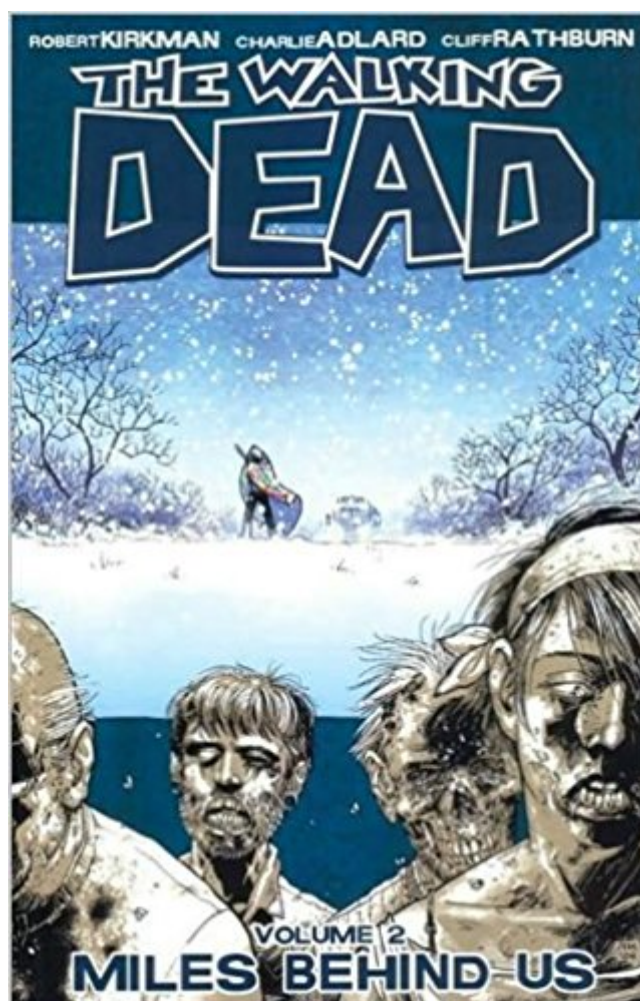


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The Walking Dead, Vol. 2: Miles Behind Us



Synopsis

The world we knew is gone. The world of commerce and frivolous necessity has been replaced by a world of survival and responsibility. An epidemic of apocalyptic proportions has swept the globe, causing the dead to rise and feed on the living. In a matter of months society has crumbled: no government, no grocery stores, no mail delivery, no cable TV. In a world ruled by the dead, the survivors are forced to finally start living. Reprint Edition

Book Information

Series: The Walking Dead (Book 2)

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Customer Reviews

As I was reading the excellent Volume 2 of "The Walking Dead," I realized that this book is not about zombies. Sure, zombies show up, but the story is about something deeper. It's about ordinary people, and relationships, and what desires truly lie in the heart of humankind. Story-wise, I thought that the most interesting question brought up was, "What is going on with the zombies?" The father at the farm thought that there was a chance that the zombies might one day suddenly become cured by themselves. I loved the idea that somebody was speaking up and saying that the zombies shouldn't be killed because they are real people and the source of the problem was still unknown. This is a departure from most zombie stories in which the goal is to kill the zombies to ensure your own survival.

This volume picks up after the events of Volume 1: Days Gone Bye. After the death of Shane, Rick

Grimes and the rest of the survivors leave Atlanta and travel across many miles of hostile territory seeking a safer home. The group picks up new members and loses old ones as they attempt to survive the brutal winter. The group eventually finds shelter at a small farm, though it is discovered that Hershel Greene, the owner of the farm, and his family are keeping a dark secret.

I'll reprint my review of Vol1 here: "The grain of salt to take with this review is that I'm familiar with only one other graphic novel. I've watched and enjoyed some of the movie adaptations, so I decided to go back and read Watchmen. I loved that novel besides the ending, so I decided my next experiment would be reading The Walking Dead. Honestly, the writing is kind of bad. It feels like the author would only write about Rick Grimes if he could because every other character is very stock at best or just a prop for Rick at worst. I would expect that a novel that wants to take a "Lord of the Flies" spin on zombie lit would spend more time exploring realistic grief over the loss of loved ones and society itself, but most of the characters seem to shrug it off like in any B zombie movie. Almost any personality or animation from the characters is between that character and Rick. I don't think the graphic art is bad, but it doesn't have very much shading which leaves it looking pretty flat. I would say it reminds me a lot of a movie storyboard to be used as a rough guide for filmmakers or for zombie concepts for makeup artists." Well, I trudged through 2 volumes now, and I'm convinced I can't make it.

It's a gift for a nephew. He loves the tv show, so I got him the first one last year. Now he's getting this one.

Unlike most zombie novels, movies or comics, "the walking dead" is more a story of inter-personnel relationships in a time where survival is a day to day affair. You see the bonding of kinship and the micro fracturing of oneself in the face of adversity and danger. Family become strangers as strangers become family. In an age of technology where survival of the fittest no longer applies it is astonishing to see such innate ingenuity amongst the group. As one person you surely are not going to survive long but as a semblance of a society with some hierarchy and democracy survival of the fittest moves from a person to person basis to a general measurement on building a society. In times of great adversity our most primitive behavior comes to the forefront but also our most sympathetic. "The walking dead" is a masterful depiction of that.

I hopped on The Walking Dead band wagon after the show became popular, so I purchased this

volume to catch up on missed issues. If you like the series, this is a must have item. That said, I caution you if you want to order this book--or likely any comic--through Prime. I bought this book with several other items, one of which was quite large, but all my purchases were shipped in the same box. The comic was free to move around within the box so by the time it arrived, the book was bent and one page was ripped from banging into the other contents of the box. If you're a Prime customer, I suggest either purchasing this item by itself, or only with other books, so the item is less likely to be damaged in shipping.

Like many readers, I've been an on again/off again comicbook fan for many years... In the last couple of years (since the year 2000) I've returned to the fold, this time taking advantage of the many top-quality graphic novels out there, and Robert Kirkman's "Walking Dead" was one of the titles most frequently recommended to me since I started this reading spree. It lives up to the hype. I just finished reading books 1-4, which collect the first twenty-four issues of the comic, and man, I can't wait for book #5 to come out. The series tells the story of a guy named Rick, a small-town cop and self-described Barney Fife who wakes up from a hospital stay to find the world changed around him -- it's zombie time, but zombie time with twist. The twist is that, unlike all the movies and TV shows we've all seen, "The Walking Dead" has a much longer, open-ended story arc -- Kirkman and co. don't have to wrap things up in a tidy, two-hour package, so there is space for the story to unfold at its own pace, with character development that's more prolonged and in-depth than the usual zombie flick allows. By the end of Book 4, the crisis has lasted about a year and Rick and his band of survivors are about twelve strong, having lost about an equal number of family and friends over the course of the story. It's a taut, grim, reflective plot line that keeps your interest and compels you to read. I, for one, hope this isn't just another one of those neat B&W comix that kind of fizzle out, but rather that Kirkman really gets the chance to do what he says he wants to do, and follow Rick's saga as far as he can. Anyway, I'm hooked. As long as he keeps writing this series, I'll be first in line to buy it. [copyright joesixpack @ slipcue.com]

Great read. Different from the show of course but really well done and really great illustration.

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