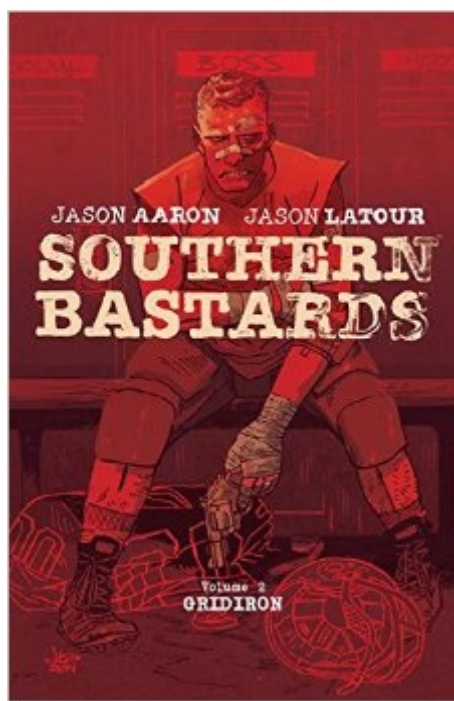


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# Southern Bastards, Vol. 2: Gridiron



## Synopsis

Sheriff "Big Bert" Tubb once cleaned up Craw County, Alabama with an iron jaw and a big ol' stick. But that was 40 years ago. When his son, Earl Tubb, returns home to settle some family business, he finds his daddy's grave unkempt, the stick he was buried with grown into a gnarled old tree, and Craw County in worse shape than ever. Then that tree gets struck by lightning. And suddenly Earl has a stick of his own. And some questions he'd like answered. The hit new crime series, Southern Bastards, returns for its second volume, as Jason Aaron (Scalped, Thor, Star Wars) and Jason Latour (Wolverine & the X-Men, Loose Ends) pull back the curtain on the dark and seedy history of Craw County and its most famous and feared resident, the high school football coach turned backwoods crime lord, Eules Boss. In a place where only bastards flourish, what does it take to be the biggest, meanest, most powerful bastard of them all? Only Coach Boss knows. But if I was you, I wouldn't ask him. Collects Southern Bastards #5-8.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Southern Bastards, Vol. 2: Gridiron follows the beating and apparent death of Earl Tubbs. From there, it flashes back to the football-playing days of the coach, Eules Boss. In the first volume, Boss is referred to as the water boy, so the majority of these four comics is a quintessential tragedy: the one you see coming from a mile away. Visceral, bloody, nasty, and with not a few uses of racially insensitive language, Vol. 2 is another great read in this powerful series. I'm a fan, and I've already got @ImageComics sending me future issues via mail. While the collection does resemble the

format of a book, with an arc that flows through the four issues, the best way to read Southern Bastards is monthly. Highly recommended. \*\*\*\*3/4

Jason Aaron's art is reminiscent of early David Mazzucchelli, which is a strong compliment. The first volume of the series had a surprising ending and left the reader with questions about how the series could continue (maybe as a serial?). Jason Aaron surprises us by taking the villain of the first trade and making him the protagonist of the 2nd volume. Life in the South is portrayed unflinchingly (Aaron is a Southerner so he can't be accused of Northern bias). Most significantly, Aaron is able to make the villain sympathetic at times, which is not an easy feat. The story moves along well and has set up for a much anticipated 3rd volume.

Wow! This series is just amazing. Brilliant writing and great art. Aaron is gifted, and this volume really lets it show! He takes a character many will find deplorable and makes him all so human by delivering a perfect back story in this here collection. Also, this book has a forward from one of the NFL's finest linemen! Can't really talk football with a more knowledgeable source....and he agrees, this is one fine piece of work!

A great follow-up to Southern Bastards Vol. 1- a look inside the past of the coach. This book is a must for any comic lover- especially those of us who grew up in the South with an irrational interest and rational fear in high school. Also this book will make you crave BBQ.

Jason Aaron is one of my favorite writers in comics today for ability to write stories of gripping characters in wide themes from fun series like Wolverine and the X-Men and mature gritty/noir tales like Scalped and the current comics, Southern Bastards. A series about the deep, dark underbelly of the south in the spirit of Walking Tall as Earl Tubb wanted to return to Craw County. And through it all, Earl went through hell and back on his morals for Craw County to rise up against Coach Boss but to no avail. Volume 2 pulls back the curtain on Coach that makes us not only understand who and what he is, but that this guy really, really loves football. Collecting issues #5-8 see the funeral of Earl Tubb from his malicious beating from Eules Coach Boss and his gang. Boss is attending the funeral and displaying to the town his dominance who tries to take it away from him. While doing his daily job of coaching and being town kingpin, we get numerous flashbacks to Boss' tough childhood to being the worst football player in town, having a good-for-nothing stealing father, and the worst Boss family being recognized as the worst

in town. Volume 2 of Aaron's story of Craw County is pretty much looking into Coach Boss's back story, something that has been lacking from our antagonist from volume 1. Most of the same tough and troubled characters have are their childhood upbringings, and Boss is no different. He loves Football, wants his father's appreciation (which doesn't happen), gets beat up by the jocks, and aims for higher aspects in his life. It's good material where you do understand (maybe even feel empathy for?), but it's not gripping or subtle as volume 1. I usually go in-depth with my reviews, but there isn't a lot to explain in this volume as it's just Boss's back story. If there is anything Aaron does do well though, is the complex relationship that Boss has with Football in that it is equal parts a way of approval, the only thing Craw County cares about, and that he loves it so much he's even willing to kill for it. LaTour's art work works well with the setting with his sketchy design and makes for a dark and disoriented read. No real negatives about this volume except the tease at the very end of volume 1 is teased again at the end of volume 2. I do not know why Aaron did that because it's almost the exact same tease. SOUTHERN BASTARDS VOL.2: GRIDIRON is another good volume in this dark side of the south as we learn about the origins of Coach Boss. But the back story feels too familiar, doesn't add much to pushing the main story, and that great tease at the end of volume 1 is again teased here. So my score is 3 1/2 star rating, but I did like what I read and this series. Here's hoping that big tease is worth in volume 3.

'Southern Bastards, Vol. 2: Gridiron' takes us back to Craw County, home of the Runnin' Rebs football team, and their local crime kingpin Eules Boss. It's just as good as the first volume, and the story makes a sort of sympathy turn. This time around we meet young Eules Boss as he is trying to make the high school football team. He's got daddy issues. He wants to make his dad proud, and his dad is, well, sort of a piece of work. The coach is convinced that young Boss can't make the team, but he is determined. He also finds an unlikely ally in Ol' Big, the team's blind ballboy. Ol' Big can get him on the team, but Boss' father won't be happy about it since Ol' Big is black. Boss and Big form an alliance that will last to the present. Boss will also make a decision about his father that will echo into the present as well. We see the makings of a man here. It puts a sympathetic spin on the Boss backstory, but he's still not a nice guy. A cool touch is the foreword by Ryan Kalil, the center for the Carolina Panthers. While not quite as strong as the first volume, this is another solid entry in the series, and continues to set up events to come with the continued foreshadowing of the return of Earl Tubb's daughter looming on the horizon. I was given a review copy of this graphic novel by Diamond Book Distributors, Image Comics, and NetGalley in exchange for an honest

review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

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