

Suicide Squad Analysis: El Diablo

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With *El Diablo* and DC Comics, there are 3 renderings of him in this universe so it can get a little messy and complicated to explain. So I'm going to try my best and start in the beginning and hopefully get it right ☐

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El Diablo, first started out in the 1970's in the *All-Star Western* comic starting in issue #2, where he is an old west hero, his real name was Lazarus Lane in this rendering. He is dressed in black with a red mask and has a pure black horse. *El Diablo* saved multiple people in this comic, including a woman giving birth to her child and an older gentleman.

El Diablo's powers came when he got struck by lightning and was put in a coma. A Native American shaman called the "Wise Owl" cured him with a catch of giving him the curse of raising hell, in a way, with his fire powers this was revealed in the 2007's comic *Jonah Hex* Volume 2 issue #11. During this version, the Wise Owl has been made into a trickster and bad person all around and not what a shaman would be.

This was the first version of *El Diablo*.



Another *El Diablo* named Rafael Sandoval who appeared in *Secret Origins* volume 2. #45, was a Texas councilman who seeks justice as a vigilante. When he was growing his father was killed in an unjust construction accident and the man responsible got away with it. When he got older he became a lawyer and returned to his hometown to become a councilman but people keep stopping him from seeking justice. In his career as councilman there were many arsons that he couldn't prevent or get justice for but as *El Diablo*, he could.



Rafael Sandoval as “El Diablo”

Another rendering of *El Diablo* is Chato Santana and the newest one also, and the one I think the directors got their inspiration from for the *Suicide Squad* movie. In this version of *El Diablo* he was in the hospital paralyzed and was a gang member, next to him, was nonetheless Lázarus Lane. A while later Santana’s gang “friends” come in and shut him up and Santana is in the spirit world with *El Diablo* who is looking for a new host, so to cheat death Santana becomes *El Diablo*.

The old west *El Diablo* is still around, though, not seen as much even though with a different backstory and different everything then the new *El Diablo* that is Chato Santana which is the face of the *Suicide Squad* comics, which is why the directors choose him.



Chato Santana as El Diablo

The difference between Santana and the movie version of him is that he didn't kill his wife and kid, instead he was seeking revenge on the gang members that tried to kill him by shooting him in the back and paralyzing him (which is how he became *El Diablo*), he is burning down a house that belongs to him but he soon realizes it has women and children. Like *Suicide Squad* he turns himself over to the police, he is given the death penalty, this is where Amanda Waller finds him and how he starts in *Suicide Squad*.



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I hope you enjoyed this insight into the many legacies of *El Diablo* and found it as interesting as I did researching it!

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Deadshot

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