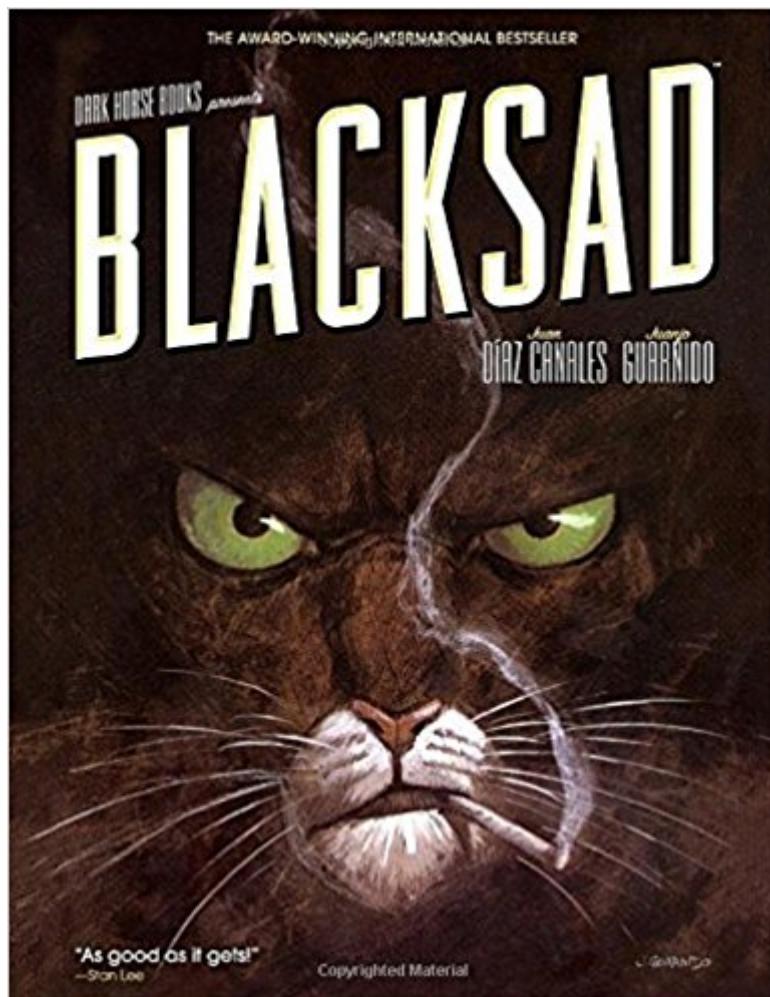


The book was found

Blacksad



Synopsis

Private investigator John Blacksad is up to his feline ears in mystery, digging into the backstories behind murders, child abductions, and nuclear secrets. Guarnido's sumptuously painted pages and rich cinematic style bring the world of 1950s America to vibrant life, with Canales weaving in fascinating tales of conspiracy, racial tension, and the "red scare" Communist witch hunts of the time. Guarnido reinvents anthropomorphism in these pages, and industry colleagues no less than Will Eisner, Jim Steranko, and Tim Sale are fans! Whether John Blacksad is falling for dangerous women or getting beaten to within an inch of his life, his stories are, simply put, unforgettable.* Dark Horse is very proud to present the first three Blacksad stories in a beautiful hardcover collection, completely relettered to the artist's specifications and with the latest album, *Red Soul*, in English for the very first time.* This internationally acclaimed series has won nearly a dozen prestigious awards — including the Angoulême Comics Festival prizes for Best Series and Best Artwork—and is a three-time Eisner Award nominee.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The idea of anthropomorphism has been around for centuries. It has since then become among the most popular methods of storytelling. Proof of that is the wide collection of animated shorts by Disney and Warner Bros. featuring beloved funny animal characters like Mickey Mouse and Bugs Bunny and comics like The Far Side, Garfield, The Smurfs, and, of course, Blacksad, which may be the leading example of modern mature anthropomorphism. The mix of the fine writing of Juan Díaz Canales and the beautiful watercolor art of Juanjo Guarnido is a brilliant concoction that

must be read. This book contains the first 3 volumes in the series. The first one, *Somewhere Within the Shadows* (2000), deals with a murder case involving a former lover of the titular black cat character, John Blacksad, and he hunts down the killer. Next, *Arctic Nation* (2002), which is a kidnapping case that takes place in a suburb with a big racism problem. It also serves as the introduction of Blacksad's weasel sidekick, Weekly, who works for a tabloid magazine. Finally, there's *Red Soul* (2005), where Blacksad uncovers a nuclear conspiracy in which an old friend of his happens to be involved in during the Red Scare in late 1950's America. While the writing is top notch for a crime drama such as this, the highlight is the art style. Like I said earlier, it's absolutely gorgeous. Each panel is like a work of art. Even the dark scenes are lovely to look at. The character designs have a lot of variety and can range from being delightfully cute to tastefully sexy. However, there are some that argue that many of the female characters look too similar to humans, especially the feline ones. While I can see why it would be off putting to some, I still don't think it's such a heavy flaw that makes the whole comic fall apart. It offers enjoyable stories and characters that will satisfy not only crime drama fans but also comic fans in general.

This French comic series is an American crime noir, but done entirely with anthropomorphic animals! Printed out in full-sized album books by Asterisk publisher Dargaud, this was written by Juan Díaz Canales and superbly drawn by former Disney animator Juanjo Guarnido. There have been 5 albums done in Europe, but released so far as 3 in America through Dark Horse Comics, the first 3 of which were collected into a single volume. Blacksad is a black humanoid cat living in an anthro version of our world where he's a former WWII vet now acting as a jack-of-all-trades private eye. The first case we run into has Blacksad investigating the killing of a famous actress he used to date. Next, he teams up with his on-again/off-again partner Weekly, a weasel reporter, to deal with a racial violence in a case with white supremacists, namely animals that are completely white furred/feathered/scaled. The last part of the first volume has Blacksad taking on the task of playing bodyguard to a turtle on a lucky streak in Vegas, which evolves in a Cold War plot with a corrupt senator. The second volume, *A Silent Hell*, sees Blacksad and Weekly in New Orleans during Mardi Gras to hunt for a missing blues musician whose wife is about to give birth to their child, but his benefactor wants him found mostly to cover up a past medical debacle. The third book titled *Amarillo* features Blacksad still touring America after New Orleans, and is first charged with taking a travelers convertible back home, but becomes engrossed with a roaming poet whose actions have lead to a series of violent acts after teaming up with the poet's perky publisher. This series is still going on in France, with future publications said to come in English from Dark Horse. Each story

brilliantly balances the worlds of a gritty detective tale with a look at American society during the 1950s, plus the occasional delve into surrealism and how dreams can wash over into reality. You can read any of the volumes separately on their own, or get all of the visual awesomeness as the intrigue continues.

Great noir comic that takes place in various turbulent times in us history. The first story is a little slow, but after that I couldn't put it down. Mr Canales portrays the emotions and personalitys of his characters through their species and creates an engaging environment for his story to take place.

This book is f&%#ing great. The amount of detail in the drawings is on par with most foreign artists who have a very good eye for architecture and detail. This is great Noir storytelling and any fans of animal comics like Mouse Guard or fans of more adult like comics in line with The Watchmen should like this book just fine. I can't recommend this book enough, it's printed in large format with no visible up-scaling and in Hardcover, and is such a great presentation. If you like the art in this comic, you'll probably like the whole thing.

Good read! Very enjoyable so far, although a hair predictable. very curious to read the next episode! Love the art, especially a cat person like me.

Because the Noir genre isn't a personal favourite, I was attracted to this graphic novel primarily by its artwork. I was therefore pleasantly surprised to find the stories compelling and the characters were developed as richly as they were drawn. Please be aware that this book is NOT for kids; though not gratuitous, there are depictions of sex and violence (as you might see in a PG-13 rated film in this genre). No, it's not a pornographic comic book, it's a detective story set in an alternative world which is, at times, messy, with slippery morals and rough lives lived by sometimes shady individuals. About that alternative world? The gluttons are pigs, the schemers are weasels, the crafty are foxes; in short, the world we see here depicted is populated by various sorts of anthropomorphic animals. A strange deceit? Perhaps. But for my liking, no stranger than the fictional worlds wherein dwell Sith, muggles, or an improbably adventurou archaeologist battling Nazis over the Ark of the Covenant. With caveats as noted above, highly recommended.

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