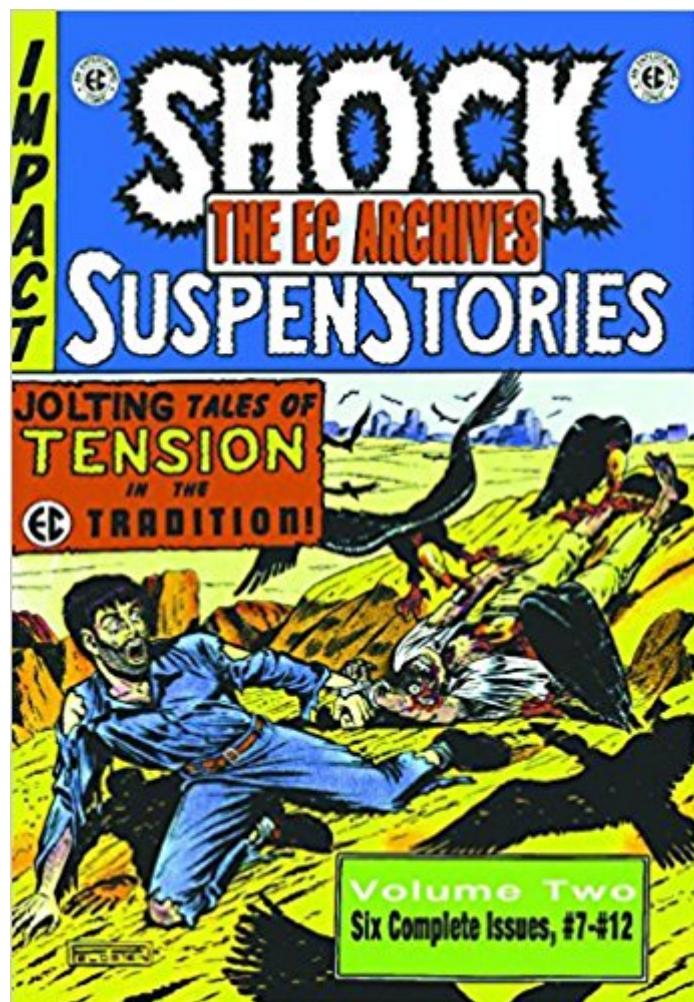


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The EC Archives: Shock Suspenstories Volume 2 (v. 2)



Synopsis

This second beautiful hardcover volume of Shock SuspenStories reprints issues #7-12, featuring 24 stories in all by an all-star line-up that includes Bill Gaines, Al Feldstein, Wally Wood, Joe Orlando, Reed Crandall, Al Williamson, Jack Kamen, George Evans, John Severin, Bill Elder, Jack Davis, Johnny Craig, and Marie Severin.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When you were a kid, do you remember those comic books your parents told you would rot your brain if you kept reading them? Well here they are, lovingly preserved on the beautiful hardcover-bound glossy pages of EC's SHOCK SuspenStories collection. My video shows you some highlights of the various covers and artwork to give you a feel for the content of the volume. Yes, the ten cents price you see printed on the comic book cover was the actual price for the comic in those days, funny that today a volume like this costs about 40 dollars, in its own time all six originals if bought off the shelf would have come to a whopping 60 cents. With all the stylized and expertly drawn and inked "graphic novels" available today, you might wonder how these stories from the 1950's stand up against today's comics. The answer is, they stand up very well indeed. The artists who contributed to EC were the best in their day, and great art never stops being great. There is actually more of a tension and chilling feeling looking at the retro artwork of these classic reprints simply because of the wonderful penchant they had for making a person look horrified when facing something horrible. The focus and detail on the faces in these stories is remarkable. You see

the fear, the terror, the shock in the wide eyes and twisted expressions as victims realize their worst nightmares are upon them. Every story is set up to have a shock ending. Though sometimes you can predict what it will be, many times I was surprised to find the end was different than what I was expecting. I was ... shocked. Perhaps you are thinking that the stories contained in this volume might be tame by today's standards because of how old they are. That would be a mistaken assumption.

Gemstones EC Archive collection is stunning. This is the gold standard for quality "Archive Collections". Volume 2 of EC comics "Shock Suspense Stories" continues on from volume one with more great art and more "Jolting Tales Of Suspense". As some might be aware, EC comics were the highest quality comics of their time. Best writing, best art, best quality, and the most eye catching covers. Unfortunately for EC, the covers and the interiors happened to catch the eye of a certain Dr. Wertham. Wertham published a book called "Seduction of the Innocent" in which he cited EC comics repeatedly as a contributing factor to the moral decay of 1950s youth.Indeed, in Volume 2 of "Shock Suspense" we see covers portraying a terrified woman with a knife held to her throat as a man hold's her by the hair. We see a man handcuffed to a corpse while vultures eat at the decaying body. And perhaps even more disturbing, a drug addict lying in his bed, screaming, tears running down his face, his drug "paraphernalia" on the table next to him. Strong stuff. Most stories often started innocuously enough, but quickly descended into violent, gory tales with ironic, surprising and "Shocking" endings. Some were tales of racism. Some tales were adaptations of Ray Bradbury stories. In this volume, there are two Bradbury stories. The art on the covers and the interiors is stunning and lush. With talent like Al Feldstein, Jack Kamen, Al Williamson, Wally Wood, Joe Orlando, Reed Crandall, its no wonder EC was the company to beat in quality. This volume reprints Shock Suspense Stories issues 7 through 12 complete, cover to cover. This includes all the "text" stories, the readers' letter section and advertisements. It also has a foreword by Dean Kamen, son of EC artist Jack Kamen.

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