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James Bond Volume 1: VARGR (James Bond 007)



Synopsis

After a mission of vengeance in Helsinki, James Bond returns to London and assumes the workload of a fallen 00 Section agent. His new mission takes him to Berlin, presumably to break up an agile drug-trafficking operation. But Bond has no idea of the forces ranged in secret against him, the full range of an operation that's much scarier and more lethal than he could possibly imagine. Berlin is about to catch fire... and James Bond is trapped inside. Dynamite Entertainment proudly presents VARGR, the debut storyline in the all-new James Bond comic book series, as crafted by masterful writer Warren Ellis (Transmetropolitan, The Authority) and artist Jason Masters (Batman Incorporated, Guardians of the Galaxy).

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Customer Reviews

From the publisher: After a mission of vengeance in Helsinki, James Bond returns to London and assumes the workload of a fallen 00 Section agent. His new mission takes him to Berlin, presumably to break up an agile drug-trafficking operation. But Bond has no idea of the forces ranged in secret against him, the full range of an operation that's much scarier and more lethal than he could possibly imagine. Berlin is about to catch fire... and James Bond is trapped inside. Dynamite Entertainment proudly presents VARGR, the debut storyline in the all-new James Bond comic book series, as crafted by masterful writer Warren Ellis (Transmetropolitan, The Authority) and artist Jason Masters (Batman Incorporated, Guardians of the Galaxy). Vargr, the new James Bond comic by Warren Ellis for Dynamite Entertainment, is awesome. It is basically a James Bond

movie in comic form, minus the theme song. There is a femme fatale, a crazy villain, a strange henchman, and an action-filled opening. After 008 is killed, James Bond is assigned one of his open cases. This leads him to Germany, where he is to meet a CIA asset to discuss a drug issue. It's potentially a quick case; he doesn't even get armed with any of Q's fun gadgets. However, things don't go as planned, and the mission quickly goes sideways. Soon, it's up to Bond to connect a former Nazi with the mysterious drug that is devouring junkies from the inside out. Ellis perfectly captures the pace and dialogue of the newer Bond movies. With appearances by Q, M, and Miss Money Penny, the whole cast of familiar characters is here. Ellis has created just enough backstory for the various villains to make them believable. He has kept the witty dialogue (no "shaken, not stirred" though), particularly between Bond and Money Penny.

A writer would have to be fairly hubristic to take on the Bond franchise; certainly, Warren Ellis has never appeared to lack confidence. And while *Vargr* does succeed to quite an extent, there is something almost generic about the short stories contained within. A snarky non-descript Bond who flaunts authority and never really falls into any of the Bond actor categories (e.g., Connery, Moore, etc.). And perhaps that is the key ingredient missing: the story doesn't take the character too seriously, reverentially, or from canon. This is a Fleming Bond predating the Broccoli films with all the strengths and weaknesses that entails. Story: *Vargr* begins in Helsinki, where Bond tracks down the killer of 008. This segues into a job involving a drug running operation that was 008's assignment and now falls to 007. But there is a lot more involved than it appears and Bond will be drawn into a world of cybernetics and world domination. The use of "Ian Fleming" in the title is important to pointing out the inspiration of this book: this is the 1960s James Bond and not the cult of personality movie characters we are more used to in modern times. The illustration work is almost 1940s noirish: square cut and unremarkable features that are very anachronistic in a modern setting. I almost wish that Bond was operating in a 1960s milieu rather than the modern setting; it's jarring and unrealistic to see a 'secret agent' running around in a suit and tie straight from *Mad Men* but in 2016. The book contains a full story arc and then several sub arcs leading to the main plot. As a whole, there's nothing new here under the sun.

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