



Dangerous Dan, coming at you like an ogre with a .45 slug lodged in his wedding tackle.

Sometimes, like when you're waiting for a corpse to finish bleeding out in your bathtub so you can dismember it without making such a mess, you need some quick entertainment. Look no further.

Conan and the Songs of the Dead collects a miniseries published by Dark Horse a year or so

ago. Songs of the Dead stars the barbarian we all know and love, your hero and mine, Conan the Cimmerian. The illustrator is the esteemed Tim Truman, artist of modules from the golden age of gaming, as well as comics like Scout and the good issues of Grimjack. I could easily go off on a Grimjack tangent but I'll save that for another time. The author of this piece is Joe R. Lansdale, write of such literary gems as the Hap and Leonard series as well as Bubba Hotep. Lansdale and Truman collaborated on several Jonah Hex miniseries for DC a few years ago so Dangerous Dan got really excited when he heard they were tackling the one and only Conan.

The story is as follows: Conan and his comic relief sidekick Alvazar, are charged with retrieving an artifact that looks like a bejeweled minotaur wang and bring it to a sorcerer. The sorcerer plans to use the artifact to open a doorway into another dimension and release a great evil. Did I mention the doorway strongly resembles a vagina? Songs of the Dead is full of dark humor, decapitations, and monsters, like a Conan story should be. Does it stack up to Howard's Conan? No, but the humor makes up for it.

Tim Truman's art is what originally drew Dangerous Dan to this collection and it's

Dangerous Dan's Book Review #6 October 08: Conan and the Songs of The Dead

something to behold. Truman's art on Grimjack (may you all bow at the feet of the almighty Grimjack!) was good and it's improved by leaps and bounds in the ensuing twenty years. It's detailed without being unclear and the coloring complements the art perfectly. It also has a feel consistent with the old days of Barry Smith and John Buscema. I'd give the art 5 out of 5.

The writing is a hybrid of Howard's style coupled with Joe R. Lansdale's West Texas sensibilities. All the Conan staples are there: monsters, scantily clad women, and wizards that aren't going to survive the fifth act, but with the added bonus of Lansdale's brand of dark humor. 4 out of 5, just because Dangerous Dan doesn't feel like giving out a perfect rating just yet. Unless he already has and lost the memory in a drunken haze.

So when you're looking for something to read when you're waiting for the bleeding to stop or just need to something to peruse on the can, give Conan and the Songs of the Dead a try. 4.5 out of five.

**Until next time,
remember: It's not
infidelity unless she
catches you before you
finish.**

-DD

