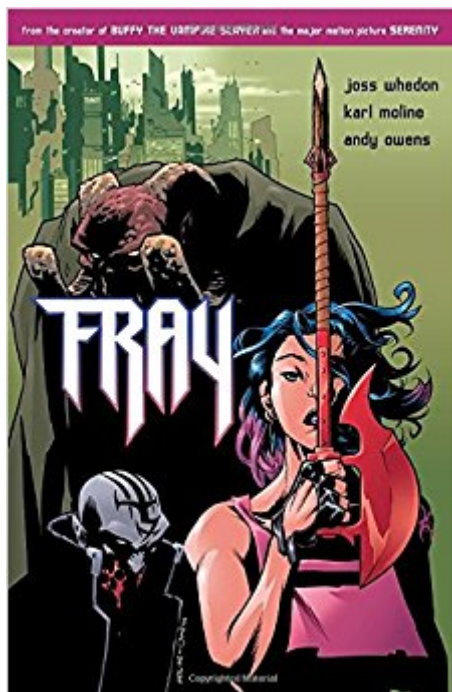


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Fray



Synopsis

Hundreds of years in the future, Manhattan has become a deadly slum, run by mutant crime-lords and disinterested cops. Stuck in the middle is a young girl who thought she had no future, but learns she has a great destiny. In a world so poisoned that it doesn't notice the monsters on its streets, how can a street kid like Fray unite a fallen city against a demonic plot to consume mankind? Joss Whedon, the celebrated creator of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, brings his vision to the future in this unique tale. As inventive in the comics medium as in that of television or film, Whedon spins a complex tale of a skilled thief coming of age without the help of friends or family, guided only by a demonic Watcher.* Joss Whedon, creator of Fray and Buffy the Vampire Slayer, has been nominated for Nebula, Hugo and Emmy Awards as well as an Oscar!

Book Information

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Dark Horse Books (December 9, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1569717516

ISBN-13: 978-1569717516

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.4 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 120 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,027 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Contemporary Women #111 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Dark Horse #149 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Comic Strips

Customer Reviews

Readers familiar with the film Blade Runner will recognize similar elements in Melaka Fray's futuristic world: lots of darkness, grit and flying cars. Buffy the Vampire Slayer creator Whedon admits he isn't trying to reinvent a vision of the future; he reserves his enormous talent for creating heroines possessing superhuman talent and enough spunk and charisma to bewitch the most skeptical audience. Tough but reluctant vampire-fighter Fray lives in the bad part of town and makes a living doing heists for Gunther, a blue and scaly criminal operator who directs operations while submerged in a living-room-sized tank. So when an enormous, goat-hoofed demon shows up at Fray's apartment, she's not terribly fazed, but she certainly isn't ready for his message: she, Melaka Fray, is destined to kill vampires. Where Fray comes from, vampires are known as "lurks,"

and a horrific incident in which they killed her brother has left her leery of the whole lot of them. Furthermore, Fray's had none of the dreams or visions that are the slayer's usual preparation for a lifetime of fighting and sacrifice. All things considered, she's not interested. However, when one of Fray's close friends is also wiped out, she's drawn into the battle despite her better judgment. From then on, it's futuristic war, as the story takes some delicious, unexpected twists involving siblings and betrayals. Whedon's trademark nail-biting plot reversals, tossed-off jokes and surprisingly complex relationships characterize the book, and Moline and Owens' art brings a wholly absorbing gut-level edge to Fray's world. It's a stunning, irresistible package. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Adult/High School-The heart and power of this story comes from its central character, Melaka Fray. She is a thief and reluctant Slayer, severed from her heritage by her twin brother and estranged from her sister for letting him die. She gets a scythe and some help from a demon and is told to save humanity. The art is colorful and effective, ably conveying a sense of Melaka's world. Characters' expressions are well done, enhancing the effect of Whedon's snappy dialogue. However, when there's no action and characters are just talking, the background sometimes disappears, leaving them in a colored void. Melaka is as appealing a heroine as the author's Buffy. She's tough, but she cares deeply about the people around her. The supporting characters also stand out. Fans of Buffy the Vampire Slayer will love Fray, and it will also find an audience with anyone who appreciates girl power. Susan Salpini, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer is my favorite TV Show of all-time and I am a casual reader of comics, so, I decided to give this a read after seeing a Fray fan video. The story is appealing and well-paced, combined with Whedon wit and wonderful art by Karl Moline. The great thing about this comic is that although it is in the Buffy universe, you don't need any prior knowledge to read or understand Fray; it is a wonderful stand-alone piece. If you are a fan of Buffy, I would highly recommend this as well, but keep a few things in mind: there is vague mention of Buffy and the Scoobies as this story is all about this new future world and Melaka Fray, so if you walk in expecting a lot of references to these beloved characters, it might be disappointing. However, if you come in with an open mind for cool new slayer adventures with fresh characters and perspectives, you will have a marvelous time. Melaka and her demon "watcher" Urkonn were a joy to watch interact together and that was probably my favorite part of this work. Honestly, I just loved Urkonn; he was my favorite character.

Melaka ("Mel") is your cool, rough around-the-edges rebellious girl type but with a big heart and awesome multicolored hair. She even has a scar similar to the one Buffy has in *The Wish* (but perhaps she is more in the vein of Faith than alternate reality Buffy). There are twists and turns and of course, SLAYage, but most importantly, Joss (and Karl!) can make us laugh one minute, the next make us feel saddened, and then leave us with poignant, hopeful moments in just a few panels.

As a huge Buffy fan, I've been meaning to read *Fray: Future Slayer* for some time now. And now that I have, I'm not entirely sure why I put it off so long. Now, *Fray* isn't Buffy. There will never be another slayer as awesome as Buffy, but *Fray* is still a great character. She kind of reminded me of a mix of Buffy and Faith – it was a good mixture of both characters, really. This story is set in the future, one that doesn't include Buffy. It's a futuristic slayer story, complete with flying cars. The artwork is well done, and setting is wonderfully constructed. I enjoyed every minute of this comic. The normal Whedon dialogue is in there, *Fray* does have a few Buffy moments that made me smile, and there's a big twist at the end that was rather spiffy. I should mention that, with this being set way in the future, there are a few out there phrases. It doesn't take long to catch on to what the characters are trying to say, so if you're put off by the vocabulary in the beginning, just keep going. Don't let that turn you off of the story. If you enjoyed *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, I would highly suggest checking out *Fray: Future Slayer*. It is full of action, sass, and it features a strong female character that Buffy fans will surely love.

I heard about this comic *years ago* after *Buffy* stopped airing. I remember being all excited, but life rolled on, and I never did get a chance to take a look at this (now-not-so) new slayer. Several years later, *Fray* appeared here on in this new-fangled Kindle format, discounted (I think?) so what the heck, I grabbed it: my daughter was getting into the original show; she was a toddler when it started, and just graduated high school, so *Buffy TVS* *really* spoke to her. It was great livin' in the *Buffy*-verse again. :-D Onto the actual book: the inking and colors were fine, no complaints about that. As for the story, even without the spoilers in the descriptions it wasn't hard to guess who the bad guy was. I did like *Fray's* mentor, altho got irritated about the plot tease regarding his bosses. And, it might be my distance from the original series experience (rewatched or not) but...the *Slayer Heritage* thing, while always fascinating, never seemed hugely important in *Buffy TVS*. She'd go in, whap some monsters, and pretty much, that was that. And, that was pretty much that in the *Fray* comic, too. In sum, while I'm not crazy nutty over the moon about *Fray* and her dystopian world, it

was still neat to finally get a chance to catch up a little in the Buffy-verse (& read up a bit on Wikipedia). So, I enjoyed it. Decent art, color and writing. Not the most compelling character I've ever seen. Guilt is overdone as a motivator.

This has to be one of the best Graphic Novel's I've ever read. The plot was genius and the artwork was amazing, it really fit the whole futuristic esque sci-fi theme they had going on. The villains and supporting cast were all greatly portrayed. I managed to finish this in just two sittings, I can't say the same for a lot of the other comics I've read! Joss Whedon did a great job here, the dialogue and narrative was very different yet suitable for Fray's futuristic world. You don't need to know anything about the Buffy TV/Comic series to read this, this is pretty much just a stand alone series. I recommend this book to anyone who's interested in strong and bad ass female characters kicking butt. Once this comic ends you'll be like "Damn I wish I could go back in time and read this book again!" I mean at least that's how I felt after finishing it. It's a shame there's no more Fray related material really, wish they'd make a Fray TV series or make a sequel to this comic at least. My only complaint is that this book came damaged, there was a lot of wear on the back and on the side, it's probably because this comic is quite old so hopefully they release a hardcover version in the near future (doubt it).

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