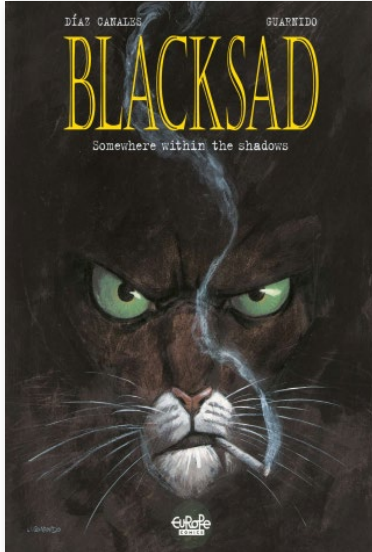


READER'S GUIDE

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Blacksad — 1. Somewhere Within the Shadows (Europe Comics)



Blacksad is a gritty crime drama featuring anthropomorphic animals who are anything but soft and fuzzy. Readers will be delighted by their depth, and the excellent crafting of the central mystery can spark interesting discussions.

CREATORS: Juan Díaz Canales and Juanjo Guarnido

ABOUT: Get ready for a true masterpiece! This is the story of a private detective seeking revenge for the death of his assassinated ex-girlfriend. A stunning thriller, enhanced by a wonderfully detailed drawing style, with characters in the form of the animals that best reflect the nuances of their personalities. Dark, daring, engaging, this is undoubtedly one of Europe's most successful comic book series.

“

“First making waves a decade ago, Blacksad, created in Spain, published in France, has since garnered well-deserved critical success and status as an international bestseller... All of this material is riveting, and Guarnido’s artwork is atmospheric and full of indelibly captured characters—he’s a true master of the form. Blacksad is a comics classic.”

—Publishers Weekly, Starred Review, 2010



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Díaz Canales employ the tropes of the noir genre? How might the noir themes resonate with modern audiences?
2. How do themes of justice and revenge intersect in *Blacksad*'s investigation?
3. What do the antagonists reveal about the darker side of society?
4. How does the choice of animal for each character reflect their personalities, roles, and/or societal positions?
5. How does using anthropomorphic animals change the way you read the story? How would it be different if they were all humans?

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