



Suiciders, Vol. 1

Lee Bermejo

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In the post-apocalyptic city of New Angeles, killing isn't just a crime - it's entertainment. When the 'big one' finally hit the West Coast, Los Angeles was left in ruins. And when the U.S. government decided to cut the city loose, things went from bad to worse. To survive, L.A. did what it does best: It turned survival into entertainment. Now, thirty years later, the city of New Angeles is thriving once more thanks to the blood sport known as SUICIDERS - a TV series that combines the spectacle of hand-to-hand combat with elaborate, high-tech obstacles that test each competitor's ability to survive. But these competitors have an edge: They've been freakishly enhanced by drugs and technology. The results are both marvelous and monstrous, as the man called The Saint begins to rise above his fellow Suiciders. SUICIDERS is a dark, post-apocalyptic epic that tells the story of a strange, brutal world, written and illustrated by Lee Bermejo, the #1 New York Times best-selling writer/artist behind JOKER, BATMAN: NOEL, LUTHOR and BEFORE WATCHMEN: RORSCHACH.

Suiciders, Vol. 1 Details


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Author : Lee Bermejo

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From Reader Review Suicides, Vol. 1 for online ebook

???? ???? says

WOW !!

what a start !!

this series will be a rock-star soon, Bermejo is creating an amazing dark scary post apocalyptic world..

I can see the future of this series in cinema, that would make a fantastic movie series..

can't wait to read the next volumes.

Koen Claeys says

Blew me away, this dark, ultra-violent tale with a heart. Bermejo scores on all fronts !

Timo says

Jotkut asiat ovat niin hyviä, että niihin rakastuu heti ensimmäisellä vilkaisulla. Tässä tapauksessa se on tuo upeaakin upea kuvitus joka toimii hempeilyssä ja ultraväkivallassa. Kun vielä tällä kertaa tarinakin nousee heittämällä kuvituksen tasolle, niin henkisiä orgasmejahan sitä saa koko lukemisen ajan.

Vic says

Got in my hands the first volume of Lee Bermejo's Suicides. Enjoyed the story, enjoyed the insight, enjoyed the fear of knowing that past fairs when we look forward, when we wanna try to leave it all behind. Crap! You can never get rid off it, throwing punches or smashing skulls.

Not even with a new face. Past times stick to your boot. Specially, colliding with the tail of your magnificent future.

This Graphic Novel was a good sidekick during bus time and some insomnia sweet jobs. High stakes and you hit the score? I don't think so. What about falling for L.A. once again? Sure, and fill it up with Gosling's best noir film till the day. Drive.

Fernando Gálvez says

El arte de Bermejo es impresionante y la historia prometedora hasta que comienza a notarse el giro que se confirma al final. Un relato intenso, violento y desalentador donde muy lejos podría encontrarse una luz de esperanza en un mundo cuya existencia, al paso evolutivo que vamos, está más cerca de lo que pensamos.

Sam Quixote says

“The Big One” has finally happened - a massive earthquake that has destroyed Los Angeles. Thirty years later, the city has become a nation unto itself, divided between New Angeles (the haves) and Lost Angeles (the have nots) after seceding from the union. In this brutal new landscape, a bloodsport called Suiciders has become enormously popular. Two heavily biologically and technically modified fighters battle to the death in an arena filled with lethal traps. One man is the people’s champion - the Saint of Suicides - but a new challenger rises from the huddled masses: Straniero. Which man will win? Let’s get rready to ruuummmmbbllle!!

Lee Bermejo’s Batman: Noel was great and I’ve loved his collaborations with Brian Azzarello - Joker, Lex Luthor: Man of Steel, Before Watchmen: Rorschach - and while his art on Suiciders is his usual high standard, the writing and story are both disappointingly poor.

The world he’s created is very underwritten. So, an earthquake led to Los Angeles society dividing itself in two - how’s that? And the poor are kept apart from the rich by a wall? Never seen that before in a dystopian future! I didn’t get this from the book, I found it accidentally while looking at a single issue’s blurb, that’s how poorly set up this is, but apparently the city was cut from the union after the earthquake by the government because they didn’t want to pay to rebuild it? So it’s the same idiotic premise as Batman: No Man’s Land!

And the most important thing to New Angelians is this fatalistic version of Gladiators? Really - nothing else? I loved Breaking Bad but it’s not my whole world. Hmm. One of the storylines is about people risking their lives to leave Lost Angeles and enter New Angeles, but things don’t look so great in New Angeles, especially if the people there are mono-mindedly obsessed with this tedious bloodsport. The action is so dreary - punch, stab, whatever. I think it’s meant to be “exciting” watching these one-dimensional characters fight and it’s not. Looks great, but it’s utterly uninvolved. And why is it called Suiciders anyway? They don’t commit suicide, the loser is killed by the winner - how is that “suicide”?

The main storyline is concerned with who the Saint of Suicides is though why this is important is never explained. I guess if he’s not really caucasian and been surgically altered to look that way, there’d be a ruckus because New Angelians are white supremacists? What a great society!

A journalist sees that things are corrupt behind the scenes of this deathsport (gasp - non-surprise!) and his storyline becomes about escaping the villains who run the show - which goes nowhere. Another storyline is about this character, Straniero, and his journey from penniless immigrant to mob enforcer to Suicider.

While I read most of this book in a numb haze of boredom, I’ll give Bermejo this: that ending is fucking genius. It’s the same effect as watching The Usual Suspects/The Sixth Sense/Fight Club for the first time and no-one’s told you the twist. I totally didn’t see it coming. The last three pages changes everything that preceded it - it doesn’t improve it but it gives you a fresh perspective of what you might’ve thought the book was and what it actually turned out to be instead. There’s a reason for the differing colour schemes of the Saint and Straniero’s storylines as well as the lack of framing captions. I’ll mention the big reveal at the bottom of the review in case there are some who want to know what it is and aren’t going to be picking up this book to find out for themselves.

Little details like seeing parts of the city underwater when Straniero comes in off the boat, and seeing the Saint being outfitted in his battle armour by an F1-type pit crew, were cool. And Bermejo's art - with Matt Hollingsworth's amazing colours - is absolutely incredible. The comic is a stunner visually.

But those small aspects along with the art and the ending don't make up for the boring slog that was reading the majority of this book. Suiciders is an uninspired and unengaging read where bruisers thump each other and little else happens besides. It's too shallow, stupid and underdeveloped to recommend.

(view spoiler)

Koen says

Very, very nice!!

Ok, sorry I was so brief before, but I consider it a good review being so short no matter what :D
But to be more specific (a little bit more, since I'm never so elaborate ;))
I like the characters, the story and the artwork... What's not to like??!!! I would just suggest you dive into this one and let it suck you into its world... You'll be pleasantly surprised.

Sylvester Kuo says

In the futuristic "Lost Angeles", a vicious sport of combat known as Suiciders emerged. It's a story about survival with some homage to Death Race and Kill Bill, the story was average but the artwork was quire stunning.

Camilo Guerra says

La ciudad de Los Angeles se destruye por un gran terremoto, dividiendo la ciudad en dos, en una que es rica, famosa y linda y otra que es sucia, dañada y llena de pobreza y violencia, o sea, nada que no se haya visto antes, pero aca tambien tenemos un deporte, en la que los suicidas son gladiadores modernos que se parten la piel, huesos y sesos con el fin de convertirse en superestrellas. ¿Lleno de cliches?, si, por todo lado , tu sabes que va a pasar con un montón de personajes y si bien viene un giro de guión en el penultimo capitulo, la historia es entretenida y bien construida , entonces, ¿porque 5 estrellas?.

LEE BERMEJO

Muchos lo reconocen por su trabajo en Joker, pero acá, el , además del guión , se encarga del dibujo , tintas,grises y cada pagina, cada panel, esta llena de una pasión y un nivel inmenso, dándonos la obra de su vida, sin decir que lo que ha hecho antes sea malo, no ,para nada, solo que estas paginas, estas portadas están a otro nivel.Me levanto y aplaudo.

Cristiano Carneiro says

Exemplo perfeito do que é uma hq nhé. Roteiro que até tem boas ideias, arte bem bonita (em alguns momentos), mas o conjunto não empolga. A "revelação" que une as duas narrativas paralelas não é nada surpreendente, a ambientação é pouco desenvolvida, as relações entre os personagens são mal construídas e por aí vai.

Jan Philipzig says

When the Big One hits the City of Angels, only the strong and the savage survive... Yep, it's pretty much exactly what you would expect: the usual empty tropes, cardboard characters, hyper-masculine ideals, yada yada yada. Elaborately illustrated, but completely generic and pointless.

If you are looking for good new sci-fi comics, I recommend Vaughan's *The Private Eye* for bright and poppy future noir, Lemire's *Descender* for beautifully crafted old-school space opera, and Peeters' *Aama* for trippy, mind-bending Euro sci-fi.

Thomas Maluck says

Glad we got all that worldbuilding and flashbacking out of the way. What's next?

Dave Glorioso says

Rated it a 4 because it started so strong. Last several books were a 3. Basis of story cool. Dystopian future where the haves and have nots are separated by a wall. The MMA is now a death sport. The reigning champion has a secret. The establishment wants to oust him. The art is fantastic. The problem-it jumps through time so much that it's giving me a headache!

I think the past is mostly told so hopefully it stays on course because there is a great story here with exceptional art.

Cale says

Well, the art is impressive. Lee Bermejo's detail work is impressive, the action feels brutal, and the use of color to isolate the separate stories works well. That being said, it would be nice if the story wasn't pure cliches. Every piece of this story I've seen a dozen times somewhere else, and there isn't anything unique enough (even the post-disaster Los Angeles setting) to make it stand out. The fact the story spends so much time on secondary characters who are ultimately pretty pointless just goes to show that there's no real meat to this story. It's gladiators in the future, with the new fighter with a heart of gold, the champion with a dark past, the corrupt agent, and the criminal talent scout. The damaged woman with the innocent child. Every character is a stereotype, and they're all played straight - this isn't a knowing satire. There's an undercurrent of illegal immigration, but that's as deep as anything goes in this first volume. And don't expect any closure.

It ends with a reversal of fortune, and that's not particularly satisfying. So, aside from the art, there's really no reason I would recommend this to anyone. It's all done better elsewhere.

David Schaafsma says

No.

Dystopian sc fi I was not interested in at all, neither the gory hyper-masculine renditions of characters nor the story itself, both credited to Bermejo. It takes place in post Big One (as in the Big earthquake that destroys it) L.A., now thirty years later, divided into the haves (in New Angeles) and have-nots (in Lost Angeles, heh), where huge stupid gladiator battles (suiciders) are fought for some reason. The cover blurbs a review: Gladiator meets Mad Max. You might wish.

Post-apocalyptic tale, the dark future we'll face, though on steroids, not the starvation of The Road; I didn't get understand all of it and didn't care much. I guess the art is accomplished, if you like that sort of thing.

PS: After my review I read Sam's review:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

which helped me make sense of it, or helped me understand some of what was going on, but I still didn't like it. I can see how the ending is cool and helps you understand some of what is going on with the Saint of the Suicides thing, which is pretty cool, I guess. At least it isn't as random and lame as I thought it was. Maybe it deserves another star for that. Nah.
