



Gideon Falls, Vol. 1: The Black Barn

Jeff Lemire , Andrea Sorrentino (Contributor) , Dave Stewart (Colorist)

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A brand-new ongoing horror series from the acclaimed best-selling creative team of Old Man Logan and Green Arrow!

The lives of a reclusive young man obsessed with a conspiracy in the city's trash and a washed-up Catholic priest arriving in a small town full of dark secrets become intertwined around the mysterious legend of The Black Barn--an otherworldly building alleged to have appeared in both the city and the small town throughout history, bringing death and madness in its wake.

Rural mystery and urban horror collide in this character-driven meditation on obsession, mental illness, and faith that Mark Millar (Hitgirl) called his "personal pick as the best comic of 2018!" Also featuring a variant cover gallery from some of comics' best artists, including Cliff Chiang (PAPER GIRLS), Jock (WYTCHEs), Skottie Young (I HATE FAIRYLAND), and more!

Collects GIDEON FALLS #1-6

Gideon Falls, Vol. 1: The Black Barn Details

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Author : Jeff Lemire , Andrea Sorrentino (Contributor) , Dave Stewart (Colorist)

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From Reader Review Gideon Falls, Vol. 1: The Black Barn for online ebook

Sam Quixote says

A ritual killer's doin' his thang in the small town of Gideon Falls. A Catholic priest is dispatched to replace the previous Father who recently died in strange circumstances. A mental patient with a face mask wanders the city collecting "special" pieces of garbage. Both priest and nutbar have visions of a black barn. *Yawns* Oh, what does it all mean?

The creative team behind Old Man Logan, Jeff Lemire and Andrea Sorrentino, reunite for their first Image series, Gideon Falls. And it's not very good!

I feel like Lemire watched two of the crappiest, most overrated, yet absurdly popular, TV shows of recent years, Mr Robot and Stranger Things, and decided to do something derivative of them. The mental patient storyline seemed similar to the main character of Mr Robot's while the small town sheriff/supernatural goings-on was very much in the Stranger Things vein. Even without those shows' flavourings, neither storyline is interesting. I also didn't care about any of the characters who weren't at all likeable or compelling.

The problem is that Lemire's writing is too obtuse and vague to latch onto. What exactly is going on – why am I meant to care? Something about a religious war between good and evil – like Robert Kirkman's Outcast but not as good (and even that series isn't a hill of beans) – while The Black Barn is like The Dark Tower. I found it impossible to be invested in anything that was happening.

Lemire looks to do be doing something like what he did a few years ago in his Vertigo book Trillium with the parallel worlds/storylines – the priest is in one world/timeline, the mental patient is in another. I think that's what the visual inversions mean – and that last panel. It's just another unoriginal aspect bolted onto this patchwork of other pop culture elements.

Andrea Sorrentino's art is surprisingly underwhelming given his usual quality work, though to be fair he's not given anything very exciting to draw – lots of mundane everyday stuff for the most part. The visual spectacles are reserved for the batshit final chapter though when Sorrentino's allowed to cut loose, drawing some remarkable, abstract stuff as the priest and some others venture into Lemire's cut-price Upside Down.

Gideon Falls, Volume 1: The Black Barn is barnstormingly unoriginal and uninspired. Maybe Lemire's going somewhere more engaging in the next book/s but I didn't see enough in this first one to want to keep going and find out.

Jakub Kvíz says

To, co se pet sesitu budovalo, v poslednim sesitu prvnio story arcu tak nejaky vysumelo.

Jasne, urcite budu pokracovat a tesim se na dalsi sesity, ale #6 me tak nejak nechalo v klidu.

L. McCoy says

Alright, I'll end my flood of reviews with this.

What's it about?

One guy is the new Catholic preacher in the town of Gideon Falls.

The other guy is a guy who is supposedly insane and obsessed with digging through the garbage.

They both see eerie visions of a black barn that may be more than just visions.

Why it gets 5 stars:

The story is very interesting. I don't want to give too much away but it is so great and strange.

The art is fantastic! Sorrentino's gritty style suits this book perfectly! It sorta reminds me of a mix of Azaceta and Sean Phillips which is something I say with the highest compliments. An amazing artist!

The characters are strange and intriguing.

The horror stuff in this book... holy shitsnacks! It is so good! It's very creepy and unsettling! The creepiness is strong here and sure to please fans of horror comics!

This is one of the weirdest comics I've read in awhile. This might actually be even weirder than The Sandman but still manages to make sense so I love it.

This book is very suspenseful and full of exciting twists!

The page layouts are done in various cool ways, I really enjoyed that!

Overall:

Awesome book with lots to love! If you're a fan of horror and/or you like a strange story you should definitely go for this! I highly recommend this one and can't wait for the next volume!

5/5

Roy says

This is Lemire doing strange horror things. The plot is a slow build. I don't mind the occasional slow burn and in this case it works. The plot does eventually work but there are a few questions I have after finishing #6. The characters are your typical washed up country characters. Although I do prefer the Norton/Dr interaction. The worldbuilding is quite unique although why do small country towns always have these horror elements. A good first outing although probably not Lemire's best work. At times it can get wacky and out there, especially some of the art in #6.

Chad says

Jeff Lemire and Andrea Sorrentino reunite for their new horror comic with very little horror. This is the slowest of slow burns. If visions of old barns scare you, this may be the book for you. The story follows two separate individuals in two different environments. One, a mentally ill man who wanders through a city's garbage looking for splinters and nails. The other, a priest new to a small town who witnesses a murder. Their only connection an old barn that they see visions of. Speaking of this barn, Lemire borrows heavily from a TV show that used to be on SyFy, Haven, whether intentionally or not. Sorrentino's art is gritty and real, even as it gets more surreal and fantastical. It's very good. Given that this is from Jeff Lemire, I'll give it more time, but I feel this may be better read all at once after the series ends.

Richard says

A well-written and creatively illustrated first chapter in a new horror mystery series that tells parallel stories about a reclusive mental patient obsessed with a mystery in the city's trash and a troubled Catholic priest assigned to preach in the small town of Gideon Falls. I love the slow, creeping build-up in the Gideon Falls scenes and I wish the city sections matched it. This series definitely shows promise though.

Donovan says

Damnation!—literally. Lemire surprises with this dark fantasy horror told through two parallel plots. While characterization is only moderate so far, it's only because there's so much going for the plot. Illustrations are sketchy but wonderfully fantastical.

David Schaafsma says

We are in Harrow County, Rachel Rising and Outcast territory with Jeff Lemire, Andrea Sorrentino and Dave Stewart's entry into the comics horror world. And like those other series (and many more we could name), we have a fight going for the soul of the town, an epic battle between Heaven and Hell. The central feature that distinguishes this from the others is not great art, because all of the above series are exemplary in that category, but Sorrentino is amazingly inventive with paneling and layouts. We are trying to capture a sense of madness, of evil, and Sorrentino does that through some of the most amazing visuals you will see out there.

A Bad Priest comes to Gideon Falls, with a history of alcohol abuse and domestic battery. His predecessor Father Tom seems to be dead. There are other people dead; the Sheriff lost a brother to mysterious circumstances, and her father believes it has something to do with a sometimes here, sometimes not Black Barn. The Bad Priest actually thinks he sees Father Tom AND the Black Barn, but you know, this could be the booze.

Another guy, clearly crazy, is going through the garbage around town, finding artifacts he thinks are linked to said Barn. His therapist thinks he needs to be hospitalized about this fantasy, this madness. Until the doc also thinks she sees that darned barn!

I don't think the story quite measures up to 5 stars yet, but there is some very good writing here from Lemire that is not SO far out of his wheelhouse. Ghosts from the past, crazy sci fi monsters such as in Sweet Tooth. Paranormality isn't abnormal for Lemire. But the bright and shining star here is Sorrentino, who creates mad fragmentation when things get most fearful. I can't wait to see if it is going to be great, but knowing him, it will be.

Periklis says

A twin-peaks inspired, urban horror series, written and drawn in a planned, cinematic, manner. Too bad it's not finished to read it the whole story in one sitting...

GrilledCheeseSamurai says

Jeff Lemire & Andrea Sorrentino strike gold. Again.

What else to say? Gideon Falls is a comic with 2 storylines that are apart from one another, yet connected. It is a noir feeling, dark, supernatural, thriller that fired for me on absolutely all cylinders.

Lemire's prose is gritty and mysterious and adds a creepy voice to Sorrentino's experimental feeling artwork. And I don't mean experimental in a bad way. Its just nice to see pages that don't follow the run-of-the-mill panel layouts for a change.

This very well, and probably is my favorite comic of 2018.

***I read this as single issues, which is fine because I am greedy and impatient, but I think this story will read better as a whole in a TPB or premium hardcover editions.*

Artemy says

Jeff Lemire's new horror/thriller/mystical series starts veeeery slow. It's five long and tedious issues of buildup and one final issue that tries to turn everything on its head (and kind of fails by being too ambiguous), it doesn't feel very original or exciting enough to sustain its length, and the characters are all just... meh. Andrea Sorrentino's artwork is absolutely gorgeous though, better than I've ever seen it in other books. It does much more for building the tone and atmosphere of the book than Lemire did with his writing. Gideon Falls may have potential in the future, but for now I can't say I'm hooked.

James DeSantis says

When Lemire writes a good story it's really hard to not want more.

This is telling a story of two very different people trying to solve the same mystery. This Red Barn is a source of evil. Something, or someone, is forcing innocent people to go crazy and murder others. Through this story we focus on a priest coming to a village and trying to fit in after priest goes missing but we soon find out he might not be. Then we have a story of a crazy guy picking up trash and learning the secrets of the red barn.

Good: love the hell out of the pacing. Really quick paced and never boring. Characters are all really well done and intriguing. I also enjoyed the twist and turns.

Bad: the art kind have reminded of outcast. Which I like but took me out of it for a bit.

Overall really enjoyable. Not alot is told and probably have more questions than answers by the end but I'm in it for the ride! 4 out of 5.

Craig says

I love Sorrentino's artwork, even though it starts to look like it's raining in every panel, even when events/characters are obviously indoors. The story here needs a goose--not much really happens in this first volume, just a lot of stage-setting and mystery. Never a good idea to stretch things out this much without some sort of payoff. I'll be interested to see what happens next, but calling this the best comic of the year is a bit much.

Shannon says

I keep waiting for another Lemire title to grab me like Descender did.

And I'm still waiting.
?

Individual issue reviews: [#1](#) | [#2](#) | [#3](#) | [#4](#) | [#5](#) | [#6](#)

Total review score: **2.67**

Chaunceton Bird says

This is some quality dark story telling. The premise is one I've never seen/read, and the direction of the first book is promising. Looking forward to later installments.
