

From all good seedy, depressing comic shops

Godspeed: The Kurt Cobain
Graphic Omnibus, £9.95



If they're American, the bumper overpriced funbooks, pretentiously known as graphic novels, rarely stray beyond the contemporary myth of the superhero. When they do produce something different, the shock value is sufficient for them to be

showered with awards from the condescending grown-up print world of magazines and newspapers.

We do it different over here. The nearest we've got to a superhero is *Judge Dredd*, who – what with being an out-and-out fascist future cop – regularly takes the piss out of the US. One of the *Judge Dredd* stable of comics creators, Jim McCarthy, has now jumped in with first-time author and spunk rocker Barnaby Legg and Yorkshire illustrator Steve "Flameboy" Beaumont to document the life and death of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain in a 96-page, full-colour, illustrated paperback.

Fluctuating between subjective dream state and objective reality, *Godspeed* descends into the dark palette of depression and a tortured self-image offering a respectful and fitting epitaph which doesn't let down either the man's partisan fans or those with a passing curiosity in his demise.

The visuals are first rate and despite the heavy responsibility, these guys have pulled off an onerous task remarkably well, going beyond the basic facts to produce a worthy tribute to an iconic figure.

