exist for more reason that to simply be of color. So obviously (at the risk of giving out cookies for things that should be normal by now) I would give an extra star just for that if I could, but since I can't I give Ahmed, Kivelä, and Wordie an extra bravo!

And also the writing and design in this issue is just so tight and on point! Every page is a page turner! There are no wasted words or images. I'm also really into "side narration" of Abbott's news articles, loving dispersed here and there.

There is really so much to praise in this first issue, and I am way behind in picking up the second, but I cannot wait to keep reading this. It's a series I highly recommend you putting in your box at your local comic shop. Don't have a subscription/pull box at your local comic shop? Get one, 'cause your gonna be real mad at yourself when you stroll in and the next issue is all sold out, especially if they can't order it for you. That's how good this is.

Jamie Canaves says

Excellent start to a new series: black female journalist in '70s Detroit fighting racism and sexism to deliver the truth.

