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## Archangel #1 (of 5)



## Synopsis

Science Fiction Superstar William Gibson comes to comics! The U.S. political leaders of 2016 abandon the radioactive planet they've destroyed and harness the power of humanity's last hope: The Splitter, a colossal machine designed to manufacture a bright new reality for them to infiltrate and corrupt.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like other customers here, I was disappointed with the short length of the first issue, but I'll try to restrict this review to the quality of the story, writing, and illustration, instead of the admitted lack of quantity. It's good. I enjoyed it. That said, I am a big William Gibson fan. The story is an intriguing, if not particularly groundbreaking (I suspect there are some major twists ahead) exploration of the consequences of time travel, presenting more questions than answers, as one would expect from a good introduction. Set in a dystopian parallel 2016, and at the end of WWII, the plot so far revolves around the efforts of competing teams of time travelers vying to either change or preserve the current timeline by direct action in the past. The characters don't have much time to develop here, so they come across as a little one dimensional, but there's enough there to hint at some promising depth to be explored follow up issues. The art is very good- crisp, detailed, and colorful without

being gaudy. I was delighted to find a visual homage to *Neuromancer*, an Easter egg only devotees of Gibson's seminal cyberpunk masterpiece will likely recognize. I'll definitely pick up the next issue. Here's hoping it'll be longer than the first.

I'll reserve the fifth star for when the series is complete. But this is definitely a good start. I hadn't ever really thought of it before, but the graphic novel medium really does suite Gibson's cyberpunk style. In this initial episode, we see a bit of everything: America of an alternate universe, in which America has been nuked, and the evil president Henderson reigns supreme from his underground bunker; add in a time machine (the present is not enough), a geek in a wheelchair out to sabotage the President's evil plot, fighter (cum time machine) pilot tattooed from head to toe, robotic houseflies -- it's cyberpunk at its greasiest. Now, quick switch to 1945, just after the Allied victory in Germany: a proper British Secret Service lady who could have been a character out of *Indiana Jones*, or *The Mummy*, and her American counterpart. How do they deal with such curiosities from the future? While it doesn't go very far into the story, this initial episode also includes an appendix of pencilled preliminary sketches with notes on the various characters, and a few foretastes of what's to come. The only drawback for me was that in my Kindle edition, location 24 should have been a two page spread with a lot more description of the project, but on my Kindle for PC, it was reduced so much that the text wasn't legible. Being an eBook designer myself, I would have made sure this got corrected. Apart from that, I'll be looking intently for the next episode...

This graphic novel will only work on iPhone or iPad, not on the Kindle Desktop version. I would only recommend it for the iPad, just too hard to enjoy on a small screen, but it does OK on Airplay to my TV.

I understand it's a serial, no problem there. But this first installment is at least 40% fluff. "Making of" meta-stuff. Publisher promo of other titles. Way too little of what I paid for. This is not what I expect from William Gibson. Started to rate 1 star, but I'll give it two on hopes that the next installments do better and it ends up a worthwhile story.

There's not very many pages to this comic, but a lot takes place. The characters get developed visually as well as giving you some back story. I enjoyed the artwork as I was reading the dialog. I did go back to reread some pages and to scope out the finer details in the pictures. I didn't want to miss something that may be important further along in the story. This is the first comic I've bought in

many years. I am not disappointed. I did look up some of the places where this takes place. I also checked out information about the Pilot's tattoos from the information given in the back pages. I'll read #2 soon.

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