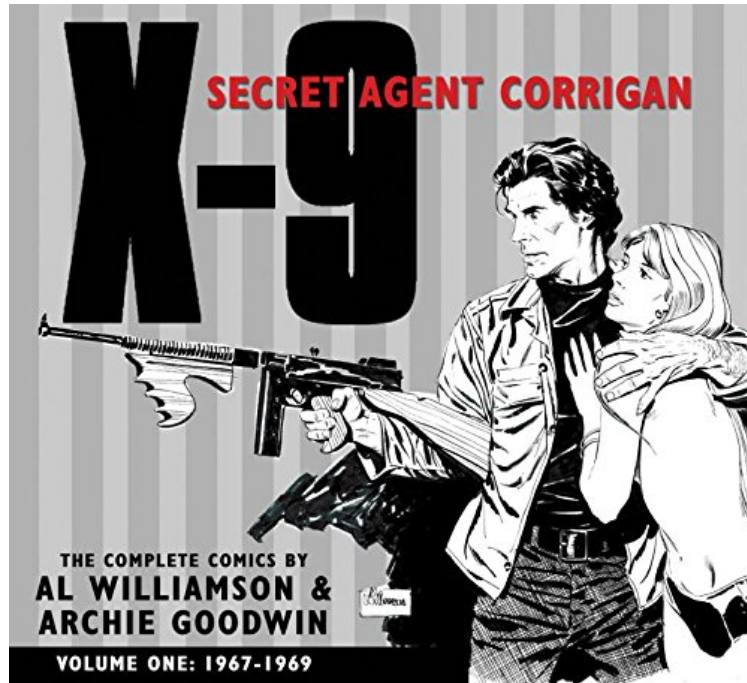


X-9: Secret Agent Corrigan Volume 1

Archie Goodwin

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Archie Goodwin : X-9: Secret Agent Corrigan Volume 1 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised X-9: Secret Agent Corrigan Volume 1:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Introducing Al Williamson's Phil Corrigan By rampageous_cuss Al Williamson was one of the great illustrators of the 20th century; his work has a sinuous dynamism different from but as good as the casual elegance of Alex Raymond, the original artist for the adventure strip originally called "Secret Agent X-9." This is the January 30 1967 to August 30 1969 continuity, together with an introduction to the strip by the wonderful artist and Raymond/Crandall/Williamson heir Mark Schultz (of Cadillacs and Dinosaurs fame) plus an essay on X-9/Corrigan by Bruce Canwell. The book needs an index, but basically there are 12 stories here, which aren't marked in any way; for convenience I am creating my own chapter headings: Chapter 1, 'Operation: Marina Vladcheck' kicks off the strips (page 10.) The beautiful Marina is a scientific defector to the West who, chafing under the tight security demanded by her position, plays hooky - unfortunately at the same time that kidnappers are plotting to abduct her for sale to a foreign power. It's a decent thriller with fast pacing and hair's breadth escapes. Williamson employs halftone screens here which are OK, but don't quite suit his artwork. Chapter 2, 'Crime Camp' is introduced on page 29 but doesn't really start 'til p 30. Phil follows the trail of wanted criminal Leroy Burke, which leads him to a Caribbean retreat where crooks, and Corrigan, get more than they bargained for. Reminiscent of The Avengers "Escape in Time" episode, it's an OK entry in the "villainous woman falls in love with the hero" formula. The art is Williamson at the top of his form. Chapter 3, 'The Inheritance of Cheryl Falcone' is introduced in the last frame of page 53 and starts on page 54. Dying criminal "Big Joe" Falcon offers the government all his files on the Syndicate, only to die before Corrigan arrives in his country of refuge. Phil realizes Big Joe's innocent daughter must unwittingly have the files, but a pair of

Syndicate hitmen do too and Phil and the beautiful Cheryl must evade them to reach Big Joe's safe-deposit box in Switzerland. A good thriller episode, with wonderful opportunities for Williamson to handle train scenes and a car chase. Chapter 4; as always the next episode, which I'd call 'The Murkley Family Business,' kicks off in the last frame of the preceding episode (page 73) and begins on the following page. Something's wrong at a government test site and Corrigan, and wife Wilda, find that room service at neighboring Desert Flower Lodge leaves a LOT to be desired. A mashup of the Ma-Barker and brainwashing memes. Chapter 5, 'The Chang Subversion' is introduced on page 97 and begins on page 98. Chinese agent (Charlie?) Chang uses a simple kidnapping plot to arrange eavesdropping on a missile conference, but Corrigan soon smells a rat - the trick is to save the cheese AND the victim at the same time. Chang, with his long nails and Fu-Manchu moustache, is a painful stereotype and the story is pretty formulaic, but the art is great. Chapter 6, 'Guns of the Desert' is introduced on page 119 and begins on page 120. Corrigan tracks a stolen arms shipment to the National Museum's excavations in Jhahran, where the Brawler and his beautiful accomplice are hoping to make a killing arming the desert tribes. Williamson doesn't quite get the lines of the AR-15, but otherwise it's perfect art. Chapter 7, 'Showdown at Eagle Bend' is introduced on page 141 and begins on page 142. Corrigan gets a call for help from retired G-man Dan Page. Phil finds that that Dan's newspaper had the lowdown on town boss Clegg Trask and his henchman the sheriff. When an 'accident' leaves Dan in a coma, it's up to Phil and his six gun to get the drop on the bad guys. An obvious Western, but lots of opportunities for Williamson to present some amazing night-time images, as well as cars and desert landscapes - and Trask's bikini-clad girlfriend, Debbie. Chapter 8, 'Rogue's Gallery' is introduced on page 165 and begins on page 166. The G-men have been following a Mr Prym, suspected of leaking top-secret information to the enemy. Corrigan artfully draws out Prym's contacts, but they manage to paint Phil into a corner - where they plan to turn him into a still-life. OK story, great art. Chapter 9, 'Alpsberg Power Play' is introduced on page 187 and begins on 188: Succession is about to take place in a small European country and the prime minister, Baron Zorloff, wants a queen who can act the part. It's a Ruritania romance in which Corrigan winds up in a swordfight with the Baron's roguish henchman, Von Krell - showcasing some stunning Williamson compositions. Chapter 10, 'The Ice Man Cometh' is introduced on page 211 and begins on the next page. Chinese military intelligence is assigning Mme Lei to replace the unfortunate Chang; her first move is to assign professional killer Joe Ice to the task of eliminating Phil Corrigan. Williamson still can't draw a convincing Asian but Joe Ice is an obvious Ilya Kuryakin (David McCallum) knockoff, and there are some great fight scenes. Chapter 11, 'The Daughter of Ma Murkley' is introduced on page 231 and begins on the next page. Millicent Murkley's in prison, but she knows too much about her spymaster to be left there. When her body is shipped out, Corrigan goes to look up her only unimprisoned next of kin. More wonderful night-time scenes, and Williamson demonstrates his ability to draw helicopters. Chapter 12, 'Storm Threat' is introduced on page 257. A pirate submarine is preying on shipping throughout the world's oceans, but the loot isn't money, but missile parts. I guess the pencils are by Williamson but not the inks, and it's not quite right. The story is another decent thriller of the "hero turns the vengeful female" type. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. X9 agent By A123WOW! Finally, this came in reprint. I have read some of the stories earlier in 1970s and 1980s as a comic book but this was much better view of the artist and the stories. It is always more interesting to read the original stories in their original language (English) than the reprinted and translated ones in Europe. I certainly recommend this to anyone who likes to remember the old black and white comics and who likes to read the 'old-fashioned' and 'old technology' agent stories without cell phones and gps... Some of the stories were longer than what I had read before. I think the earlier versions published in Europe had been shortened and it was a pleasure to read the full-length stories. It was an excellent collection and I can't wait to see the next one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Al Williamson is (was) fantastic and this work shows his growth over the course ... By Mark S. Al Williamson is (was) fantastic and this work shows his growth over the course of the series. Worth every penny to see this gorgeous art.

One of the classics of modern adventure comics! Al Williamson's delicate line-work, coupled with a style both realistic and atmospheric, enhanced the no-nonsense story of Corrigan, the sophisticated action hero. Williamson and writer Archie Goodwin produced the strip from 1967 to 1980, updating the character created in 1934 by Dashiell Hammett and Alex Raymond. Al Williamson's run on Secret Agent Corrigan from 1967 to 1979 stands as one of the artistic highlights in the history of the American comic strip. Williamson's delicate line-work, coupled with a style both realistic and atmospheric, enhanced the no-nonsense story of Corrigan. This premiere volume in a multi-book series is the first-ever comprehensive collection what is arguably the last of the great adventure strips. We offer the complete chronological dailies from 1967 to 1969, printed from Al Williamson's personal proofs in an oversized format that matches IDW's exquisite Rip Kirby series by Alex Raymond.

"The Secret Agent Corrigan collection is one more in an amazing run of titles published by IDW under their Library of American Comics imprint. With older comic strips such as Terry and The Pirates, Little Orphan Annie, and Dick Tracy already in their line up, Secret Agent Corrigan – as one of the last of the great adventure strips – becomes an appropriate bookend to the series." —The Christian Science Monitor About the Author Archie Goodwin was born in

Kansas City, Missouri, in 1937. In 1964, he went to work for Warren Publishing, where he became the head scriptwriter and eventually rose to the position of Editor-in-Chief. From the late 1960s until the late 1980s Goodwin moved back and forth between Marvel, DC Comics, and Warren, with occasional sojourns elsewhere. He helmed the launch of Epic Illustrated and was the Editor-in-Chief at Marvel from 1976 until 1978. He was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 1998. Al Williamson was born in New York City in 1931 and raised in Bogota, Colombia. After returning to New York, he studied at the Cartoonists and Illustrators School (later to become the School of Visual Arts), and in 1948, at the tender age of seventeen, embarked on a career in comics. He worked for several publishers, most notably EC Comics, the premier publisher of the early-to-mid-1950s. In 1966, Williamson realized a lifelong dream when he was chosen to illustrate a comic book version of Alex Raymond's Flash Gordon. In the mid-1980s he would go on to win numerous Harvey and Eisner Awards.