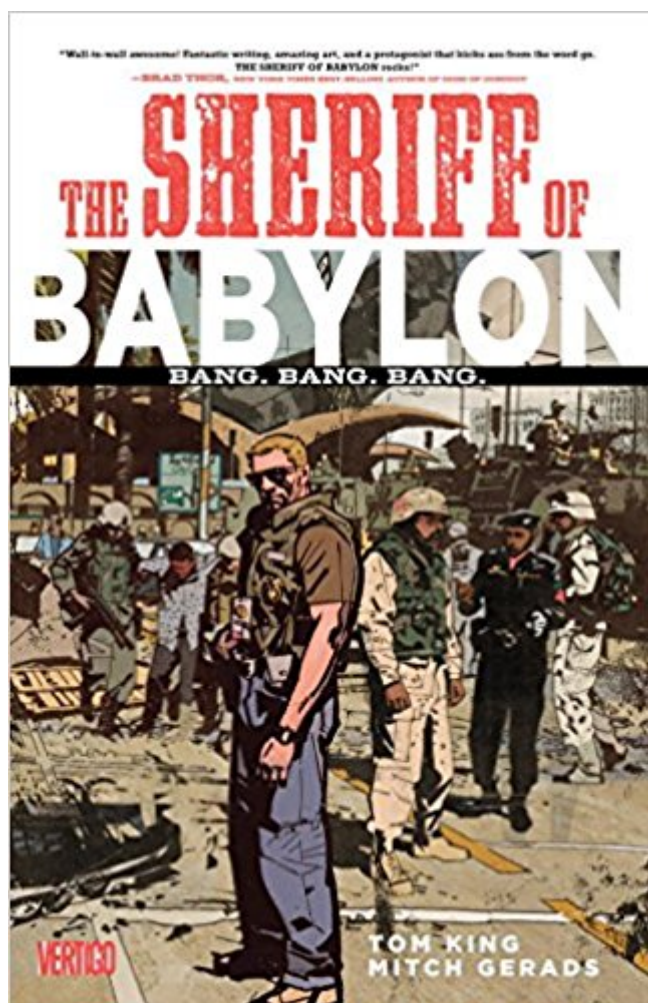


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# The Sheriff Of Babylon Vol. 1: Bang. Bang. Bang.



## Synopsis

One of the most poignant retellings of the Iraq War, Tom King's critically acclaimed series *SHERIFF OF BABYLON* begins here, in Baghdad, 2003. The reign of Saddam Hussein is over. The Americans are in command, and no one is in control. Former cop turned military contractor Christopher Henry knows that better than anyone. He's in the country to train up a new Iraqi police force, and one of his recruits has just been murdered. With civil authority in tatters and dead bodies clogging the streets, Chris is the only person in the Green Zone with any interest in finding out who killed him—and why. Chris's inquiry brings him first to Sofia, an American-raised Iraqi who now sits on the governing council, and then to Nassir, a grizzled veteran of Saddam's police force—and probably the last real investigator left in Baghdad. United by death but divided by conflicting loyalties, the three must help each other navigate the treacherous landscape of post-invasion Iraq in order to hunt down the killers. But are their efforts really serving justice—or a much darker agenda? Inspired by his real-life experiences as a CIA operations officer in Iraq, writer Tom King (*BATMAN*) teams with artist Mitch Gerads to deliver a wartime crime thriller like no other in *THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON VOL. 1: BANG. BANG. BANG.*, collecting issues #1-6 of their groundbreaking Vertigo series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Wall-to-wall awesome! Fantastic writing, amazing art, and a protagonist that kicks ass

from the word Go. THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON rocks! • Brad Thor, #1 New York Times best-selling author of Code of Conduct "THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON #1 is the best military comic I've ever read." • Kevin Maurer, journalist and co-author of the New York Times bestseller No Easy Day "A clever, twisting and blood-slick crime story in a place as hot and dry and lethal as any classic noir." • Warren Ellis, writer of TRANSMETROPOLITAN and Injection "Captures the volatility and cynical realpolitik of post-invasion Baghdad." • The Guardian "Breathtaking." • Comic Book Resources

Tom King is a comic book writer and novelist, best known for his work at DC Comics including BATMAN, GRAYSON and OMEGA MEN. He often relies on his experience as an ex-CIA agent and experiences during the recent conflicts in the Middle East in his writing, especially apparent in GRAYSON (alongside co-writer Tim Seeley), OMEGA MEN and in SHERIFF OF BABYLON, published under the Vertigo imprint.

This is almost certainly my favorite new comic of 2016 (the first issue was released in December of 2015). Tom King's work on this is so good that I am going to check out some his other work (even on superheroes, which I've pretty much given up on). This is the story set in February of 2004 in Iraq with three main characters. Chris is an American cop who is working as a contractor training Iraqis to become police officers. Sofia is an Iraqi woman who was raised in America but has returned to Baghdad to hold a seat on the governing council. Nassir is an investigator who has been out of work since the advent of the war. All three come together because one of Chris's trainees is killed and he wants to find out what happens. He talks to Sofia who refers him to Nassir. Of course, they walk into something that is more than they bargained for. Because this is a war zone, there are multiple sides with conflicting motivations. It is hard to figure out the truth and even more so to find a true ally and stay safe. The artwork is fantastic.

Tom King has been knocking it out of the park the last few years, launching critical darlings like the Omega Men, Vision, and this, Sheriff of Babylon. Tom King is Ex-CIA, and his work with this story is fantastic. Set in Iraq in 2004, King explores what the new regime of Iraq really looks like. The main character in this story is Christopher Henry, a military officer in charge of training the new Iraqi police force. When one of his men winds up murdered in the street, Chris attempts to learn what happened. Backing him up are Sofia, an Iraqi-American working to restore Iraq, and Nassir, an

Ex-Iraqi police turned fixer. King's history with the CIA gives him some impressive insight into these characters, as well as the minor characters that surround. However, I will say it takes two issues before you start to get a sense of what's going on, as their introduction is a bit of a jumble until the later issues give context. This book really gives you a sense of how well King understands the comic medium. He shifts grid layouts frequently, and always to enhance the action on a given page. The occasional art shifts provide some great Middle-Eastern flavor as well. I think part 2 of this series is going to be great. All I can say is, check out this series.

We deal with history by forgetting it. The dark past of slavery and its echoes into the present is pushed aside as often as possible. The Iraq war is pushed aside as a mistake, by the second worst President in modern history. The Sheriff of Babylon is a graphic trip into the ugly past of the Iraq war and the G.W. Bush administration's disastrous attempt to make a new Iraq. The book is set in a time when the Shia and Sunni death squads are starting to rise. Families are being brutally killed as the resistance to the US occupation is solidifying. The art in this graphic novel is good. The main character is a man consumed by guilt, who has gone to Iraq to try to make amends, only to discover that Iraq is a quagmire descending into surreal violence. The Iraqis are also well drawn. Sometimes with the dark past of working as part of Saddam's murderous machinery of repression. Other times as proud people who are angered by the US occupation. The result of all this is a dark and violent graphic novel with few heroes. Everyone is compromised.

Great plot twists

Great Book

Great series for adult comic book readers

A don't care if you call it a comic or graphic novel. Bottom line is this piece of visual and written art is masterful. From the story line to the scenes of international escapism, you are there. It's about as realistic as you get with great characters and tales from the front.

Interesting read from different views. Great draw.

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