



Y: The Last Man, Vol. 3: One Small Step

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WINNER OF THREE EISNER AWARDSThe adventures of Yorick Brown continue in Y: THE LAST MAN: ONE SMALL STEP, collecting issues #11-17 of the critically acclaimed series. A Russian Soyuz capsule is coming down from the International Space Station carrying three passengers: one woman and two men. Could this be the end of Yorick's tenure as last living male?

Y: The Last Man, Vol. 3: One Small Step Details

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From Reader Review Y: The Last Man, Vol. 3: One Small Step for online ebook

Bradley says

A few ups, a few downs. Or is that crashes?

Oh, Alas, poor Yurick. At least it's refreshing to see a relatively decent man in this position, actually consistently doing the right thing at the right times. You'd think that the last man would be taking advantage of situations like this, but no. Someone raised the kid all right.

I can't say the same about his sister.

I only have one complaint. This is STILL a little tooooooooo decent. I mean, for the sake of saving humanity, especially when there are patches of women doing just fine for themselves, who are willing and able to have children, shouldn't he give his gift... just a little? I mean, let's get real here. He's traveling with a highly renowned scientist who impregnated herself with her own clone before the world went to hell. If he really felt bad, he could at least donate and let her give the human race a chance.

Alas.

The end of the volume was rather funny. :) Traveling troupe of women making a play about the Last Man? How prophetic and trashy. :)

Bruce says

I'll do my best to keep this short, and recommend a quick browse of other comments for a gestalt assessment. Got this out of the library on the heels of a Washington Post Comics Riff blog reader's recommendation, but if Book 3 of 10 is any indication, I think I'll take a pass on the remainder.

I give this book 2 1/2 stars for its high-concept (mysterious plague kills off EVERY Earth mammal with a Y chromosome except for maybe one guy and his pet capuchin monkey)...

...that suffers from cliched execution (coloring is consistently without depth or nuance, pointless side story at the end of the book even suffers from costume continuity errors). And that's just the art. For me, the best realization of this work via comics came on the splash of p. 10, where last man Yorick's despairing joke, "I'm the strongest man on Earth," is juxtaposed in an illustration that makes him a tiny speck 3/4 of the way up a tall cliff.

Otherwise, this is eminently forgettable pulp pap that provides further fuel to those who refuse to take comics seriously as a literary/artistic genre. All characters are 20-something buxom hotties (even Yorick's mother, notwithstanding the stylish gray highlights), all incessantly bicker in one voice, and all are given characterizations as 2D as the art. Specific bizarre moments include: a Russian hitchhiker who starts to disrobe in the back of a moving pickup truck; a 'secret agent assassin' who looks to have all the fighting competence of Drew Barrymore's Charlie's Angel; a crack team of Israeli Mossad who have zero-discipline, zero-cohesion, and who are led by a psychotic so incompetent, she can be rendered unconscious by a single

kick from a guy in handcuffs; a two-page fight between two astronauts serving on-board the international space station (conflict for the sake of conflict?); an unestablished character wearing night-goggles and a ninja outfit who aborts her mission with the eloquently verbalized, "Oh, f--- this low-paying b---s---. I'm outta here." Presumably in Japanese. Etc.

Incidentally, while the realization here may be novel, the concept itself is not (as its authors are only too ready to admit). Check out Mary Shelley's 1826 original here -- <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/18247> -- though it should be noted that Shelley appears less interested in an exploration of gender isolation than human. Shelley's work is really, "The Last Person," not so much "The Last Man."

Oh, f--- this low-paying b---s---. I'm outta here.

Omar Alhashimi says

2/5

I can't continue this series any longer. I can't handle the writing. It feels so much like some of those cheesy young adult books that I can't bare to read. To most people it will be fine, and I feel like if you don't see anything wrong with the writing then you should continue on. But for me I just can't continue with it. Nothing is keeping me going.

Jenn(ifer) says

If Hurley likes it, it's gotta be good! Amirite?

One small step...

In the third installment of the Y: The Last Man saga, we are informed that Yorick Brown may not be the last man on earth after all!! Dun da dunnnnnnn. Apparently, there are two male cosmonauts in orbit who are preparing to return to Earth. In this leg of the journey, we are introduced to a group of Israeli soldiers eager to capture the last man before anyone else does, a Russian astronaut, and a troupe of roaming actors. This volume has it all: drama, intrigue, action, adventure, comedy, and great art work!! And suspense! It was a real page turner; I think I read the whole thing in two hours.

I guess I'm in for the long haul now. You sucked me in, Vaughan. Imma have to shell out my hard earned pesos to buy the remaining 7 volumes! Dang it.

Nada Elfeituri says

Maybe I'm being persnickety, or maybe the previous volume set my expectations too high, but this comic fails to grasp my attention. The only thing that's really pushing me forward is the novelty of the premise and

the (fading) hope that maybe this will get better.

At times, it just feels like it's trying too hard to be politically/socially profound. The characters are either boring, rash or one-dimensional. The plot is grinding on painfully slow, too many distractions and needless pauses (unless I'm just being overly impatient).

Matthew says

While I continue to enjoy this series, this volume was not quite as strong for me as the last two. It felt a bit disjointed and some of the plot twists too coincidental (I mean, it is quite an outlandish story, so I am not sure what I am expecting!) Some of that feeling may come from the last two issues compiled here having a different feel and different characters. So, to summarize, it is good, but feels slightly off.

Another thing about this series as a whole is that I think the commentary on how women would survive without men must be tongue-in-cheek. If it isn't, then the author seems to be making it seem like women would struggle without men. But, I do think it is more likely a case of focusing on extreme response to more quickly get the point across in graphic novel format. Also, it may be that it is not so much that the women struggle without men, but is trying to show how important the sexes are to reach other.

I am hoping that this volume is just a lull in the series, a connector volume, perhaps, and it will improve again with the next volume.

Ivan says

Better than volume 1 and 2.

Yorrick is still annoying but story is getting more interesting and side cast is continuously good(well most of them).

Tragedy and comedy, short spinoff at the end, was also very good.

Brandon says

[Yorrick may not be humanity's last hope after all; two men exist beyond the earth's atmosphere within the international space station (hide spoiler)]

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Book Grrrl ? says

The story continues of Yorrick, last man alive after a weird plague or something kills off the entire male population. A secret military Israeli group is after Yorrick and try to kidnap him. We find out there is a small group of astronauts alive and orbiting the earth, two of which are male. A new (female of course) secret agent Russian character is introduced. I don't want to give too much away, so I won't go into any more details. I like this series, but it hasn't become a favorite yet. It's entertaining and parts of it are funny, but I

feel like it could be better. I keep waiting for something really bad-ass to happen and it never does...

Irena says

So the end of volume 2 left me wanting to find out what happens next - I admit that.

This time I'll start by saying that I still love the art!

Look at this piece of candy:

So what we have now is women entering romantic relationships as a completely common thing. Yorick's grown a beard and is able to walk around like that because some have started to try to look like men by arranging a fake beard.

Random girl to Yorick: **Seriously, your lady's lucky to have someone as dedicated as you. Bind those breasts a little tighter and you'll almost be passable.**

Appears that there are two more living men who are currently in space so I'm dismissing the theory about another wipe-out of nasty humans by God to punish and reset the world. I'm also dismissing black magic...

I also *loved* this part with In Mother Russia :D

Almost every (but the last in the volume >__< why?!) issue ends so dramatically, the suspense was killing me! I went on to the next one immediately, wanting to find out what happens next so I ain't gonna complain about bad story telling. This volume was mint! Entertaining as hell :D

The way characters think and act is getting more and more clever all except...

...Yorick. He didn't fail to piss me off even in this volume, where he supposedly mans up :D Now, he *does* man up, but he was so far behind in the kiddie land that he's just entering adolescence. And I *love* it how one of the characters, Natalya, nails it simply by saying:

A friend of mine asked me today "is this the part where he stops whining and grows a beard?" Yep. Beard outside, idiot still inside. God, he aggravates me! How can the main character be *so* unlikable and all the other characters, even the annoying villains, be so great?

Now I understand why are all women instantly in rotten mood when they find out about Yorick's existence go all

This review turned into another rant post :D nothing can be done about it - the main character is so

unbelievable, makes me want to draw my own piece of comic where I kill him off in so many different ways. Be as that may, the story evolves and becomes more and more interesting and I enjoyed this despite Yorick's nonsense.

StoryTellerShannon says

What if all the men, except one young man and his male monkey pet, were wiped out all over the world and nobody knew why exactly? That's the setup for this series that takes a look at gender issues and progressive science versus a natural order of things.

I like that the explanation for the plague is not known and there are several possibilities. In this volume we deal with Yorick FINALLY getting it on with a girl who reminds him of Beth (his pseudo girlfriend), a lesbian affair of sorts between two of the female characters, a subplot about Yorick's older sister, a secret society, an answer as to how Yorick survived, the abduction of Yorick's monkey which sends the group by sea heading to Japan and Yorick meeting a super hot and intelligent pirate captain (but she has this one serious flaw, apparently). The main character, Yorick, is a putz and sometimes clueless but believable enough even though some might argue he is a passive character who has very little "game" with women.

My favorite part in this volume was the hallucinogenic voyage undertaken unwillingly by Yorick. This is a good starting read for people new to comics/graphic novels. The series has received 5 prestigious Eisner Awards. Hollywood has been trying to make this into a movie since 2007. Some say this series saved Vertigo Comics from financial problems. The deluxe edition includes a watered down script in the back.

CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: B plus; STORY/PLOTTING: B plus to A minus; ARTWORK: B plus to A minus; THEMES: B plus; WHEN READ: February 2012; OVERALL GRADE: B plus to A minus.

Roxanne says

I feel like i've been letting the sexism and shitty representation of women slide but by volume 3 it's starting to wear really thin, does vaughan just hate women? I cringed reading some of this, i dunno what happened in this volume but it bugged me more so than the others.

Volume 3 is a lot more mellow than the previous two volumes, the astronaut storyline was so obvious, and there's not that much going on which is why it ends up in some weird theatre group. Which i'm lost as to why if there had been such a disaster the first fucking port of call would be to ensure there are plays running, and it's the last two issues of this volume that drove me up the walls, the women the shit they say like urgh no! Plus the ultimate kick in the tits they trash talked leonardo dicaprio!

So ultimately kinda disappointed, it's just average not a lot happens i really don't know how this volume adds to the plot in the long run, and i hope the next volume gets better and vaughan settles his ass down on the women hate, seriously dude who hurt you?

||Swaroop|| says

Volume 3, One Small Step, started as fun and adventurous, but in the second half loses its grip. But it does get back on track at the end.. Looking forward to the rest of the series...

"Even death is beautiful, if you are not alone." :)

Women and Children first.

They jeopardized the future of **mankind**... for chivalry?

Y: The Last Man, Vol. 3: One Small Step is about the only man ("The Last Man") to survive a mysterious plague that wipes out every other male of all the species on the planet ("every mammal with a Y chromosome).

Bill Khaemba says

I am just having so much fun with his series :)

HFK says

Alrighty then.

After a longish break, I decided to continue with *Y: The Last Man* series to complete my "rest of the year"-challenge that is to read as many volumes out of multiple graphic series I have on my Kindle, simply put. I am deadly behind with most of them, and it would be nice to be on top of my own shitty game. So to speak.

My two stars strikes again, which is no surprise really as that has been the deal with the previous volumes also, but there is a greater liking from my part in the air within *One Small Step* than there has been before. This is most likely due to third volume being very foreign political, which gives it some spice, but in the end, it just doesn't cut it enough. This, again, is most likely due to the political aspect being the same old U.S, Russia, Israel, and wars in the world, and the attempt to criticize under mediocre ability to actually do so.

That, again, highlights the juvenile touch I have felt all the way from the start. This, again again, comes from our "last man" actually being a naive, rather youngish boy that just fucks everything up most of the time, and doesn't do it while actually having a solidly witty humor inside the dialogue, on the contrary.

As expected, third volume really takes the routes known, no surprises here unless you count a tacky, ridiculous love interest possibility that just doesn't make any sense at all to be honest.

Overall, an okay read to waste some time out of your hands, but damn I feel sorry for the humankind, this dude being the only semen bowl between the life extension and the almighty extinction.

