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## Ring Of Roses

*Das Petrou*

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**Das Petrou : Ring Of Roses** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ring Of Roses:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 'Pavane' meets 'The Black Death' By J. Higgins `Ring of Roses' was first published as a series of four (gray tone) comic books, from November 1992 - February 1993 by Dark Horse. In 2004, Image Comics released this graphic novel, which compiles all four issues, along with an introduction by Dave Gibbons, a Forward by writer Das Petrou, Bibliographies of the creators, and an Afterward by Petrou. `Ring' takes

place in the Summer of 1991, in an alternate UK where, as the result of a victory by James II at the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690, the Catholic Church rules. Technology is at a level equivalent to that of the 20s or 30s in 'our' world. The police carry crossbows, 'radiophonic receivers' are a new and exciting gadget, and antibiotics have yet to be discovered. The Papacy has its hands full with a war taking place on The Continent among France, Germany, and Spain. As the UK grows increasingly restive under the Vatican's hegemony, Pope John XXIX decides to make a goodwill visit to London and perhaps persuade England to provide forces to assist the Papacy, in what may be the First World War. Just before the Pontiff's visit, 10 priests go missing, last seen late at night in a boat on the river Thames. Apprehensive church officials hire the well-connected barrister Samuel Waterhouse to find out what happened to their missing brothers. When Waterhouse discovers that the establishment is stonewalling him as regards the fate of the boat and its passengers, he in turn recruits a client named William Barnett. A criminal and all-around bruiser, Barnett is the ideal choice to go delving into the locked offices and secret rooms of London's religious and political bureaucracy. As the investigation unfolds, it becomes clear that the disappearance of the priests was no accident. A deep and dangerous conspiracy is underway in London. But, as Waterhouse and Barnett discover, there are much more serious problems arising from the hot, crowded, garbage-filled streets of their walled city. For the rats infesting the sewers and street grates are suddenly dying by the thousands..... 'Ring of Roses' is an offbeat melding of the 1977 epidemic thriller 'The Black Death', by Gwyneth Craven and John Marr, with Keith Roberts' sf classic 'Pavane'. It's not a perfect graphic novel; the plot and sub-plots eventually get too complicated for their own good, a situation not helped by writer Petrou's lack of adequate external narration to keep the reader apprised of what is taking place. As well, the artwork, by John Watkiss, has a rushed, sketchy quality that makes identification of the various characters, and the actions they are performing, difficult to follow. But taken overall, 'Ring of Roses' is an imaginative and engaging tale, and readers interested in the alternate UK and Steampunk sub-genres of sf will want to check it out. (As of 2009 a possible film deal was in the works, but since then, the status of production is unclear). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. John Watkiss is Amazing By L. MARTINI was fortunate enough to study under John Watkiss. He is absolutely on a different level. Lightning fast, and never uses reference. This is an excellent showcase of his work. John if you're reading this, thanks for everything from your Associates in Art days!

Ring of Roses is set in London in the 21st century, but it's a London we wouldn't recognize. The Church rules England with an iron hand but has begun to lose its grip. Times are tense. Then six high-powered priests are brutally murdered on the Thames. Samuel Waterhouse, the flamboyant barrister hired to investigate, soon realizes he is out of his depth. So he hires a hardened criminal, William Barnett, to assist him. Barnett rams through a delicate web of conspiracy like an express train through a scout troop's tent. Meanwhile, the bubonic plague breaks out and thousands are dying. Throughout all this chaos, Waterhouse and Barnett are treading on the toes of the immensely powerful figures behind the scenes.

"Fresh and invigorating... Arresting and vivid!" - Dave Gibbons (Watchmen, Kingsmen) "Must Read" - IGN "A thoughtful and ambitious graphic novel!" - Comics Bulletin "a phenomenal story... a fantastic book that's just as relevant now as it was nearly twenty five years ago" - Graphic Policy "Captured beautifully and it moves perfectly along" - Flickering Myth "...the whole thing is wonderfully dense and tightly written, well plotted, great dialogue. And then there's Watkiss' artwork, absolutely superb throughout, a real delight to turn each page, really masterful control of both individual imagery and sequential art... Ring Of Roses is a book that cleverly thrills... highly recommended" - FP International About the Author Writer Das Petrou has had a long career as concept artist and creative consultant for Disney, Cartoon Network and the BBC. He has also written numerous comics including a James Bond series for US publisher, Dark Horse. Artist John Watkiss has credits to his name that includes concept designs on Disney's Tarzan movie and work for the likes of Saatchi Saatchi, Dreamworks and 20th Century Fox. Rights