



The Blacklist Vol 1: The Gambler

Nicole Dawn Phillips , Beni Lobel (Illustrations)

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The Gambler. Collecting together the first five issue story arc of the comic and introducing a brand new villain, created exclusively for the comic by the writers of the TV show.

Someone is targeting the FBI with a series of planned attacks including framing them for the murder of a leading political activist. Red at first suspects that a dangerous, media-manipulating Blacklister known as the Lobbyist is responsible, but comes to realise that there is someone far more sinister and deadly behind the scenes manipulating events for his own nefarious purposes...

Collects The Blacklist #1-5

The Blacklist Vol 1: The Gambler Details

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Author : Nicole Dawn Phillips , Beni Lobel (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review The Blacklist Vol 1: The Gambler for online ebook

Maranda says

3.5

Phillip says

The Blacklist is based on the NBC TV show, and was included in the September 2016 Comic Bento box. I've never seen the show, which is a crime drama. It actually worked really well in the graphic novel format.

This is a brand new story that takes place within the show's setting. The cool thing about it is that one of the writers from the show worked on this book. These lend strength to the book because it isn't just a rehash of the show and it is able to draw on the knowledge of the creators.

As for the story itself, it is pretty solid. It follows Liz Keen, who is an FBI agent, and a criminal informant, Red Reddington, that will only work with her. They are brought onto a case after the FBI is set up for the murder of a politician. Together they have to find out who is behind it and bring him in.

There is a bit of backstory for Liz and Red individually, so people unfamiliar with the show that might be interested in the book can still get something out of it. It does give some information on their working relationship, but it isn't developed too greatly. The supporting characters add some depth to the setting also.

Probably the weakest element of the book is the art. It's good for the most part, although the character faces can be a little off at times. The styling fits the book pretty well though. This wasn't a book I would normally pick up, but I enjoyed it.

Mark Short says

An excellent read. Characters as on the television programme. Nice pacing although sometimes the likenesses aren't exact.

Dα?ιja says

I was a few years late to *The Blacklist* party. The only reason I joined it was Raymond Reddington. He kept drawing my attention until it got to a point I had to find out who he was. *The Blacklist* was never just background noise again.

My enthusiasm for the show has waned since then for numerous reasons, but I started off loving it. It was entertaining... Well, Reddington was. So when I found out about the graphic novels, I knew exactly what my

next book order would be.

Both *Blacklist* graphic novels are like episodes of the series. *The Arsonist* is set in season three, and *The Gambler* in season two. I'm currently watching re-runs of the second season, so I figured I should do a re-read too. And I did.

The Gambler started off with Reddington pointing Elizabeth and the task force to a new blacklister who'd been targeting the FBI, and helping them catch him. Then when that blacklister lead them to a bigger threat, the Gambler from the title, Red urged the team to back off and let him handle it. Reddington and the Gambler had history and unfinished business. It was that history and the glimpses into Red's past that were my favorite part.

All in all, my first experience with graphic novels was a good one. The story would've made for a great episode of the show, and the artwork — I stopped reading the story so many times just to admire it. Everything about the story line, and the characters — what they did and said — was spot-on with the TV series.

It's a shame there aren't more of the *Blacklist* graphic novels, though at this point I'd settle for the show finally offering more answers than questions. It's getting tiresome.

Christine says

DNF

Alistair Pyke says

Has the feel of the show perfectly.

Jayla Johnson says

Loved this! The characters were portrayed perfectly and acted (and looked) just like how they would in the tv show. Definitely recommend for all Blacklist fans.

Tom says

I got this in my monthly Comic Bento box. It wasn't bad, what with the writer being someone who actually works on the show, but since I've only seen one episode, I think I may have enjoyed it more if I was a fan of the show. As it is, the Red character struck me now as it did when I watched the pilot on Netflix: a suave, urbane, supersmart criminal type with the taste for the finer things, and who has a young FBI agent fresh out of the academy as a weakness but also gives advice to the Bureau to catch various bad guys, sure does sound an awful lot like a less murderous Hannibal Lecter.

Besides, the villain's plot made no sense. Yes, the first attack would cause people to distrust the FBI, but the ones after it? I didn't see why the sudden change in victims made the FBI less sympathetic rather than more.

K. Rezaiezhadeh says

Some of the characters are infuriatingly stupid...but it's got Red in it. Red is the reason to watch the show, and that presence translates just as well over to this comic book.

Joshua says

The artwork could've been a lot cleaner. Some of the faces look mangled and didn't look like the TV characters at all even though that's what they were shooting for. Storyline was still really good and had fun reading it.

Amy says

Not being used to reading comic books, I found this a little confusing to follow at times, but overall I really enjoyed it. I like how they introduced a new Blacklister, adding to the enjoyment of the tv show.

Wilde Sky says

A criminal helps the FBI in this graphic short story.

Some of the characters were good, but overall the plot was a bit too far-fetched for me and the action / dialogue didn't really grab me.

BooksByDano says

4.5 stars

If you love the TV series like I do; you will love this comic. It is set out the same way, and the characters are drawn to look like their TV Characters.

Amanda Thompson says

*Originally posted on **To Read or Not to Read?***

NEW FAVORITE ALERT, BOOK DRAGONS

PG-13 for action/violence, moderate language

Recommend to fans of The Blacklist.

NBC

First off, Titan Comics is freaking AMAZING, you guys. The artwork here is incredible. Lobel has obviously taken great pains to capture the exact features of the characters and the effect is absolutely breathtaking. So many of their most recognizable expressions are perfectly captured on the ink and page!

Really, I knew this was going to be epic when I read the foreward from showrunners John Eisendrath and Jon Bokenkamp:

So how did Red's story really begin? Who were his allies? His enemies? What were the pivotal moments in his life that transformed Raymond Reddington into the Concierge of Crime?

With this comic series, we're attempting to answer some of those questions.

Uh, Happy Birthday. And Happy Hannukah. FOR ALL ETERNITY

Because not only do they promise us insight into the past exploits key to the development of one of the most fascinating anti-heroes ever, they actually deliver. We get a significant event of Red's backstory, veins of it running all through the story, until it suddenly takes over. Granted, we don't get answers to big questions like 'Why did Red turn to crime?' or 'What IS his connection to Liz?' but we don't really expect that. This is developmental stuff, how Red came to be, what really makes Red Red and I love every panel of it. (Seriously, I've read it twice already.)

Red really gets into the action on this one and those are always my favorite stories. (Remember my Top Ten episodes?) This Blacklister is personal and Red lays it all on the line. While the story leaves us asking more questions than it answers -in the grand tradition of The Blacklist- it's one heck of a ride and worth every minute. It's a high-energy story, convoluted and delicious, with fantastic twists, great interactions between Red and Liz, and a phenomenal Blacklister -created exclusively by the TV writers for this comic, I might add. It's explosive and addictive, just like the episodes. I finished it and immediately wanted to read it again. (Which I did.)

Nicole Phillips -said by Eisendrath and Bokenkamp to possess an 'encyclopedic knowledge of the world'- does a phenomenal writing job. The artwork, the dialog, even the pacing and ambiance of the story is so harmonious with the show that it immediately became inseparable in my mind. The transformation from screen to comic is so seamless, the script so in-sync with the series -this is magic right here, guys, and not the Hollywood variety. This is the magic of an amazing story and characters; the magic of artists so inspired by their subject that their work shines. I didn't spot a single inconsistency with the canon in these pages. My gosh, even the inflections of the characters were spot-on!

I really can't give The Gambler enough praise -and I'm totally burying the lead!

Two words for you:

Young. Red.

What unfurls here is a wonderful, deep-probing arc fully worthy of the show, and seeing young Red running around the world up to no good made it even better -and that part would never make it on screen. Seriously, who could play a young Red and measure up to Spader?

So, is **The Gambler** a To Read or a Not To Read?

NBC
