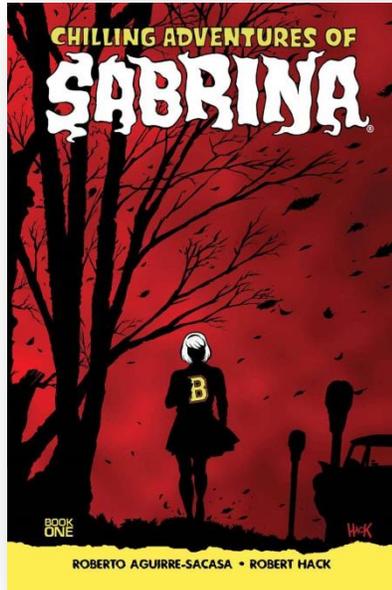


Spotlight

October 7, 2016



Remember that *Running Man* movie with Arnold Schwarzenegger, supposedly based on the novella by Stephen King's alter-ego Richard Bachman? The only thing it had in common with the book was the names and the loose premise that criminals were expected to fight for their life on national TV. Yet both were good in their own way. I also feel that way about Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*.

Sure the characters are the same as in the original and definitely more child-friendly *Archie* comics, and yes, she's still a witch, but it doesn't feel like the same Sabrina. Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa is also the writer behind the zombie-filled *Afterlife with Archie* comics and if I had to choose between the two, I think I'd stick to

the zombies. In those comics, familiarity with the original Americana world of *Archie* comics are essential, giving this new, horrific world a more deliciously subversive flavour; aww-shucks humour replaced with dark comedy. With the *Sabrina* series, it feels more like capitalizing on the brand.

It is, nonetheless, an excellent horror comic that works on its own and does have an excellent old-school horror comic aesthetic. Sabrina, the daughter of a warlock and a mortal, has a complicated enough life as it is, trying to decide, at 16 years old, her life's path: to embrace her witch roots or to live as a mortal (which would open possibilities of true love). But then the vengeful Madam Satan shows up and things get worse. Much worse.

Aguirre-Sacassa does a wonderful job creating a fascinating occult witch culture, while Robert Hack's art, not necessarily as great as Francesco Francavilla's *Afterlife with Archie* work, nonetheless maintains a creepy but vintage air, perfect for the plot and setting.

For this and other spooky tales to get you in the Halloween spirit, be sure to check out the great collection available at Yellowknife Public Library—many of which will be on display this month.

John Mutford, Public Services Librarian