



GamesRadar/Newsarama...In the graphic novel *Contraband* we find out a new and deadly use for your mobile phone. *Contraband* follows a young man, Toby, as he winnows his way into the black market world of "voyeur violence", taped and broadcast worldwide on an illicit cell phone network known as *Contraband*. Violence happens every day, but with the advent of camera phones a growing number of people are capturing these moments and distribute them online. What happens when someone gets caught up in this web - and Toby, a internet café worker, gets tasked to save them? What happens? Well, you need to read the book. But to help us find out more, we talked with the two English creators, writer Thomas Behe and longtime artist Phil Elliott. Newsarama One of the central topics of *Contraband* is mobile phone usage to document violence - such as fights, crimes and such. Phil, you have had first hand experience of this - can you tell us about it? Phil Elliott: I wasn't actually threatened with violence but the experience was very intimidating. A young girl demanding some money approached me in the street one evening. I carried on walking but then a young lad, who couldn't have been much older than 10 started swearing and saying I should give them some money. I was then aware that there was another girl filming all this on her mobile phone. Luckily they left me alone and went onto pester someone else but I still don't know what their intention was, whether they were trying to provoke me, or what they intended to do with the video footage. Newsarama: Thomas, what about you - what's your take on this growing trend? Thomas Behe: The kind of voyeur/violent video capture highlighted in *Contraband* seems to be growing in most parts of the world. We're seeing parent groups here in the United Kingdom increasingly concerned about their children using wireless devices. Now the government is being pressured to legislate mobile video violence. So far most of the nasty stuff we're seeing is generated by aggressive youths. Mobile bullying. Antisocial behaviour. Teens causing _____ with their phones because they're bored while hanging around. But I'm sure it's also spurred on by a mainstream media that loves to hype stories about kids filming scraps at school - just to work up mom and dad watching the news. Next day at lunch, junior wants to show his mates what was reported on TV the night before..