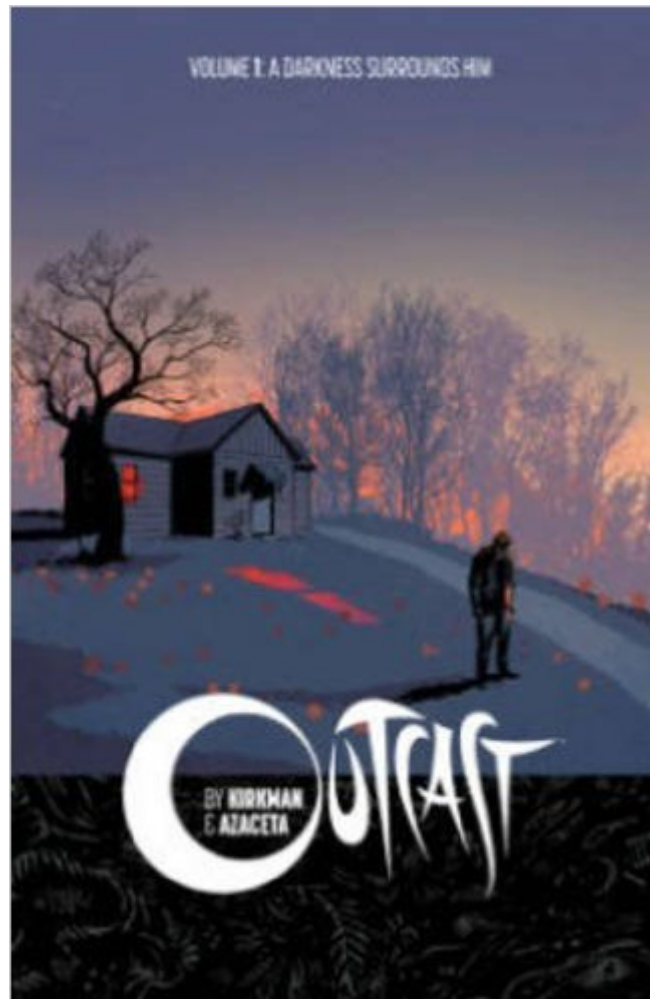


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Outcast By Kirkman & Azaceta Volume 1: A Darkness Surrounds Him



Synopsis

Robert Kirkman, creator of the *The Walking Dead* series, has launched another grim and civilization-menacing serial. The artwork of Azaceta is bold and coarse, with sophisticated and dramatic coloring. The overall effect is atmospherically creepy and yearns to be read. The television series is already under way. - Library Journal (Starred) NEW HORROR SERIES FROM THE WALKING DEAD CREATOR, ROBERT KIRKMAN! Kyle Barnes has been plagued by demonic possession all his life and now he needs answers. Unfortunately, what he uncovers along the way could bring about the end of life on Earth as we know it! Collects *Outcast* by Kirkman & Azaceta #1-6.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (104 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Kyle Barnes lives the life of a recluse. Consumed by guilt and haunted by his past, he lives a sheltered life. People haven't given up on him completely though; his sister and a local priest are kinder to him than he is to himself. He considers himself not worthy of their help and compassion. I don't mean to be cryptic. Everything is revealed as the story progresses. *Outcast* is an exorcism story whose simplicity of language, humanity of the characters and gripping storytelling make it a must-read for any horror fan. Characters are imperfect and vulnerable. Some are haunted, in more ways than one. If this fails to inspire compassion and empathy, *Outcast* is still one scary story with the horror of both the corporal and psychological terror kind. You know, possessed kids, murder - the good stuff. *Outcast* has already been optioned for TV. Be the cool kid on your block and get in on the action early. With an ominous title like *A Darkness Surrounds Him* - how can

you not be intrigued? This is Kirkman's finest work to date. Yes, I'm aware of TWD and everything else he has written.

I received a copy of Outcast from Image Comics via Netgally in exchange for an honest review. Thank you! I know Robert Kirkman is a pretty big name right now (he's the guy behind Walking Dead) but this is the first creation of his I've delved into. And I like it. I know that this was being considered as a TV show last year or so, and while I don't know whatever happened with that plan, I think it would work perfectly. While reading it all I could think was "this would fit perfect on the small screen", so fingers crossed it happens. Outcast is about Kyle Barnes, who has been surrounded by demonic possessions his whole life. And, according to the pastor, he seems to have a knack for exorcisms. So now the two of them are on a quest to discover what he is- the only clue is the title "Outcast". Pretty decent idea, although it reminds me a little of Hellblazer, to be honest. I liked the characters, they easily jumped off the page and were well-rounded. Each of them seems to have a back-story, Kyle's being especially tragic. The story was quick paced and had me eager to return each time. It is a comic series, so it leaves you wanting more at the end and wraps up absolutely nothing, so if you're not in for the long haul maybe don't pick this up. I have very little to say about this book, though. It was good, but not great. Interesting, but not unique. I can't gush about it, but I would never hate on it. So... I'm at a fork in the road. I gave it four stars instead of three because of the art. This I can gush about. It was gorgeous- simple and detailed at the same time. Gritty but not over the top for a horror series. I love it. I would buy it for the art alone; return to the series for the art alone. So if you want to be in awe of Azaceta, please pick this one up.

Outcast is the story of one dude who has had a rough life with people in his life turning on him one after the other. His mother beat him, his wife turned on his kid, and now he's deal with the problems of strangers. All of these people are possessed and they all seem to know him, even the strangers. They call him an outcast. Even by the end of volume one we don't know what that means but we do know there are some very big players interested in him. This story is standard Robert Kirkman in the sense that the world is a terrible place with monsters. Currently it's not the humans that are monsters (like The Walking Dead) it's just possessed people. Usually Kirkman sucks out your soul within a single volume and makes you just want to eat ice cream and play with puppies to see the world in a better light but he hasn't quite achieved it yet in this one but it does feel like it comes from Kirkman's hand. It's dark and gritty with a little bit of creepy thrown in. The story feels like something I've experienced before. It feels like another exorcism story. It

doesn't feel particularly new or unique but I'm still captivated enough that I want to continue the series. I don't particularly like any of the characters and I'm not sure I'll ever really care if one of them dies or not but they are good enough. The art is okay enough and it fits the story but nothing special. I enjoyed the creepy world Kirkman set up. I'm going to read the rest of the series when it comes out in trade but it's not something I need to run out and grab the issues so I can get my hands on the story early.

Robert Kirkman shows he's not only a genius when it comes to zombies. Entering the paranormal world of demons and exorcisms, Kirkman explores faith in a way *The Walking Dead* only tiptoes around. Complete with characters who struggle with faith vs. reality, with finding one's place in the world, or remaining an outcast. The demonic presence that has haunted Kyle, from his mother's possession, to his wife's possession, to the possession of a boy named Joshua whom he doesn't know, won't stop until it has what it wants. Kyle doesn't know what that is yet. The comic opens on a farm with a barn (familiar, yes). Inside the typical, white, two-story house, Joshua is having a snack while his sister and mother argue over his sister's boyfriend. Realizing that Joshua isn't munching on chips, Betsy, the mother, investigates only to find that her son has chewed off his own finger. At first, I thought zombies...again, but the next scene takes us to Reverend Anderson who is discussing faith and loss with the police chief. From there, we meet our protagonist, Kyle, who knows all about possessions. Having witnessed his mother's possession as well as his wife's, Kyle has lost everyone to the darkness. Invited by Reverend Anderson to assist with Joshua, Kyle is forced to remember his past, but he's not quite ready to confront it at first. Realizing the darkness will never cease to pursue him, Kyle decides it's time to find out why. Already signed to be a series on Cinemax, Kirkman will once again control the TV horror genre, and maybe for the better as *The Walking Dead's* ratings have dropped slightly. Still a fan of TWD (but hoping for something new in the series, and no, I don't trust this new community), Kirman may revitalize the 60 minute horror slot with something we all actually fear: faith, or the lack thereof. See the post at www.reviewscomingatya.com.

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