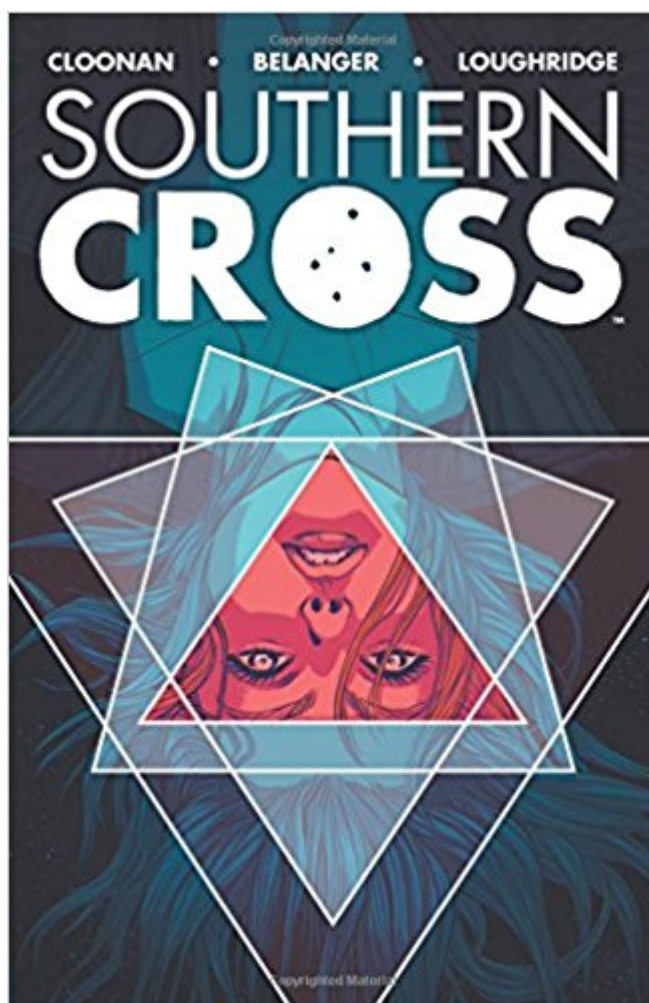


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# Southern Cross Volume 1 (Southern Cross Tp)



## Synopsis

Now boarding: Southern Cross, tanker flight 73 to Titan. Alex Braith is tracing her sister's steps to the refinery moon, hoping to collect her remains and find some answers. The questions keep coming though—*and* they lead her down a path of intrigue, betrayal, and galactic horror. Collects SOUTHERN CROSS #1-5.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This TP collects the first five "Southern Cross" issues. Alex Braith is traveling on tanker flight 73 to Titan in order to collect the remains of her sister, who died on that refinery moon. The action here takes place almost entirely on tanker flight 73 during the course of the transit. Alex is a badass, has a history, and plays by nobody's rules but her own. We know that because for about the first twenty pages she tells us so. Repeatedly. She's angry, anti-social, easily annoyed and super prickly. But hey, she's on a crap tanker on a crap flight to a crap moon to collect her dead sister, so I was willing to cut her some slack on the angst. Once the flight gets underway creepy stuff starts to happen, and so you get a sort of gothic supernatural story that happens to take place in space. VERY MILD SPOILER. While the plot isn't the same, it very much has an "Event Horizon" foundation and vibe, and since I'm a big fan of that movie I was, again, willing to go along for the ride. Some predictable stuff happens, and some unexpected, or at least novel, stuff happens, so you keep chugging along. The greatest strength of the volume, for me, was the artwork. Belanger does a superb job of

getting across the grimy claustrophobic feel of a cargo tanker carrying a couple of passengers, and while the lines are rather heavy and the color palette is a bit dark, that all fits with the story and setting. And, as a bonus, there are some big space views, (looking at the freighter in space or looking out of the windows of the freighter), that really are very detailed and interesting. These big views nicely balanced the small views covering the action inside the ship. The art is important because the characters are pretty much standard issue, (captain, crew, ship's cook, first mate, sneaky guy, crooked guy, suspicious guy, horny guy). There are a few sharp or funny or shrewd lines here and there, but also a lot of exposition, monologuing, and plot advancing. That was O.K. by me because the whole Volume leads to a cliff-hanger that looks like it will ratchet up the suspense/horror/adventure, and it seemed to me that the biggest payoffs in this series are yet to come. I guess we'll see. (Please note that I received a free advance will-self-destruct-in-x-days Adobe Digital copy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

'Southern Cross, Volume one' by Becky Cloonan with art by Andy Belanger is a pretty decent SF/Mystery. It offers the perfect blend of intrigue and creepiness. Alex Braith steps aboard Southern Cross, a tanker heading to Titan. As the story unfolds, we learn that while most of the passengers on board are heading out to become miners, she is there to discover what happened to her sister. When her roommate disappears, and she learns the room she is in is not what it appears to be, she sets out to find out what is going on. The effects of space on the ship add to the weirdness on board, and she isn't sure who she can trust. I really liked the story this told. The mystery, even though it's on a large ship, felt confined. Alex is obviously trapped on board, and there are people with strange motives. The mystery feels pretty solid (even if we don't discover everything in this volume) and the SF elements work really well. Rather than feeling like one element or the other is pasted on, this creates a seamless whole. I received a review copy of this graphic novel from Diamond Book Distributors, Image Comics, and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

I'm willing to try really just any comic published by Image Comics. They publish the greatest of stories and work with amazing artist which made them easily my favorite. I didn't need to know that Southern Cross is by Image Comics though, to make me want to read it. The combination of stunning cover and a story about a space ship and an impending galactic horror made this a must read for me. Sadly, Southern Cross wasn't what I

hoped it would be and it fell flat for me. It had potential but I just didn't get invested in the story, didn't care much for it and was only mildly impressed by the art. THE STORY: The setting of the story was pretty awesome: a space ship that actually looks like a normal ship. A great setting doesn't do any good though when the most important thing for me doesn't work out: I didn't care about the characters. I especially couldn't stand the main character. Not just because of her grumpy personality but she just didn't make me care about her. The other characters weren't any better either, especially all the males which were kind of creepy in how they approached her. To be honest, the only thing that kept me reading until the end instead of just giving up was the mystery. I wanted to know what is going on, why the main character's sister died and what this impending galactic horror is. But even getting the answers to my questions wasn't really satisfying. There is potential that after what happened at the very end, the story might pick up and go into a direction that would interest me more, but I don't think I will keep reading this one. THE ART: Color-wise I absolutely loved the art style of this comic. Only using different hues of just two colors made the panels look stunning, just like the cover does. Sadly, it didn't turn out to be a style I like when I took a closer look. Had I checked a preview of this comic it should have been clear to me that this might not be one for me. For the longest time I didn't read any comics at all because I often didn't like how people are drawn and had difficulties finding those I liked. Southern Cross is one of those that I don't like. I can't really explain what it is but it made enjoying the story a little harder for me and might even have had a small impact on how I felt about the characters, as in this specific case, they all looked so damn unfriendly. Both cover and summary made me curious about Southern Cross but both the art and the story didn't work out for me. I wish I would have liked it more because stories set in space are usually right up my alley, but I didn't enjoy this as much as I had hoped.

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