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Introduction by Duane Swierczynski From the Harvey Award-nominated creative team of Elk's Run comes Tumor, the critically acclaimed sensation that was the first graphic novel to debut exclusively on the Kindle E-Book Reader! Tumor is the story of Frank Armstrong, a man at the boot heel of the world, barely scraping up a living as a private investigator in modern day Los Angeles. He finally lands a big case, finding the missing daughter of a drug kingpin, just as he's taken by the symptoms of a late-stage brain tumor. Memories blend with reality, as the missing girl case starts to seep into the memory of his own missing wife from 20 years prior. Now, with days, maybe even hours, left to live, he must save this girl, while the one thing he's relied on all of his life fails him — his mind!

Tumor Details

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Author : Joshua Hale Fialkov , Noel Tuazon

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From Reader Review Tumor for online ebook

Cavak says

A fancy blend of neo-noir and medical drama. Not much emphasis on light and shadow, more black ink and white paper. No suave double crosses or femme fatales. More violence, crime, surliness, and identity crisis in this one.

At first, I was critical of Armstrong's heroics when he's so broken (in many ways). As the story goes on, I felt a bit bad for the poor sap as he goes on his private redemption quest. What amused and touched me is that every time Armstrong's brain tumor causes him to keel over, even the meanest-looking gangster goes through a moment that's like, "Man, are you okay?" By the ending, I wasn't exactly cheering for anyone (they're all kinda silly to me), but at least Armstrong made peace with himself.

If you should read *Tumor*, aim for reading the entire story. Individual parts are weak by themselves to me, more so than usual for comics. Probably because it was planned to be that way.

Jeff Collier says

I'm not typically a graphic novel kind of guy but I enjoyed this one. Gonna call it my first. Good noir story, really enjoyed it.

Cara Byrne says

An intriguing noir and a compelling graphic novel read.

Jenai says

Jenai Coleman
PAP/IB English II
Prd.7
1/22/15

In Tumor Frank, the main character, is a former detective who now has terminal brain cancer. He has been given a job to find the daughter of a drug dealing criminal he used to connive with. In addition to hunting for this girl, Evelyn, Frank tries to manage chronic headaches, blackouts, and random flashbacks making it exceptionally difficult for him to keep straight in his mind where he really is in his own history. Contrary to the wishes of his employer Frank's intentions change when he meets Evelyn and realizes that she is the spitting image of his late love. He instead helps her get away from her abusive father in an attempt to relieve himself of the guilt from Rosa's, his deceased girlfriend's, death.

I enjoyed and indulged in this book immensely because of the characters, the incredible, detailed artwork, and the authenticity of the characters. I admired Evelyn because I felt she showed herself to be a strong

woman by realizing what reputation her father had and leaving that to build a life of her own. Characters like Evelyn and Frank are very authentic in that they have real goals yet they also have real problems and that followed by phenomenal backstories make them very well written. I was also very fond of the artwork in the book because it was greatly narrative. Frank's flashbacks were portrayed in drippy, black water color giving the scenes a fluid and obscure essence. This accurately conveyed not only the confusion Frank felt when he would have random flashbacks but also the haziness of his memories.

Although I found this to be a wonderful book i didn't like the cliffhanger at the end, and the story was a bit gloomy for my taste. The fact that Frank, in his disoriented state, kept mistaking Evelyn for his girlfriend made their journey together very morose. My investment in these characters made the sad parts of the book, like Frank's flashbacks, difficult to endure. I loved that he felt gratified by all the help he had given Evelyn however i was disappointed i didn't get to see what happened to her when they went their separate ways. I suppose it might have been the connection i developed with the story that clouds my judgement and made me not want it to end even though the theme was conveyed and the story was over.

I gave this book four stars because i feel like it was well structured, heartfelt, and the artwork beautifully portrayed what the story was putting forth. I deeply relished the book and i would most definately recommend it.

Sarah says

This would have been a 2 star if not for the ending. I really liked the art work but I found the story just a bit too simple. I thought that is could have had a little bit more in the way of plot to fill out what could have been a really meaty story. Ok not great.

Lateef Amodu says

Using a noir detective theme, the story is about a detective named Frank, suffering from a brain tumor. At the same time, he takes a job from underworld criminal boss that involves finding his missing daughter, who reminds of his deceased wife. This situation plays out like the situation he found himself in with his deceased wife; Frank worked for his wife's father, which involved carrying out illegal activities. Frank's past and current predicament is told interchangeable throughout the book, which I thought was done okay. Also, he sometimes falls into a coma and the scene suddenly switches to another setting, illustrating the time fluidity that occurs as a symptom of a brain tumor. The plot sounded interested to me, but I found a bit boring and predictable. Plus, the artwork to the book wasn't really that appealing. It's in black and white, and uses the scratched illustration style, with an occasional watercolour. Overall, I found the book monotonous.

Matthew says

A very strong noir-ish thriller done in graphic novel form, with lots of nods to Chandler as well as the great BBC series the Singing Detective. Frank Armstrong is an aging tough guy PI who gets caught up in a case involving a drug lord's runaway daughter who may or may not have stolen a large sum of money from her father. The big twist is that Armstrong has a brain tumor, causing him to have painful migraines, disorienting seizures and even frightening time slips into his own past. The narrative is a little confusing at points, but quick moving and largely entertaining. The artwork, however, is fantastic. Sketchy, chunky lines, gritty shadows and grimy, smudged surfaces make a perfect match for this modern send up of the classic noir

detective story. Don't see a lot of appeal for teens in this one, unless they are extreme fans of the genre.

Derek Gregg says

this comic was amazing

Josh Brunsting says

This is the written word/graphic art version of a good glass of orange juice. Filling and completely full of pulp. This hits the spot for any fan of pulp novels, film noir, or interesting character studies. Overall, one of the best graphic novels of the year.

KattDee says

While the premise was interesting enough, the graphic novel itself fell flat for me.

Tom says

A dreamlike story about a private detective dying of a brain tumor trying to get one last thing right. The story is taken from the P.I.s perspective, so time and space change around him in a way he can't control, trying to protect a young woman who happens to resemble his own late wife. A truly great graphic novel.

David Schaafsma says

When I first picked this up at the library I thought it was going to be some kind of dark mashup about a guy's cancer and how it feels to have cancer, as if it were some dark murder mystery. I read a lot of graphic memoirs and novels about health issues, and more than a few about cancer. And then, to see that the art is so quick-sketched as to be almost baffling, even ugly. And I was unfamiliar with the author and illustrator. I set it aside for a few days, not sure it would be worth my time.

No, it wasn't quite what I expected, but was in a way much more. The book was released serially in 2009 on Kindle, and just now in late 2016 in hardcover. It's a noir detective story about a guy, Frank Armstrong, who gets the biggest case of his life--to find the daughter of a mobster and kill her--on the same day he is diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. As Duane Swiercznski points out in his preface, hard-boiled detectives are always getting bonked on the head, and authors are ridiculously describing the effects of such hits. But here our hero, down on his luck, old, a long time drunk, broken from his love, a veritable cliche of a detective, now has to contend with hallucinations, migraines, seizures, and a reality warping twist on time. And it feels real, not just like someone knocked out and "shaking off" a serious concussion as usually happens.

The girl he finds he confuses with his old girlfriend, he thinks he's back in time, he's in the future, he's constantly struggling with saving the girl and trying to maintain some semblance of equilibrium, and it is pretty affecting, I think. This deluxe hardcover edition includes a sketchbook, an interview with the author, an afterword by him, a separate story in the world of our hero, and the original pitch for the series, where the author admits some echoes with stories such as *Memento*.

The art of Noel Tuazon seems, finally, great, appropriate to the rough and ready noir intention, and a dark and tenuous grip on reality both for him and for us. The girl seems like his girlfriend, it's hard to tell the difference for him, so why should it be any different for us? He loses touch with reality, and we do. This is really an impressive indie comic that all readers of detective fiction should read. And maybe, those who want insights into brain cancer, which Fialkov did his homework about.

Michael Knolla says

It is getting harder and harder to find novel twists on the noir genre but the seemingly well researched medical component provides a veracity to the angle that enables a compelling exploitation of the primary narratives.

Michael Anderson says

Decent noir detective story with serviceable artwork.

47Time says

The story, narrated in first person, jumps between different moments in time to march the protagonist's thoughts. Frank Armstrong has brain cancer, causing temporal confusion, even visions. This would be enough of a complication by itself, but things get worse when he takes a job for Gibson, a mob boss, to recover his daughter Evelyn. Adding to the stress is a police detective called Polish that usually pops out of nowhere, advising Frank to give the girl up.

Frank's thoughts are often emotional, especially the ones about his wife and her death which affected him profoundly. He got in with the wrong crowd in the past, but tries to redeem himself now. The artwork is simplistic, black and white, but pretty dynamic. It switches to a slightly different style when flashbacks are shown. Bottom line is: this is a great comic that's easy to get into and enjoy if you don't mind a bit of violence.

(view spoiler)
