



Love and Rockets, Vol. 10: X

Gilbert Hernández, Jaime Hernández

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After ten years spent in Palomar and the fantasy worlds of BEM and Errata Stigmata, Gilbert Hernandez brought it all back home with this sharp contemporary tale. This story, which ran under the simple title "Love and Rockets" in *Love and Rockets* from 1990 to 1992, takes us from plush Beverly Hills to the dangerous East side and introduces us to a dizzyingly diverse cast of characters, including a lowlife rock 'n' roll band, a "posse" of black youths, a ditzy Hollywood mom and her spoiled son, a gay activist filmmaker and his rebellious, half-Iraqi daughter, and a group of racist thugs whose violent attack on an older woman sets the plot in motion — as well as bringing in several older characters, including Palomar expatriates (and lovers) Riri and Maricela, the surfers from *Blood of Palomar*, and some special surprise guests from *Birdland*. *Love and Rockets X* does for contemporary Los Angeles what Robert Altman's *Nashville* did for that metropolis in the '70s — it's a superbly observed portrait of a city in decline, a character study of over twenty men and women, girls and boys; it's a comedy and a drama; it's in short, Gilbert Hernandez at his very best!

Love and Rockets, Vol. 10: X Details

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Author : Gilbert Hernández , Jaime Hernández

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From Reader Review Love and Rockets, Vol. 10: X for online ebook

The Sheila says

Unrelenting. Fantastic.

Osvaldo says

Gilbert's stories move north to southern California, where characters that fled the central American village of Palomar find themselves as cleaning ladies and flower sellers fearing both "la migra" and the violence against people of color and the queer (both of which they are).

What really works for this story is that the characters of Riri and Marciela do not suddenly exist for the purposes of telling a story about the relationships between classes and races and sexualities, but have a life and a history - they are rounded as people with an origin that someone who has read Love & Rockets understands and thus makes them more than just victims.

It was also interesting to see the rise of hip-hop in the frequent discussion of music in this comic (these stories take place in about 1989) as it has hit the mainstream - and the best part (to me) is that through one of the characters Gilbert makes a comparison between rap and punk rock that I have often made.

Great stuff.

Gessy Alvarez says

A bit of a departure from the rest of the series. Didn't love or hate it.

Finoolola says

This was pretty good, but I suspect I might have liked it better if I hadn't been hearing for years how AMAZING L&R is. Still, I liked the art and it certainly through the music, fashion and characters' interactions vividly recalled the time and place, which was LA just before those big riots. I can't really say much without giving major spoilers, but there was no resolution to any of the stories at the end, which I wasn't expecting, but I liked.

Susan says

This small volume gave me a introduction to the Love and Rockets graphic epic. Although I thought it was good, it was too crude for me. Exposes a street world of rockers, drugs, and social injustice.

Megan Kirby says

Amazingly large cast of characters; a testament to Beto that the reader can keep everyone straight.

D.M. says

Gilbert takes us north of the border(s) for the most part in this sprawling but short, convoluted story about various characters around LA...and their varying degrees of connection to Palomar. The new characters are thinly filled, and sometimes a bit stereotyped, but it's an interesting and entertaining story. If anything can be said for this one, it's that it doesn't go the way we're led to expect. There's no great crashing climax, and what Beto has to say about humanity is, perhaps, not what we'd imagine. Not great, but quite good.

StrictlySequential says

^Above picture is incorrect for 1560971010 ^ it needs to be swapped with the other edition's cover^

;;*INCREDIBLE*!!

GILborn in the U.S.A. writes and draws a engrossing story, this time set above the Central American border, which deftly portrays the people, politics and overall zeitgeist of the 1980s in the setting of Southern California!

Cori says

This is the 10th book in this series. I read one of these in my Chicano Art and Culture course in like, 2008? So I vaguely knew who some of the Palomar people were once we got to that part. But I had a really hard time telling people apart and the story jumps around a lot and it was confusing. I think it would have made more sense if I'd bothered to read them in order.

There's tons of story and lots of plot points and nothing is given any time to process or sink in before the next thing comes at you full force.

Unapologetic and hard hitting.
