



Sex Criminals, Vol. 4: Fourgy!

Matt Fraction , Chip Zdarsky (Contributor)

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Everybody's favorite sex-having, time-freezing, bank-robbing crew of lovable love-misfits come together and ask themselves the big question: are we still into this? THE ANSWER MIGHT SURPRISE YOU (if you think the answer is no).

-Part romance, part sex comedy, and part heist drama, [SEX CRIMINALS] manages to turn a story about two lovers who rob banks with orgasms into the most emotionally realistic and relatable sex comic ever made.- -- Wired Magazine

Collects issues #16-20.

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Author : Matt Fraction , Chip Zdarsky (Contributor)

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From Reader Review Sex Criminals, Vol. 4: Fourgy! for online ebook

Morgan says

There are still funny moments in Sex Criminals, but lately they seemed to tame the book down with the humor and with this comic book it doesn't really work. I like the fact there is a story going on, but not much happens in this volume. I think one of the highlights is the parody with Ed Brubaker and Sean Phillips' comic book Criminal. Never in my life I'd think someone would parody their work, especially that comic book, but well done. This volume let me want to know what happens next, but I hope there's more humor and action.

I also found the fake interview at the end hilarious.

Kevin Kelsey says

It's slightly meandering at this point, but still such a great comic. I'm enjoying all the new(er) secondary characters, and the trajectories they're heading toward.

Also, Matt and Chip actually published five comics in six consecutive months, after the one issue that came out last year, I'm super proud of them.

Zedsdead says

[--John and Suzy meet with the Semen

Ashley says

A character in this wears a "Pobody's Nerfect" t-shirt*, and that was the thing I was most amused by, so that should tell you my overall feelings about it, if the rating hasn't already.

**PSA: Watch The Good Place. It is a damn delight.*

This is the first volume of this series that I haven't really enjoyed in full. Parts of it were engaging but mostly I found it depressing and uninteresting. That may be just me right now, or it might be the series having an identity crisis (which it's been having since volume three, actually), or it might be entirely intentional and I'm just not into it right now. I don't know.

I know John has ISSUES, but he is honestly infuriating to me right now and I am 1000% in support of Suzie and her actions. Also, Kegelface is THE WORST. I am tired of her whole thing. And her face. And how she calls herself a Sexual Cop.

Basically, I like it the most when this series is fun with a dash of reality/hard stuff, not when it's mostly hard stuff with some fun thrown in also. Maybe this is just one of those times where I will like it more once I see what happens after, and I hope that is the case. I like liking things and don't like not liking things.

Michelle says

Man, I don't know. This series has just kind of gone downhill for me, sadly. Partly, the novelty has worn off, but I feel like Fraction has kind of written himself into a corner.

My two pet peeves with the series so far is:

? I feel like there's too much time dedicated to the side characters and their relationships. I can appreciate Fraction wanting to widen the scope of this series, but I don't feel like these side threads add anything to the main narrative (other than contributing to the frank discussions about sex).

? Kegelface is still on Suzie and Jon's trail, but there was no development on that front. I feel like Fraction is treading water on this too much.

Some things that I liked:

? The developments in Jon and Suzie's relationship felt very genuine and true to life. Things are getting serious and the baggage they're both carrying really starts to show in this volume.

? I fucking love Zdarsky's art. The colouring is especially good.

? This series continues to have little quirks and idiosyncrasies that are really fun (ie. the thought bubbles knocking into people in the restaurant scene)

Overall, despite having some elements that I liked, this volume was just 'okay' for me. I'll continue to read the series because there's so much in it that I like, but I hope I enjoy the next volume more than this one.

Sam Quixote says

This comic. This fucking comic. Sex Crimz is back on form with the brilliantly titled Volume 4: Fourgy!

Story-wise there isn't much happening and that's my only complaint about this book. Essentially it's still Sex Criminals vs Sex Cops but there's barely any conflict between them here. Kegelface fucks with Ana's teaching job and... that's it.

But that doesn't mean it's a slow read either because the character stuff is really good. Jon and Suzie's relationship has its ups and downs and we learn more about Jon's mental state. It doesn't sound like much when I try to summarise it but it's something else to read for yourself. The most satisfying aspect of this series is how convincingly and realistically Matt Fraction has captured their relationship.

There's maybe a bit too much time devoted to the other couples in the series, Ana and Dave/Doug, and Rach and Robert – their stories feel superfluous – but they're also pretty cool characters so it evens out.

A new character appears with a new sex power: the ability to bring fuck-Smurfs to life! The character was well-written and funny but I hope Sex Crimz doesn't go the way of Chew where a new weirdo/superpower gets introduced in every book until it gets annoying. This dude's a mobile hot-dog salesman whose "wide weiners" are popular with the kids - I feel like Fraction/Chip Zdarsky included him just so they could have a scene with kids yelling that they want wide weiners! And the wide weiners theme song is so amusingly silly.

I may not think much of his writing but Chip Zdarsky is an outstanding artist. There's a Kegelface issue written and drawn in the style of Brubaker/Phillips and Zdarsky's pastiche on Sean Phillips' art is really quite accurate (as is Fraction's take on Brubaker's noirish, clipped writing style). The characters' facial expressions are perfect throughout (heh, Zdarsky does good facials) and the page crammed full of panels showing Ana's preparation for the porn-con was remarkably detailed. I love that panel in the restaurant when Dave/Doug gives a lengthy speech to Ana and the exposition literally knocks the background characters around – that playfulness and creativity is one of the best aspects of this title. And the Sexual Gary running gag is still funny.

The thing is that those jokes are memorable at the expense of an unmemorable story (why is Jon appearing in a Hulk parody play again??). I'm much more invested in Jon and Suzie's relationship than the half-assed revenge(ish?) story being attempted between the cops and the crimz.

Still, Fourgy! is a very entertaining and fun read and there's a lot here fans will love!

Artemy says

Sex Crimbos are back!.. But, unfortunately, not quite with a bang (hehe, bang).

Jon and Suzie keep having troubles in their relationship, the shrink (Doug? Dave?) finds a new love interest, Ana Kincaid goes to a porn convention to make a quick (and embarrassing) buck, Kegelface is still Kegelface, and there's a new cum-time-stopper in town. In other words, we have a filler volume! It does pick up the pace and goes heavy on the emotions close to the end, but most of 'Fourgy' just wasn't very exciting story-wise.

There was a whole issue that was a parody of Ed Brubaker's and Sean Phillips's comic 'Criminal'. They even got Elizabeth Breitweiser as a guest colourist, while Zdarsky did his best Sean Phillips impression so that the comic would look just like Brubaker's classic. While it was pretty funny as a gag, I didn't quite understand the point of it, and why it had to be a Criminal parody — just for the sake of making a Criminal parody, I guess. The issue is focused on the aforementioned new character, another time-stopper, and I've got to be honest — I didn't get his entire storyline, not just in that particular issue, but in the whole book. The guy has some weird fetish where he can only come when... people step on dolls, I guess? It's really confusing. And then his unique power that manifests when time stops just completely went over my head. I guess he summons some clay... dolls?... with huge dicks, and they have a mind of their own, or something? And at some point they appear in Jon and Suzie's bed, and that whole scene doesn't really go anywhere? And then the guy's story takes another equally confusing turn at the end of the book, which I won't even try to explain. Damn, Matt Fraction, are you trying to channel Grant Morrison here or something? What the shit was that!

The volume is saved a bit by some touching emotional moments in the last couple of issues, and the ending promises some much more exciting plots in the next book, but knowing Fraction's problems with sticking to the schedule, and Zdarsky's ever increasing workload over at Marvel, nobody knows for sure when we are even going to get the next one.

At least Chip is still on top of his game. His artwork keeps being vibrant and expressive, some splash pages and double spreads look downright beautiful, and there was a particular 64-panel silent page which was probably the best single page in this entire book, it was absolutely brilliant. And if you've read Sex Criminals before, you know that Zdarsky packs every background in almost every panel with hilarious (mostly dirty) jokes, and those are as funny as ever. He drew a porno convention, for chrissake! If you've read Sex Criminals, you can imagine how many visual gags you can expect just from that scene alone.

Overall, Sex Criminals Volume 4: Fourgy! was kind of a letdown. This is still one of my favourite comics ever just for the sheer brilliance of the first two volumes, but I feel like the series is running out of fuel. Maybe it's time to wrap SexCrimz up while it still hasn't entirely gone to shit, eh, chums?

Maggie Gordon says

Sex Criminals consistently manages to talk about sex and relationships in a surprisingly nuanced fashion for a story that involves being able to stop time through orgasms. Volume 4 gets us deeper into the characters, but I must admit that I felt like the story is dragging. Jon has problems. Shocking. We're not really digging into them, but wallowing in what we already know. Suzie is sick of this shit, good on her. Dr. Kincaid and Dave go on a date, but the scenes feel lecture-y. Which, to be fair, is unsurprising for Kincaid, but I admit to be sensitive to narratives that end up feeling like classes rather than stories. There's a new dude with strange sex golems and his entire story doesn't make much sense. This volume meanders, touching on too many things and not leading anywhere much. Hopefully the next book bounces back to its full awesome self!

Stewart Tame says

I find the tone of Sex Criminals fascinating. In some ways, it's the first "adult" comic book I've read that's truly adult. Certainly depictions of genitalia and graphic drawings of sex (much more graphic than Sex Criminals has, thus far, been, I might add) are relatively common. But there's a difference. Even the best of the sex comics--Phil & Kaja Foglio's XXXenophile, Colleen Coover's Small Favors, Birdland by the Hernandez brothers, much of Milo Manara's work (particularly Click! and Butterscotch)--are intended to arouse. They may be highly entertaining and readable and even funny, but, at the end of the day, part of their intent is to get the reader horny--as the tagline on the cover of one issue of XXXenophile puts it, "Tales of One-Fisted Adventure!" There have been other attempts to downplay the sex and bring the story forward over the years--Reed Waller and Kate Worley's Omaha the Cat Dancer, Howard Chaykin's Black Kiss--but they still linger over the bedroom antics (not that that's a bad thing, by the way.) Sex Criminals is the first comic I've read where the characters have sex on panel and it's not ... leered at. It's just part of the story. The characters have powers that manifest at the moment of orgasm, so of course sex is going to come into it, but it's not the point of the story, just kind of ... there. The story is more about relationships and the sometimes complicated desires and attitudes that people have towards sex. And it's extremely funny (Fraction? Zdarsky? That hot dog truck with the Wide Weiners jingle? You know you're going to Hell for that, right? Just saying ...)

Sex Criminals is definitely worth reading. Highly recommended!

Madalyn (Novel Ink) says

After not loving volume three, I was a little hesitant going into this one, but I shouldn't have been. This series, y'all. I laughed out loud at least five times while reading this volume. There are some HYSTERICAL moments here, and I also really dig where the plot is headed.

Chad says

Nothing happens in this thing. It's like one long masturbatory session (which I guess is appropriate given the series) where Fraction tries to draw the story out as much as he can. The series has definitely lost the spark of the first year of stories. Chip Zdarsky's detailed panels almost make up for the lack of story though. His art is consistently fantastic.

Anthony says

Delays are hurting this a bit, especially since I'm reading it in singles, but I still enjoy it whenever it does come out. This is more "serious" and less funny arc, shit is getting real for the characters. It's still good though.

Julie Ehlers says

Not much happened to move the main plot forward, but it's still interesting, and it seems that some intriguing stuff is being set up for next time, so I'm still on board.

Chris says

On one hand, I still love Sex Criminals. When it's good, it's *really good* and still has that special something that made the series one of my favourites to begin with. On the other hand, Fourgy (heh, 'Fourgy') is the second slightly-disappointing volume in a row and i'm worried that the spark may be fading.

Chip Zdarsky's artwork and Matt Fraction's characterisation are still great and I know i'm so invested that i'll continue reading in spite of any doubts I may have. But this is still the second weaker volume where the story has barely moved forward. I'm all for character interaction and progression and the way Fraction has created a comic where *anything* sexual and psychological can be discussed with ease is nothing short of remarkable. However, it feels like something is missing and instead of enjoying the series like I used to, I find myself flipping back and forth between praise and "it's not as good as it used to be!".

Ultimately, i'm still a fan of the series (I mean, there's an issue called 'Down With the Thickness') and Fourgy

(lol, 'Fourgy') was still a solid read. I just hope that the fifth volume is on a par with the first two and not this and Three the Hard Way. Fingers crossed.

Chris Lemmerman says

Phew, that was heavy. Sex Criminals gets super-real as Suzie and Jon face up to their feelings for each other (and lack thereof), while Dr. Kincaid and Jon's psychiatrist grow closer, Kegelface makes her move, and another new Sex Criminal makes himself known in the weirdest way possible.

What began as a silly little book that didn't take itself too seriously has taken a very dark, but natural, turn and this volume is the next in the logical progression. I'm definitely curious to see where these characters go next, especially given the conclusion.

Meanwhile, Chip Zdarsky's art remains humorous without taking liberties, and still managing to look very realistic. It's exactly what Fraction's story needs.
