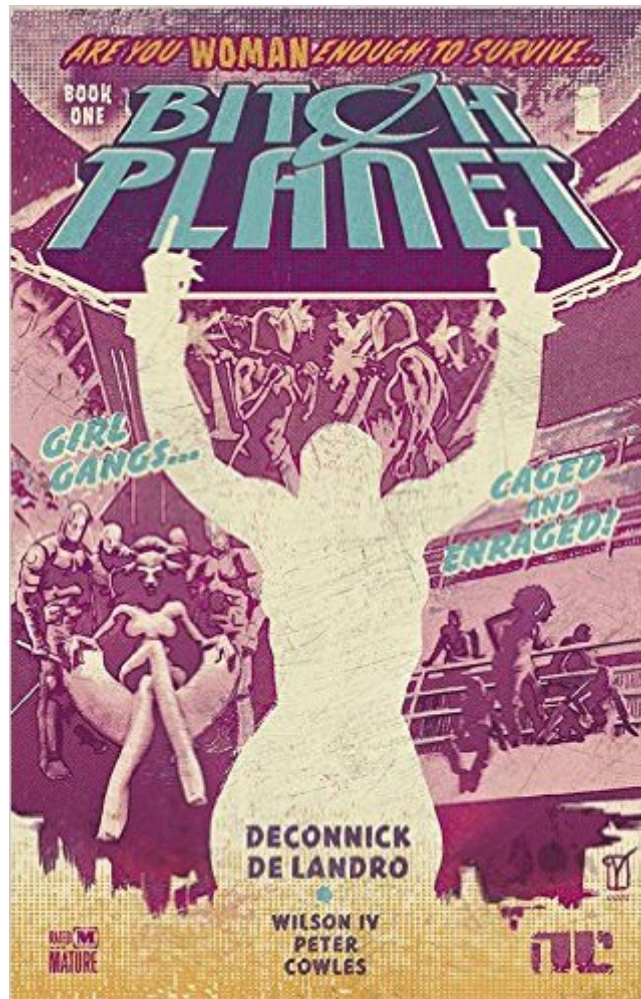


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Bitch Planet, Vol. 1: Extraordinary Machine



Synopsis

...one of the most unique and subversive artifacts of pop culture in recent memory. - Salon.com "Seldom do comics burst onto the scene and shatter our worldview by being entirely poignant, raw, and captivating - but then, most comics aren't Bitch Planet." - Entertainment Weekly Eisner Award-nominated writer Kelly Sue DeConnick (Pretty Deadly, Captain Marvel) and Valentine De Landro (X-Factor) team up to bring you the premiere volume of Bitch Planet, a deliciously vicious riff on women-in-prison sci-fi exploitation. In a future just a few years down the road in the wrong direction, a woman's failure to comply with her patriarchal overlords will result in exile to the meanest penal planet in the galaxy. When the newest crop of fresh femmes arrive, can they work together to stay alive or will hidden agendas, crooked guards, and the deadliest sport on (or off!) Earth take them to their maker?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My daughters love DeConnick's work and handed me the first 4 comics to read recently. I was extremely hesitant, but since it meant so much to them, thought I would give it a try. My grandma was born in the 1890s, my mom in 1918. I grew up thru the 60s and 70s and thought I'd seen and heard all there was to know about feminism and women's rights. I didn't. I learned some things from this work. I think the incredible power of these mature comics is intense and wonderful. I would want any young woman growing up today to read them, grapple with the ideas, and hopefully grow into

someone who makes the world a better place. I'm hooked. Can't wait to see what comes next. NC
Bubbe

Bitch Planet is one of the most interesting comic series being run today, and will almost certainly be studied for years to come. The premise is simple: take a dystopian future which differs from ours in that the prejudices against women are far more explicit than they are now. What would such a world look like? DeConnick's writing is brilliant in its simplicity and overtness. In her world, those prejudices (especially against women who are not "compliant" with the norms of society) are hunted down and imprisoned on the "Bitch Planet" colony. The story follows a band of women imprisoned in this colony for various reasons - some violent, others just for "disrespect" - as they struggle to keep their dignity and survive. The comic reads and looks just like an old-school exploitation film, and that's great for what they're trying to do. The art is gorgeous and each issue comes with a page or two of newspaper ads which help flesh out the world. Bitch Planet is an avowedly feminist comic, and worth a read by both average comic readers and academics.

Written by Kelly Sue DeConnick (Captain Marvel, Pretty Deadly) with art by Valentine De Landro (X-Factor), Bitch Planet is something of an amalgam, derivative of a number of sources from women-in-prison exploitation movies of the 60's and 70's to films as varied as Rollerball, The Stepford Wives, The Handmaid's Tale, The Hunger Games and of course The Longest Yard. Bitch Planet is set in a not-too-distant future where technology and space travel have advanced but humanity, however, has taken a serious dark turn into a totalitarian system where society exists to support hierarchical male rule and women exist only to make men happy. Women who acknowledge their role in life are considered "Compliant" and any woman who doesn't is deemed "Non-Compliant". The worst of the Non-Compliant are sent out into space to a correctional facility called the Auxiliary Compliance Outpost, more commonly known by its nickname, "Bitch Planet". The primary form of social entertainment is a globally televised stadium-style game called Duemila or Megaton. In order to boost the game's popularity, a decision is made by the Fathers to add a team of players made up of inmates from Bitch Planet. Think "The Longest Yard" and you get the idea. Highly recommended if you like any of the sources from which Bitch Planet stems and if you're looking for something really different.

I read a feminist graphic novel, and I really liked it. If you know me, that sentence probably just knocked you over, but of course I'm talking about 'Bitch Planet, Vol. 1' by Kelly Sue DeConnick with

art by Valentine De Landro. In a future where patriarchal rule is even stricter, women who find themselves branded as 'non-compliant' find themselves shipped off to ACU, or Auxiliary Compliance Outpost, aka bitch planet. The stereotypes of prison films begin, and the plot forms into a kind of rehash of *The Longest Yard*, where inmates are challenged to a game of football. In this case, it's some future sport, but seems similar enough. Along the way, we get a little backstory of some of the characters. It's kind of a cross between *'The Handmaid's Tale'* and exploitative women in prison movies. The art style has a retro vibe that I like. I love the comic book ads in the back for pills to make you compliant or classifieds. I love De Landro's covers and her art throughout the book. I was a bit less enthused about some of the characters which seem to be little more than caricatures. Hopefully that gets fixed as things go along. So, lots of stars for art, less for character development. There's also a pretty good discussion guide included. I also got the point without feeling like I was being targeted or hated on. Kudos for that. I received a review copy of this graphic novel from Image Comics and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

This series gets a lot of really great feedback, with good reason. It's engaging and shocking and leaves you wanting more. This volume is primarily character development and world-building, but I'm looking forward to picking up Volume 2 to really see the story unfold.

This reads like the author is trying to get across a message, not tell a story. I'm good with the message, but the story ends up lackluster, the characters flat/too forced, and ultimately not as enjoyable as I was hoping.

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