



Vic and Blood

By Harlan Ellison



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Harlan Ellison's Nebula Award–winning story begins this postapocalyptic saga of Vic, a boy, Blood, his dog, and the telepathic union that binds them together in a struggle for survival.

The cycle begins with “Eggsucker,” which chronicles the early years of the association between fourteen-year-old loner Vic and his brilliant, telepathic dog. The saga continues and expands in “A Boy and His Dog,” in which Blood shows just how much smarter he is than Vic, and Vic shows how loyal he can be. The story continues in “Run, Spot, Run,” the first part of Ellison’s promised novel of the cycle, *Blood’s a Rover*. Here Vic and Blood find surprising new ways to get into trouble—but getting out of it may be beyond even their combined talents.

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Vic and Blood By Harlan Ellison Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Admirers of Ellison's Nebula-winning novella *A Boy and His Dog* (which was the basis of the cult film of the same title) will undoubtedly embrace this perplexing look at the creative process. The author disavows the film's misogynistic conclusion, but he realizes the strength of its characters: teenaged Vic and his telepathic dog, Blood, who are trying to survive in a post-WWIII wasteland. With this basis, Ellison wrote two more short stories about Vic and Blood (after *A Boy and His Dog*), explaining more of their prickly but trusting relationship, and showing the emotional consequences of Vic's actions in the original story. Now, Ellison says he's finished telling the overall story by writing Blood's *a Rover* as a screenplay that he'll later convert into a novel. In the meantime, this worthwhile book collects the texts of all three existing stories, along with some commentary. Unfortunately, a comics adaptation by Corben precedes each story, detracting from what Ellison is doing. Corben is best when depicting extremely grotesque situations, such as his version of Hodgson's *The House on the Borderland*. But that's only one aspect of Vic and Blood's world. When, for example, Vic is trapped in a "downunder"-one of the huge fallout shelters where WASP America has tried to preserve its way of life by severing ties to the survivors on the surface-he is nauseated by its banal wholesomeness, but Corben's inability to execute subtle exaggeration fails to suggest this. Still, an Ellison performance is always fascinating.

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About the Author

Harlan Ellison has been called "one of the great living American short story writers" by the *Washington Post*. In a career spanning more than fifty years, he has won more awards than any other living fantasist. Ellison has written or edited one hundred fourteen books; more than seventeen hundred stories, essays, articles, and newspaper columns; two dozen teleplays; and a dozen motion pictures. He has won the Hugo Award eight and a half times (shared once); the Nebula Award three times; the Bram Stoker Award, presented by the Horror Writers Association, five times (including the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996); the Edgar Award of the Mystery Writers of America twice; the Georges Melies Fantasy Film Award twice; and two Audie Awards (for the best in audio recordings); and he was awarded the Silver Pen for Journalism by PEN, the international writers' union. He was presented with the first Living Legend Award by the International Horror Critics at the 1995 World Horror Convention. Ellison is the only author in Hollywood ever to win the Writers Guild of America award for Outstanding Teleplay (solo work) four times, most recently for "Paladin of the Lost Hour," his *Twilight Zone* episode that was Danny Kaye's final role, in 1987. In 2006, Ellison was awarded the prestigious title of Grand Master by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. *Dreams With Sharp Teeth*, the documentary chronicling his life and works, was released on DVD in May 2009.

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