



## Hellsing, Vol. 04

*Kohta Hirano*

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### **Hellsing, Vol. 04** Kohta Hirano

Chronicles the exploits of the secret Hellsing Organization, formed by the Hellsing family to protect England and the Protestant church from vampires and other monsters, and its top operative, the vampire Alucard.

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**Author:** Hirano, Kohta

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## From Reader Review Hellsing, Vol. 04 for online ebook

### Leila Anani says

4th volume of this super stylish vampire manga series.

This is an incredibly violent volume. We begin with the climactic fight between Alucard and The Dandy (Tubalcain Alehambra) - the art work on this is marvellous. Alucard is at his most insane, the shape shifting is superb and I love the Dandy's expressions as he realises just what he is dealing with.

We get introduced to several villains under The General - an Insane SS general bent on war. Most interesting is werewolf Schrodinger who can be in several places at once. There's also Rip Van Winkle who seems to be a rehash of the Bezerker Nun in Cross-fire.

There's a lot of interesting politics at play. Iscariot section XIII (Catholics) seem to be playing both sides. They admit to having helped Millennium in the past but seem to be working with Hellsing (Protestants) this time around... or are they?

There also look to be people higher up in Millennium than The General. He just seems to be dancing to his own tune which is war! war! WAR! Do the shadowy figures have even more sinister intent?

Love the language used, The General is almost poetic. This also does a great job with various accents - we have French, Irish and German very clearly marked. The artwork is stunningly detailed and the whole thing just has buckets of style. Love it.

No bonus story in this one as the main story takes up the whole volume. Wooooo!

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### Nick says

#### **Overall Rating:**

**Manga - A+**

**Original anime series - B**

**New anime series - A+**

*Summary: Hellsing is a manga series by Kouta Hirano. Hellsing chronicles the efforts of the mysterious and secret Royal Order of Protestant Knights, Hellsing, as it combats vampires, ghouls, and other supernatural foes who threaten the kingdom of England. The main character, Alucard (Dracula cleverly spelled backwards), is used to kill other supernatural creatures, and makes Seras Victoria (a cop he shoots to kill another vampire) into a vampire early on in the series and we get to watch her deal with her new life as a blood drinker with some hilarious (and sometimes creepy results).*

I love vampires, so it's not much of a surprise that I like Hellsing, a series based around vampires and supernatural organizations. So, why does the series get three separate ratings? It boils down to the fact that the first anime series is a lot different than the manga and the second series.

I was first introduced to Hellsing with the original anime series, which was based (loosely!) on the manga. At the time, roughly 2002 or 2003, I thought it was amazing. Unfortunately, the end of that series is extremely weak on plot, and feels rushed. It's like the people involved had a brain-storming session over a

pile of coke, had a bunch of cool ideas, but couldn't figure out how to bring them together into a cool ending. Not to mention the fact that the concept for the final villain, Incognito, is kind of racist (from the "Dark Continent", ends up wearing little more than jewelry), and is pretty fucking lame when compared to some of the other villains introduced earlier in the series.

Later, I found out that only the first 6 episodes or so were based on the Manga, and the rest of the series was made up for the anime. That explains why it felt so rushed, because it was! So, I decided it was time to check out the manga, to see if the plot held up longer in it.

The manga blew away the anime, and now I have some trouble watching the old series. In the manga, you get more detail and more character development, and more characters. For example, Alexander Anderson is introduced in the the old anime series, but we don't meet the other members of Iscariot. Nor is there any hint of the Nazi organization, Millennium. I could go on, but the point is that the manga kicks the anime's ass. If you've seen the anime, do yourself a favor and check out the manga. If you haven't checked out either, then get your vampire loving ass out to your local comic book shop (or wherever you buy manga) and pick it up. If you don't love vampires, then I hate you. Ok, maybe not hate, but seriously what's up with that shit?

The new anime series on the other hand is completely faithful to the manga, and definitely worth watching. The production value is a lot higher, the creator is behind the series, and overall it's simply kick-ass. My suggestion is to read the manga (volumes 1-7 are out now, and volume 8 is scheduled to come out in early July), then watch the new OVA series, Hellsing Ultimate, and then watch the old anime. It's all good, but the manga and the Ultimate series are a lot better. It's like watching the season of Angel where he gets fat and then going back and watching season 2 or 3 of Buffy. No one likes a fat vampire.

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### **Steve Chaput says**

The Major is now recognized as the new Fuhrer. The story continues as the Hellsing organization and the Vatican become aware of how wide the conspiracy has become. Their are traitors everywhere.

Looks like a major invasion of Britain is about to begin and Alucard and his allies might not be able to prevent it.

The series keeps getting better and more intense. Also Hirano's artwork continues to improve.

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### **Lör K. says**

What's wrong kids, never seen a dead body?

*Hellsing* is a manga and anime that has been in my life for a very long time. I never really remember when it became something in my life that was so prominent, but I vaguely remember it becoming something around high school. I remember it being the big thing then, and starting to read and watch it, and becoming obsessed. *Hellsing, Vol. 04* is the first manga I ever owned from this season. An old copy my friend got bored of, handed to me in his apartment whilst we watched the funniest moments from the anime. I've

flicked through this seven times now, and every time I still absolutely love it.

The thing that always brings me back to this manga, isn't the story line. It's not the characters. It's the art work. There is absolutely nothing that I love more than picking this up and looking at Hirano's illustrations. His drawings are spectacular, and there's absolutely nothing I love more about it than his beautiful illustrations of Allucard. It is so obvious he has spent time and effort perfecting these frames, and it's absolutely wonderful to see. Specifically, one thing he does really well, is the gore throughout the whole series, and not just this one volume.

The story line is a continuation of everything else so far in the series, and it's a wonderful continuation. It flows beautifully, seamlessly, and I devour the story every time, pausing only to admire the artwork.

This is a series, I've read a great many times. I don't think I could ever get tired of this series, no matter how many times I read it. There's something about it that just sparks the imagination every single time I pick it up, and I highly recommend it. This is one of the original manga and animes from my generation, and it is most definitely worth the read and/or watch.

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### **Michelle (Crazy Cat Lady) says**

[War for the sake of fighting? Just...fighting??? No motive besides that?!?! And why cling to Nazi symbolism if they don't uphold any of Nazism's ideals? Nazis WERE fighting for a reason, even if that reason was deplorable. It says to me that Hirano didn't really know what to do with his villains; but who am I to say what was going through his mind. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Susan says**

Alucard and Police Girl kill the Nazi's henchman (the vampire guy with the deck of cards). They leave Rio to return to London where they report to the 12 and the Vatican group Section 13, and the Queen, who Alucard apparently knew in her younger days. The meeting is interrupted by the werewolf Nazi boy. We learn more about the Millennium/Nazis and their plot to create an indestructible vampire race to create never-ending war. Although enemies, Section 13 reluctantly works with Hellsing, as they have a common enemy-millennium. Alucard has a nightmare, hinting at a dark past. We also know that butlet Walter has some secret dark past, as he and Alucard defeated the Nazis 50 years previous. Seras continues to refuse blood, and Integra orders her to drink from her. We meet the vampires working with the Nazis, including Rip van Winkle. The Nazis take over an English battleship and align their forces/zeppelins to attack London. Anderson still in Rio, being attacked by lesser minions, which he finds almost insulting.

alucard is so freaking hot. ha! that's my teenybopper moment. dark and dangerous, with a secret past waiting to be uncovered.

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### **Kate says**

No necrophilia yet.

More five page spreads of multiple gunshots blowing apart Alucard, who then miraculously reforms himself.

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At one point a Nazi nekomimi (sp?) werewolf character is introduced, then is killed halfway through, and reappears at the end. No explanation of how he (she? who knows...) survived a gunshot to the head, and the "conspiracy" of Nazis... I'm just not really sure what they're conspiring to do. Kill off Hellsing and Icarus XIII so their vampires can rule the world? - wait, don't Hellsing and Icarus have vampires? I don't get it. And the afterwords that feature two characters who died in volume 2 aren't helping.

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## **Loremark96 says**

Genial , cada vez esto mejora mas

En este volumen vemos el resultado de la pelea de Alucard en Brasil , su regreso a Inglaterra junto a Seras y Pip , Alucard ante la Reina de Inglaterra , un mensaje de Millennium a nuestros protagonistas mediante un niño quien resulta que es Sargento increíble . Desde luego el personaje de el Mayor me parece un hombre que esta muy mal de la cabeza . Uno de los superiores de Millennium , la Lugarteniente Rip van Winkle me parece un personaje que tiene un arcabuz muy poderoso porque cuando dispara parece una cuerda que te corta cuando llega a su destino y de caracter , una chica que sin duda tiene la locura en su cuerpo y mente bueno como todos los de Millennium .

Una guerra se aproxima , y una de las gordas

Con ganas de leerme el siguiente

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## **Mal says**

Aside from it being confusing and sort of an eye sore after reading it a long while ... The volume ended really well and the artwork is phenomenal. I mean when Alucard was - like - devoting that one guy's soul and essence or whatever if was seriously one of the coolest things I've ever seen drawn. Especially in terms of mangas. More work goes into graphic novels and comics and MANGAS than anything else I feel like. Personally it seems that way anyway :) Cause you physically have to draw it, but there's the storyboard and the transition into English from original Japanese and gosh 0.0

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## **Rob Kane says**

Finally!

It has been much too long since I found a manga that scared me or that I genuinely found vampires frightening. It's been much too long since I read a horror manga, and had to look around my mostly dark room and give a shiver, expecting to see a creature from hell staring at me at the end of my bed.

But, finally, finally, I found Hellsing. Now, volume 4, is the first one I have read in the manga (I will definitely be readig the whole series, of course), and I am genuinely in love.

Surprisingly, I found the whole story easy to understand; the things I didn't understand I found were discreetly explained through the manga, and things clicked into place.

As a horror fan, I am delighted with this novel. The illustrations of the vampires are chilling, and I genuinely had to put the book down a few times (I was reading it at 1am) and read a few Marvel Encyclopedia entries to calm my nerves.

The illustrations of the vampires long leave images created by things such as Twilight behind; welcome to the blood-sucking monsters of your nightmares.

The werewolves, eh, I have some issues with their imaging, but overall, I like the idea of them, and I'm sure that my qualms with their appearances will be cleared up as I read further through the series.

The gory images have long since haunted me, even infecting my dreams - as I said, it's been so long since this happened, I relish in this face - and I am genuinely in love with them.

The speech being written in the accents the characters have? Genius. It really helped me give each character their own voice in my head, which made it so much easier to continue to turn the pages and delve deeper into the story.

Kohta Hirano has blessed this world with Hellsing, this gothic, horror, perfection is one story I will always recommend.

A flat out 5/5; although I know this story will definitely not be one for those of a faint heart.

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### **Suzette Banick says**

The introduction of one of my three favorite characters in the series. Rip Van Winkle.

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### **Ashley says**

Since I'm about halfway through the currently-released volumes of this series, I figure it's as good a time as any to review what I've read so far. I've seen the anime for this series, but I don't remember many of the details, and a lot of what I read was new material.

One of the major pluses of this series is that the artwork is really great. It's detailed and nice to look at, which is definitely good in a series that overflows with copious amounts of blood and violence.

However, overall the series just doesn't hit many of my happy buttons. I like that the vampires in this series are monsters--and quite unabashedly so, in Alucard's case--because it's a good change from the angst-balls that are rampant in other vampire series. At this point in the series, it's clear that Alucard has shadows in his past, but they're very underplayed. However, I feel like the series can be best described as bad-ass and testosterone-driven. There's definitely a plot, but it feels like it's just an excuse to put the characters in situations where they can shed blood and look cool while doing it. The author dedicates pages and pages to violence and bloodshed, and even more so that all the bad-asses with glasses can stand around and look ominous with the light gleaming on their glasses. The bad guys, of course, are all about WAR WAR WAR and nothing else but the pure joys of WAR, but I found myself skipping over a lot of the wanking about fabulous WAR was. Part of me likes the shamelessness of the motivations, but at the same time, it doesn't interest me all that much. I like strong plots, but this plot isn't all *that* great, and with the lack of character-

focus (except on Alucard's part), the series just doesn't have me leaping out of my chair.

I'm still going to keep reading via the library, but I'm glad that I never started buying this series.

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### **Liz says**

This is where the story and characters really take off. The bulk of this installment is getting to know the villains, who personally are not the most interesting characters to me (hence the four star, rather than five-star rating). But the moments featuring the (anti)heroes are wonderfully done as usual.

Here is where Alucard's flashback dream with Van Helsing appears (shifted to an earlier installment in the OVA adaptation), and we also get that "lick my finger" moment with Integra and Seras. I really like that interaction between the heroines, as it blows to Hell the insulting stereotype version of Integra that the first anime gave us (stoic woman with "masculine" traits = cold, angry robot).

Finally, I have to blast Maxwell for missing the perfect comeback to "What guarantees the sanity of your God?" (That being, "Certainly not \*your\* existence.")

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### **Steve Wiggins says**

I'm not a Manga reader, but I have a young friend who is lending me *Hellsing* originals and I read through them as I can. I do have to say this is a very creative take on vampires, and the setting up of the Catholic Church versus Protestantism as the background is clever. The female characters are all drawn as impossibly cute, even if they're werewolves or vampires.

The story is complex and the Nazis are brought into it as well. As the plot unfolds it's difficult to know who's a good guy beyond Alucard (and certainly Seras). The cooperation of the churches against the Nazis is a nice touch.

With the action, violence, and bloodshed, this is a quick read. Unlike many comics of my youth, it has depth and intrigue. The story is compelling, if sometimes hard to follow for a person my age. I appreciate the street cred, however, of knowing who Alucard is, should I engage any other young vampire fans in conversation.

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### **Lynn says**

Today's post is on Hellsing volume 4 by Kohta Hirano. It is 200 pages long and is published by Dark Horse. The cover has Alucard on it looking at the reader. As it is the fourth in the series you need to have read the first three in order to understand the story. There is language, no sex, and lots of violence in this volume. The story is told from the third person perspective. There Be Spoilers Ahead.

From the back of the book- What do you get when the Nazis, sequestered in South America for generations, have engineered an army of vampires, and are preparing for an all-out campaign of deathly dominance? Well, for one, you get a little unity. It seems the Protestant Hellsing Organization and the Catholic Iscariot agency might just have to think about teaming up. It's looking like the world's biggest battle of blood and fangs is soon to erupt. Read about the next, big arms build-up as the first World War of the undead is mounting. It just heating up in Hellsing.

Review- More plot and action in this one. We get to see the Nazi villains at last and they are crazy. Anderson and Alucard see each other and start going. Seras is still trying to be human. Things go fast in this one. Alucard gets to shine towards the end. The Nazis call up everyone and declare war. Everyone is shocked but Alucard is laughing. He thinks that this is going to be fun and cannot wait for them to get there. Sir Hellsing is annoyed but that is normal for her. I am very curious about where a war with Nazi vampires and werewolves is going to go. But I think that I will laugh too.

I give this volume a Four out of Five stars. I get nothing for my review and I bought this manga with my own money.

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