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Based on the short story by George R.R. Martin, bestselling author of *A Game of Thrones*, *Meathouse Man* is a darkly poignant tale set on a collection of planets called corpse worlds. On these planets, corpse handlers transmit their wills to an army of brainless bodies—once living people now rendered expendable. Perversion abounds as these corpses are exposed to appalling conditions at the whim of handlers.

The grim story follows one such handler—a man who remains nameless—through his teenage years and into adulthood, across corpse brothels, monotonous jobs, heartbreak, and betrayals. His increased detachment from reality becomes a spiraling descent into rejection and desensitization to the horrors around him. Set among towering buildings, giant rolling planetary processing units, and vast forest terrains on several different worlds, this journey serves as a modern fable of warning and a fascinating exploration of an alternate world perhaps not so different from our own.

This comic contains explicit content and is recommended for mature readers.

## Meathouse Man Details

Date : Published October 14th 2014 by Jet City Comics (first published June 1976)

ISBN : 9781477848845

Author : Raya Golden (Adapter & Illustrator) , George R.R. Martin

Format : Paperback

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Horror, Science Fiction, Graphic Novels, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Meathouse Man for online ebook

### Sidsel Pedersen says

I read this as part of my Hugo Award reading, it was part of the Hugo voting package. I do not think I would have ever picked it up otherwise. Gritty dystopian fiction, not my cup of tea.

I will say up front, I did not like it – at all! I really tried to give it a chance, but it creeped me out – and not in a good way.

The protagonist is a very hopeful young man, who likes to have sex with animated corpses. Great right! The story is about him seeking a normal relationship with a live woman, and not having much luck of it. To me the story was depressing and very icky. He has sex with corpse on multiple occasions on screen so to speak. He tries to find another woman like the woman he was in love with when he was in his early twenties, wasting all his life seeking something he clearly can't find. I didn't find it to be exploring any interesting issues. To me it was just hopeless.

The art style is not really my cup of tea either. Everyone is ugly in that 80s/early 90s way – it to me the art style seems dated.

I am sorry, but this just left me cold and creeped out. I didn't give it 1 star, because the craft isn't bad, it just really isn't to my taste. I am frankly a bit disturbed by it.

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### Zombieslayer/Alienhunter {merry wanderer of the night} says

For a book I had to wait more than a year to get, George R.R. Martin's *Meathouse Man* was very underwhelming.

The reviews that didn't describe it as 'vulgar' or 'explicit', described it as 'a gore-filled tale of sex and lust'. Yeah, no.

It's pretty much just this lonely guy who goes to a dead-woman-whore house and decides, then and there, he'll find love.

So, he gets his heart broken by two girls, one of whom he doesn't even get to sleep with, and goes back to 'the meathouse'.

I won't spoil the ending, but it's the same as the rest of the book; boring and repetitive with very little of what the blurb promises.

I hate that I didn't like this, but at least I know now that I \*probably\* won't ever read *Game of Thrones*. I do have a few compliments, however.

The art was *really* cool, especially the steam-punk elements of the corpse machinery and all the near-future equipment.

Raya Golden is a talented artist and I may look into other stuff she illustrated.

The setting of the book was also pretty cool, all the different planets and their different cultures.

It wasn't the worst comic I've read.

I just wish I hadn't spent months upon months waiting for it.

I will, however, be keeping it so I can *try* to freehand copy a few of the illustrations.

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### **mark monday says**

really it should say "Meathouse Man by Raya Golden (adapted from a short story by George R.R. Martin)" because this is all Raya Golden all the time. adapted by, art by, cover design by Raya Golden. who is this Raya Golden? I dunno, and I'm not sure I care to learn more.

some striking panels, particularly in a gladiator battle featuring a morning star. but mainly the art is vivid but technically clunky. terrible job on the faces: the protagonist looks completely different panel-by-panel. the cover made me cringe and not in a good way. wait, is there ever a good way to cringe? the adaptation itself is also often clunky and broad and overly self-conscious in its attempt to reach for meaning. there's a self-indulgent quality to the entire story, although I suppose that is GRRM's fault: lonely, soul-deadened man spends his depressing existence trying to find love but always failing; finally, after achieving some professional success, he realizes that the zombie sexbots that he's visited throughout his life are his preferred romantic option after all. ta-da! and done. what with the almost unbearably nihilistic atmosphere of zombie slaves being common labor (of all sorts) in the far, far future, it's just too easy having that bleak setting paired with mr. depressing teen angst turned loser adult. it's like wearing a black shirt and tie under a black suit. enough already! I imagine a blithe Candide-type traversing this dark landscape, and suddenly the story sounds a lot more interesting. ah well.

still, despite the overall lameness, one more star awarded simply because GRRM's imagination is such a fascinatingly dank and fertile place. plus that morning star was pretty cool. now I'm going to go look at my own former morning star that I broke as a child, swinging it into a wall. I took the snapped chain off and just attached the spiked head to the club. now it's a mace, yay? childhood was all about making lemonade outta lemons, sigh.

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### **Cale says**

This is a short but dense graphic (in both senses of the word) retelling of a George R.R. Martin short story. A dark parable about the lie of love, it uses Trager, a fresh young corpse-driver (controlling brainless bodies to do tasks) to explore various aspects of love as he grows. There are some meaty parallels and intimations, and the artwork here is amazing (the cityscapes especially), although it is definitely not suitable for younger audiences (who won't get the point anyway). As much as it is in a science fiction setting, this is really all about introspection, as a person defines love for himself and tries to achieve it. It is disturbing, from the meathouse of the title to his last work, but that just drives the point home harder.

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### **Joe says**

Super f&Yking messed up. George RR Martin's take on sexuality makes me want to take a shower.

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## Benjamin Stahl says

First time reading Martin. Probably won't get round to *Game of Thrones* until another forty years or so cause I'm a hipster like that. This story was pretty good though. Kind of gross but well worth the read. Obviously, as it states in the beginning, he was brokenhearted when he wrote it:

"Of all the bright cruel lies they tell you, the cruelest is the one called love".

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## Jennifer says

I haven't read George R.R. Martin's short story, so I'm not sure if the mediocrity of the writing is due to the source material, or the adaptation. I honestly think that this could've been an interesting, high concept story if the ideas, and more importantly, the characters were fleshed out. However, the language is clunky, and I couldn't sympathize at all with the main character, even though the theme of searching for love and meaningful relationships in a f\*cked up universe (expletive because the corpse manipulation is pretty messed up) should be universal. Considering that the short story was originally written years ago, the ideas might have been more novel then than now, but reading *Meathouse Man* now just reminded me of how Joss Whedon's *Dollhouse* explores these themes much better without causing a gag-reflex reaction to necrophilia scenes. As for the art, I liked some of the less structured panels, but I didn't love the drawing or coloring.

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## Literary Ames {Against GR Censorship} says

This is some fucked up shit. **Misogynistic** and **necrophilic** fucked up shit. With illustrations. My **inner feminist is vibrating with rage** and is drawing **disturbing** comparisons with serial killer Elliot Rodger.

The meathouse is a whorehouse whose 'whores' are dead women, most of whom are former criminals and debtors although some have been kidnapped and killed precisely to be commodified by transforming them into brainless undead prostitutes. Outside of the meathouses, corpses are used as workers directed by handlers (read: puppeteers), similar to what The People do with vampires in Ilona Andrews's Kate Daniels series. The entertainment industry is dominated by corpse fights like the gladiators of old, their handlers manipulating them like 3-D real world video game characters.

Greg succumbs to peer pressure by patronising a meathouse where he falls in love with a corpse-whore and thus begins an obsession. The explicit artwork of this graphic novel makes it all the sicker. **Necrophilic rape porn imagery** is not something I want to see. And the illustrations aren't even good - it's quite grotesque actually, although that may be intentional.

Anyway, Greg decides he deserves better than an undead woman and proceeds to wait for a living, breathing woman. He meets one, he falls in love and she rejects him. He moves to another planet, meets a woman, falls in love, they're happy for a time, then she dumps him for his best friend. From here on out he hates women. Love is a cruel lie. He turns to the occupation he once shunned: gladiator-corpse handler. Turns out he's excellent at bloodily dismantling his opponents from the comfort of his 'throne' as the crowds cheer him on.

I know George R.R. Martin is a man who loves to write controversial storylines. *A Song of Fire and Ice* gets a pass in my eyes due to historical and cultural accuracy. *Meathouse Man*, on the other hand, is set in the

distant future when man has colonized multiple planets. One would hope such pervasive and socially acceptable misogyny and disrespect for the dead would be but a distant memory by this time.

I'm shocked and disappointed that this is a **2014 Hugo Award Best Graphic Novel Nominee**.

*\*Read for free via the LonCon3 Hugo Voter Pack.*

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### **Amy says**

The second page of the story elicited an oral, "Whaaaaaaaaaaa....?!" Page 5-ish made one of the most disturbing paraphilias a little less repugnant, at least for the purposes of this story; if you're tempted to put it down after page 2, if you like the genre try just a couple more pages. (This is not to say that the story was not disturbing or somehow all right or acceptable in any healthy person's view.) Keyword is story, follow that up with fictitious, and a very dark view of a dystopian future (whether ours or a parallel evolution) has been rendered. Complete with pictures. Pictures I don't need to see again...

Underneath it is the story of a man who knows he can be, and wants to be better. He tries. He gives up. It's because of this pattern of quitting his career at the end of the story so ironic (I won't reveal it here, don't want to leave spoilers).

Yes, as many reviews of the graphic novel have mentioned, misogyny runs through the course of the story, both in plot and picture. However, in the case of Meathouse Man, I believe that it was purposefully included to tell the story and cast a proper light on the bleakness of the world of the protagonist. I have railed against authors in previous reviews because of blatant misogyny screaming at me from the pages. I feel you can tell when the personal beliefs or views of writer come blasting through their prose vs. when a message is being sent. I wasn't offended by the misogyny in Meathouse Man because it felt like it was being used as a device not only of description, but of warning - to tell us to watch out where things could be going.

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### **Eba Martin says**

No sé, me he quedado un poco fría con esta historia, larga y corta a la vez, como si le faltara por un lado y le sobrara por el otro.

Desde luego, no tiene nada que ver con JDT ni con otras historias que he leído suyas. Esta es de ciencia ficción pura y dura, con enormes ecos de Card y su saga de Ender.

En fina, que no sé qué decir porque me ha chafado un poco y no he conseguido emocionarme ni empatizar con nada de la historia y el final me ha resultado de lo más tonto aunque vaya con moraleja. Aunque veáis esa nota, no os la recomiendo.

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### **Johnathan says**

Wow a lot of people calling this book misogynistic. I feel like those people either don't know what misogyny is or missed the point of the book entirely. The message of the book isn't any sort of message against women. It is trying to speak against the concept of "finding your one true love" and saying that life isn't fair. It's not too deep in my opinion, but it definitely isn't a hateful message. Also, I just want to point out that just

because a story depicts a bad world, a world where what is socially accepted isn't what you personally find okay, that doesn't mean it is a bad book. So it is a bit silly to give a book low ratings because the world it takes place in is too mean. Anyway, I give this book 3 stars. I liked the concepts in the book, and really enjoyed the world building, but I felt that the world could have been fleshed out a lot more, and I would have liked a more complex story.

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### **Dan says**

Apparently there's some differences between some comic adaptation of this and the written story version Martin actually wrote.

That or there's confusion on the point.

The version I read was the text version. It's certainly not for the squeamish but I don't think it's at all sexist or promoting necrophilia. The whole point is you're to be disgusted by those things.

It's a surprisingly layered story that actually had a message. The message in the story itself is one I feel you're supposed to reject, or at least give you pause. The point of this doesn't seem like gleeful nihilism. It's a critique of horrible aspects of the story. Good horror can do that.

It's also was pretty impressive for melding together science fiction world building and horror.

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### **Trevor Firetog says**

I loved this comic-book! It captured the essence of the story perfectly. However, if you haven't read George R.R. Martin's original story, you most likely won't appreciate the comic. It is VERY graphic. Get prepared for George R.R. Martin's dark, twisted side.

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### **Joseph Szabo says**

Incredibly pessimistic. It doesn't make it false or any less brilliant.

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### **Olivia says**

So disturbing, so misogynistic.

Read it 3 times in a row.

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