



# Savage Membrane

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## **Savage Membrane** Steve Niles , Ashley Wood

A hardboiled horror novel featuring two-fisted occult detective, Cal McDonald -- a gumshoe with no love for ghosts and ghouls alike. Featuring illustrations by award-winning artist Ashley Wood, this high-caliber conjuring of classic detective fiction, horror, and comedy finds McDonald (a tough-as-nails private dick in the same vein as Sam Spade or Philip Marlowe) stumbling on a mystery in the nation's capital, where people are dropping dead all over the place -- with all the brain matter missing from their skulls! What follows makes this novel a monster read.

## **Savage Membrane Details**

Date : Published April 13th 2004 by IDW Publishing (first published April 2002)

ISBN : 9780971228238

Author : Steve Niles , Ashley Wood

Format : Paperback 96 pages

Genre : Horror, Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Fiction, Mystery, Noir, Comics

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## From Reader Review Savage Membrane for online ebook

### Gen says

good, original creepy fun courtesy of steve nils

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### Erika says

A hardboiled horror novel featuring two-fisted occult detective, Cal McDonald -- a gumshoe with no love for ghosts and ghouls alike.

I am a bit mixed on this one, overall I did enjoy it – I read it in two days – but it was a bit...rougher than I was expecting perhaps and I found some of the fights and action scenes distractingly violent and unbelievable. As in, I have a very hard time believing the main character survived any ONE of his battles never mind all of them combined and that kept pulling me out of the story.

The character of Cal McDonald himself was not particularly likable and that often keeps me from getting to invested in a character and their story, but in this case the reason for his unlikeability made so much sense and didn't make him and unreasonable bastard that I found myself caring about him and being invested in his actions.

I really liked Mo'Lock and I overall I found myself sympathizing way more with the ghouls and undead in the story than most of the humans, I would love to learn more about what their lives and world is like, though I find it unlikely to happen.

I enjoyed the overall mythos and structure of the world and it's magic which I found quite believable and fascinating and while this is not quite my typical type of story I am looking forward to reading the next one.

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### Sarah says

Super duper yucky enjoyable must-read addition to the Cal McDonald/ Criminal Macabre series. Works well as a non-graphic novel... Yay!

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### Willow Redd says

After a rough night at a raucous Halloween party, lawsuit pending, Cal McDonald is awakened by a call from his one remaining police friend who desperately needs his help. While Blout doesn't really believe in all the weird nonsense Cal supposedly investigates, he knows when he's out of his element, and this one rings uncomfortably familiar to a previous case Cal worked on.

So, Cal is on the job. Along the way he has to avoid someone out to kill him and a real tool of a cop who also wouldn't mind seeing Cal dead. Hopefully he can figure this out before he becomes a victim of one or all of these problems.

In the great tradition of the hard-boiled detective story, Steve Niles gives us Cal McDonald, a detective of occult phenomena. He's seen this weird shit all his life, so why not get paid for it.

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### **Jon says**

Niles creates a somewhat new twist on the detective/noir genre with his hard-drinking, down-on-his-luck PI Cal McDonald. Really deserving of 3.5 stars, it is a fun read with fast paced action for a short, lazy afternoon on the couch. By no means was this an incredibly well written book, it was rife with tired cliches, sentence fragments and even typesetting errors. However, his portrayal of dark desperation and frantic pacing made it a page turner for me. This kind of book makes me smile with its lack of literary pretension.

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### **Du4 says**

This is THE best horror novel I have ever read. Cal McDonald is a monster detective, the only human who can "see" vampires, werewolves, zombies, etc. So what does he do to deal with this horror? He drinks constantly, stays on a steady stream of cocaine, pills, and painkillers, and he picks fights with cops. I give this book a FUCKING BRILLIANT on Du4's scale of awesome.

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### **Bandit says**

This was good. I don't think I loved it, just because there is way too much fiction out there about uber tough paranormal detectives and I'm just not really into that. This detective, Cal McDonald has a great sidekick, a ghoulish name Mo'Lock. Some interesting twists in the story, nothing spectacular. Definitely enough blood and gore for horror fans. Steve Niles can write, the story flows well and fast. The art was good, but a bit too ambiguous for the story, in my opinion. Overall, a pretty good way to spend a few hours.

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### **Paul Mirek says**

Kicking off a wave of horror/suspense/thriller titles for the merry month of October. This is an early prose work from musician and graphic novelist Steve Niles, and while it shows the self-indulgence and tin dialogue that's common in most first works, it also has a mischievous, naive, devil-may-care attitude that's strangely compelling--like watching Miley Cyrus on the Today Show. It's hard to not think that the massive quantities of pharmaceuticals being imbibed have something to do with real life, but then again, no one's ever a saint in horror.

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### **K.N. says**

I can honestly say I fell madly, deeply and irrevocably in love with Cal McDonald. Steve Niles gives us a fresh twist on the tired Noir genre by adding monsters and drugs to the mix.

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## **Mark says**

I'm just a few chapters in, but I would definitely recommend this to anyone who has enjoyed the Cal McDonald comics. It's got the same world-weary noir tone, and monsters. Lots of them. Niles currently has it available as a PDF for Name Your Price on his website (<http://www.steveniles.com/>).

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## **Lindsay says**

I think Steve Niles fairs better in comic format. Very formulaic, lots of gross out details, drugs, violence and swearing, though I didn't find most of these elements shocking, interesting or engaging. If you're looking for a supernatural hard-boiled detective novel by a comic writer try Mike Carey's Felix Castor novels.

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