

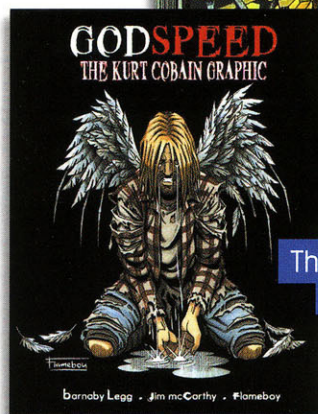
GODSPEED: THE KURT COBAIN GRAPHIC

**BARNABY LEGG, JAMES
MCCARTHY & FLAMEBOY**
OMNIBUS PRESS

It wasn't so long ago that the *Daily Mail* was up in arms about the news that Marvel Comics had disinterred the paper's beloved Princess Diana to star in a new X-Men spin-off. Now, with Kurt Cobain's tragic life being turned into a full-blooded graphic novel, it seems that open season has been declared on all dead celebrities.

The only surprise is that it has taken so long. We've had his diaries, his friends' thoughts, and his recording sessions, so it was only a matter of time before someone found a new way of telling the Kurt Cobain story. And, boy, have Legg, McCarthy and Flameboy found a way.

Condensed into a mere 96 pages, *Godspeed* transforms the tragic tale of the Nirvana frontman into a series of box-outs, thought bubbles and



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evocatively-portrayed key scenes. We see Dave Grohl and Krist Novoselic grassing Kurt up to the suits at Geffen, we witness his early (naked) moments with first girlfriend Tracy and we get a Technicolor glimpse into the trailer-trash sadness that was his early childhood - think *8 Mile* with knobs on.

Most shockingly, we get backstage passes to his angst-ridden descent into the suicidal state that

would ultimately claim his life.

Enough has been written about Cobain for there to be no real surprises in the story of *Godspeed*, but the

vividness of Flameboy's recreations of the troubled musician's decline take some beating. What fan couldn't be moved by the sight of Courtney Love dragging hubby under a shower to sober up?

Colourful, innovative but above all disturbing, *Godspeed* puts the "graphic" into graphic novel. Tasteful it isn't, but a great read it is.

JEFF HUDSON ★★★★★
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