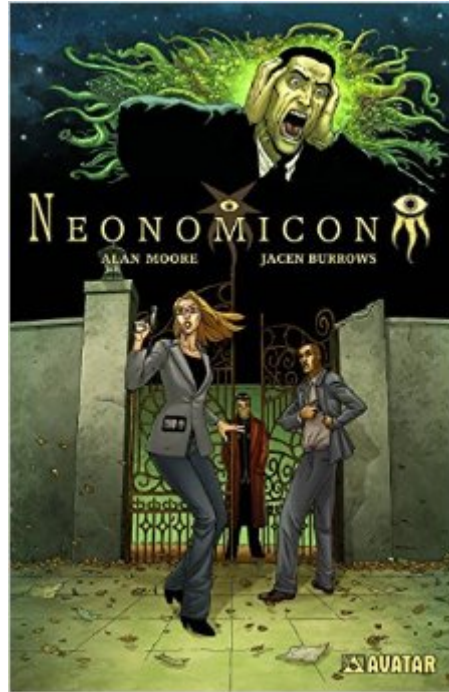


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# Neonomicon



## Synopsis

Comic book legend Alan Moore (WATCHMEN, FROM HELL) and brilliant artist Jacen Burrows deliver a chilling tale of Lovecraftian horror! Brears and Lamper, two young and cocky FBI agents, investigate a fresh series of ritual murders somehow tied to the final undercover assignment of Aldo Sax – “the once golden boy of the Bureau, now a convicted killer and inmate of a maximum security prison. From their interrogation of Sax (where he spoke exclusively in inhuman tongues) to a related drug raid on a seedy rock club rife with arcane symbols and otherworldly lyrics, they suspect that they are on the trail of something awful – but nothing can prepare them for the creeping insanity and unspeakable terrors they will face in the small harbor town of Innsmouth. NEONOMICON collects Alan Moore’s 2010 comic book series for the first time in its entirety – including his original story, THE COURTYARD, which chronicled Aldo Sax’s tragic encounter with the (somewhat) mortal agents of the Old Ones!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (84 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

recently introduced myself to the works of H.P. Lovecraft, both because I was planning to read Neonomicon, Alan Moore’s tribute to Lovecraft and the first winner in the newly-created graphic novel category of the Bram Stoker award, and because I have another Lovecraft tribute anthology I won through Goodreads. I figured I should read the real thing first on general principal. I’ve decided not to give a simple overall star rating to this book because my opinion is very complicated. I’ll rate it a bit more in-depth and discuss several different factors instead. (only allows one rating, so I averaged them for 3 stars)First, the premise. This book collects both the earlier two-part story The

Courtyard and its later four-part sequel Neonomicon, both written by Alan Moore and drawn by Jacen Burrows. Largely a tribute to H.P. Lovecraft, the book is itself an entry into that luminary's Cthulu Mythos. In The Courtyard an undercover FBI agent Aldo Sax investigates a seemingly-disconnected yet identical series of murders that all lead back to a Lovecraft-obsessed subculture. Two years later the case is taken up by FBI pair Brears and Lamper as they are plunged headlong into this same subculture....with predictably horrific results. Now, the analysis. As a tribute to Lovecraft, I give it four stars. As a standalone work, I give it two. Anyone familiar with Alan Moore or his body of work (you can see just from his Wikipedia article that he's a brilliant crazy man) knows that he's a deranged genius with a keen sense of how his work will be perceived....and not afraid to make a statement with it. It should also be noted (some will care, some won't) that his work is increasingly sexually explicit.

As a longtime fan of both Lovecraft and Moore, I was extremely excited when I first heard about this series. However, as I hadn't yet read The Courtyard, I waited until it was collected to read both works as a whole. Together, I found these works phenomenal. It is nuanced with references to Lovecraft that are both subtle (such as the graffiti on the fax booth that Sax uses that says "In Madness You Dwell," a reference to Metallica's song "The Thing That Should Not Be," which is based on Lovecraft's works "The Shadow Over Innsmouth," if I remember correctly) to the plot's very overt references to the Cthulhu Mythos. Now, I've heard and have read that Moore wrote Neonomicon essentially just for the paycheck (this was mentioned in an interview in Wired Magazine, from an issue in August 2010, if memory serves), but that doesn't mean that it's any less of a work. Personally, I loved every page of this book, from Jacen Burrows' hyper-detailed art (which to me straddles the line between typical comic book (i.e. superhero) and realist) to Alan Moore's dedication to the source material (little notes such as one of the bands being called "The Rats in the Malls," etc.) But, what really struck me personally in this book was that fact that it addressed Lovecraft from a more historical sense. While many post-Lovecraftian stories depict him as some sort of otherworldly prophet or messiah, this book addresses him as more or less simply a writer, but an unknowing subject as to his own influence or the worlds he described. But, as much as I personally loved this book, it is most certainly not for everyone.

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