



The Walking Dead, Vol. 3: Safety Behind Bars

Robert Kirkman , Charlie Adlard (Illustrator) , Cliff Rathburn (Illustrator)

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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: there is no government, no grocery stores, no mail delivery, no cable TV. In a world ruled by the dead, we are forced to finally begin living. This volume follows our band of survivors as they set up a permanent camp inside a prison. Relationships change, characters die, and our team of survivors learn there's something far more deadly than zombies out there: each other.

The Walking Dead, Vol. 3: Safety Behind Bars Details

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From Reader Review The Walking Dead, Vol. 3: Safety Behind Bars for online ebook

Riley says

This was the best volume so far!

Ayman Gomaa says

YOU KILL , YOU DIE So simple rule
those are the rules now xD , it was the best volume so far <3

Sarah says

Things are really getting crazy now! This series is so good! I LOVE the covers by Tony Moore, they are brilliant. I still wish the comic was in colour (yes I know I've said it before) but I feel like it could have brought a lot more to the comics. I mean the covers are in colour and they're spectacular. I have a thing for pretty colours that work together. Anyway, I also love the story. You think things can't get any worse for the group but Robert Kirkman just keeps throwing stuff at them! I'm interested to see how Rick is going to deal with being "in charge" and I'm interested to see what is going to happen to the group next and the convicts. Can't wait to read more!

Rachel Reads Ravenously says

BEST PART OF THE ENTIRE SERIES SO FAR

Kristen says

5/5

The Skinny:

The same crew...sort of...is back. They believe that they have found the perfect place to live; space for everyone, food, and best of all, no zombies! But, as is almost always the case with The Walking Dead, nothing ever goes quite as planned.

My Thoughts:

I will just cut to the chase – Safety Behind Bars has been my favorite. I'm kind of surprised that after three zombie-filled volumes, that these graphic novels still deliver big. I found this installment to be bloodier, more shocking, and overall more edge-of-your-seat than the previous two. I feel that this is quite the feat considering how much I liked the first two volumes.

I think the main reason that this story continues to feel fresh is the introduction of new characters. While there are many characters that have been present in all three volumes, there are also many new additions. These new characters add a lot to the story because there is often a little backstory accompanying their introduction, and because you are constantly wondering if they are f'ing crazy or not.

The story is also helped along by the constant traveling. The characters, thinking they are safe, try to make a home in various places, yet are forced to uproot time and time again. This constant flux in setting serves as another way to keep the story interesting.

Oh, yeah...I can't not elaborate a teensy bit more on the 'bloodier' and 'more shocking' aspects. LOTS of killing happens, and not just of the zombie variety. I'm talking fucked-up, did-that-just-happen kind of killing. And, it happens more than once. I will leave you with that.

Overall:

As I said, this has been my favorite volume thus far. I am impressed that this story continues to shock and interest me. Maybe by the time I get to volume #14 I'll think differently, but until then – read on!

Crystal says

Unpopular opinion; I'm not a fan of the tv show. The comics are growing on me though especially being a fan of his other series

Brad says

The bloody, putrid, rotting corpse of soap opera goodness that is The Walking Dead graphic novels is in its full balls out glory in the third collection Safety Behind Bars.

Lori is pregnant with Shane's baby -- And in case you don't know, Shane is the former best friend of Rick, Lori's husband. Not only that, though, Lori and Rick's son Carl shot Shane dead. Not only that, though, Shane was buried after his death, and Rick realizes over the course of the story that Shane is probably zombified (more on this later), so he goes back, digs Shane up, and kills him again. Sweet.

It's not about being bitten anymore -- That's right. You don't have to die with a Zombie biting you to turn. All you need to do is die. You die, and you come back. How do we know? Chris and Julie (Tyreese's daughter) gave each other their virginity then enacted their suicide pact. As these things are wont to do, the suicide pact only resulted in Julie's death, and as soon as she died, with no zombies in sight, she was

reanimated and trying to eat her grieving father's neck. Rick finishes her zombieness off, while Tyreese strangles his daughter's lover to death. What a meany!

Prisoners and Serial Killers -- It's not enough that our band of merry wanderers finds a prison and have to clear it out, but they also find a small cache of prisoners, still alive and eating meatloaf in the prison mess hall: a murderer (he killed his wife and her lover), a druggy drug dealer, an aging biker in prison for theft, and a white collar tax evader.

Next thing you know, heads -- and not zombie heads -- are literally rolling, and one of our prisoners is a serial killer. Surprise, surprise, surprise.

Love Connections Galore -- Andrea hooks up with Dale. Chris and Julie hook up pre-mortem. Tyreese and Carol keep their relationship going between mop up jobs. Glenn and Maggie get all romantic over a barber chair. Dexter and Andrew, former inmates, start to see their man love cool. And even little Carl hooks up with little Sophia. It's fun for all ages.

It's no wonder AMC's making it for the small screen. The melodrama suits TV perfectly.

What really keeps me reading, though, isn't all the silly shit -- which has its place and I do enjoy -- it's the constant shifting of ethical and moral attitudes as these people get deeper and deeper in to the *Zombiepocalypse*. Their ideas are constantly fluctuating; some of them talk a good game about retaining their humanity, then quickly blow it all in a moment of madness; they try to make laws to govern themselves and don't realize (at least most of them don't) that they've already been violated; the whole band of them are full of hypocrisy and selfishness and the baser human instincts, and the way it's being handled is definitely making the journey fun.

I don't know that all of this behavioural stuff can be sustained, but it is my favourite part of the graphic novels, no doubt about it.

Becky says

Ohhhhh snippity snap! That was intense! There were some serious curve-balls thrown in this volume, and some huge reveals that have enormous consequences.

I dunno if that facial protection I mentioned in my status update would really make a difference after all, if you know what I'm saying.

I actually think that this has been my favorite volume so far. The characters are familiar enough to me that I can identify with them so much better, and the situations that they are in are... intense. And shitty. But man, is it compelling to read these. It's just hard to review them individually. So yeah. That's all.

Craig says

I don't know what it is about this series. I don't find it to be exceptional in any way and yet I keep buying the next volume because I feel like a zombie read and I figure I'm following these characters already....

They aren't bad reads, but there's just very little 'new' in them and there seems to be a cycle forming with these volumes that leads to less character growth.

I'm not sure if it is the art, the writing, or a combination of both, but I find it hard to tell many of the secondary characters apart at points. It makes it difficult to really care about too many characters within the story.

Also, Lori's character becomes more unbelievable with every volume - it is painfully obvious that she is written by a man. Then again, most of these characters - male and female - are very one-dimensional.

I know it sounds like I am just railing on this one, but I'm sure I'll find myself buying the next volume, so Kirkman must be doing something right.

Richard says

Fatigue strikes on volume 3. This isn't the grovels fault but my own for trying to read this whilst watching the show simultaneously. The show is just a shower of shit now and that has tarnished any opinion of anything related right now. I'll take a break before hitting up the next one.

Sam Quixote says

Volume 3 of The Walking Dead might be the bleakest, bloodiest and most miserable in the series so far - and the first two volumes were pretty damn miserable! This is a book where the dead are dug out of their graves just to be shot in the head, and that's not even counting the butchered children or the suicide pacts!

So the group have made it to a prison which is infested with zombies but, once cleared, could be a safe haven for them. Inside are a handful of remaining inmates - but can these convicted criminals be trusted around the families?

At this point in the series I've actually started to remember some of the characters' names as a core number have survived but the cast is still very big and is continually dropping off and adding new characters so its difficult to care all that much when someone dies.

Robert Kirkman's dialogue also isn't as terrible in this book though the tone remains unrelentingly dark. When kids are being killed or are planning on killing one another, the adults are standing around shell-shocked, crying internally or externally, with characters like Rick or Hershel melodramatically blaming themselves for all the death. When Rick dug up Shane to shoot him in the head again, I had to laugh at how absurdly depressing it all was - even when you've been killed once you're not safe!

I did notice one weird detail Kirkman's added: whether you've been bitten or not, once you die, you become a zombie (also they call them zombies in the book, unlike the TV show where they're called "walkers"). I don't understand how that works - if you have the potential to become a zombie, shouldn't you become a zombie rather than wait to die off?

The inmates added an interesting slant as the story became a murder mystery over which one of the prisoners chopped up the kids, and the reveal was a surprise. There's also the requisite zombie action which has already become rote and, despite the large cast, I'm not really interested in about 90% of their mundane stories.

I still don't fully see what fans of the series do but the third volume is definitely a step up from the previous books and even manages to become quite exciting in parts. I'm bumping the rating up a star because Rick literally tells the ever-annoying Lori to shut the fuck up!

Alejandro says

Prisons are ideal places in this reality!

This is the third volume of the softcover editions of "The Walking Dead", collecting the comic book issues from #13 to #18.

Creative Team:

Writer: Robert Kirkman

Illustrators: Charlie Adlard

Additional gray tones to inking: Cliff Rathburn

Chapter Three

SAFETY BEHIND BARS

I ain't gonna bury you again you son of a bitch.

In our society, you never would want to go prison, but in an apocalyptic dystopia plagued with zombies, a prison would look like the logical choice.

Rick's group finds a federal penitentiary, that it seems to be the place to expiate their sins, but also they can be a site with its own kind of sinners.

A shocking revelation will expose a new facet about their life-and-death condition.

And also, they will find soon enough that zombies may be deadly, but men are evil. Zombies aren't guilty of their actions, men are quite aware of theirs.

And men are able to do more horrible things than any zombie.

Until now, you haven't seen anything yet, the really gruesome things starts here.

Bookdragon Sean says

YOU KILL. YOU DIE.

These are simple words, though they're my favourite phrase so far. Every society needs rules, and it shows how desperate this one is to create such a brutally necessary one. If you want to live under Rick's protection, that's the pact you take. If you kill another group member, if you kill a friend, you, too, will die. Seems fair enough in this world, but nothing is that simple. As soon as this line was delivered I knew the rule would soon be broken....

At least they tried though.

Sometimes false hope is the only hope. I think it is so appropriate how the characters have deluded themselves; they really think they've found a new home in the prison: they think it's a safe haven. They have to be able to carry on. It's kind of funny really in a twisted sort of way. Or am I just being a bit evil? As Rick likes to say, all too frequently, "we can make this work." But, it is so abundantly clear that this would never be true because everybody is slowly losing their sanity. The prison could never last not with every one trying to kill each other.

That's the good thing about this series. It isn't just about zombies going around eating people: it isn't a simple case of horror thrown over action. It's all about the survivors and how they cope with their approaching demise. Some fight it with all they've got. Some are too weak to fight at all, and the rest just give up about half way through. The fighters are the ones who have to deal with the horrors they have to commit in order to survive. They go crazy. They try to kill each other in a fit of pure rage fuelled grief. But, somehow, they carry on. They live with what they've done. They either become stronger or they fall to madness.

I can't predict who is going to be the next to die or to lose it. The lines between sanity and insanity, right and wrong, are becoming increasingly blurred. The situation is only going to get worse, and more entertaining (evil laugh).

Cathryn says

Man, I thought Lori was annoying on the show but she's even worse in these. More detailed review to come.

Vanessa says

4.5 stars.

This was by far the best volume in the series so far. Not only do the characters manage to stay in one spot for the length of the volume (unlike the previous two), but there was a lot more development with various characters. I love the storyline of Rick and his crew getting to know and having to live with the other prisoners, and there were a lot of shocking moments and heartbreak throughout. The action sequences as well were drawn incredibly well, as usual.

As the graphic novel series is quite different in terms of plot a lot of the time to the show, I'm intrigued to see where volume 4 ends up going.
