

READER'S GUIDE

READ ALL
THE COMICS!

Pretty Deadly Vol. 1: The Shrike (Image Comics)



Examine the portrayal of female roles and exploration of life and death with this origin tale of the daughter of Death himself, as she rides through the old West exacting brutal vengeance upon the heads of sinners.

CREATORS: Kelly Sue DeConnick and Emma Rios

ABOUT: Kelly Sue DeConnick and Emma Rios present the collected opening arc of their surprise-hit series that marries the magical realism of *Sandman* with the western brutality of *Preacher*. Death's daughter rides the wind on a horse made of smoke and her face bears the skull marks of her father. Her origin story is a tale of retribution as beautifully lush as it is unflinchingly savage.

“

“The book requires at least two readings: the first just to learn who everyone is, the second to understand what’s going on. It’s ambitious and challenging (two qualities that are not often valued, but that probably should be), under a facade of violence and sacrifice. Rios’s art is lush and detailed, and is more than capable of keeping up with the far-reaching story.” —Publishers Weekly, 2014



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There are a lot of strong female characters, some are even in what traditionally may be considered masculine roles (Death, Retribution, etc.). There’s also Beauty, coveted and endlessly tortured because selfish men couldn’t resist her. Discuss the various roles of the female characters, how they serve the story, and how they compare to other books, movies, and shows you’ve encountered.
2. What are your thoughts on the narrative choice of the bunny telling the story to the butterfly? How does it support or detract from the plot?
3. The butterflies! Why are there so many, and what might they mean?
4. Rios’ illustrations are very detailed and play with panel shapes and layouts in non-traditional ways. Did that add anything for you, or was it distracting? Pick out a few example panels to share and discuss.
5. Towards the beginning of the fourth chapter, Sissy says, “Not knowing what’s happening feels worse than whatever it is you’re trying to protect me from.”, just before readers and characters learn the whole truth. Was she right or wrong?

READ ALL
THE COMICS!

“A comics bonanza.”

—LIBRARY JOURNAL



COMICS
PLUS®

“Being able to offer a service in which a small reading group, an entire class, or an entire grade level can read the same book at the same time with no waiting period is an absolute game changer.”

—SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

With Comics Plus®, your readers can have **unlimited, simultaneous access** to thousands of digital comics, manga, and picture books from dozens of library-friendly publishers.

Explore a diverse selection of new and backlist titles from Andrews McMeel, Dark Horse, Europe Comics, Fantagraphics, Humanoids, Image Comics, Kodansha, Mad Cave, Oni Press, Papercutz, Tokyopop, UDON Entertainment, Yen Press, and many more.

No holds, wait lists, or monthly borrowing limits—all at a price that won't break your materials budget.

#ReadAllTheComics



LIBRARY
PASS

Sign up for a free demo at
comicsplusapp.com