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## REVIEWS » COMIC BOOKS

### Spirit Knight #1

written by Bryan Mero; art by Troy Gustafson

*new comic of spiritual warfare doesn't have strong start*

I have been a huge comic book fan ever since I can remember. As a writer and self-publisher of comics, I also have a special affinity for those who embark on this adventure. *Spirit Knight* is the first comic from new publishing company, Red Machine Comics. And although I was greatly excited for it, *Spirit Knight* seems to fall short in its first battle.

*Spirit Knight* follows a character named, Samuel Nicholson. We meet Sam as he is dealing with a divorce and drug and alcohol abuse. These imperfections in Sam's life actually draw the reader into wanting to know even more about him and relating to his struggles. However, the story takes an abrupt turn of events when he meets the angel Michael while running away from some street thugs.

Michael informs Sam that he has been chosen to be a soldier in God's army. No disagreement from me at this point of the story, however, then the creators at Red Machine decide to abruptly shift gears again (pardon the pun). It seems the enemy that Michael wants Sam to fight are the "demon seed"--demon-type creatures that can interact with the physical world. These creatures can turn into human form and Sam is given the mission to track them down.

Before you think "that's not so bad," just wait for the next part. When Sam inquires how he is supposed to fight them, Michael indicates that the Bible is his weapon. Sam defeats two of the "demon seed" by literally hitting them over the head with the Bible. No symbolism here, just good ol' Bible-whacking. The significance of this event is not lost on me in the least, but I'm sorry to say the "cheesy" bells are going to be ringing aplenty for some people.

I am really proud of anyone who attempts to self-publish a comic. It is a great undertaking that is difficult to understand unless one has attempted to do so. Producing a work that also seems to be attempting to make a good moral statement (I'm not sure yet, this is only part one of four) is increasingly hard. However, we now live in an age when comics have gained renewed popularity due to blockbuster movies. Therefore, comic publishers have to step up the quality of all aspects of their craft to justify the hefty price tags that are often necessary when self-publishing. And comics with more of a spiritual message have to work twice as hard to make sure they attract unlikely readers. Unfortunately, *Spirit Knight #1* doesn't have enough going for it yet to give it a great recommendation, but we'll keep you posted on future issues and let you know if they are worth checking out.



### Comment

I want to thank Derrick for an honest review. We at Red Machine Comics need to know how we can improve to make each upcoming issue better, minus the cheese. Our first attempt might have fallen short but we are committed to finish the series and create a character readers can relate to. We currently have preview sketches available on our website and will soon have a Spirit Knight #2 Preview posted. Don't give up on us yet!! <http://www.spirit-knight.com>

» Posted by: **Bryan Mero** at November 11, 2005 10:38 AM

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