THE KILLING JOKE:

WARREN ELUS BY RODSEVELT FRANKLIN (FLCK YOU HERD

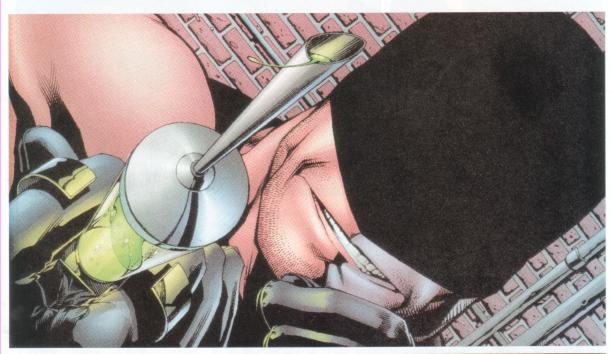




What he is to comic books is the equivalent of John Woo to Hollywood. Warren Ellis, who Rolling Stone recently dubbed one of the hottest writers out, is the British cat creating some of the most exciting work in today's comic book industry. Heads are checking for him like he's the next Alan Moore (author of Watchmen) who, along with Frank Miller (The Dark Knight Returns), in the 1980's revolutionized how comics can look, feel, and be written. With an imagination as freakish and playful as interlocking wildstyle graffiti letters, Ellis delivers tales that deconstruct superhero clichés. His characterizations and plot lines add a human face, albeit twisted, to traditionally twodimensional story telling.

His heroes are anti-heroes. They're not your friendly neighborhood web slinger. They're not the type who let the villain get away (or even live) just so they can come back some other time with yet another Acme built doomsday device. The protagonists of his pulp fiction are loners, outcasts, narcotics gobbling anarchists and sexual deviants. In the end they win, but not without extreme consequences and just like in real life, there's no clean conclusion. It's often hard to tell what side the good guys are on or just who exactly the bad guy is.

Transmetropolitan follows the adventures of Spider Jerusalem, a new millennium Hunter S. Thompson. He's a gun toting journalist, a shock jock columnist in an urban world similar to Blade Runner on angel dust. With it's two headed cats, advertisements uploaded into people's dreams



and it's elective genetic surgery, this futuristic utopia is the Jetsons' ghetto. In the face of presidential assassinations and government conspiracies, Spider Jerusalem seeks to uncover the truth and get completely shit faced as is his right as an American citizen.

Stormwatch is the United Nations Crisis Intervention Team. The whole world is their beat. It's a book of political intrigue and black bag dirty tricks set in a world of superheroes and megalomaniacal madmen.

Where Stormwatch is wide screen, Planetary is more arthouse in it's subtlety. It's the X-files of the Wildstorm Universe, the imprint distributed by DC Comics where most of Warren's books are

published. The three man team that star in Planetary are archaeologists of the unexplained. Each gifted with different powers, they search the world for the mysteriously strange and unique, often uncovering secrets that could change the way people view the world they only thought they knew.

The Authority is the ultimate superhero book. It picks up where Stormwatch left off after Ellis killed off most of the main characters in an alien attack. Here he advances the concept of a super-team to being a world power that even the U.S. must humble itself before. Each member is practically a deity in and of themselves. Combined, they're dedicated to protecting the Earth despite the lethal animosity

of this planet's puppet masters.

Although Ellis created The Authority, he no longer writes for it. He's spending time currently overseeing 3 books in the X-Men family at Marvel: X-Force, X-Man, and Generation NeXt. He's also busy developing animation projects for MTV, Icebox.com and atomfilms.com. Those interested in finding out more about the man Entertainment Weekly listed among the 100 Most Creative People, check out warrenellis.com. He's very good at returning e-mails.

